

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Row breaks out over new berths at Oban North Pier

LOUISE GLEN
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A PUBLIC row has broken out over the financial impact of publicly-funded pontoons planned for Oban Bay.

Directors of privately-owned Dunstaffnage Marina say Argyll and Bute Council has shifted the goalposts for its planned Oban transit marina.

The directors claim that Oban Bay Marina will potentially be able to host upwards of 80 vessels, rather than the 36 previously proposed, and say the bigger marina threatens its business – putting permanent jobs at risk and is based on 'childlike' figures.

Two part-time jobs will be created by the Oban transit marina.

Funding for the Oban project is being borrowed through prudential borrowing and will be paid back over 25 years.

Argyll and Bute Council says the size and scale of the project has not changed since planning permission was granted in 2016.

The argument appears to be over the difference between 36 berths and 36 finger berths. Berths offer harbour to individual vessels, while finger berths can offer space to two boats.

Neil McLauchlan, of Dunstaffnage Marina, said: 'Directors were never concerned about a 36-berth marina.'

'However, Dunstaffnage was never consulted at any time about any marina, far less this much bigger and more significant marina, which is just three miles from Dunstaffnage.'

'We have never had to turn boats away – even at the height of the season – so this certainly indicates a market that does not merit yet

more berths. Dunstaffnage Marina has invested heavily into the marina market with infrastructure, local staff and training.

'Therefore, to simply stand back and allow our business to be decimated because of some misjudged proposals and crude finances would be very wrong indeed.'

'The directors are very determined to follow this through to a satisfactory conclusion.'

Due to the risk to his business, Mr McLauchlan asked Argyll and Bute Council to raise the matter with the Scottish Government's state aid unit, which will judge the right of the council to spend public money on a project that may displace business from a private company.

He said: 'It seems on our insistence it was referred as late as the April 21, 2017. This was well after planning approval was granted in 2016 and the order for hardware to suppliers was placed at the start of 2017.'

Mr McLauchlan continued: 'Once the underwater hardware is installed there is no jurisdiction for planners on its configuration as it is not on the land. It would be for the Crown Estate to decide.'

'The massive marina hardware shows a potential for a far bigger facility.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The investment in the transit berthing and associated maritime facilities has strong and widespread local support and will complement existing marine facilities in the area.'

'Other local facilities and industries will be able to take advantage of the increase in visitors and vessels that will come to the area.'

'We were directly petitioned by around 80 local businesses,



Family of charity hero Nonny hand over cheques

Cheques for £7,000 were handed over to cancer support charities from the organisers of a fundraising football and family fun day for We Will Walk This Road Together. Karen MacInnes, right, alongside daughter Jenna, left, handed over the cheques, with John Scott, centre, the main organiser of the event, overseeing the exchange. Lillian Kermode accepted the cheque on behalf of Marie Curie while June Pearson accepted the Cancer Research UK donation. A further donation will be made to Oban Hospice once the accounts are finalised. Townsfolk were shocked earlier this year when one of the founding members of the charity, Nonny MacInnes, died after a battle with cancer. Nonny, Karen, Jenna, Kirsty and Rhoda MacInnes, and a team of volunteers and musicians, ran a number of hugely successful concerts in the Corran Halls, supporting Cancer Research, Oban Hospice and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

including other local marinas, and consulted widely, including hosting a well-attended open day.

'There has been no change in the size of the facilities and berthing numbers have not increased since the original planning consent, business case and marine licence were approved.'

'These first-class facilities will

be a real asset to Oban and the surrounding area and help fulfil our ambition of making the town a focus for the West Coast marine tourism industry. This investment of more than £3 million will make it easier to welcome marine visitors to Oban and provide easy access to the town for kayakers, yachters, cruise ships and tour operators.

'We are providing short-stay berths, bringing economic benefits to the town and surrounding area. The finger-berth pontoons and concrete floating breakwater will provide flexible short-stay capacity.'

'The facilities will contribute to the country's marine tourism strategy, Awakening the Giant,

which is backed by all main Scottish development agencies and which identified the need for more berthing facilities.'

'Due to the ongoing construction, car parking in the area of the North Pier may be limited at times and drivers are asked to park considerately and safely while the work is ongoing.'

INSIDE YOUR OBAN TIMES THIS WEEK

Water coincidence

FAMILY ties were reinforced when Tobermory RNLI transported retained firefighters to Calve Island to tackle a serious fire.

Full story – page two.

Close call

AN OBAN pensioner escaped injury when the ceiling of his bathroom collapsed moments after he left the room.

Full story – page three.

Stay Alive on A85

A CONCERNED supporter of *The Oban Times*' campaign for improved safety measures on the road between Oban and Connel recorded more than 20 near misses in just four hours.

Full story – page three.

Piping hot

OBAN High School Pipe Band are piping hot after putting in a stirring performance at a number of competitions in Gourrock.

Full story – page four.

BT divides town

THE new BT phone book has again split Oban, with half the town not listed in the new telephone directory.

Full story – page five.

Saints make final

OBAN Saints confirmed their place in the final of the Jimmy Marshall Cup at the weekend with a convincing win over rivals Hillington.

Full story – back page.



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Councillors meet to elect leaders

TODAY will see the swearing in of 36 newly-elected Argyll and Bute councillors, yet the SNP, the group with the greatest number will not be part of the administration.

An alliance of Tory, Liberal Democrat and independent councillors will take control of the local authority, leaving in place the majority of the administration who were in charge prior to the election.

The council will meet to elect a leader, a deputy leader, a provost, a deputy provost, the chairmanship of committees, members of the planning cohort, area chairmanship and deputy chairmanship.

Also on the agenda are councillors' salaries, COSLA membership,

licensing board membership, appointments to outside bodies and committee memberships. Also to be elected at the meeting are teacher representatives and religious members who sit on the council.

While the leadership of the council will not be confirmed until the first full council meeting today (Thursday), it is understood that Aileen Morton, Helensburgh central ward, is in the running for council leader despite also being a general election candidate. This is Ms Morton's second term as a councillor. Ms Morton is standing for election in the Dumbarton seat, described by pundits as 'the tightest' election contest in Scotland. Others who may have put their

hat in the ring for leadership are thought to be Liberal Democrat Alan Reid, former MP from Dunoon, and Conservative and Unionist Gary Mulvaney, who had the highest vote (1,789) in the council area.

The administration of the council will be made up from six Liberal Democrats, nine Conservatives and at least seven of the 10 independent councillors.

A breakdown of the local council first preference vote shows that throughout the council area:

■ 3,571 people voted for nine Liberal Democrat candidates, electing six.

■ 9,172 people voted for 15 SNP candidates, electing 11.

■ One UKIP candidate received 32 votes.

■ 10 Conservative and Unionist candidates received 8,315 votes, electing nine candidates.

■ Three green candidates amassed 609 votes.

■ 29 Independent candidates collected 10,079 votes and elected 10 candidates.

■ The average vote from the 33,142 cast was 448, which 29 candidates elected achieved.

■ Turnout varied from 60.3 per cent in Cowal, to 47.5 per cent in Oban, South and Isles.

The average turnout for Argyll and Bute was 53.27 per cent.

In one ward, South Kintyre, an election was not required

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OT



Smoke billows from Calve Island but the RNLI ferried firefighters, including Iain 'Phooley' Noble, inset right, to tackle the blaze. Below is Tobermory lifeboat first crew in 1938, coxswain of which was Iain's great-grandfather.

RNLI help firefighters tackle blaze

LOUISE GLEN
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TOBERMORY RNLI's volunteer crew transported retained firefighters to Calve Island to tackle a serious fire, one of whom was the great-grandson of Tobermory lifeboat's first coxswain.

Tobermory lifeboat Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsay launched at 6.25pm last Monday (May 8) for firefighters to tackle the large grass fire on the island in Tobermory Bay.

Nine firefighters were transferred to the island, including

Tobermory watch manager Iain 'Phooley' Noble whose great-grandfather, Alexander Noble, was the first coxswain of the Tobermory lifeboat, serving between 1938 and 1947.

The fire crew successfully put out the grass fire and returned to Tobermory where the lifeboat was refuelled and made ready for service at 8.41pm.

Tobermory coxswain David McHaffie said: 'We were alerted to the fire during a lifeboat meeting at the station where, ironically, we were just in the middle of a discussion about working with other agencies.'

'We're pleased that we were able to play a small part in helping our colleagues from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service get the fire under control and put it out so quickly.'

'And we were all particularly pleased to give Mr Noble a lift on the lifeboat given his family connection to our first ever coxswain.'

Oban RNLI lifeboat was also in action last week after being called out on Thursday to assist with a double medical transfer from the Isle of Mull.

The vessel launched at 7.30pm to assist the Scottish

Ambulance Service with the medical transfer of two patients from Mull and Iona Community Hospital.

The Mora Edith MacDonald departed Oban with two paramedics on board, arriving at Craignure by 8.10pm.

Following the transfer of both patients to the lifeboat, the volunteer crew departed Mull for Oban, arriving back where casualties were transferred to a waiting ambulance by 9.03pm.

Oban lifeboat then returned to station where she was refuelled and made ready for service again by 9.20pm.



TIMESLINE

New forestry bill is introduced

Forestry legislation will be considered by the Scottish Parliament after the introduction of a Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Bill, announced last Wednesday (May 10).

Scotland's £1 billion forestry sector, which supports 25,000 jobs, will benefit from the bill's modern approach to development, support and regulation. New organisational structures for forestry in Scotland are also being announced.

The bill hopes to deliver: improved accountability, transparency and policy alignment, modernised legislative framework to develop, support and regulate the sector in Scotland, and more effective use of Scotland's publicly-owned land.

Separate to the bill, the Scottish Government will create an executive agency Forestry and Land Scotland and a dedicated forestry division within government.

Scallop controls are welcomed

THE body that represents the largest number of scallop fishermen in Scotland has welcomed government measures to help protect king scallop stocks.

Anne-Margaret Anderson, inshore and environmental policy co-ordinator for the Scottish White Fish Producers' Association (SWFPA), said the controls, which will come into force from June, would help improve sustainability.

'The SWFPA scallop committee, which speaks for the majority of scallop fishermen around our shores, is fully committed to enhancing the conservation status of these stocks, which is why we support these measures,' she said.

Election hustings to be held on Mull

THE Oban Times has teamed up with Mull and Iona Community Trust to host a hustings for the snap election on June 8.

Candidates have confirmed their attendance at the event, to be held in Craignure Village Hall on Thursday May 25 at 7.30pm. The event will be convened by Louise Glen, chief reporter of The Oban Times.

Questions on matters such as indyref2, Brexit and the future of the roads on Mull and Iona are all likely to come up as part of this lively 90-minute debate between opposing parties.

Any questions you would like to put to the candidates should be sent to lglen@obantimes.co.uk or mfinch@mict.co.uk.

Colonsay and Oronsay bilingual place-names booklet published

A NEW guide to Colonsay and Oronsay's Gaelic place-names was launched at the Colonsay Book Festival Fringe.

The bilingual booklet, Gaelic in the Landscape: Place-names of Colonsay and Oronsay, 'celebrates the specific cultural and natural heritage of some of Colonsay and Oronsay's lesser-known names'.

Place-name researchers Mary Carmichael, Christine Johnston and Scott Weatherstone, with support from Dr Jacob King and Eilidh Scammell of Ain-

mean-Àite na h-Alba (AÀA), collected information and associated stories on more than 130 place-names from members of the community. Many have never appeared in print before.

The book explains: 'The linguistic mix of place-names in Colonsay and Oronsay is typical of islands in the Inner Hebrides. The names of the larger islands and promontories tend to be Norse in origin, while the majority of the names relating to agriculture and natural features are in Gaelic. In recent times

several English names have been introduced, either denoting new features, such as roads and houses, or as translations of existing names.'

For example, 'Comharra nam Muirsgeanan' - the marker of the razor fish (plural) - stands on Tràigh Orasa, now known commonly as Oronsay Bay. When the rock is exposed, the tide is far enough out to successfully gather razor fish. 'Eilean nan Giomach' - the island of the lobsters - is aptly named as lobsters can still be found there.

'In 1822 a ship called The Waterloo, which had sailed out of Cumbria heading for America, was wrecked off Eilean nan Ròn, the island of the seals. Everyone was saved except the captain. The ship's cargo was china and to this day porcelain can still be found from time to time on the beach. Eilean nan Corp - the island of the corpses - in Kilchattan (at Am Port Mòr) relates to where a boat was wrecked; presumably bodies were found on the island.'

The booklet, co-ordinated by AÀA and Scottish Natural

Heritage (SNH), was funded by the national Gaelic language and culture research network Soillse.

Eleanor MacDonald of SNH said: 'In understanding the meaning behind place-names we have an opportunity to interpret the landscape differently.'

'These place-names generally offer a uniquely Scottish, and Highland, perspective of the link between the land and the communities who lived there for generations. We are thrilled to launch this new bilingual publication, the sixth title in our

Gaelic in the Landscape series, which captures the local place-name knowledge passed down through generations.'

Eilidh Scammell of AÀA added: 'The preservation of Scotland's Gaelic place-names is very much at the heart of AÀA and we are delighted to have been a part of this project, which we hope will secure their future in Colonsay and Oronsay's landscape, and help future generations understand the connections between the language and the land.'

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Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

Kilchoman Distillery

KILCHOMAN Farm Distillery, which is situated on the west of Islay and takes its name from the surrounding parish, is the first new distillery to be built on the island for 124 years.

It stands on the site of Rockside Farm and, prior to the opening of the Abhainn Dearg Distillery on Lewis in 2007, it was the most westerly distillery in Scotland.

Production at the new distillery began in 2005 and the barley used is grown on site and malted at the distillery and is augmented by supplies provided by the Port Ellen Maltings.

Kilchoman is one of only six Scottish distillers still carrying out traditional floor-maltings and prides itself on ensuring that all parts of the production processes are carried out on the island.

The founder and managing director is Anthony Wills, who ran his own single cask bottling company before launching out on his Kilchoman venture. Islay was chosen as the location for the farm distillery because of its worldwide reputation for producing quality malts. The Rockside farm premises provided ideal buildings for the project as well as its reputation for producing the best malting barley on the island.

The owner was no stranger to the island as his wife, Kathy, was a member of the famous Wilks family of the Rover Car



Kilchoman Farm Distillery.

Company and they owned and operated the Laggan Estates for more than six decades.

The Wills, as well as being worthy ambassadors for their product, are heavily involved in the day-to-day running of the distillery, as are their three sons, Peter, James and George.

Kilchoman distillers continue to be the main sponsor of the island pipe band and the annual beach rugby tournament as well as supporting events with a slightly lower profile.

The distillery is situated in a scenically pleasing area of the island with Machir and Saligo Bays close at hand. It also overlooks Loch Gorm, the island's largest stretch of fresh water.

fast approaching - it kicks off on Friday May 26 and continues until Saturday June 3. This is the largest event in the island's social calendar and it has gone from strength to strength since it began 31 years ago.

It attracts visitors from across the globe, and the island will be bursting at the seams, accommodation will be at a premium and the local economy will greatly benefit as a result.

Among the firm favourites will be the cloutie dumping ceilidh at Ballygrant, whisky nosing and ensuing ceilidh at Port Ellen and much folk singing at Ardbeg Distillery.

Visiting performers will include the Rowan Brothers, Tide Lines, the Playboys, Irish vocalist Hugo Duncan, piper Fred Morrison and musician and author Jess Smith.

A number of local performers will also participate in some of the festival events and

there will be classes in ceilidh dancing for those who want to hoof it in Highland style.

The Scotch Malt Whisky Society hosts a garden party at Islay House Hotel, the Rare Malt Whisky Company will marry malt, cheese and chocolate on two evenings in the former Portnahaven school, and the Finlaggan Trust's open day will be supported by the Vintage Malt Whisky Company.

Master distiller Jim MacEwan holds a whisky tasting session at Ballygrant, and Douglas Laing and friends will tickle the seafood and whisky taste buds at various venues including Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle.

The island's eight distilleries are bracing themselves for the fèis invasion and will pull out all the stops to cater for the hundreds who will attend their open days throughout the week.

Even the distillery on neighbouring Jura is more than happy to join in the festive fray as Islay Ales in Islay House Square

Those who seek a break from the music and the malt can take part in fly-fishing competitions on various local lochs and can participate in or spectate at bowling matches at both Bridgend or Port Ellen.

For more detailed fèis information contact: enquiries@islayfestival.com.

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

Music and malt

FÈIS ÌLE, the island's annual festival of music and malt, is

Piper Alpha hero almost 'killed' by leaking loo

SANDY NEIL
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A HERO who won the George Medal for bravery is too frightened to use his own bathroom, after a leaking flat above caused the ceiling to collapse, narrowly missing him.

And now the owner of the flat, Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), is refusing to fix the damage.

Seamas McNeill, a 73-year-old retired master in the Merchant Navy, helped save 37 lives in the Piper Alpha disaster, which killed 167 people in 1988 after a gas leak caused the oil platform to explode.

Five times Mr McNeill's boat went into the flames to rescue survivors, until it was blown out of the sea by an underwater gas explosion and sank, ditching the three crew into freezing water for 45 minutes.

In 1991, the Queen awarded Mr McNeill (also known as James), Charles Haffrey and Andrew Kiloh the silver George Medal, the UK's second highest civilian decoration, for acts of great bravery.

Mr McNeill survived the UK's worst offshore oil disaster, but he says a falling bathroom ceiling nearly killed him on Tuesday last week, and he is now too scared even to take a bath in case other debris falls on him.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I had been brushing my teeth and had just stepped out [of the bathroom] when I heard a bang and the whole ceiling had come down. I got such a fright. I had



Seamas McNeill in his ruined bathroom where a large section of the ceiling collapsed.

just walked out the door. If I were under it, I would have been killed.

'I am too scared to use the bathroom because there is still stuff coming down. I wash my hair in the sink in the kitchen. I walk down the street to use the toilet. I feel like I am not in my own house any more.'

The widower, originally from Barra, moved to the Glencruitten Drive flat 43 years ago, in 1974, with his wife Wilma, who died suddenly last year.

His godson noticed the dripping ceiling a fortnight ago, so Mr McNeill notified the ACHA tenant above, who reported it to an emergency plumber and the association.

The plumber fixed the leaking

toilet in the ACHA flat above, and put a hole in Mr McNeill's ceiling to drain the pooling water, and an ACHA inspector carried out a follow-up check.

Mr McNeill recalled: 'The workman kept saying, "It is alright. It is fixed. It will dry out". I said, "I do not think so". I could see the bulge in it. Then a few days later the whole lot came down. I would have been badly hurt, because there were big lumps.'

'All I got from ACHA was, "It is nothing to do with us"; Mr McNeill said. 'They would not even come out and look. They said to claim on my home insurance. But the leak came from their house. They said it was fixed. Why should I go through



my home insurance for their mistakes? They should actually fix everything here, because it was their fault.'

ACHA chief executive Alastair MacGregor said: 'On the evening of May 2, the association's repairs contractor was called to attend an out-of-hours call regarding water ingress to a private owner's flat below an ACHA flat. The issue was due to an overflowing cistern due to a ball valve failure and was rectified at the time.'

'On May 3 a property inspector visited our flat at Glencruitten

Drive and looked at the problem. He also visited the private owner below to discuss what had happened, and during the visit he inspected the ceiling which showed a bow.

'Although the ceiling at the time was mis-shaped, it did feel sound and firm, and the private owner advised that no water had come through the electrics, and there was no evidence of lying water.'

'The private owner was advised that the ceiling would not go back into shape and would need remedial attention and he would

be better contacting his insurance regarding this.

'The private owner informed the inspector that he did not want to make a claim against ACHA or his insurance company.'

'However, our inspector gave advice that he should at least let his insurance company know.'

'ACHA can work on common parts of properties shared with private owners but our insurances do not allow us to work on the internals of private owners' properties.'

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

Cannabis found

ABOUT 6.45pm on Friday May 12, near Bridge of Orchy, a 21-year-old woman, whose vehicle was stopped and searched by police, was found to be in possession of a small quantity of cannabis.

Abusive behaviour

AT 7.30PM on Monday May 8, a 52-year-old man was reported as behaving in an abusive manner and shouting and swearing at people in Dalmailly. A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Dangerous driving

ABOUT 11.30pm on Tuesday May 9, on the A85 at Taynuilt, a black Nissan Qashqai car was seen being driven dangerously. The vehicle overtook a fire appliance at high speed within the village.

Speeding offences

BETWEEN May 8 and 12 at various places on the A85 between Dalmailly and Tyndrum, and also on the A82 near Bridge of Orchy, three car drivers and one van driver were stopped and charged with driving at excessive speed. All were the subject of reports to the fiscal.

Break-in

OVERNIGHT between Saturday and Sunday, May 13 and 14, an attempt was made to break into a shed in Drummore Road, Oban.

Anyone with information about any the above should contact their local police office on 101, or anonymously on 0800 555 111.

I'm still learning about my home town

I'M DELIGHTED to hear that so many of you are enjoying the 'Where is it?' photos. I hope it's encouraging you to take a closer look at your surroundings when you're out and about, writes Bid4Oban ambassador Kay MacDonald.

Despite being here all my life, I still find things I've never noticed before and I now have people pointing things out to me as well - thank you (former councillor) Campbell Cameron.

If you're looking for things to do, don't forget to check out Oban What's On, the digital version of Oban town diary and a great way to keep up with what clubs and classes are available, as well as one-off

events. It's very simple to use and free to advertise events on.

If you're not confident using the internet, then just pop a poster into the Bid4Oban office on Stevenson Street and Yvonne will be happy to do it for you.

The second Bid4Oban local market is approaching fast - May 27 - which I'm really looking forward to as it creates a nice buzz in Station Square and appeals to locals and visitors.

Another local event which I'm delighted is returning this year is the Lorne Games on Sunday June 25. It's a lovely day out with something for all the family.

So here's to a long, hot summer

where we can get out and about to enjoy all the events fast approaching (although I don't mind a bit of rain now and again - it makes everything fresh and cleans the pavements).

I've been lucky enough to have heard lots of compliments about how good Oban is looking now, especially the pavements, and, although I was doubtful about the seating outside the shops, I've been proved wrong as they're constantly in use.

Did you recognise last week's photo?

St John's Cathedral, at the top of George Street, the railings are a wee work of art. You don't have to go far for this week's photo.

WHERE IS THIS?



Twenty near misses in just four hours

THIS week more than 20 near misses on the A85 between Oban and Connel have been reported by a member of the public to *The Oban Times*.

Barry MacNeil, 58, set out to record what was happening after witnessing a death on the trunk road more than three years ago. Mr MacNeil wanted to support the campaign for measures to improve safety.

He took to a quiet spot on the hillside by the road with a pen and paper to record what he saw happening.

From a lookout point near Pennyfuir, he said he watched near misses and potential problems on the road over a four-hour period, with 16 of them to do with cars driving too fast or overtaking at Pennyfuir.

He saw two people struggle to

STAY Alive on the A85

cross the road to visit the graveyard. One person using walking sticks was nearly knocked over as cars were driving so quickly.

Mr MacLean said he saw 'numerous' people using mobile phones while driving.

He said: 'I am shocked by the behaviour of drivers. And after seeing someone killed in an accident three years ago I thought I was fairly unshockable.'

'I have no idea who any of the drivers were. I would like to believe they were tourists, but I

would have to confess that I saw one car overtake three times on the same stretch of road so I assume the driver was a local.

'Points that need to be investigated for improvement are on the sharp turn about 20 metres east of the gates of Pennyfuir.'

'The verges on the side of the road don't appear to be strong enough to take any weight at all, and there should be no overtaking.'

'That, of course, gives us a dilemma about people cycling. There is no way that cyclists are always safe on the road. I saw two cars almost collide because one car was desperate to get out of the way of the cyclist.'

Oban Times chief reporter Louise Glen, who has been working on the campaign, said: 'The response from readers

has been overwhelming with hundreds signing the online and paper versions of petition.'

'We would also like it if more people, like Mr MacNeil, send observations to the newspaper about driver behaviour on the road.'

'By the end of June we hope to take the petition to the government minister with responsibility for roads.'

'In the meantime, we need people to get others to sign the petition - online and in the paper to show the strength of support for improvements on the road.'

Tell us your stories, of the A85 to editor@obantimes.co.uk or phone 01631 568000.

Sign the petition below or at www.obantimes.co.uk/stay-alive85

DIOPLÒMA ANNS NA MEADHANAN GÀIDHLIG

Tha an cùrsa seo air a dhealbh airson luchd-trèanaidh ullachadh airson saoghal craolaidh an latha an-diugh. Tha oileanaich air a' chùrsa a' faighinn sàr eòlas is brosnachadh bho na diofar òraidichean a bhios a' tadhal orra, a tha ag obair gu proifeiseanta sa gnìomhachais.

'Se cùrsa fad dà bhliadhna a tha seo leis a chiad bhliadhna aig a cholaiste agus 10 mìosan anns a ghnìomhachais anns

“Chan eil cùrsa cho prìseil coltach ris ann an Alba, a bheir dhut am fiosrachadh agus an tuigse a' dh'fheumas thu airson dreuchd anns na meadhanan.”

The Oban Times petition for safety improvements on the A85.

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

IF YOU SUPPORT US, PLEASE SIGN BELOW:

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and send to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB, or sign the petition online at www.obantimes.co.uk/stayalive85

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OT

Oban High band is piping hot

OBAN High School Pipe Band and Inveraray Pipe Band got the piping season off on the right note last Sunday, May 14, by sweeping the boards over a number of competitions in Gourrock.

The 6.50am early start for high school pupils, many of whom are studying for exams, did not deter the hardy pipers and drummers as both school bands got full marks.

This is the first major pipe band competition of the season and both Oban and Inveraray did Argyll proud by coming back with the silverware.

Piping competitions are graded into sections depending upon previous performance and then into novice and juvenile sections.

Oban High School Pipe Band won first place in both the Novice Juvenile A and Novice Juvenile B competitions. Piping adjudicators for Novice B were R Shaw and J Wark, with J Baxter adjudicating drumming and J Noble adjudicating ensemble.



Oban High School Pipe Band competing at Gourrock.

Oban High School took first place from both piping adjudicators and second place from the piping adjudicator – giving them five overall points. Second place was secured for Dumbarton and District Pipe Band who secured

seven points and in third place with 12 points was Renfrewshire Schools Pipe Band.

In the Novice A competition, the same adjudicators for the competition marked Oban High School Pipe Band with first

place in piping and a second place in drumming with an overall five points. Second was 1st Troon Boys Brigade with seven points and Dunoon Grammar School with 12 points.

Getting off to a tremendous

start to the season Inveraray and District Pipe Band won the overall Grade One competition with second place going to Scottish Power, third Johnstone and fourth the Glasgow Sky Association.

Am-Am aims to raise £10,000 for local causes

PREPARATIONS for the Rotary Club of Oban's Am-Am golf competition this year is well under way with inquiries and entries from as far afield as Crieff, Dunblane, Campbeltown, Fort William, Stirling and Glasgow.

Members of the Rotary Club are forming a squad to do groundwork at Glencruitten Golf Club in anticipation of the event on June 4.

David Mudie, the new Am-Am committee convener, said: 'It is the biggest event in Glencruitten Golf Club's year, and a major fundraiser for the Rotary Club. We should be up to our maximum, about 44 or 43 teams, just short of 180 people. We hope to raise £10,000. We

will almost certainly spend all that on local good causes. Our sponsors have been responding with Oban's renowned generosity contributing to the Rotary Club charity fund.'

The Bank of Scotland has been the principal sponsor for the past 32 years of Oban Rotary's annual Am-Am, giving £500 this year, plus a very handsome trophy, which is presented to the winners of the competition.

There will also be an auction and prize-giving, thanks to the generosity of players and sponsors. Am-Am committee member Graham MacQueen added: 'There is a rumour the new convener will be singing at the door with a bucket.'



Am-Am president Graham Fraser receives a cheque for £500 from the Bank of Scotland's business banking manager Alan MacLeod. Also pictured is Iain MacIntyre, the outgoing Am-Am convener.

Exercise is urged to treat medical needs

PILLS and drugs will soon be only part of the treatment when you visit your GP as the Health and Social Care Partnership wants people to use exercise and other social prescriptions to deal with health matters.

A prescription of exercise involves GPs and practice nurses linking people with opportunities to be physically active and mentally alert in their own communities.

In Oban, the service Lorn and Oban Healthy Options (LOHO) does this. Proving that not only does exercise benefit physical health, it also improves mental wellbeing, by boosting confidence, motivation and self-esteem.

Recommending exercise is a form of social prescribing. This is the term used to describe sources of practical support. This might be the carers centre for a new carer. It could be the volunteer centre for those who are lonely. And for people in debt, the Citizens Advice Bureau can help.

The Health and Social Care Partnership in Argyll and Bute is interested in getting health professionals to use social prescribing more.

Elaine Garman, public health

specialist, said: 'We are doing this because it will ensure people with problems impacting on their health get the right help for these problems.'

'It will also ensure stretched GPs are able to focus on what they do best – that is, treating people who are ill.'

'We all have a responsibility to look after our own health but there is help around to support you to do that.'

'There is a local information system for Scotland (ALISS) which is an online index of health and wellbeing resources.'

'This will direct people to support services, groups, classes, volunteering opportunities and a wide range of other resources.'

'Life is hard. Life is stressful. Things like relationship breakdown, housing problems, debt or feeling lonely and isolated all contribute to that feeling of stress.'

'It might also be if we are a carer for a relative or becoming a new parent. But sometimes it is lots of little things that are more difficult to put our finger on that lead to that pressure.'

'If you or someone you know has a social problem or is living with anxiety or stress, then have a look at the ALISS directory to find local help at www.aliss.org.'

OLI Health and Wellbeing Fund open for applications

OBAN, Lorn and the Isles Health and Wellbeing Fund is open for applications with the first closing date set for May 31.

This local network devolved budget has £21,131 ready to be distributed in the Oban, Lorn and Inner Isles area.

Last year projects included support for young and old people, homeless initiatives, training to build community capacity and outdoor activities.

This fund is open to voluntary and public sector projects with a focus on being well. The aim is to improve the health of the population. Priority will be given to initiatives that demonstrate reducing health inequalities, breaking down barriers to participation. Go to www.healthargyllandbute.co.uk/application-for-funding/ Co-ordinator Eleanor MacKinnon can be contacted on oli-hwn@gmail.com for information.

WHITE VAN Man

THE arrival of the summer season in Oban brings with it informative banners in George Street highlighting places of interest such as the tower, the distillery and the War and Peace Museum.

But one banner that has been forgotten about is the one saying: 'To the ferries', which should be hung between the Perle Hotel and the Royal Bank buildings.

While in the town last week I was in the taxi rank area and I could not believe the ongoing situation down there.

One thing that has been voiced before is the lack of parking spaces at the taxi rank for the number of taxis using the area.

Taxi operators also have to put up with traffic coming into the rank heading for the ScotRail car park.

They also have to be aware that the new one-way system on the pier allows business traffic to exit the pier through the taxi rank and to add another major problem due to inadequate information in the town many tourists do not notice the very small arrow shaped



information board pointing to the ferries.

The visitors then turn into the taxi rank thinking this must be the way to get aboard the ferry.

This is causing chaos – all for the want of one large banner along George Street saying: 'This way to the ferries.'

The most dangerous situation taxi drivers face in the area is wandering tourists who seem to have forgotten any rules of the roads, especially when they are crossing the rank from all angles.

It just simply should not be like this, if you visit a builder's yard, for example, you will come across paths painted on the yard floor that people must follow. People must keep to those paths – this is a ruling

put in place by the Health and Safety Executive.

Why is it not the case on the taxi rank between McCaig's Warehouse and the railway station?

A path indicating to people that they must only cross here, instead of people crossing between parked taxis, with vehicles entering and leaving the rank.

This is an accident waiting to happen.

It is time the Health and Safety Executive took a long, hard look at the situation in Station Square before something serious happens.

This would also make drivers' lives a little more bearable.

While on the subject of health and safety, I must mention *The Oban Times* campaign Stay Alive on the A85, which is gathering momentum.

I wonder if part of this campaign could focus on a cycle path from Oban to Connel linking with the path north to Fort William.

This would also be very important as regards the campaign and for the safety of cyclists.

Behind the scenes at Atlantis: lighting, hot water and more

FOLLOWING on from last month, we've had the good news that Resource Efficient Scotland has confirmed our eligibility for a loan to replace inefficient items around the centre.

We are currently obtaining quotes for the different aspects of this work and we are keen to progress this as soon as possible so that we can start to make financial savings on the running of the centre.

Café furniture

To enhance your café comfort, we have ordered some sample furniture for the area which will be in place for you to try in the next few weeks.

Softplay

Tiger Play, the team which installed the Lost City softplay four years ago, is currently designing an improved under-threes area. Look out for



the first set of designs on the notice board next to softplay. The team is looking into different funding options as to how best to fund these improvements.

Just completed

The following items have been completed in the past few weeks:

Staff training: Sophie MacInnes is just back from eight days' training to complete her level two swimming qualification. She will be joining a team of 12 other level two instructors, in addition to our 12 level one instructors.

Tennis courts: The tennis courts have just had their first clean ready for the new season.



The tennis courts have been given a spring clean.

Fitness instructors

A machine lifts and cleans the sand and then brushes it back in, improving the surface. Coaching for all ages is starting back now the weather is improving and we have all the equipment to play.

Gym mats: We have invested just over £1,000 in new gymnastics mats for the Saturday children's sessions as the old ones were 20 years old and looking very tatty.

As several key members of our team are moving on, we will be looking for new fitness class instructors over the coming months to ensure we can continue to offer the extensive Atlantis programme of 50 classes a week. Keep an eye on the Atlantis Facebook page if you'd like to apply and let your fitness-minded friends know.

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TIMESLINE

General election hopefuls unveiled

THE highest polling local councillor in Argyll and Bute at recent elections has put his name in the hat for the general election on June 8.

Gary Mulvaney, Conservative and Unionist, won the local council election with 1,789 votes in the Helensburgh Central ward, gaining 600 more votes than any other person elected.

Mr Mulvaney joins fellow councillor and former MP Alan Reid (Liberal Democrat), Michael Kelly (Scottish Labour) and SNP incumbent Brendan O'Hara as candidates for the Argyll and Bute constituency seat.

Planning fees set to increase

A MOVE to raise fees for planning permission has been agreed by the Scottish Government.

A consultation on the proposal for the cost of planning permission to meet the cost of providing the service received 124 responses, 96 of which were from group respondents and the remaining 28 from individuals.

To see full details of the new charges coming into force on June 1 go to legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/120/pdfs/ssipn_20170120_en.pdf.

Album has band on the crest of a wave

THE *Seventh Wave* is living up to its name for Skipinnish with their album riding higher in the UK charts than any band of their type since Runrig.

Hitting number 25 in the mainstream UK download charts and holding the number one spot on the world music chart for more than two weeks, and counting, makes *The Seventh Wave* the most successful album from any traditional band in recent years.

Eagle carries off lamb at North Connel

A SEA EAGLE carrying off a lamb was captured on camera by a North Connel woman.

Rosie Robinson sent the pictures to *The Oban Times* and, after verification, the sea eagle can be seen carrying a lamb, and perhaps something else in its mouth. Ms Robinson said: 'I took a photograph on Sunday of a white-tailed sea eagle carrying a lamb and being chased by a buzzard.'

'They flew over our garden in North Connel. The focus was not clear as they were high up and I had to zoom in as they were flying, but one photograph clearly shows detail - it seems to have something in its mouth too.'



PM gives backing to local press campaign

PRIME Minister Theresa May has given her backing to the local press industry's Fighting Fake News campaign.

The Prime Minister warned of the dangers of fake news distributed on social media and gave her strong support to a free press which underpins democracy by investing in highly trusted journalism.

Mrs May said: 'We need to be very wary of this concept of fake news. We have got a situation with social media and different outlets where anybody can put something on a social media site as if it's real without anybody checking.'

'People need to recognise that you can't trust everything you see on social media. We know newspapers have a

responsibility that they take seriously in terms of what they are reporting. A free press is very important, it underpins our democracy.

'It's also important for [politicians] to make sure the statements we make are upfront and transparent for people.'

The Prime Minister was speaking as the local press industry runs the Fighting Fake News campaign to highlight the importance of trusted local media journalism in the run up to the general election.

The campaign is co-ordinated by Local Media Works, the local marketing arm of the News Media Association, and comes in the run up to this Local Newspaper Week which began on May 15.

Top marks for training

STAFF training at Argyll and Bute Council has been given a first-class report after an external inspection.

The Scottish Vocational Qualification SVQ centre offers staff

the chance to study for a wide range of qualifications.

Its work has been described as excellent following a visit from the Scottish Qualification Authority.

BT phone book divides Oban with town residents left out

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

BT'S phone book is dividing Oban in half, something that is causing frustration for neighbours who live a street apart ... and yet do not share the same directory.

With calls to directory inquiries or any of the other phone number information services costing up to £5 connection fee plus the cost of the call, the phone book is more important than ever, says *Oban Times* reader Kathryn Fenemore Spence, from Oban.

Ms Fenemore Spence said: 'I am hoping *The Oban Times* can take up the cause and get this sorted once and for all. 'BT has done it again - it has split Oban in half. 'If your postcode is PA34 4, you are in the Lomond and Argyll phone book. If your

postcode is PA34 5, you are in the Highlands and Islands phone book. 'Yet BT only seems to be distributing the Lomond and Argyll phone book. This must have an impact on the businesses in town when people can't find them because they are at

the north end. The split doesn't make sense anyway because Connel and Taynult are in the Lomond and Argyll phone book and yet half of Oban isn't.' Nicky Murphy, advertising director of *The Oban Times*, said: 'This problem has been flagged up to us for a number of years.

'We responded to the community with directories for each of the areas. 'Like the phone book, these are given away annually for free in *The Oban Times*, *Lochaber News*, *Campbeltown Courier*, *Argyllshire Advertiser* and the *Arran Banner*.'

No job too small

MacLeod Construction has every trade on tap

JUST imagine the number of skilled trades working on the many MacLeod Construction sites around Argyll and the Isles.

We all recognise the company name, often associating it with larger building projects. But the firm has always carried out smaller scale jobs for clients. Imagine if you could call on their services to fix that dripping tap, adjust the sticking door in the living room or mend your gutters.

Founded by twin brothers Murdo and Kenny MacLeod in 1975 as a house builder, MacLeod Construction has come a long way in the decades since.

From its Lochgilphead base, right in the heart of Argyll, the firm now manufactures and assembles timber frame buildings across the region - from family homes to commercial and community structures.

Firmly rooted in traditional values, MacLeod Construction offers modern methods - and always top quality service.

Over the last six years the company has developed several new internal divisions that have added to its strength.

One of these areas is the small works, plumbing and electrical division - building on long experience carrying our smaller jobs and maintenance work.

These new divisions were developed by Jonathan MacLeod, the firm's services manager, along with contracts manager John Mckellar.

There are 25 skilled staff members dedicated to the small works team. Among this number are electricians, plumbers, joiners, roofers, scaffolders and general maintenance trades - all supported by a dedicated office team.

All kinds of service are provided by the small works team - from tackling that leaking tap, or fixing that broken light - to full electrical, plumbing and joinery installations.

The MacLeod team will even carry out jobs like power washing, hard landscaping and general property maintenance.

The team is well experienced - but more than that, they are well qualified, with the kind of certification that means you can have total confidence in the quality of work provided.

So whether it's a new fuse board, blocked drain or flickering light, MacLeod Construction is ready to help.



L-R: David King Electrical Foreman, Robert Long Plumbing Foreman, Chris McGowan Maintenance foreman, John Mckellar Contracts Manager



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Slate roof renovation - Clock Lodge



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Islay



GRAHAME and Emma Clark, owners of Gleanedale House, bed and breakfast on Islay, had a busy few days collecting awards from all over the country. Emma explained: 'On Sunday evening we flew out from Islay and made our way across to Edinburgh where we attended a very glitzy Scottish Food Awards and Academy in the Principal hotel. 'We won the breakfast destination of the year and a gold award for real and local food. 'The evening finished at 1am, and at 4am a taxi collected me to take me to the airport to fly to London to attend the AA Awards in the Landmark hotel. 'Here we won the coveted national award for the Friendliest Bed and Breakfast in Britain.'

Skye



THE Three Chimneys team started the season in spectacular style with a trio of awards at the inaugural Scottish Food Awards. The remote island restaurant was awarded a gold medal for real and local food, as well as the Restaurant with Rooms of the Year award. It also collected a Geographical Food Destination award for the Isle of Skye as a whole, which certifies the region's worldwide status for dishes that represent the incredible variety of the island's natural larder. The winners were announced at a glittering awards ceremony and dinner, held at the Principal Hotel, Edinburgh, on Sunday May 7. The awards, which are in their first year, celebrate the best of food produced and served in Scotland, as well as the people behind these successes.

Benderloch



THE Victory Hall on Friday May 19 will hear Vera Van Heerigan in concert. Vera appears with with a solid acoustic trio composing harmony king Dave Luke on guitar, vocals and mandolin and, on her other side, Andy Seward. This visit is her only West Coast gig as part of an eight-date tour which includes Kirkealdy, Dundee and Glasgow. Americana influences help create soulful songs with tunes that showcase a highly skilled instrumentalist.

Barcaldine



The Big Pedal was a roaring success, above, while, below, the young musicians entertained with their recorders at the Corran Halls and the orienteers won the Small Schools Cup.

Hat-trick of successes for school

IT HAS been a hat-trick for Barcaldine Primary School children in the Big Pedal race. The school came joint first in the UK in the small primary classes five-day challenge category for the third consecutive year. The school has taken part in the Big Pedal's virtual cycle around Britain for several years now and the children are always very enthusiastic about using the Sustran's cycle path to cycle to school. This year has been no exception and the children (plus staff and parents) have cycled in all weathers to participate. The grand finale was a Big Pedal Easter Picnic when parents, staff and pupils did a round trip of seven miles, rolled Easter eggs and didn't even notice it was raining. The Barcaldine children went along to the Corran Halls in Oban on Friday April 28 to participate in the non-competitive Action Song, Ensemble and the competitive Recorder Group categories. All nine pupils entertained the audience with a fantastic ensemble performance of My Bonnie Lies over the Ocean, the P1-3 pupils received plenty of laughter with their rendition of the World Coming to an End and then the P6/7 pupils played Skye Boat Song on their recorders. The P6/7s were over the moon to have received first place in their category. On a glorious day at Dunstaffnage Castle, Stramaffne organised a great Oban, Lorn and the Isles schools orienteering competition. Barcaldine Primary was proud to receive one gold and two silver medals, ultimately winning the Small Schools Cup for the first time. A fantastic day was had by all as even the P1-3s had a chance to go around a course with some older pupils.



Lochgilthead

A TEAM of young entrepreneurs from Lochgilthead High School is in the national final of a major competition after triumphing in the regional heat. The West Coasters will compete against teams from across Scotland next month after their success in the Argyll and Bute final of Young Enterprise Scotland (YES) search for company of the year. The YES company programme sees S5 and S6 pupils set up and run their own companies over the course of the school year. This year, two Argyll and Bute schools have been taking part in the scheme, Lochgilthead High and Dunoon Grammar School. Lochgilthead had two companies - West Coasters and Droift - with Dunoon Grammar School's company called Ma Jar Stick. West Coasters produced hand-designed framed artwork to sell, with their fellow pupils in Droift using seashells and driftwood from local beaches to create windchimes, wall hangings and necklaces. All three competed in the regional final, held at the Inveraray Inn. Tasks were to write a company report, give a presentation to judges and guests, and mount trade stands. Each company was also interviewed by the judges. West Coasters took the honours for best overall company, best report and best display, with Ma Jar



Strathfillan

A POLICE report to Strathfillan Community Council showed there had been 19 calls in the previous month. Calls included two mountain rescues, four reports of animals on the road, two road-related calls, three concerns for individuals, three road accidents and two calls requesting information. Members heard a report from a Crianlarich resident voicing concerns about the bypass, general roads issues and the material state of the village and surrounding area. The community council will put a survey out with the next Killin News asking what improvements people would like and what issues they may have.

Loch Awe



A PETITION calling for National Scenic Area (NSA) status for Loch Awe has been launched and now has more than 100 signatures. It is now likely the proposal by Avich and Kilchrean Community Council to identify the area as significantly important will now be put before government ministers to discuss - but signatures are still required to ensure a hearing. Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to designate Loch Awe as an NSA, campaigner Christine Metcalfe sets out the case as a 'win-win situation for those who live and work on the lochside'. Mrs Metcalfe said: 'This is a non-party political petition that will give the area special significance. It will give Loch Awe an extra level of protection from development that it need and deserves. 'At present there is zero protection for this unique example of Scottish landscape, on the longest freshwater loch in Scotland.' A previous attempt to have the area protected as an NSA was dismissed by the Scottish Government. The petition states: 'It is inconceivable that a responsible government would refuse to revisit past decisions made in regard to the number of National Scenic Areas required to uphold justified needs. Especially if current legislation is failing to provide adequate protection from excessive industrial development applications. 'An NSA would further protect from unwarranted impacts upon the Glen Etive and Glen Fyne Golden Eagle Special Protection Areas. 'It will ensure this unique landscape retains its distinctive regional character and features that contribute to national identity and sense of place as further identified by the character of Mid Argyll and Lorn. 'The justification is clear. Loch Awe is also unique in the intimate nature of its ambience and geography. It does not have major motorways running down either side so remains a magnet for those seeking a quieter experience of hills, loch and wildlife.' Mrs Metcalfe asks anyone who agrees to sign the petition at www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE01655.

Western Isles

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar is issuing a call for more foster families in the area, as Foster Care Fortnight 2017 begins across the UK. According to the Fostering Network, the UK's leading fostering charity which runs Foster Care Fortnight, more than 7,000 more people with the right skills and experience are needed to offer loving, stable and secure homes to children and young people across the UK. Many foster carers, who choose to foster children in the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, say how well the fostering team has supported them to develop and evolve their current skill set in order for them to care for children who cannot live with their birth family.

At Random



Parking problems won't go away

I LIVE in the centre of Oban and have a car. I also have a resident's parking permit for zone A which costs me the princely sum of £85 for the year. I have to say that I pay for the permit quite happily as I think it represents pretty good value for money ... when you can find a space, that is. There is an unfortunate juxtaposition that the more Oban's economy booms - and that is brilliant for everyone in the area - the harder it becomes to park in the town. As we gear up for the beginning of the high season, the Oban area is becoming busier by the day. At the same time, the availability of parking spaces, both on and off street, is being diminished by ongoing works. The car park at North Pier has many fewer spaces because of work on the new pontoons to be installed there and the demolition of the former Harbour Bowl building is causing disruption in the Shore Street area. I've written here previously criticising the moaning minnies who constantly grumble about the temporary disruption and would make that point again. This is, after all, short-term pain for long-term gain.



Parking problems have been exacerbated by the work at North Pier.

In the long haul, the new pontoons will bring more business into the centre of Oban, while the new Premier Inn on the site of the former bowling alley will augment the town's economy in the same way. Councillor Roddy McCuish has suggested we need to consider a multi-storey car park, perhaps at Lochavullin. That is certainly an intriguing idea, though there will be questions over where the substantial cost will be met from. One thing is definite: the shortage of parking in Oban is a problem that won't go away. However, it is good to know that consideration is being given to potential solutions. We need to do something sooner rather than later to address the issue.

Poignant gift of treasured items

AS WE report today on the facing page, Bob James has handed over to Oban War and Peace Museum significant mementoes from his family's recent history. The story behind Mr James's gift to the museum is a fascinating one and will, I am sure, be featured prominently in the excellent museum on the Esplanade. I have to admit that I was unaware of the history of the Sunderland seaplane that crashed off Kerrera until I read the story of how Mr James's father, Flight Sergeant Robert James, died on the night towards the end of May in 1942.

Congratulations to bright spark Rachel

OBAN-BASED Rachel Parker has won national recognition for her entrepreneurial skills in setting up Rachel's Gluten Free, a catering business that pretty much does what it says on the tin. My wife has coeliac's disease, which means a strict gluten-free diet. Even in recent years, this has at times been a condition which has meant eating dull, unappetising dishes with few sweet treats. These days, thanks to much greater awareness and people like Rachel, it's not a problem. Well done, Rachel, and thanks for the cakes. What do you think? Do you have something you want to share? Let me know by writing to me at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4 HB, or by email to mlaing@obantimes.co.uk.

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JEWSON

Son pays last visit to war hero dad's Oban crash site

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

THE son of an airman who died in a plane crash near Oban 75 years ago during the Second World War has made his 'last' pilgrimage to the site, and donated his family's memories to the town's War and Peace Museum.

Just after dawn on May 29, 1942, a Sunderland flying boat laden with torpedoes crash-landed while approaching the RAF Oban base off the northern tip of Kerrera, then sank and exploded when its depth charges detonated at 30ft underwater.

Bob James's father, Flight Sergeant Robert Stewart Seymour James, who enlisted at the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, was one of the four airmen killed in the tragedy. Robert's widow, Eileen, Bob's mother, always kept the secret handwritten letter sent to her by an RAF officer in Bo'ness explaining exactly what had happened to her husband.

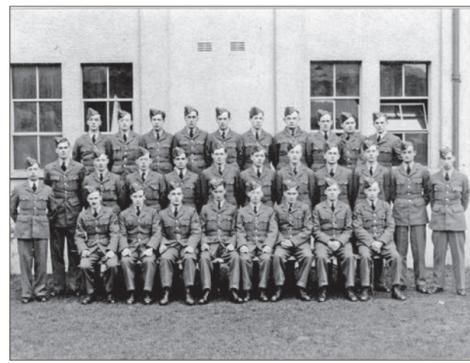
Eileen, the granddaughter of Queen Victoria's goldsmith William Robb, often visited the site from Aberdeenshire where Bob was born, until she died last year. Now, almost exactly 75 years after the accident, Bob has decided to donate that letter and family photographs of his father in uniform to the Oban War and Peace Museum.

Bob, a retired entertainment agent who represented among many others Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich, also regularly travelled from Wapload Drove in Lincolnshire with his wife Wendy to pay tribute at the Ganavan war memorial near where the accident happened.

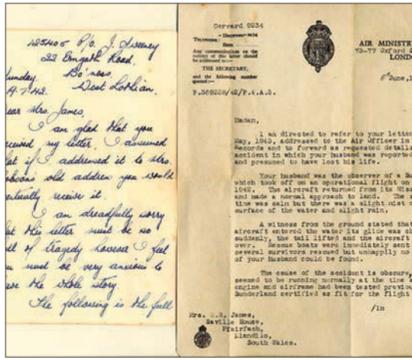
The memorial, overlooking the Firth of Lorne and Ganavan Sands where a slipway (which still exists) was constructed for servicing aircraft, is dedicated to the memory of all air and ground personnel of 18 Group Coastal Command who served at RAF Oban. It bears the Gaelic inscription 'Mus diochuimhnich sinn' - 'Lest we forget'.

Bob and Wendy visited Oban on Wednesday last week to pay their respects at the war memorial, and hand the documents to the museum, which he kindly let *The Oban Times* see beforehand.

The RAF officer's letter to Mrs James, dated September 1942,



Bob James, above, pays tribute at the Ganavan war memorial, overlooking where his father Flt Sgt Robert James, right, died. Letters written to Robert's widow Eileen, explain the circumstances of the crash. Left, Flt Sgt James front row fourth from right, with his squadron.



explained he was taking a personal risk in writing it, and asked her to keep it confidential. 'I am not supposed to disclose any details of aircraft accidents,' he said. 'It is considered prejudicial to public scrutiny. It would be harmful to me if the contents of this letter became known to the authorities.'

As the Sunderland II T9089 came into land at 4.40am, he continued, 'weather conditions were not really good for a landing in the dark, there being a thin mist or haze with a perfectly flat calm sea which mirrored the whole sky and made it extremely difficult for the pilot to judge his height.'

'The aircraft came in to land in the usual way, but to those on the flare path the angle appeared to be too steep. She hit the water with a severe bump, bounced into the air and turned over onto her back.'

'The rescue launches were alongside the wreck in a few seconds and immediately an attempt was made to take off any survivors. Of the total crew

Every man works like a creature possessed to save his flying comrade

RAF officer's secret letter

of nine, six were rescued, one of whom I understand has since died in hospital.

'The remaining three, and regrettably Mrs James your husband was one of them, were trapped in that part of the wreck which was totally submerged and must have been drowned immediately.'

'The unfortunate fact that everyone was not saved was not

due to the fault of the crews of the rescue boats. Individual members of these crews performed acts of considerable bravery.

'Two fellows actually dived off the boats into the water in the dark and swam into the sinking machine in a fruitless attempt to reach those known to be trapped. Although it was obvious that no life remained on board, the rescuers did not give up hope until the machine began to sink.'

'They then withdrew to a safe distance because of the fear that the depth charges might go off when the wreck reached the prescribed depth at which they were set to explode.'

'It was a blessing that they did because within a few minutes the air and sea were shaken by a terrific explosion and a column of water a hundred feet high was thrown into the air.'

'On occasions like this every man works like a creature possessed to save the life of his flying comrade and risks his own life in doing so.'

The fatalities on T9089 were

listed as Flight Sergeants Robert Stuart Seymour James, John Robert Hughes and Thomas Joseph Isaacs, and Sergeant Elfed Lewis, who succumbed to his injuries in hospital.

Another letter, sent by the Air Ministry in London in June 1943, added that the cause of the accident remained obscure.

'A witness from the ground stated that as the aircraft entered the water its glide was checked suddenly, the tail lifted and the aircraft turned over. Unhappily no trace of your husband could be found.'

Bob, now aged 74, never got to meet his father. 'I was conceived for two months when he died on May 29, 1942,' he said. 'I was born in December.'

When asked why he is donating these few family treasures of his late father, he replied: 'My children never knew their grandfather, because I never knew him,' he explained. 'I have no-one to pass them on to. It is probably my last trip.'

MORVERN lines

A very special Highland postman

WITH the cost of sending a letter, let alone a parcel, by Royal Mail these days, it cannot be long before this famous service disappears altogether.

Despite their usefulness at times, Facebook and Twitter haven't helped. Who and whatever eventually replaces our postmen and women, who are the eyes and ears of our remote and rural communities, their demise will alter a way of life forever.

Believe it or not, there are still many folk living alone in the Highlands and Islands who look forward to the arrival of a hand-delivered message and rely on the social contact.

In the long history of mail deliveries in Argyll, few posties were as conscientious about maintaining the ambitious standards set by the great British Post Office for the area as Hector Currie, Lochaline, who could claim to have walked 112,000 miles in the course of his duty.

In the 1840s, the Mull and Morvern mail came from Oban, as it does today. Instead of leaving Oban and arriving in Craignure, it went via Kerrera to Grasspoint and then to Fishnish.

After being sorted, letters, for there were few parcels in those days, were returned to the mail bag which was duly sealed and ferried across the Sound to Lochaline in the mail boat to the post office at Kiel, where Samuel Cameron added to his duties of schoolmaster, session clerk,



Today's Lochaline to Fishnish mail ferry.

precentor, catechist and elder those of the local postmaster.

At that time mail came just once a week. Although the population of Morvern numbered almost 2,000 - today it is less than 400 - letters were few and only delivered as opportunity offered. Post haste, claimed the parish minister, was unknown in these parts; the poste restante being much more common.

Hector Currie's duties with the Post Office began in 1837 when, at the age of 19, he and his brother Gillelan, took charge of the Lochaline mail ferry. For the next 25 years or so the brothers sailed backwards and forwards over the unpredictable Sound in their open boat, summer and winter, without any loss of life or their precious cargo. They

were a popular sight and always ready to oblige.

Dr John Maclachlan, the celebrated Gaelic bard of Ra-hoy, was a frequent passenger when attending to his patients on Mull and beyond, and wrote a song praising Hector's boatmanship and friendly nature (translation): 'Seaman of surpassing skill, when the sky is being torn asunder, a fierce sea roaring and heaving up in great masses. From your early days you were highly esteemed in the place, for the way in which you would so safely steer a boat to land. You would not refuse to ferry a timid woman or a destitute man. I hope that prosperity and blessing may attend you as long as you live.'

With the opening of the Highland railway to Kingussie in 1860, Fort William, instead

of Oban, became the head post office for Morvern, which meant the withdrawal of the Sound of Mull mail ferry boat. This created a good deal of disappointment in Morvern, so much so, that a petition was raised but it was unsuccessful and Hector, much against his wishes, had to exchange the tiller for a shoulder bag.

Donald Mackinnon, another Morvern bard, penned a very fine song sympathising with Hector in his new role in which he wrote: 'In the evening I heard a report and I am sure that it is true; that the Lochaline packet had been drawn up on the land. It is contrary to nature for you to have a bag on your back, and that the steersman of the boat should take to the glen. I am sure you would prefer spray

from the crests of the waves than to travel through bog land carrying a heavy bag.'

When this new arrangement started, the Morvern mail was routed from Fort William via the Corran ferry. It was then carried to Inversanda by the Strontian mail cart where it was passed on to Archibald Maclachlan. He carried it between there and Kingairloch where he arrived each alternate day at 4am.

Hector's role in all this was rural mail messenger, which saw him walking the 16 miles to and from Kingairloch with the outgoing and incoming mail each alternate days in the week.

One of Hector's unofficial duties was to cut the Kingairloch minister's hair for which he always got a large dram. On one occasion, when the measure was less than usual, probably on account of the manse supplies, the minister asked his friend why he was looking so thoughtful. 'Well, minister,' came the reply, 'I was just thinking how nice it would be if you had two heads.' The hint was taken and the glass recharged.

Hector retired in 1881 after 44 years' service and was given a purse of gold sovereigns from his friends and a private pension from Thomas Valentine Smith of Ardtornish - a great Morvern benefactor in the days before state pensions.

Hector died in 1906 and is buried with his family in Kiel, overlooking his beloved Sound of Mull.

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

Lisa's got a new job, and a new problem...



Hi Julie, how are you?

I love my new job, and the office is in a lovely old building but the windows are so draughty and the noise from the street is terrible.



I really wish there was something my boss could do about the windows but we're in a conservation area... I wonder if Cairngorm could help?

Yes Lisa, help is at hand. We specialise in helping people who have homes or businesses in a conservation area. Fitting secondary glazing is a cost effective and efficient way of insulating and sound proofing your existing windows. We'll soon have you keeping the cold and noise out, the heat in and the bills down.



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www.cairngormgroup.co.uk



#MeetTheCairns

Meeting hears that land is secured for Soroba centre

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

IT IS time to roll up your sleeves and prepare the ground for Soroba Viewpoint, a meeting heard last week.

The community centre, which has been in the planning for more than 10 years, has managed to secure land and the support of the residents in Soroba, but to date the funding for the building has not been forthcoming.

That is set to change, with a committee elected last Tuesday to move matters forward.

The Viewpoint group has also been officially linked with the Soroba Community Enterprise Ltd (SCEL), which runs the community centre.

The group's chairwoman, Marri Malloy, said that the community centre in Soroba was 'long overdue' and would make a world of a difference to people from Oban and far beyond.

Mrs Malloy said: 'We have so many groups and activities going on in the current building that we cannot fit them all in. 'People have waited a long



People who attended the community meeting have their input on the best way forward.

time for the new facility and I would like to get going with a strong funding push.'

Mrs Malloy welcomed four newly-elected councillors and

said she was delighted they had attended the meeting to lend their support.

Committee member Andrew MacDonald said he was keen

to see the number of people who wanted to be involved with the project grow.

He explained that a number of fundraisers had shown inter-

est in the Viewpoint centre but the group wanted to know how best to serve the community.

The group has organised a catwalk show at M&Co

in Oban tomorrow (Friday May 19) at 6.30pm. Tickets are available from members of the community centre committee or at the door.

Nicola Wilson, committee member, said: 'We had a great turnout for our SCEL/Oban Viewpoint AGM.

'A huge thank you to our newly-elected councillors for ward four for coming to support us, and to the members of the community who also attended.

'We look forward to working with you all and seeing you at our future meetings.

'The next meeting is Tuesday June 6 at our new time of 7pm.

'We hope this is a more suitable time and that we can welcome new members to our meetings.'

Giving support, Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, who attended the meeting, is calling for two hours from residents to come down to the area of land owned by the community to remove the overhanging bushes and to place a sign on the land.

A date for this community clear-up will be published in next week's *Oban Times*.

Four new apprentices are sought

ARGYLL Community Housing Association is investing in the future of its workforce by offering three paid modern apprentice vacancies to young people across Argyll.

The four-year apprenticeships give candidates the chance to obtain a recognised qualification, as well as gain valuable work experience and be paid.

Apprenticeships are available in three different areas: housing and neighbourhood services (which could be based anywhere in Argyll), construction and technical (based in Lochgilphead) and corporate services based in Helensburgh.

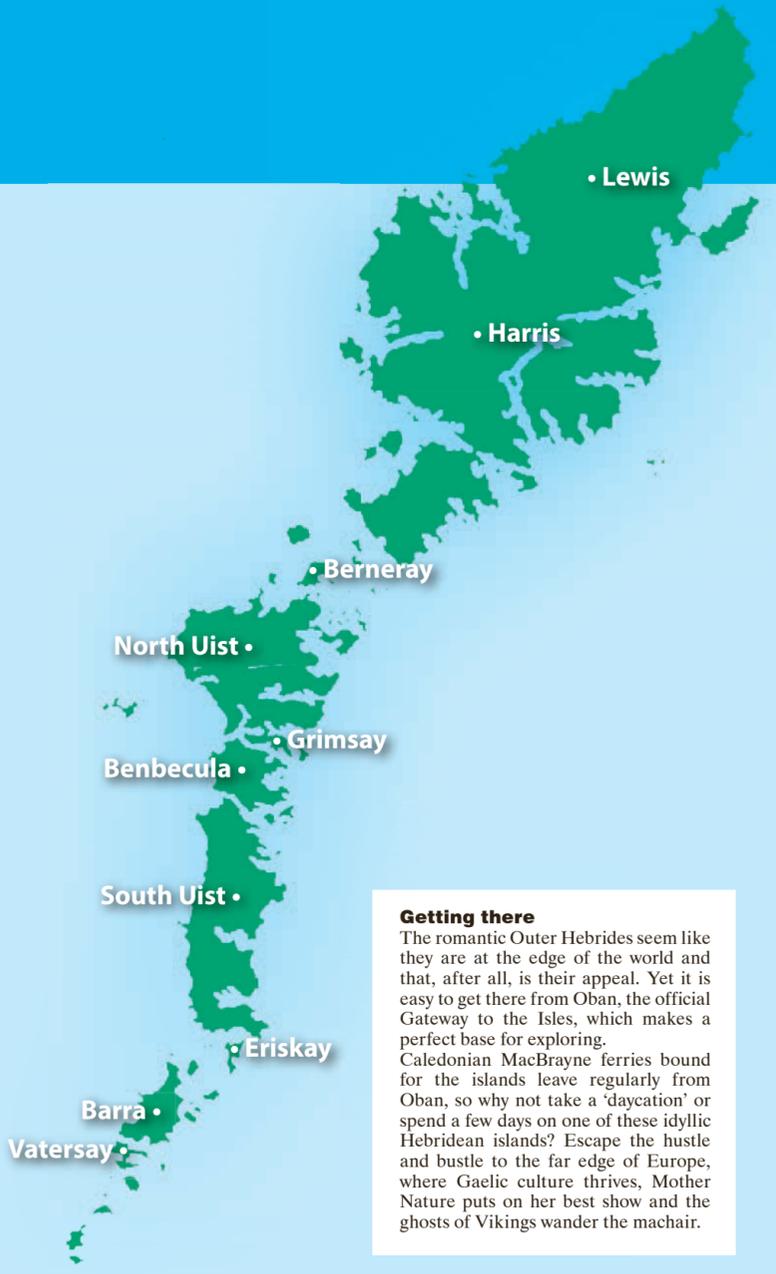
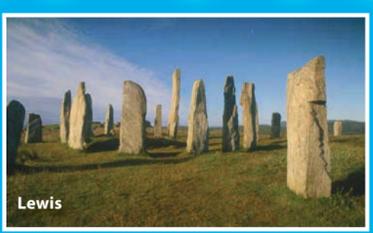
Alastair MacGregor, ACHA chief executive, said: 'Not all school-leavers want to go to college or university and even new graduates can find it hard getting a job without work-based training and experience.

'We're offering a four-year apprenticeship to three young people that will lead to a nationally recognised qualification, as well as the opportunity to gain work experience and transferable skills. Our apprentices will earn as they learn.'

The new apprentices will spend at least 10 per cent of their time working towards apprenticeship accreditation and the rest of the time with their team, doing a real job.

More details are available at ACHA's website www.acha.co.uk.

SPOTLIGHT ON the Outer Hebrides



Boasting two of TripAdvisor's 'Best Islands in Europe', the remote Outer Hebridean Isles beckon the intrepid traveller looking for the ultimate tranquil holiday. Each island is a gem that weaves a spell over visitors with ethereal landscapes, rich wildlife and deep history – and, of course, the occasional 'wee dram' of island spirits.

The stunning landscapes, the geology, wildlife, heritage and scenery of the Outer Hebrides are truly awe-inspiring. The Outer Hebrides retain a culture that is different to mainland Scotland – Gaelic is often spoken as a first language and there remains a sense of culture and tradition on each of the inhabited islands that make up the Outer Hebrides.

As Helen Campbell, head of global brand at VisitScotland, said: 'From landing on the beach at Barra to walking among the Callanish Stones on Lewis, a trip to the Outer Hebrides offers some of the most breathtaking experiences on the planet.'

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www.callanishfarmhouse.co.uk

Situated in the grounds of the Calanais Visitor Centre this four star self catering property is ideally situated to enjoy a magical Hebridean Holiday.

Getting there
The romantic Outer Hebrides seem like they are at the edge of the world and that, after all, is their appeal. Yet it is easy to get there from Oban, the official Gateway to the Isles, which makes a perfect base for exploring.

Caledonian MacBrayne ferries bound for the islands leave regularly from Oban, so why not take a 'daycation' or spend a few days on one of these idyllic Hebridean islands? Escape the hustle and bustle to the far edge of Europe, where Gaelic culture thrives, Mother Nature puts on her best show and the ghosts of Vikings wander the machair.

New all-weather marina project given green light

MONICA GIBSON
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

PLANS for a £2.5 million, 40-berth marina in Corpach has been given the go-ahead.

The Highland Council has awarded planning permission to Caol Regeneration Company, on behalf of the Thomas Telford Corpach Marina Project, for a new all-weather yacht marina and public slipway at the entrance to the Caledonian Canal.

Andrew McKenna from Thomas Telford Corpach Marina Project (TTCMP), said: 'It's exciting news for marine tourism on Loch Linnhe - full steam ahead. The steering group has been working hard for months and is grateful to the Highland Council, HIE, LEADER, Crown Estates and Scottish Canals for their encouragement, support and initial funding.'

Katie Hughes, director of estates at Scottish Canals, added

her congratulations, saying: 'We're delighted that planning permission has been granted for the new marina and look forward to continuing to work with the Caol Regeneration Company as the project develops.'

Members of the TTCMP held a public consultation in Kilmallie community hall last October to showcase the latest design plans for the development, before submitting their application.

Local business Northern Light was commissioned in February to begin the process of sourcing funding opportunities for the project and, at a later stage, to manage the tendering process for construction contracts.

The project is supported by councillors Allan Henderson and Ben Thompson, MSP Kate Forbes and general election candidate Ian Blackford, as well as several key Caol and Corpach businesses and individuals.

Previously, Mr McKenna said

Fort William could access an untapped market due to the fact there are no major marinas between Inverness and Oban. The steering group and many others believe that Fort William and Loch Linnhe's marine tourism future looks bright when community groups work together to provide complementary visitor facilities.

The new marina project follows the recent development of pontoons at the West End which has already allowed hundreds of cruise-liner passengers easy access to Fort William with more visits planned for 2017.

With this cruise-liner market established and developing fast, the steering group believes it is time to provide first-class marina facilities for local and visiting yachts together with sheltered slipway access for small boats on Loch Linnhe at Corpach.

With the marina now able to progress, a Marine Scotland licence is the next stage.

As the project moves forward, two different, but complementary, sectors of marine tourism are on the cards for the communities around the shoreline of upper Loch Linnhe between Corpach and Fort William town.

The steering group says these projects are not just about marine tourism, adding: 'This is local energy looking to grow our local economy, working to make Fort William an even better place to live and a great destination by creating quality, well-considered facilities. It's about potential new job opportunities and new community economic benefits.'



A right royal smile from Caol Queen Ellie

ELLIE CAMERON has been named this year's Caol gala queen.

Twelve-year-old Ellie, a first-year pupil at Lochaber High School, will have attendants Millie Henderson, 11, and Keira Conn, eight, by her side when she carries out her royal duties on Saturday June 24.

The girls will be driven around Caol before heading to the gala. Ellie will be crowned queen

on the day and will hand out the 2017 Citizenship Award.

Organiser Kirsty Kyle told the *Lochaber Times*: 'We have Highland dancers, cheerleaders and a strongman competition. We will have our usual gala granny, a piper and possibly a baking competition. It's all coming together well now, but we are still looking for two more volunteers to run sports events.'



Boudicca through Corran Narrows on May 10.

Photograph: DigitalStudio, www.wingman.co.uk

Argyll College UHI gears up for outdoor adventure

Are You Open to Adventure?



If adrenaline-fuelled outdoor activity is your idea of fun, Argyll College UHI has a brand new course which is ideal for you.

NC Outdoor Adventure Sports is a one year course which will include a range of Adventure Sports units overseen by one of the country's most experienced outdoor activity instructors - Andy Spink of Oban-based Hebridean Pursuits Ltd (HPL).

Andy, who has spent nearly 30 years running HPL, is passionate about outdoor education. He will be teaching Adventure Sports (canyoning, gorge walking and coasteering), Rock Climbing, Paddle Sports, and Summer and Winter Hillwalking. The course

may also include a multi-activity week at HPL's Tavool House outdoor centre on Mull.

Anatomy, Nutrition, Contemporary Fitness and other subjects are also studied. 'It's very exciting for us to be given the opportunity to get students participating in - and hopefully enthused by - outdoor adventure and education,' Andy said.

'This course will be a fantastic way for anyone who's keen on adventure sports and outdoor activities and thinks they might want to pursue a career in that area to get themselves onto the first rung of the ladder. Who knows where that ladder might lead?'

Successful completion of the Level 5 course could

lead on to various opportunities including other further education qualifications, apprenticeships and even a degree. The University of the Highlands and Islands currently offers degree courses in Adventure Education, Adventure Performance and Coaching and Adventure Tourism Management at The School of Adventure Studies in Fort William.

According to Andy, there's no better place in the UK in which to be involved in outdoor education.

'The West Coast of Scotland is one of the world's best adventure playgrounds, and we're right in the middle of it,' he said.

'We'll be doing some really adventurous, fun, ex-

citing activities. There will be a classroom element but this is primarily designed as a practical, skills-based course. Our highly experienced team of instructors can't wait to meet the first group of students and get started.'

More information about this course can be found at www.argyllcollege.ac.uk - search for 'outdoor adventure'.

Hebridean Pursuits Ltd is part of the Roses Charitable Trust. All proceeds subsidise The Roses Project, which offers residential adventure activities for disadvantaged young people at Tavool House on Mull. For more details, please go to www.hebrideanpursuits.co.uk



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Mòd hits road to inspire new generation

MORE than 14 schools across Lochaber have accepted an invitation to participate in a project designed to get more youngsters taking part in the Mòd.

The Highland Council, An Comunn Gàidhealach and the Lochaber National Mòd Local Organising Committee (LOC) are working in partnership with Fèisean nan Gàidheal to deliver the Mòd Academy Project in the lead up to the Royal National Mòd in Fort William in October.

The Mòd Academy Project will see experienced Gaelic tutors and teachers give language and musical tuition to pupils. An Comunn officers will also visit schools to raise awareness of the Mòd and how pupils can participate.

Ronald Cameron, chairman of LOC, said: 'We are delighted The Highland Council, in partnership with An Comunn Gàidhealach, has engaged Fèisean nan Gàidheal to deliver the Mòd Academy Project to 14 schools across the area and prepare pupils for both local Mòds and the Royal National Mòd.'

'The project includes highly experienced and renowned singers and tradition bearers, including Joy Dunlop, Mary Ann Kennedy, Janet Campbell and Sileas Sinclair. Thanks go to the organisers, tutors and all the head teachers involved with the project.'

John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn, said: 'We are grateful for the funding support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the Highland Council, the Patrons' Fund and the contributions from the families of the late Charlie MacColl and the late George Smith.'



OT

Viewpoint



Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Ask anyone about claiming insurance, and they will no doubt have had an experience that left them furious or frustrated for one reason or another.

This week we have such a story, concerning a decorated hero who helped save 37 lives during the Piper Alpha tragedy but was almost killed due to a leaking toilet.

Last week pensioner Seamus McNeill's godson noticed water coming through the 73-year-old's bathroom ceiling from the flat above. Mr McNeill spoke to his neighbour who was quick to report it to their landlord, ACHA, and an emergency plumber was sent out to fix it. An ACHA inspector then carried out a follow-up

check. Mr McNeill said he was told everything was fine; however, a few days later a large part of his bathroom ceiling collapsed only seconds after he had left the room. He had a lucky escape.

Mr McNeill says ACHA has told him he will have to claim on his own insurance and has walked away from the situation, which the OAP is upset about.

ACHA has done nothing wrong, but a little compassion about Mr McNeill's circumstances – which are through no fault of his own – and the offer of someone to help him through the claims process would have gone a long way to reassuring this scared elderly gentleman.



Days gone by – 1996

This week we go back to June of 1996 and the 'christening' of a new bus for Oban business Stealaway Diving Contracts. Doing the honours with the bottle is Carol Waplington, watched by Myra and Liam Griffin to her right, and the rest of the Stealaway Diving Contracts team.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



Public pressure is key to Billy's release

I AM not a fan of hot climates and last Sunday, as I waited in a long slow-moving queue under the blazing Mediterranean sun, getting cooked while waiting to check in for a delayed return flight, my indignation was on the rise.

The discomfort was growing, as was my frustration at the lack of information being given to passengers. We had been waiting for a nearly an hour at this stage with no signs of resolution.

Wiling in the heat, I felt justified in feeling angry and impatient, as well as worried about missing our connecting flight home.

That was until I had a look at my Facebook page and at the top of my newsfeed was a photograph of a hand-written letter from Billy Irving to Prime Minister Theresa May.

For three and a half years now Billy has been feeling his life pass by in the sweltering heat of a disgusting Chennai prison cell with no clean water to drink, no sanitation and no prospect of freedom. After reading the letter, my own insignificant discomforts and frustrations were immediately put in their place.

Billy's plight has been covered well by



Billy Irving with fiancée Yvonne MacHugh and son William

this paper, by some parts of the wider media, by a strong Facebook campaign and by his family, who have been working tirelessly trying to make progress in bringing this heart-rending tale to an end.

I wrote about the injustice of the situation in an article before Christmas, and I am very sorry to say that since then almost nothing has changed and Billy and his 34 colleagues are no closer to gaining release.

I laid out my interpretation of the facts then and will re-post that piece on Facebook for anyone who would like to read the prelude to this article.

There is no clear way to a resolution, but one definite possibility to bring

about Billy's release is direct intervention by the British Government.

Regardless of the complexities of the case and despite the political quagmire in which they are caught up, if there was enough political will, the British Government would do what it takes to get the six British citizens released.

All over the country are newly and re-elected councillors, and on June 8 there is a general election. Now is a good time for the public, by all means possible, to press upon elected council representatives and those seeking parliamentary election and re-election to add their weight and will, pushing to the highest level of government the urgency and injustice of this situation.

Politics is an intricate game but there is no doubt that pressure from the public – especially at times of election – is a clear route to get issues dealt with. Billy will soon be seeing another birthday pass by with no prospect of being reunited with his fiancée Yvonne MacHugh and young son William. That boy is growing up without a father and a family's existence is being ripped apart.

The conventional legal route is not working, so by writing letters, sending emails, talking to door-stepping candidates, writing and sharing Facebook statuses, tweeting and telling friends, together we can all help to bring Billy back.



Donald Bowness quipped: 'Wow a sea eagle takes a lamb when thousands are killed every day to put food on our tables. That eagle has more right than us to have it!'

Laura Cook said: 'Crows are dreadful creatures too, they remove the eyes of lambs and sheep, given half a chance, I can't remember if it's the crow, or the raven that takes the tongues of lambs. The difference is, farmers can and do control numbers of crows, where Ravens are protected.'

Megan Seacord posted: 'I've gone from thinking ravens were clever and admirable to having a raging hatred for their butchering ways. I'd happily shoot them all!'

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

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

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

Pesticide Gazelle is about to be banned

Sir,

In response to the letter from Tim Liddon of Tilhill Forestry (*The Oban Times*, April 27), many pesticides that are now banned – eg, organophosphates – were once authorised and approved by government and scientific authorities.

Neonicotinoids are already banned in some European countries, and are shortly to be banned by the EU.

Pesticides are designed to kill, and neonicotinoids destroy acetylcholine in nerves and the brain.

The hazards for the neonicotinoid pesticide Gazelle (which is an acetamiprid) are: highly water soluble, very persistent in aquatic systems, moderate mammalian toxicity, high potential for bio-accumulation, highly toxic to birds and earthworms, toxic to aquatic organisms, and contaminates other plants, which depend on insect pollination, by the fungal mycorrhizal association from the systemic treated trees.

Yes we enjoy the forests, but also for their wildlife and flowers.

Mull has one of the richest variety and concentration of wildlife in Europe – golden eagles; a flourishing hen harrier population (which is declining in the rest of UK) and insects not found anywhere else.

Tilhill Forestry has a responsibility, as custodian of the land for future generations, to ensure that this wonderful diversity of wildlife and flowers (which depend on insect pollinators, like bees) is protected.

Wildlife tourism is also a major factor in Mull's economy.

Michael Shilton,
Dervaig, Isle of Mull.

Dunbeg people have been kept in the dark

Sir,

Thank you for letting Dunbeg Community Council and us know about the planning approval for 600 new houses in three phases. Without *The Oban Times*, we would not have known.

The lack of information from Argyll and Bute Council, Link Group and Transport Scotland to our community council and people who live and work in our village in this whole process has been appalling.

Dunbeg Community Council is the only one that went round and found out what residents and people who work in the village want. The message was very clear: no more houses without proper roads, school and other infrastructure.

We need to find out the following from councillors, Transport Scotland and Link Group.

* What number of each type of housing is being proposed? How many people will be taken off the housing list with these houses?

* What are the plans for the school which we know is near capacity? One rumour circulating is Portakbins and we all know the history of Rockfield School and temporary buildings.

* How does Transport Scotland back a roundabout from the Oban side sometime in the future? How does it think 300-plus extra cars moving morning, lunchtime and evening can get into

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



MAR A THA MI air a thogail roimhe bho chionn ghoidid, saoilidh mi gur iomadh seanfhacal agus gnàthas-cainnte a tha a' call brìgh mar a thèid na bliadhnaichean seachad agus dòigh-beatha agus obrach an t-sluaigh ag atharrachadh.

Ach tha aon a tha gu cinnteach cho fìor an-diugh 's a bha e a' chiad turas a theireadh e, agus sin gur iomadh rud boidhe nach òr agus gur iomadh rud boidheach as fhìach a sheachnadh! Freagraidh comhairle nam briathran seo air iomadhaidh suidheachadh ìbhinn agus sòlaime, agus thàinig iad nam intinn is mi ag èisteachd le tomhas de dh'umhas ris an naidheachd gun robh eucoraich air bhioras a chruthachadh a bh' air briseadh a-staigh dha clàran-fiosrachaidh didseatach sheirbheisean slàinte na dùthcha.

Cha b' ann air na seirbheisean sin a-mhàin a rinnadh call, tha gnìomhachasan feadh an t-saoghail air fulang cuideachd, ach saoilidh mi gum bi a' mhòr-chuid d'ghrèidh gum faodadh fiosrachadh dìomhair mun cuid slàinte a bhith air fhòillseachadh.

Tha na thachair an seo na dhearb-

or out the village using the existing entrance without a roundabout? Has the A85 to be blocked at these times by people trying to get in or out of Dunbeg? Who is the person or persons liable in Transport Scotland if there are injuries or fatalities caused by its advice?

* It has been said that a meeting is being planned for a Friday between 4pm and 6pm to tell people about this. Who is going to come to a meeting at this time? It is clearly more lack of communication. It is clear that everybody who resides and works in Dunbeg needs to get information through their letterbox.

It is clear that the only way forward is to say no to any more houses without meaningful dialogue with Dunbeg Community Council and the residents and those who work in Dunbeg.

Bill Harvey,
Castle Road, Dunbeg.

Parking problems will be discussed again

Sir,

Oban Community Council welcomes the highlighting of the parking situation in Oban, which has repeatedly been discussed at our meetings.

We have several times expressed our willingness to bring together all the interested parties to develop the best achievable arrangements, now and in the future.

These must encompass short-stay parking for those having business in the town centre, all-day parking for those who commute into Oban for work, spaces for the many town centre residents, and long-stay parking for ferry passengers and crew.

While we are very willing to listen to suggestions from others, we believe that these arrangements should be developed in Oban, by Oban and for Oban.

Our next meeting will be on May 29 at 7pm in the Rockfield Centre. Perhaps we can make arrangements for a suitable forum?

Marri Malloy, convener,
Duncan Martin, deputy convener,
Oban Community Council.

Councillors should get on with the day job

Sir,

I am disappointed to note three recently-elected Argyll and Bute councillors – Alan Reid (Liberal Democrats), Aileen Morton (Liberal Democrats) and Gary Mulvaney (Conservative and Unionist) – have decided to stand as candidates in the general election on June 8.

While it is not unusual for council members to put themselves forward for parliamentary consideration, the timing here is suspect and shows a complete lack of regard for both the council and the electorate of Argyll and Bute.

I urge these councillors to serve their constituents and communities by getting on with the day job that they were elected to just two weeks ago.

Councillor Julie McKenzie,
Creag Bhan Village,
Oban.

Many thanks to all my 'stickers' and helpers

Sir,

I wish to thank all who supported me during the recent council election. I am delighted to have been returned to represent you for a third term of office.

Thank you to my family who have supported me over the previous two terms and also this year in my leaflet delivery, and for all the chauffeuring. Thank you to Brian and Chris Swinbanks for organising the team of people who turned a bad situation into a good one by sticking all the stickers onto my leaflets. Thanks to all the 'stickers'.

Thanks to the Cameron and Fisher families, the McClymont family, Carol MacKenzie, Julie Walker, Alasdair MacDougall, and Catherine and Alastair Carswell for all the leaflets you delivered for me. What a super help that was and greatly appreciated.

A big thank you to all who voted for me and allowed me to be your representative on Argyll and Bute Council. Whether you voted for me or not, whether you are a member of a political party or not, I am your representative and will be working on behalf of you all, irrespective of your political persuasion.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon,
Mull.

Pleased to prove my doubters wrong

Sir,

May I say a huge thank you to everyone who voted for me in the local election. Our new intake of members and our veterans were a terrific help during this election as was my local association and family. I could not have done it without you all.

I was told by many separatists that I had no chance of winning and that I was wasting my time. I'm proud to have proven them wrong.

With an increase of nearly 100 votes on my result last time, I have been elected as your councillor for the Kintyre and the Islands ward. I will fight hard to see our roads and infrastructure improved across our ward. I will strive to serve and represent all of my council ward not just the people who share my political views.

If you have a problem or concern, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.

Congratulations to successful candidates

Sir,

I would like to thank the people in Oban South and the Isles who voted for me. I very much enjoyed meeting residents, in particular at the various meetings.

It is clear from these meetings that residents are very committed to their areas. I am disappointed that I will not be able to represent the ward.

Finally, I would like to congratulate those who were elected: Mary-Jean Devon, Roddy McCuish, Jim Lynch and Jamie McGrigor.

David Pollard,
Salen, Isle of Mull.

Ailean Caimbeul

Social media

DRAMATIC photographs of a sea eagle carrying away a lamb in its talons provoked lively debate about wildlife, conservation and farming. David McLoughlin posted: 'Probably not happy but we Can't stop nature we have to live with it. We ran this bird to extinction in this country we should be proud they are now coming back.'

Lucy Nicholson explained: 'I am not Lucy Nicholson I am her husband and a farmer and know sea eagles take lambs but conservationists are talking of reintroducing lynx more lambs decimated but am sure it will bring in the holidaymakers.'

Alex Eaton slammed: 'I hate when conservationists think to solve one prob-

lem you introduce another species like the lynx into the food chain and hope it only does what you want it to do, how many times has reintroducing animals back into the wild actually worked without affecting unintentionally other species and landscape around it? Just think of the extra cost to farmers to protect their livestock from lynx as well.'

Katharine Elwis offered: 'I have heard RSPB representatives say, categorically, that these birds do not take lambs. Farmers beg to differ.'

Kirstine Hancock wrote: 'We (humans) breed and kill thousands of lamb every year for food..... but god forbid any other animal should do the same as us!'

Press policy

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

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

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

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

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

Your letters

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

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

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

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

Summer Weddings

With a gorgeous natural backdrop and a plethora of fairytale venues, the West Highlands are a renowned wedding destination, for local couples and from those coming from the furthest corners of the world.



A wedding may be the biggest party a couple will ever organise, so nothing should be left to chance. *The Oban Times* summer wedding guide will help the bride and groom plan their perfect day. And a few tips will help make the process even smoother.

Compromise is an essential part of the wedding planning. This may be the biggest day of a bride's life, but the groom can be involved as well. He may not be interested in the colours, the cake or the bridesmaid's dresses and, in fact, he may not even care about the details – all he is thinking about is how happy his blushing bride will make him. But by asking him to make some important decisions, such as setting a budget, choosing groomsmen outfits, sourcing rings and organising the honeymoon, the bride won't feel like she is doing everything – and he gets to put in his tuppence worth. Our advertisers can help make decisions as well, taking some of the strain off the couple. With that in mind, here is *The Oban Times*' five-point plan to help organise the big day with a minimum of stress.

1. SET A REALISTIC BUDGET. Weddings can be expensive, so make a priority list and be ready to compromise. Our advertisers can

help with this. And remember, years from now, everyone will remember the love and the fun, not whether they ate the most costly cake or drank the finest champagne.

2. DECIDE ON A DATE. Speak to the celebrant first, whether it is a minister or a member of the council office, and get the date pencilled in before you make any plans. Then the venue can be booked and invitations printed.

3. MAKE A PLAN. By keeping a to-do list and planning well ahead, the busy bride can stay organised and keep on top of tasks. Keep records of everything, from discussions with the venue manager and caterer to fabric swatches.

4. DIVIDE AND CONQUER. Think about the skills of people in the wedding party and family and ask them to be involved. Does Aunt Mary have mad calligraphy skills? Have her address the invitations. Is the bridesmaid a keen baker? Ask if she can make the cake. And for everything else, the friendly and knowledgeable *Oban Times* advertisers have all the bases covered – it's what they do.

5. ENJOY THE DAY. After months of stressful planning, by the time the wedding day arrives, the bride and groom can be at the end of their tethers. But if they let the professionals do their jobs and allow their family and friends to pamper and assist in the last details, the stressed out couple can transform into the happy couple – how it's supposed to be. Just relax, smile and enjoy.

As the first point of contact for couples wishing to tie the knot in a civil ceremony, the friendly and helpful staff at the Argyll and Bute Council registrar's office will guide you through the entire process. And with new legislation allowing ceremonies to be held at almost any location, brides and grooms have more flexibility than ever to create their dream day.

'With recent legislation, registrars are authorised to conduct ceremonies outwith their own offices at any venue without a specific licence,' said Gemma Cummins, registrar for Oban. 'We do perform a health and safety check prior, but we are free to marry wherever we feel is a suitable place, so it makes it so much easier for couples now.'

Ms Cummins challenges the traditional view that civil ceremonies have to be cut and dried. 'Our motto is "It's your day, so we do it your way". We encourage the inclusion of music and poetry – which is not to say couples must have that – but we want to give them as much choice as they can possibly have so at the end of the day it's perfect. We are now allowed religious content and alternative ceremonies such as handfasting and candle ceremonies are becoming really popular.'

Having the ceremony where the reception is held, such as at a hotel, castle or gathering hall, has become a popular trend, but there are several stunning council marriage rooms available throughout Argyll, including a new facility in Helensburgh, the castle house in Dunoon, a room over the Linda McCartney garden in Campbeltown and a room overlooking Tobermory Bay on Mull. Increasingly, couples are going to the registrar for ceremonies to renew their wedding vows, or hold a baby naming ceremony – these can even be combined for a special family day. Depending on the venue, they can seat two to 80 guests, but if the couple doesn't have witnesses, the office can supply those as well.

Couples are encouraged to contact the registrar early in the process. 'Decide where and when you would like to be married, then contact your local registrar as soon as possible to ensure their availability and check out the legal requirements for your marriage,' Ms Cummins said. 'You can book the wedding without lodging your forms.'

There is no residency requirement to get married in Scotland, but every couple is required to give the registrar in the district they wish to be married at least 28 days' notice. 'We encourage couples to make contact with the registrar early, as different couples will have different requirements. For example, if you are divorced or a surviving partner, you will need your documents and there are different rules that apply for couples who are coming from outwith the EU. We do like to stress to couples to make sure that everything is order – and we will guide them. Forms are valid for three months, but you can book a year or more in advance.'

Look for the council's dedicated registration webpage at <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/marriage/> for everything you need to know about getting married here.

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Q. What is the name of the restaurant?

For your chance to win, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to The Oban Times, Isle of Eriska Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Tuesday 6th June

Answer.....
Name.....
Address.....
Postcode.....
Telephone..... Email.....

Terms and conditions: Closing date for entries is midnight, Tuesday 6th June. Wyvex Media and any agencies connected with the competition and their families are not eligible to enter. The prize is as stated. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is also open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications. Digital subscribers can enter by printing this page and submitting their entry along with a letter explaining you are a digital subscriber (please provide your email address). The prize must be taken by June 30th 2017

Isle of Eriska Hotel would like to send you information.
If you would not like to be contacted, please tick here.

Scotland's biggest ever Festival of Museums

This weekend (May 19 to 21) will mark the largest ever Festival of Museums in a celebration of Scotland's culture and history with more than 140 events taking place across three days.

Venues in the Highlands and Islands will welcome visitors with creative and hands-on activities, while spot-

lighting the wealth of culture showcased by Scotland's best-loved attractions.

Joanne Orr, chief executive of Museums Galleries Scotland, said: 'Museums across Scotland will open their doors next weekend to host the biggest and most exciting Festival of Museums ever. 'We have a bumper

programme packed with events celebrating Scotland's rich culture and incredible history - from the Picts and Border clansmen to Vikings and even pirates. Don't miss out on the fun - make sure you check out what's happening near you.'

To view the Festival programme, visit: festivalofmuseums.com.



What's on at The Nevis Centre

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Don't miss in next week's Oban Times for your free Oban Live programme

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

North Connel & District Horticultural Show PLANT SALE
Saturday 20 May
Victory Hall Benderloch
2.00-3.00pm
Adults £2 Children £1
Raffle Tickets
Show schedules available
Tips on how to show your produce too!

Oban Lifeboat Charity Fun Day
Port Appin Hall
Sat. May 20th
11am - 3pm
kids pirate fancy dress contest (judging 12 noon)
Plant Sale/ Teas etc.

malt of THE month

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Arran Malt 40% abv
Sometimes there are people whom you meet in life and you feel you are slightly out of time. Too early in this case, or maybe too late - who knows. The Japanese, of course, don't have a problem with time as it all exists in the same moment anyway. Maybe that is why Suntory are winning all the whisky awards. Back to the tale, after Mr Lee's escape with his springer spaniel, I set myself on a course of finding some kind of replacement. After a foray into the post-modern wilderness of buttons and hyperdrives, I decided to dismiss the entire people of the West Coast in case I made a bit of an mess of it. Which readers will know that I could probably do with ease. So I got in my car and drove as far as the eye could see in one weekend and took up an offer from a rather fine fellow that I would never have the need to fall in love with - or so I thought. This offer was Mr Morpeth. In the preamble to our date, he asked if I was breathing and, when I said, 'I was' he very kindly said that I would be his type. He was actually much finer than that - a wee bit of a catch. Mr Morpeth is a collector of things: of people (he still has good friends of people he went to school with five decades before), of moments (he can really tell a story well, and to my exacting standards), of understanding the importance of tiny and small things in life (he had the best leather bag I'd seen, and he also pulled stuff from a skip - perfect, and cuddled me before we parted) and, of course, he liked whisky. If I had to choose the greatest of these qualities, it would be Mr Morpeth as a collector of moments. In his life these are connected with a smell or a feeling and he weaves them all into a story - almost as well as a bottle of whisky can tell a story about life. He is also willing to try just about anything - legal stuff, of course. So insofar as getting away from Argyll where no-one would know me for this first toe dip, I discovered we always fall back upon ourselves and the things we love.

Mr Morpeth, who works with something to do with electricity, was shipped into Arran to help out in the big storms of 2013. And he had a strong affinity with the West Coast and its islands. Mr Morpeth was part of the team that brought life back to the island and the peninsula. In my mind, of course, he saved the day - like a hero wearing his pants over the top of his waterproof trousers. He is a good man Mr Morpeth - loud, brash, funny, caring. And he introduced me to the idea of being open to enjoying Arran whisky. If anyone can move mountains in my thinking, he can. Maybe that is the thing about the resonance of our own history and whisky - together they make perfect liaisons. In 10 years from now, I hope I will raise a glass of whisky infused with the snow-bound island of Arran and the thought of Mr Morpeth, and in my retelling he will become a superhero all over again.

Slainte.
Louise Glen

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

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

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To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to Wyvex Media Ltd, Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is May 31, 2017. Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media Ltd, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Wyvex Media rules apply.

BBC ALBA

A' cur 's a' Buain
Listings for Thursday 18 May - Thursday 25 May 2017

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

DIARDAOIN 19 CÈITEAN
FRIDAY 19 MAY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
18.35 **Machair** (rpt)
19.00 **An Là** - News
19.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
19.30 **An Lot** - The Croft (rpt)
20.00 **Nationwide an Alba: An Taobh an Ear** (rpt)
21.00 **Niteworks: Obair Oidhche** (rpt)
22.00 **Eilbheas** - Drama set on Lewis the day Elvis dies (rpt)
23.00 **Scottish Premiership**
Highlights - Dundee v Inverness CT shorts (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 20 CÈITEAN
SATURDAY 20 MAY
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
17.05 **Championship Playoffs 2017**
19.25 **Binneas** - Na Tradh (rpt)
19.35 **Machair** (rpt)
20.00 **Ceòl aig a' Chaisteal** (rpt)
20.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
20.30 **North Coast 500** - Le Anne

DIARDAOIN 21 CÈITEAN
SUNDAY 21 MAY
16.00 **Women's League Cup Final 2017**
18.20 **Ceòl bhò Perthshire Amber** (rpt)
18.30 **Seachd Là** - News Review
19.30 **Siubhal nan Salm** (rpt)
19.55 **Fuine** - Something Different - Ep3 (rpt)
20.30 **Cearcall** - Look back through 80's programme, Cearcall - Ep9 (rpt)
20.55 **Farpaisean Chon-chaorach** (rpt)
21.55 **Scottish Premiership**
Highlights - Hamilton v Dundee
22.55 **Tannadice '87** (rpt)

LONDON - S1, Ep1 (rpt)
21.00 **UR|NEW: Tannadice '87**
22.00 **Scottish Premiership**
Highlights - Inverness CT v Motherwell
23.00 **Eilbheas** - Drama set on Lewis the day Elvis dies (rpt)
24.00 **Gun Sgot?** - Pub quiz (rpt)

DILUAIN 22 CÈITEAN
MONDAY 22 MAY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **An Gearradh Chruaidh** - The Castle Grounds (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **An Lot** - The Croft (rpt)
21.00 **Trusadh - Seòid a' Bhuntata** - Potato Heroes (rpt)
22.00 **Hòro Gheallaidh** (rpt)
22.30 **A Song of Crotal & White An-diugh** (rpt)
23.30 **Fonn mo Bheatha** (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 23 CÈITEAN
TUESDAY 23 MAY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.05 **Iomall nan Tonn** - The Edge of the Waves (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** - History Shorts (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **UR|NEW: North Coast 500** - Le Anne London - S1, Ep2
21.00 **Farpaisean chon-chaorach** (rpt)
22.00 **Trusadh** - Seòid a' Bhuntata - Potato Heroes (rpt)
23.00 **Na Caibidealan Dearga** (rpt)
23.30 **Siubhal nan Salm** (rpt)
23.50 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 24 CÈITEAN
WEDNESDAY 24 MAY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **An Gearradh Chruaidh** - The Castle Grounds (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **UR|NEW: Fuine** - Classics - S4, Ep4
21.00 **Nationwide an Alba: Na h-Eileanan** (rpt)
22.00 **Fonn Fonn Fonn** (rpt)
22.30 **Hòro Gheallaidh** (rpt)
22.55 **Gladys** - Gladys Cameron's journey to discover her Irish roots (rpt)
23.00 **Scottish Premiership**
Highlights - Dundee v Inverness CT

DIARDAOIN 25 CÈITEAN
THURSDAY 25 MAY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.10 **Iomall nan Tonn** (rpt)
19.35 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **UR|NEW: Cearcall** - Look back through 80's programme, Cearcall - Ep10
21.00 **An Dùbhlann** - Sanjeev Kohli Does Gaelic (rpt)
22.00 **Rapal TBH** (rpt)
22.30 **UR|NEW: Dhan Uisge** - River Douchary
22.35 **Butch Cassidy agus an Sundance Kid** (rpt)
23.30 **Ceòl aig a' Chaisteal** (rpt)
23.50 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)

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

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Friday 19 – Thursday 25 May

A DOG'S PURPOSE | PG | 120 MIN
Fri: 18:15, Sat, Sun: 12:00, Mon, Tue: 18:15, Wed: 16:00, Thu: 18:15
Parent & Baby Screening! Tue: 11:30

A Dog's Purpose, shares the soulful and surprising story of one devoted dog who finds the meaning of his own existence through the lives of the humans he teaches to laugh and love.

FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 12A | 155 MIN
Fri: 15:30 Sat, Sun: 14:30, Mon, Tue, Wed: 15:30

When a mysterious woman seduces Dom into the world of crime and a betrayal of those closest to him, the crew face trials that will test them as never before.

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2 | 12A | 157 MIN
Fri: 20:45, Mon, Tue: 18:45, Wed: 18:15, Thu: 18:45

Marvel's Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 continues the team's adventures as they traverse the outer reaches of the cosmos. The Guardians must fight to keep their newfound family as they unravel the mysteries of Peter Quill's true parentage.

HAIRSPRAY: SING-ALONG! | PG | 120 MIN
Sat: 20:00

Pleasantly plump teenager Tracy Turnblad teaches 1962 Baltimore a thing or two about integration after landing a spot on a local TV dance show. Fundraiser for local Girl Guides.

KIDS CLUB - THE BOSS BABY | U | 120 MIN
Sat: 11:30

Children's Entry £2.
The Boss Baby is a hilariously universal story about how a new baby's arrival impacts a family, told from the point of view of a delightfully unreliable narrator, a wildly imaginative 7 year old named Tim.

MINDHORN | 15 | 119 MIN
Fri: 20:30, Sat, Sun: 17:30, Mon, Tue, 20:30, Wed: 21:00, Thu: 20:30

A former secret agent with a bionic eye lands a private detective job on the Isle of Man.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: SALAZAR'S REVENGE | 12A | 149 MIN
Thu: 15:30

Preview: Johnny Depp returns to the big screen as the iconic, swashbuckling anti-hero Jack Sparrow in the all-new "Pirates of the Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge." The rip-roaring adventure finds down-on-his-luck Captain Jack feeling the winds of ill-fortune blowing strongly his way when deadly ghost sailors, led by the terrifying Captain Salazar (Javier Bardem), escape from the Devil's Triangle bent on killing every pirate at sea—notably Jack.

RSC LIVE: ANTONY & CLEOPATRA | 12A | 120 MIN
Wed: 19:00

After Caesar's assassination, Mark Antony reached the heights of power. Now he is neglecting his empire for a life of decadent seduction with his mistress, Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt. As he is torn between love and duty, Antony's military brilliance deserts him, and his passion leads the lovers to their tragic end.

SILVER SCREEN - THEIR FINEST | 12A | 137 MIN
Sun: 14:30

Silver Screening - "Last Chance to See" - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £3!

A British film crew attempts to boost morale during World War II by making a propaganda film after the Blitzkrieg.

SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE | U | 120 MIN
Sat: 16:15, Sun: 12:00

A mysterious map sets Smurfette and her best friends Brainy, Clumsy and Hefty on an exciting and thrilling race through the Forbidden Forest filled with magical creatures to find a mysterious lost village before the evil wizard Gargamel does. Embarking on a rollercoaster journey full of action and danger, the Smurfs are on a course that leads to the discovery of the biggest secret in Smurf history!

WHISKY GALORE! | PG | 118 MIN
Fri: 16:15, Sat: 20:45, Sun: 17:00, Mon, Tue, Thu: 16:30

During World War II, the tiny Scottish island of Tordarroch runs out of whisky. When the freighter S.S. Cabinet Minister runs aground nearby during a heavy fog, the islanders are delighted to learn that its cargo consists of 50,000 cases of whisky. When officious English commanding officer Captain Waggett demands return of the liquor, shopkeeper Joseph Macroon and his daughters Peggy and Catriona spearhead an island rebellion.

Skye Admiral Sir Roddy's home becomes residence for artists

The former island home of Vice-Admiral Sir Roddy Macdonald, Second World War veteran, painter and chief of the Skye Highland Games, is about to be officially opened as a residence for artists.

The project undertaken by Wasps Artists Studios will allow generations of artists to benefit from the island cottage of a fearless sailor who took his paintbrush and easel to sea.

Vice-Admiral Sir Roddy Macdonald, known as Admiral Roddy, was a keen watercolourist whose brushes and easel accompanied him on all his travels, including throughout his service during the Second World War and subsequent conflicts.

The cottage at Braes, on Skye, which overlooks the sea, is where he spent many happy years during retirement. It was gifted by his estate to Wasps.

It boasts three artists studios, including the one the admiral used himself.

Pictures, paintings and items brought back from travels belonging to Admiral Roddy, who died in 2000, are being kept at what is now known as The Admiral's House to preserve the memory of a man who was deeply involved with island life.

A number of items will also be housed in the Skye and Lochalsh archives.

John Macdonald, Admiral Roddy's son, said: 'This project

has brought all of the family back together again in a symbolic way.

'It's wonderful that this beautiful place will continue to be a focal point for the rest of the family to come, enjoy and share experiences.'

An obituary for Admiral Roddy in *The Times* in 2001 stated that: 'If naval officers can be said to divide themselves into two classes, clerks and pirates, then Roddy Macdonald, was a pirate.'

His fearless and forceful character served him well in service during the Norwegian campaign and in the last stages of the war against Japan. He later played a significant role in Cyprus. He also caught an intruding Soviet submarine during the Cold War.

His last appointment before retiring in 1979 was as chief of staff to the NATO Commander, Allied Naval Forces Southern Europe, and he was also an aide to Her Majesty the Queen.

The first resident artist to use the facility is Martin Campbell, a Glasgow-based maker originally from Benbecula.

The residency is being delivered by Wasps in partnership with the respected Skye-based Atlas Arts. Future programmes and activities will also be developed in association with Atlas Arts.

Emma Nicolson, director of Atlas Arts, said: 'We're delighted to be collaborating with Wasps on the first residency in the

Admiral's House at Ollach. We look forward to working closely together in future to bring a diversity of artists to Skye. The three studios offer a beautiful setting to create new work and I am sure will be inspiring to many.'

Audrey Carlin, Wasps senior executive director for business development, said: 'We hope that this new residency facility in Skye will attract creative practitioners from all over the world, drawing an international audience to this uniquely beautiful location.'

'It will allow artists the time and space to reflect and develop their own practice while engaging with the local community and other creative people visiting the house.'

'We would sincerely like to thank John Macdonald, Admiral Roddy's son, for bequeathing the house to our organisation and will endeavour to ensure it continues to be a centre for inspiration for years to come.'

Wasps is Scotland's largest creative community, providing studios and workspaces for artists and other members of the cultural sector across the country from Shetland to the Borders.

This year the organisation celebrates 40 years of supporting creative people in Scotland and the opening of the Admiral's House is the first event to mark this anniversary.



The Admiral's Cottage was gifted to Wasps in Sir Roddy's estate.



Sir Roddy's home is an ideal retreat for artists as he was a renowned painter himself.

Renowned choir brings its music tour to Argyll

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

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

ing number of concerts in aid of many worthwhile causes.

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

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

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

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



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scottish charity: SC002904 - www.phoenixchoir.org

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OBAN: St John's Cathedral Friday 26th May 20.00
CHORAL MAJESTY: with Magnificent Music for all Tastes
Tickets £8 includes donation to Hope Kitchen & St John's

IONA: The Abbey - Saturday 27th May 14.30
CHORAL SPIRIT: with Music for the 'Holiest of places in Scotland'
Historic Scotland Entry - retiring collection for the Iona Community

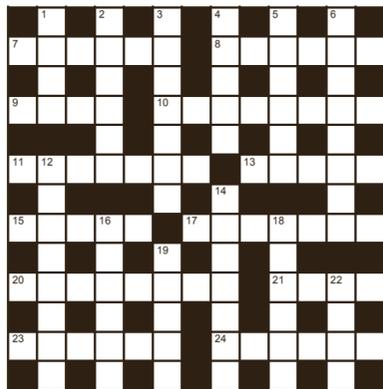
LOCHGILPHEAD: Church of Scotland - Sunday 28th May 14.00
CHORAL CELEBRATION: for John Lowrie Morrison CBE from the GPC
Free Entry - Retiring collection for The Princess Royal Trust for Carers in Scotland

OBAN: St Columba's Cathedral - Sunday 28th May at 18.30
CHORAL VESPERS: to include Psalm 150 and Religious Music
Free Entry - Retiring collection for Hope Kitchen & St Columba's

LOCH AWE: St Conan's Kirk - Monday 29th May at 14.30
CHORAL PURITY: with music from the Classics
Tickets £6/£5 Friends of St Conan's with All Proceeds to St Conan's Kirk Restoration

Tickets for St John's & St Columba's at Oban Music or for St John's & St Conan's at the GPC Box Office
on line at www.wegotickets.com
There are TICKETS at the DOOR for all CONCERTS

THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



Across

- 7 Egyptian peninsula (6)
- 8 Walking on air (6)
- 9 Wintery forecast (4)
- 10 A favour (8)
- 11 Type of paint (7)
- 13 Move in a different direction than anticipated (5)
- 15 Throw road cover (5)
- 17 One with the ability to sink a ship (7)
- 20 Spray paint (8)
- 21 Wild time (4)
- 23 Young raptor (6)
- 24 Mischievous one (6)

Down

- 1 Old Chinese emperor (4)
- 2 Musty (6)
- 3 Medium (7)
- 4 Remove errors from (5)
- 5 A slice (6)
- 6 Argued a case (8)
- 12 Judicial (8)
- 14 Milk based food (7)
- 16 Put together roughly (6)
- 18 One who insists on traditional correctness (6)
- 19 Unpolished (5)
- 22 Milky stone (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Your local radio listings

OBAN Community Radio - your local radio station
Tune in to 103.3 or listen live at www.obanfm.com

For requests, competitions or questions please email: studio@obanfm.org.uk or call us on 01631 570057

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

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

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

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

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

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

Arena

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

Glasgow Letter

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



Donald Black prepares to launch album

Having enjoyed listening to Donald Black's latest album extensively over the past few weeks, I am greatly looking forward to attending its launch on tonight (Thursday) in the College of Piping on Otago Street.

Such is the vastness of the CD's musical line-up, it would be logistically impossible to have all the contributors performing. Donald, however, will take to the stage with his trusty band of Martainn Skene on piano and accordion and Donnie MacKenzie on acoustic guitar - along with a small selection of guests from the album.

As I have written in this column previously, Bho m' Chridhe is an outstanding piece of work. The only thing missing from it is Donald's impeccable stage patter - and I dare

say that will be very much in evidence on Thursday.

Wee misunderstanding in Campbeltown

On Saturday morning, I and the Tide Lines boys made the long journey by road from Glasgow to Campbeltown for a gig called The Big Ceilidh that turned out to be very good fun indeed.

On arrival in the 'wee toon', we soundchecked and then headed out for dinner.

Our sound engineer joined us for our meal and, half way through his chicken burger, he commented that The Big Ceilidh was, as the name suggests, a sizeable production - considering there were five acts due to take the stage. I reminded him that, in fact, there were only four acts on the bill.

'I think you're wrong, Robert,' he

said. 'There are four bands, and there is a young girl performing a solo slot whose name I can't remember.'

In all my correspondence with the organisers, I had heard nothing of a solo artist and I was fairly convinced that she did not actually exist. We debated the point back and forth for a minute or so until we realised that the line-up for the evening was flashing across a television screen above us in the bar.

'Look!' our sound man cried triumphantly. 'This will prove my point.'

He began to list off the names of the acts as they appeared on the screen: Rhuvaal, The Rollin' Drones, Hòrò, Tide Lines.

'There she is!' he exclaimed as Victoria Hall appeared on the screen.

'That's not a solo artist,' I laughed. 'That's the venue!'

I do not imagine he will live that faux pas down among the boys for quite

some time. Perhaps one day we might also share a line up with Victoria's uncle, Albert Hall.

What's on

Thursday May 18: Donald Black album launch in the College of Piping, Otago Street.

Friday May 26: The Uist and Barra Association annual general meeting in Lourdes Secondary School.

Wednesday June 7: The Glasgow Skye Association annual general meeting in Partick Burgh Hall.

Wednesday June 7: The Mull and Iona Association AGM in An Lèan-ag, Mansfield Square, at 7pm.

Friday June 9: The Glasgow Skye Association end of session social in the Redhurst Hotel, Giffnock, at 7.30pm.

Pub scene

Park Bar.

Friday May 19: Deoch 'n' Dorus and Martin Pottinger

Saturday May 20: Scott Harvey.
Sunday May 21: Scott Harvey.

Donald practising with Allan MacDonald.



Prizes up for grabs in BT schools competition

BT is offering a first prize worth £10,000 in its annual Tech Factor competition, which calls on schools to show how they would use technology to boost the tech literacy skills of their pupils.

The prize can be spent in the BT

Business Direct Shop on the very latest technology for the school or college.

There are also two runner-up prizes of £5,000.

The Tech Factor 2017 competition will also award schools with a

series of partner-sponsored prizes from Microsoft, HP, Kyocera, Epson, Fujitsu, Kensington and Brother. The closing date is May 26, 2017.

For more information, visit www.bt.com/pr/tech-factor-2017.

Gaelic projects secure funding

Five Gaelic projects have successfully bid for funding to strengthen and grow Gaelic in Argyll and Bute.

The funding was allocated using an online voting system and 889 people cast their vote and chose how £15,000 should be spent in Argyll and Bute.

Some 14 projects applied for the funding - secured from the Scottish Government - and five gained the most public votes and have been successful in their bids: Dalriada Gaelic immersion weekend at Auchindrain township, support for school libraries, Oban Mod

Academy, Air Ghleus - promotion of Gaelic language, music and culture and a feasibility study for a standalone Gaelic school in Oban.

Cleland Sneddon, the council's chief executive, said: 'We have tested participatory budgeting as a new way of

putting funding to best use in our communities and received significant interest from the public.'

'We thank everyone for taking part and will take the learning from this process to see where it can be applied in future.'

ADVERTORIAL

Oban Dental Care aim to keep you smiling

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ments to help children get used to the sights, smells and sounds of the dental practice.

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dental care using the latest technologies and equipment. Our experienced team of dentists and nurses provide treatment with the utmost care, skill and attention to detail, while helping each patient feel comfortable and confident.



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ADVERTORIAL

Scotland's Gardens Scheme - visit a private paradise

After a glorious spell of sunshine, who would've thought the pitter-patter of rain this week would be welcome? Our mild temperate climate and a good dose of sunshine have given our gardens a real boost of adrenalin. Everything is looking spectacular. Shrubs and flowers are refreshed, replenished and zinging. Scotland's garden owners are opening their gates and offering a great opportunity to explore nearly 500 gardens and support over 200 charities, large and small. Talk about gardens with garden owners, learn how and why they created their private paradise and pick up a tip or two along the way. Whether it's a woodland wildflower wander, intoxicating rose and honeysuckle, fluffy homemade baking or a Sunday daunder with the dog (on a lead), opening soon are some stunning gardens with something for everyone.

Sat/Sun 20/21 May 1pm-5.30pm Braevallich Farm, by Dalmally PA33 1BU

Specimen rhododendrons and azaleas, woodland burns, water-

falls, primula and meconopsis, mixed herbaceous and a kitchen garden. Traditional glen garden, pretty burns with waterfalls, peaceful open vistas. Teas. Dogs welcome. Proceeds to Mary's Meals who provide over a million meals a day to hungry children.

Sat/Sun 20/21 May 1pm-5pm Strachur House and flower garden PA27 8BX.

Spectacular woodland walks, ancient yews and maples, species roses, wild flowers, rare shrubs and wildlife. Teas. Dogs welcome. Proceeds to The Red Cross, helping people in crisis wherever and wherever they are.

Sat/Sun 27/28 May 1pm-6pm Maolachy's Garden, Lochavich.

Wander through three acres of woodland garden, a tumbling burn, tender species, beautiful 'snakes head' fritillaries, irises, shrubs and wild flowers and a productive veg patch and polytunnel. Scrumptious teas. Plants for sale.

Proceeds to Hope Kitchen, Oban who provide food, shelter and companionship to vulnerable or

marginalised people. Ignore Satnav for Maolachy. A816 to Kilmelford. Turn uphill to Lochavich after shop. Wind you way for 4 miles. Look for the yellow signs to Maolachy past the Forestry Track. Check www.scotlandsgardens.org or in The Yellow Book for full details.

**Dates for your diary:
Sat/Sun 3/4 June 1.30pm-5pm Knock Cottage, Lochgair PA31 8RZ**

Specimen rhododendrons and shrubs, woodland, waterfall and lochan. Teas. Dogs welcome. Proceeds to Marie Curie and Christchurch Episcopal Church. Also open nearby is Crarae Garden with an impressive display of rhododendrons, waterfalls, pools, and varied wildlife. Inveraray Castle Garden with outstanding Prunus 'Ukon' and P. Subhirtella, Eucryphia, shrubs and herbaceous plants.

Sunday 4th June 11.am-5pm Fasnacloch, Appin PA38 4BJ
A 15-acre woodland garden in Glen Creran. Extensive water features, rhododendrons, azaleas,

trees from Europe, Asia and the US. Teas. Proceeds to Mary's Meals. Out in all weathers, garden owners all over Scotland have been planning, planting, pruning, trimming and grooming to get their gardens ship-shape for visitors. What's in it for the gardener, apart from a sore back and dirty fingernails, you may wonder?

Aside from a spur to target these long-standing niggling jobs outside, there is great comfort in knowing that your beloved garden is supporting a cause close to your heart.

Scotland's Gardens hugely appreciate their sterling efforts and contributions to charities. Look out for the yellow signs and visit one or two near you.

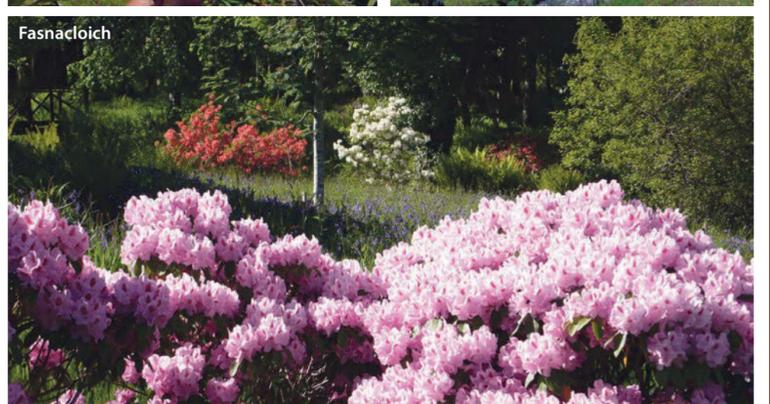
Perhaps you know of someone who has a garden and charity they love. Scotland's Gardens are looking for more gardens of all shapes and sizes with horticultural interest. Please drop us a line to info@scotlandsgardens.org (head office) or minette@ardmaddy.com (local).



Fasnacloch



Braevallich



Fasnacloch

Charity urges Oban residents to make small changes for big deaf awareness impact

Action on Hearing Loss Scotland is urging Oban residents to make small changes to meet the communication needs of people who are deaf or have hearing loss which can have a big impact on their everyday lives.

During Deaf Awareness Week (May 15-21), the charity is highlighting the importance of good communication to ensure people who are deaf or have hearing loss don't experience exclusion in the workplace, when accessing services, socialising or chatting with family and friends.

Delia Henry, director of Action on Hearing Loss Scotland, said: 'Deaf Awareness Week is the

ideal time to celebrate the valuable contributions which deaf people and British Sign Language users make to society. And it gives us the opportunity to consider how everyone can take small

steps to improve their communication with people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

'Each person may have their own preferred method of communicating so, by simply asking

what the best way is, and following our deaf awareness tips, you can make a huge impact on ensuring deaf family, friends or colleagues can follow and contribute to everyday conversations.'



Malaika Rose, Stewart Campbell and Sallie Tomaszewski.

Dosca triumph in battle of the bands

The penultimate night of TradFest 2017 saw DOSCA – one of Scotland's most promising trad acts – reign victorious, after a panel of judges declared them the winners of the debut Battle of the Folk Bands competition.

Dosca – an energetic five-piece ensemble of bagpipes, flute, guitar, bass and drums – had stiff competition from Hecla, the Iona Fyfe Band, Tradosaurus and Trip.

But the judging panel, made up of five musical powerhouses including Ross Ainslie and Joy Dunlop, crowned them winners, before acclaimed musician and composer, Jim

Sutherland, presented them with a trophy.

As well as the prestigious title, Dosca's prize includes a day's recording at Caribou recordings, along with the chance to perform at various festivals including the world-renowned Celtic Connections, TradFest and the Skye Festival.

Hands Up for Trad exists to promote Scottish traditional music through education, information and advocacy to artists, participants and audiences and continue to be at the forefront of providing highly visible platform, helping to nurture young talent.

supported by Creative Scotland, the development body for the arts and creative industries in Scotland.

TradFest – organised by Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland, the national network for traditional arts – is a vibrant 12-day showcase of live performances, walks, dances, exhibitions and street shows.

Both Hands Up for Trad and TradFest

teamed up to stream the concert live via YouTube, which allowed fans worldwide to tune in.

Event founder and Hands Up for Trad creative director, Simon Thoumire, said: 'I'd like to offer a huge congratulation to Dosca.

'Their performance on the night was just great.

'I'd also like to thank everyone who entered our Battle of the Folk

Band competition – the wealth of talent was outstanding but unfortunately, there could only be one winner.

'At Hands Up for Trad, we're passionate about helping support and nurture artists in the Scottish traditional music industry.

'And events such as Battle of the Folk Bands give musicians a platform to showcase their talents.'

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Sailing from OBAN North Pier

4 Lochs & Whirlpool SATURDAY June 3 Leave 12.30pm back 6.30pm
Fare: 4 Lochs & a Whirlpool £35 SC £31

Castles & Ceilidh SATURDAY June 3 Leave 7.30pm back 10pm
Fare: Evening Showboat £19 Groups of 10+ only

Iona & Iona Abbey SUNDAY June 4 Leave 11.30am back 7.30pm
Fare: Visit Iona £41 SC £39

Tobermory Isle of Tiree MONDAY June 5 Leave 10am back 7.30pm
Fares: Visit Tobermory £33 SC £31
Tiree £41 SC £39 Cruise Gunna Sound £43 SC £41

Sailing from TOBERMORY

Tiree Cruise Gunna Sound MONDAY June 5 Leave 12pm back 5.45pm
Fares: Visit Tiree £31 SC £29
Cruise Gunna Sound £33 SC £31

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Please include a main contact name, address, email address and phone number. If you are responding on behalf of a syndicate or consortium please provide similar details for all other syndicate/consortium members. Full tender documents will be issued to interested parties by 9th June 2017.



ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



Dementia Friends

Specsavers' optical and hearing teams become Dementia Friends

With visual impairments common among those with dementia, Specsavers is ensuring a trip to the opticians and audiologists is as comfortable as possible for them.

In the run up to Dementia Awareness Week (15-21 May), Specsavers employees nationwide are becoming Dementia Friends, an initiative run by the Alzheimer's Society. Every store now has at least one team member who is a Dementia Friend and understands the needs of customers with dementia a little more. The Specsavers Healthcall teams that carry out home visits are also becoming Dementia Friends.

Specsavers is also using Dementia Awareness Week to remind anyone over 55 to undergo regular hearing tests, as research suggests that people with untreated hearing loss are more likely to develop Alzheimer's. Hearing tests are free at Specsavers.

Dr Nigel Best, Specsavers clinical spokesperson, says: 'People with dementia may not be able to

recognise or articulate the issues that many of us face when we begin to lose our sight or hearing – but the effects are the same. Being more aware of dementia is an incredibly positive development for our teams and our offering to customers.'

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

Laura Stallerbrass, store manager at Specsavers Forfar, has encouraged all her team to do Dementia Friends.

'We aim to provide a safe environment for all of our customers. I can definitely see a shift in attitudes to dementia which is lovely to experience.'



Specsavers supports Dementia Friends

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Opticians & Audiologists

VOTE NOW FOR YOUR TOP 10!

bonnie babies



014

 Hallie Gunn
 2 years
 Dunbeg

017

 Harley McMahon
 15 months
 Lochgilphead

065

 Harlow Davie Rae
 16 months
 Oban

067

 Kaylyn Poppy Confield
 4 months
 Corpach

069

 Aaryn-John Barr
 7 months
 Fort William

088

 Amelia Macmillan
 6 months
 Oban

091

 Olivia Fisher
 14 months
 Tobermory

093

 Eachann Brown
 2 years
 Oban

105

 Cievah Baker
 16 months
 Islay

111

 Cole Collins
 14 months
 Portree

119

 Calleigh Kennedy
 23 months
 Fort William

125

 Hope Cairns
 13 months
 Glencoe

149

 Donny Kerr
 2 years
 Oban

151

 Lyra Simone Black
 8 months
 Oban

158

 Ronnie Ewen MacDonald
 17 months
 Dunbeg

163

 Calum Alexander Brown
 2 years
 Tobermory

170

 Ruairidh Cameron
 6 months
 Ardrishaig

179

 Jessica Grieve-McCaffrey
 2 years
 Caol

184

 Naomi Allan
 13 months
 Fionnphort

191

 Callum Black
 11 months
 Oban

The winner will receive
£5000
 of Tesco vouchers!

CLOSING DATE FOR VOTES IS 10AM, MONDAY MAY 29, 2017

bonnie babies

Congratulations to the babies and toddlers who made our top 20, as voted by the public. The winner will receive a whopping £500 of Tesco vouchers.

Readers now have the difficult job of voting for the top 10 bonniest babies and toddlers. You can vote by simply completing the coupon provided on this page and sending it to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. You may also hand in votes to our Fort William office, 22 High Street. Votes must be received by 10am on Monday, May 29, 2017. You can vote for as many babies as many times as you like using the voting coupon in this issue and next week, May 25. Just make sure you quote the number stated on the child's photograph when voting. Photocopied coupons will not be accepted. One coupon counts as one vote. We'll also accept multiple vote coupons in one envelope. Good luck to all babies and toddlers!



VOTING COUPON LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

I would like to vote for:

Baby number*:

Baby's name:

Please post to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

*Baby number must be supplied. This can be found at the top left of each baby photograph.

Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted and will not count as one vote.

You may send in multiple voting coupons in one envelope.



Terms & conditions: The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. The deadline to receive votes is 10am Monday, May 29, 2017. Please note that voting only applies to readers of the PRINTED VERSION of The Oban Times and Lochaber Times. You cannot vote online or through the digital edition for this competition. One coupon counts as one vote. Only voting coupons from issues May 18 & 25 are accepted for this round. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. Full terms and conditions at www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies. Customer services: 01631 568000.

Votes counted from each round are carried over.

OUTDOORS

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Fishermen's partnership launched to save marine mammals

A SCOTTISH initiative for trapped marine animals is a win-win for whales and fishermen, says the Scottish Creel Fishermen's Association.

A unique partnership between environmental organisations and creel fishermen has been formed to learn why and where it is happening and what can be done when a large animal becomes trapped or, better still, how can it be prevented.

Entanglement, when marine animals become trapped or tangled in fishing gear, can be a problem for creel fishermen and for the marine animals themselves.

When the animal is a large whale, basking shark or seal it may result in death – often a lingering death. For the fishermen, it can mean the loss of valuable catch, nets, lines and creels and be a threat to livelihood; there are no winners.

Alistair Sinclair, national co-ordinator for the Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation, joined Scottish Natural Heritage, British Divers Marine Life Rescue and Whale and Dolphin Conservation to see what they could come up with to minimise entanglement occurrences.

Another partner, the Scottish Marine Mammals Stranding Scheme, is asking fishermen to send photos of any dead or stranded animals, which can provide a wealth of information.

A spokesperson for the creel industry said: 'By working together and sharing knowledge and experience, the consortium has established protocols and guidelines on what to do and who to call if there is an incident or a stranding.'

'All of this is brought together in a credit card-sized guide which fits on a key ring and so is always handy.'

'Further advice in the guide includes species identification, useful contact numbers and hints on setting gear to reduce the risk of entanglement.'

For more information, visit the SCFF website where you can also download a copy of the booklet: scottishcreelfishermensfederation.co.uk/entanglement.htm.

Project launched to save Scotland's rarest insects

A NEW project is being launched in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park to save six of Scotland's rarest invertebrates.

The shining guest ant, dark bordered beauty moth, small scabious mining bee, northern silver-stiletto fly, pine hoverfly and Kentish glory moth have all been identified by experts as needing urgent conservation action, with many of them having their last strongholds within the national park.

RSPB Scotland, the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA), Buglife, Butterfly Conservation and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) will work in partnership on the Rare Invertebrates in the Cairngorms project over the next three years to improve the conservation fortunes of these six insect species.

Funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural



A shining guest ant beside a wood ant.

Development, the initiative will involve recruiting volunteers to help with surveying work that will establish the size and distribution of the species' populations, as well as implementing practical management

on the ground to help them thrive.

While the Cairngorms National Park is known for giving wildlife such as capercaillie, wildcat and red squirrel a home, some of the smaller,

lesser known species can be even more fascinating. For example, shining wood ants do not create their own nests, they simply move in to those of regular wood ants. The 'squatters' can be easily identified by their extremely shiny coat of armour.

Small scabious mining bees, meanwhile, can only be found in Scotland in the Cairngorms and feed exclusively on a plant known as devil's-bit scabious – so called because the roots come to an abrupt end as if the devil had bitten them off.

Then there is the Kentish glory; despite its name, the only area of the UK this moth can be found is the north-east of Scotland. The team has had to be particularly inventive in preparing to survey this species as its fast flight makes it difficult to identify.

They will be trialling a novel pheromone technique, which

involves coating rubber stoppers with the scent of female moths and hanging them from trees – hopefully this will lure in the males to be counted while they're all gathered around the 'fake female'.

Gabrielle Flinn, projects officer for the Rare Invertebrates in the Cairngorms project, said: 'The Cairngorms National Park is well known for its iconic species such as the capercaillie and wildcat, but it's also the last refuge for some of Scotland's rarest insects.'

'For the next three years the project will be working to conserve some of these rare species spread across the park's key habitats, from aspen woodland to flower-rich grasslands.'

'We'll be relying on people in and around the park to lend a hand, so if you're passionate about the smaller things in life, we'd love to hear from you.'

THIS WEEK'S WALKS

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB
Meeting point for walks is the car park at the Ben Nevis Woolen Mill for departure at 8am. Further information available at www.nevishillwalking.club or by contacting the club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783.

Saturday May 20
Glen Lyon horseshoe (Map 51, NN6 66483). Four possible Munros – Carn Gorm (Blue Hill) 1,028m, Meall Garbh (Rough Hill) 968m, Carn Maig (several possible meanings, including Hill of Sorrow, Pity, Folly, Boundary or Pudding) 1,041m, and Creag Mhor (simply Big Rock), 981m – Invervar is the starting point.

Take the track north, then NW. The summit of Carn Gorm is about 3km west up a broad ridge. Meall Garbh is reached by going north to (or by) An Sgorr, over a col and following a line of fence posts.

Continue roughly east along the ridge, still following the fence posts, reaching the summit of Carn Maig after a short, narrow and bouldery section. Descend carefully SE down a steep slope over a small crag, after which it is easy to the next col. From there climb south to the level summit ridge of Creag Mhor. To return, go west onto the easy-angled ridge to join the track to the start. (17.1 km, 1470m ascent).

Suggested and co-ordinated by Chris Tracey.

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS
The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and you can try before you buy. You can walk three times with the club before joining. Further information at www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk.

Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group, can be contacted by email on info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk.

Thursday May 18
Carn Dearg (south east) led by Glen Roy and Ann Jones.

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

This walk is a moderate walk of 14km, with a 670m climb. Meet at Fort William WM NN112742 at 9.15am with the start of the walk at 10am.

Contact walk leader Ann Jones on 07770 434114.

Sunday May 21
South Kerrera and Gylen Castle with Marion Moir.

A walk on easy ground, visiting remote beaches and a historic castle. Seaward views to Mull and Morvern. Other sites of archaeological interest include a fort near Upper Gylen. Ferry £4.50 return, no concessions. Every 30 minutes between 10.30am and 12.30pm, and between 2pm and 5pm.

This walk covers 10km, climbing 250m. Meet at N Ballachulish School NN053603 at 9.30am, or Gallanach ferry slip for 10.30am sailing to Kerrera.

Leader is Marion Moir who can be contacted on 07747 830453.

Thursday May 25
Sgurr Choinnich Beag and Sgurr Choinnich Mor at Glen Nevis. This is a strenuous walk over 17km, climbing to 1,100m. Meet at Fort William WM NN112742 at 9.15am with the walk starting at 9.30am. Contact walk leader Toril Frantzen on 07788 264007.

Push the boat out for a free, fun weekend



Come and join in the fun at Oban Sailing Club on Saturday at the free, 'give it a try' event.

OBAN Sailing Club is holding a fun day and inviting everyone to come and try sailing and power boating for free on Saturday May 20.

The event is part of a nine-day UK-wide event that will see hundreds of people taking part in the sport, with open

days and taster sessions taking place at sailing clubs and centres across the UK.

One of the organisers, Finlo Cottier, said: 'Whether you're completely new to the sport or looking to get back on the water, the fun day is part of the RYA (Royal Yachting Association)

Push the Boat Out event and is the perfect time to give it a go. We're inviting the local community to come down to have a go at sailing in dinghies and keelboats, and have go at powerboating, and to get involved with Oban Sailing Club. 'Oban is an important hub

for watersports in Argyll and here's a chance to come and give it a try. Sailing can be as physical or as relaxing as you want to make it, you can sail with others or on your own, do it competitively or just enjoy the gentle escape of being outside in the elements.'

The event starts at 10am, with a whole host of activities taking place on the water and ashore.

For full further details about what's going on at Oban Sailing Club, follow the club on Facebook www.facebook.com/obansailingclub1935.

Avast me hearties – join the pirate fun at Port Appin

A PIRATE-THEMED children's fancy dress competition and fun day are being held at Port Appin this Saturday to raise funds for Oban RNLI lifeboat.

The lifeboat committee is on the lookout for well-dressed young pirates to bring families and friends along to Port Appin Village Hall on Saturday May 20.

Judging will be at noon, with prizes of book tokens and pirate torches for the three best entries.

A spokesman for the fundraising committee said: 'We have taken an executive decision to

leave the challenging task of judging who is the best dressed pirate to well-known Appin man Iain McNicol.

'All children must be accompanied by an adult and we are hoping that families from Oban and district will come and have a great day out in Port Appin, to help us raise funds to save lives at sea.'

Children are invited to bring a decorated plate for another competition, with prizes kindly donated by Tesco, which will be judged at 1pm.

The event will be open from 11am-3pm and bedding plants grown by fundraising commit-

tee member Les Hazelgrave, who is head gardener at the Airds Hotel in Port Appin, will be on sale.

There will also be a model lifeboat display by Oban man George Berry, who is bringing along a display of RNLI memorabilia.

A treasure map and lucky duck draw games and teas, coffees and cakes will also be on the menu.

Prize draw tickets, with a first prize of £1,000, will be on sale too, to raise cash for Oban lifeboat, one of the busiest all-weather vessels in the RNLI fleet.



Fundraising committee member Les Hazelgrave on the lookout for pirates at the pirate ship created by Papa Jim and the children at the Rainbow Childcare Centre in Oban.

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Ben Nevis industrial estate is a place for new businesses to grow and existing businesses to thrive.

Positioned just off the A82 and in the heart of Fort William, more than 300 people are employed within the estate – and it even hosts a boxing club.

Stewart MacLean, who bought 27 of the units since the late 1990s, said the estate has offered businesses a degree of flexibility that was not previously available.

He added: 'Units start from 250 meters squared and go up to 10,000 meters squared. The smaller ones are suitable for people who are just dipping their toe in the water. And, once they become more established, the businesses have the opportunity to move into a larger premises if they see fit.'

'Travis Perkins and Vanguard, who moved recently from Claggan, are examples of business who have been able to scale up. It gives me great pleasure to be able to speak to the owners of both local and national companies and see how they are all getting on as many of them have been very successful.'

Looking ahead, Stewart believes businesses in the estate may have an even brighter future, benefiting from increased investment and opportunity, thanks to GFG Alliance becoming the new owners of the nearby aluminium smelter.

He added: 'From the estate there is access provision for land owned by the smelter. HIE has always said there is potential to develop here and this will no doubt improve infrastructure and interest in the estate, and is something I look forward to talking to the new owners about.'

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BUSINESS NEWS

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The Alexandra Hotel on Oban's Esplanade, above, and the Royal Hotel in Tyndrum, below, are among the assets sold by Highland Heritage Ltd.

Argyll hotel chain is sold

A CHAIN of Argyll hotels has been sold in a multi-million-pound deal.

Ian Cleaver has offloaded his Highland Heritage Limited to global chain MGM Muthu Hotels.

The transaction sees Mr Cleaver's company sold from the asking price of offers in excess of £4.5 million to Singapore-based MGM Muthu Group.

A former merchant seaman and well-known Argyll businessman, Mr Cleaver started Highland Heritage in the mid-1970s and built it into a £8 million turnover company, which uses its own fleet of 16 liveried coaches to shuttle tourists to the hotels in Tyndrum, Dalmlally and Oban.

The Highland Heritage Limited sale includes the Volvo coaches and four hotels: the 96-room Royal Hotel – which is a magnet for wildlife enthusiasts due, in part, to its stunning views – and the 132-room purpose-built Ben Doran Hotel, nestled in its own sheltered seven-acre garden in the mountain village, on the northern edge of the Loch Lomond National Park. Both are in Tyndrum.



The Dalmlally Hotel is described as 'a true haven with 99 rooms, commanding breathtaking views in the heart of Strathorchy, perfectly situated to make the most of the historical, cultural and natural delights of Argyll and Bute'.

And the 66-bedroom Alexandra Hotel in Oban, with 26 more rooms in planning,

'offers gorgeous views across Oban Bay'.

Julian Troup, head of UK hotels agency at Colliers International, which facilitated the deal, commented: 'Considerable interest was expressed for the business and assets, which follows a pattern of increasing demand for UK provincial hotels.

'We are seeing an emerging trend of increased demand for quality provincial hotel opportunities from a diverse buyer set, including international investors, who have been attracted by weaker sterling and improving trading prospects; private buyers attracted to the benefits of a lifestyle opportunity to corporate investors attracted to favourable returns and real estate alternatives.

'Since the beginning of 2016, more than 15 per cent of UK hotel sales completed by Colliers were to international buyers.'

Monica Maran, corporate director of MGM Muthu Group and K Ranjan, CEO of Highgate Asset Management Ltd, who assisted with the acquisitions, said: 'We are extremely thrilled about the five properties that spell a surreal scenery magically enveloped in the enchanting views of Scotland.'

The Highland Heritage sale did not include Kilchurn Castle, the 15th-century redoubt of the Clan Campbell on the banks of Loch Awe, which is owned by Mr Cleaver and had been offered for sale alongside his hospitality business. It is currently managed by Historic Scotland.

Local embroidery services all sewn up



Katya Embroidery offers a full embroidery service. They create the digitised embroidery files and produce the embroidery on various items from garments to bags, patches to banners. There is no minimum order and urgent orders are challenges they enjoy! Contact is preferred by email with an image of the design attached for quoting purposes. Details needed are design size, quantity required and what the embroidery will be on (polo-shirt, baseball cap, patches etc)

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Diversification of investments is recommended

IAIN CAIRNS, from Argyll Financial Services, explains why diversifying your assets could be the best strategy for 2017

AS THE government begins the process of leaving the EU, this year looks likely to mark a significant watershed for the UK economy and its relationship with the rest of Europe.

On the international stage, there is considerable uncertainty about what the Trump administration will mean for business and trade, both in the US and around the world.

THE US ECONOMY

President Donald Trump wants his administration to bring jobs back to the US and will revisit trade deals the country has with a variety of international partners. Many predict he will be in for a bumpy ride, reasoning that policies that looked workable on the campaign trail may be more difficult to implement in government. However, investment pundit Warren Buffett doesn't believe President

Spring budget 2017: some key points

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecasts the UK economy will grow by two per cent in 2017. UK's national debt now stands at almost £1.7 trillion or a sobering £62,000 per household.

Tax-free dividend allowance will be reduced from £5,000 to £2,000 from April 2018.

£425 million investment in the NHS in the next three years. £536 million for new free schools and to maintain existing schools.

Trump will throw the stock market into chaos, or cause a recession. His advice is to keep the long haul in mind.

THE UK

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised its forecast for the UK's growth this year, following better-than-expected performance since the Brexit vote. It now expects the UK to grow by 1.5 per cent, compared with its previous forecast of 1.1 per cent.

EUROPE

With national elections in France

and Germany, some see signs of a break-up of the eurozone on the horizon. If these cracks were to deepen, then there would be implications for the financial markets, the economy and business.

DIVERSITY HOLDS THE KEY

So, investors are bound to be thinking about their portfolios, and considering what they need to do to provide a degree of future-proofing for their investments. If markets look likely to experience increased volatility, then

the old adage about not putting all your eggs in one basket certainly holds true.

Ensuring that your assets are diversified across a range of investments such as equities, bonds and property, in a variety of sectors, and in UK and overseas markets, makes good sense.

Many investment professionals agree that, although it doesn't guarantee there won't be losses, diversification is the most important component in reaching long-range financial goals, while minimising risk.

It makes sense to keep your portfolio under regular review where appropriate. This will help ensure that you are invested in the most suitable assets and that your portfolio is still in line with your investment objectives.

The value of investments can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount you invested.

The past is not a guide to future performance and past performance may not necessarily be repeated.

Ross sets off on a new voyage of enterprise

A FORMER chief engineer in the Merchant Navy is providing machining services to the marine, automotive, forestry, agriculture and fish farming sectors.

Ross Weir set up Lock 3 Engineering, based in Ardrishaig, with support from Business Gateway Argyll and Bute, after leaving the merchant navy to spend more time with his young family.

The engineering machine shop provides repair and remanufacturing capability throughout Argyll and Bute to customers from various industries.

Ross said: 'I actually began my apprenticeship as a machinist before joining the merchant navy, working as a junior engineer on vessels from oil tankers to super yachts.'

'Over the years I worked my way up

to chief engineer, but I never lost interest in machining and, while at sea, I would often carry out the machining work.

'Around two years ago I decided that I wanted to leave the merchant navy as the constant travelling and working away meant I was missing out on quality time with my family.'

'When I came home I realised that most of the old machinists had retired and there was a gap in the market for an old-style machine shop.'

'Due to the rural nature of where we live, I felt there was a real opportunity to set up what could become a profitable business.'

'Business Gateway's support and workshops were very helpful and gave me the knowledge and information I needed to set up Lock 3 Engineering properly.'

'Over the past year I've also gained advice on marketing and how to take on a modern apprentice, which is something I hope to do in the near future.'

So far Ross is delighted with the response his business has had since officially launching last spring. His aim for the rest of this year is to continue to grow his customer base and secure more work in the wind and hydro turbine sector.

Ross added: 'The response I've had has been very positive and I'm meeting lots of people who need our services.'

But I also think, from speaking to individuals and companies, that there may be a need for larger, general engineering services and, with my experience in heavy engineering and power generation, I'm thinking of

eventually heading in this direction. But for the short term my aim is to take on an apprentice through the modern apprenticeship scheme and make sure my name and our reputation is well known in the area.'

Business Gateway adviser Barbara Halliday said: 'Ross is using his 28 years of experience to offer a service that was lacking in this area for a while.'

'With our one-to-one support and by attending our fully-funded workshops, Ross has ensured he is in the best position to develop and grow Lock 3 Engineering into a thriving business.'

To find out more about how Business Gateway can help you set up and develop your own business, visit bgateway.com/argyll-and-bute or call 01546 808363.

Business Gateway Meet the Adviser

ARE YOU LOOKING TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS?

How your business is currently performing is key to identifying potential areas for growth and can help you decide whether to grow your business. Our Business Advisers can help you look at your business' performance and identify potential areas of growth.

DO YOU HAVE PLANS TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS?

If you're considering starting a new business, you need to think about researching your idea, business planning, funding and finding and keeping customers. Our Business Advisers can offer advice and support to help you develop your ideas in to an effective and practical plan for starting your business.

Our adviser can meet with you to talk through your ideas and offer free advice, in confidential one to one meetings.

Business Gateway also offer free workshops covering a wide range from basic business skills, employment, ecommerce, social media and marketing

To book an appointment with an adviser please contact Business Gateway, the advisers are able to meet at a time and place convenient to you.

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FARMING NEWS

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NFU Scotland's priorities for 'Brexit election'

AHEAD of the 'Brexit Election' on Thursday June 8, NFU Scotland has used its manifesto to call for the next UK Government to deliver a good deal for Scotland's agriculture, food and drink industries for forthcoming negotiations.

According to the union's manifesto, a good deal for Scottish agriculture will depend upon securing three priorities. Firstly, 'bold and ambitious free trade agreements with the EU and international trade partners, which upholds exacting standards, limits regulatory divergence and protects the UK market from cheap imported produce.'

Secondly, 'a re-drawn agricultural policy with a ringfenced budget that is geared towards active, efficient and productive agriculture - with the policy priorities developed and delivered by the Scottish Government.'

And thirdly, 'a sensible approach to 'controlled immigration' which allows the Scottish agriculture and food processing industries access to EU workers for seasonal and permanent, skilled and unskilled posts.'

Speaking after the manifesto's launch, NFU Scotland president Andrew McCornick said: 'The current government is on record stating that a good deal will be one that works for all parts of the UK' and we will want to hold the government formed after June 8 to that commitment.

'We have used our manifesto to define what a 'good deal' will look like for the Scottish agricultural and food and drink industries and how NFU Scotland will work with the new UK

Government to achieve this objective. NFU Scotland is under no illusion about the challenges presented by the negotiations to leave the EU, undoing more than 40 years of the common agricultural policy in the process. Brexit will undoubtedly present us with opportunities and the chance to look forward but that needs UK negotiators to secure a good deal.

'Irrespective of the decision to leave the EU, Scottish agriculture remains very vulnerable to fluctuations and shocks, threatening profitability and the ability to invest in the sector. The latest figures show that Scottish farm incomes have fallen by a devastating 75 per cent over five years.

The need to secure new trading deals, policies and support arrangements that put the prosperity, profitability and stability of farming and crofting businesses top of the agenda has never been more important.

'It is clear agriculture is vital to Scotland and the UK's future. The new UK government must recognise the diversity and unique challenges that Scottish agriculture faces as it takes forward its vision for the United Kingdom.

'In Scotland alone, farming generates an annual turnover of £3 billion and is the driving force behind a food and drink sector turning over more than £14 billion. The raw materials produced by the 65,000 people employed in Scottish farming are the cornerstone of a further 75,000 businesses and 360,000 jobs in the food and drink industry.'

Lambing and grassland to the fore at research farms

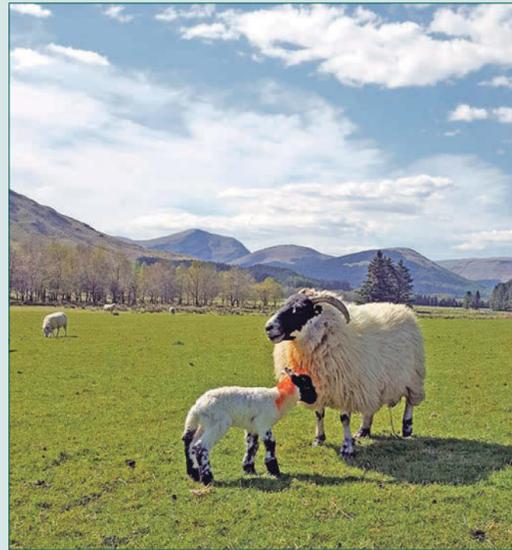
By Ewen Campbell, SRUC's Kirkton and Auchtertyre research farms manager

WE ARE in the middle of lambing here at Kirkton and Auchtertyre, as I'm sure are most of the farms in the West Highlands.

While the weather at the start was changeable, this past week has been glorious. Lambing is never easy but the good winter and early spring have created conditions which are about as good as it gets. We have plenty of grass for the time of year and the ewes are in good condition. This means they have plenty of milk for their lambs and are very motherly.

In our Kirkton research flock, three-quarters of the ewes lambed in the first 16 days. The good weather and condition of the ewes at mating time is really showing up now with good healthy looking lambs which seem a little heavier than normal. The high hill flock (Auchtertyre), which started lambing a week behind Kirkton, has also gone well. In our Kirkton flock, we still put our ewes carrying twins indoors at night, to give them extra shelter and supervision, whilst the single-bearing ewes are lambing on our rough parks.

The dry spell has also allowed us to get on with some grassland work. Manure and fertiliser have been spread on the flat fields and we have harrowed some of the older grass to remove the dead vegetation



Lambing fields at Kirkton.

and let the air into the roots of the growing plants. If all goes to plan, the ground should be dry enough to start ploughing a field for re-seeding next week.

Ping Zhou, the PhD student who has been using our Kirkton sheep data for the past two years, is now collecting her final year's worth of data.

She is still looking at colostrum quality of the twins-bearing ewes, as well as carrying out post-mortems on any lamb that died within a week of birth.

By the end of this lambing season, she will have enough information to start writing up her thesis.

The farm staff and the technicians here are being rushed off their feet with lambing, but my research colleagues have also been busy. Despite all the political shenanigans going on in the background, researchers across Europe are still keen to work closely with us. To this end, we have been successful in two new EU projects, both funded

under the European Research Area Network (ERA-NET) framework, with our funding being underpinned by Defra.

The first project, SusSheP, is being led by the University of Limerick in Ireland, with Irish partners from Teagasc and Sheep Ireland, French partners from INRA (National Institute for Agronomy Research), Norwegian partners from the Norwegian Association of Sheep and Goat Breeders and from the Norwegian University of Life Science, as well as the UK Maternal Sheep Group and Claire Morgan-Davies and Nicola Lambe here at SRUC Kirkton.

The aim of the project is to look at increasing the sustainability and profitability of European sheep production. There are three main strands to this three-year project. The first one is to look at ewe longevity and how to record such traits on farm.

We will use existing data and that's where we at Kirkton are well-placed, since we have been flock recording for a while.

The second one relates to labour and carbon footprint. We will record labour and carbon efficiency on farms in the UK, Ireland, France and Norway, and again, this will link well with some of the existing research we are already conducting here.

All these days with me traipsing with a GoPro around my neck a couple of years back

have not been in vain! The final strand is to do with AI and cervical sperm transport, especially in sheep dairy breeds.

Although we do not use AI extensively here in this country, it will be interesting to understand issues of uptake and fertility.

The first meeting relating to this project was held in Limerick at the end of April and it was another good occasion to network and compare sheep farming systems across Europe.

The second three-year project, called Animal Future, is being led by the French INRA with partners from Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain, as well as Davy McCracken and the team here at Kirkton and SRUC economists in Edinburgh.

The main focus of this project is to design strategies for assessing and enhancing the sustainability of animal production systems.

We will be conducting case studies of hill sheep systems here in Scotland to identify opportunities to improve sustainability and ways to address any constraints to doing that.

So here at Kirkton and Auchtertyre we are going to stay closely connected to Europe for some time to come. And with the Auld Alliance in particular continuing to be very strong it looks like I'll have to brush up on my French. Au revoir for now.

Around the markets

STIRLING - Caledonian Marts Ltd sold 601 store cattle and 411 store hoggets and ewes with lambs at foot, on Monday May 15.
Bullocks averaged 226ppkg, selling to 281ppkg for a Charolais from B & M Rozga, Kilmeny, Ballgarran, Islay, and to £1290 for an Aberdeen Angus from J & J Brown, Loanrigg, Slamannan.
Heifers averaged 220ppkg, selling to 285ppkg for a Limousin from G Stewart, Wester Whin, Slamannan, and to £1270 for a BB from K & A Graham, Easterton, Argyll.
Bulls averaged 169ppkg, selling to 236p for a Simmental from W Colquhoun & Son, Burnbrae, Gartocharn, and to £1000 again for a Simmental from A M Duncan, Easter Dullatur.
Black & Whites averaged 162ppkg, selling to 179p from W C Smith, Cuff, Beith, and to £700 from the same home.
Leading Prices:-
Bullocks ppkg - 279p Immeroin 274p Kilmeny 271p Easter Gartarran 267p Wester Braico & Easter Gartarran 265p Burnbrae 262p East Kerse 260p Glenstockdale 259p Alton
Bullocks/head - £1260 & £1230
Loanrigg £1200 Parkhouse £1190, £1160 & £1140 East Kerse £1140 Camreggan & Mountop £1120 Loanrigg
Heifers ppkg - 275p Wester Whin 265p Craigeivern 256p Urquhart 252p Immeroin & Easterton 247p South Woodlane
Heifers/head - £1230 Easterton £1140 South Woodlane, Easterton & Ballingray £1050 Easterton £1000 Camreggan
Bulls ppkg - 210p Upper Whiteston 204p Newhall 189p Easter Dullatur
Bulls/head - £820 Newhall £780 Rievoch £750 Newhall
Black & Whites ppkg - 174p Kirminnoch

172p Maerindleston 162p Kirminnoch 160p Cuff
Black & Whites/head - £690 Kirminnoch £670 Cuff £640 Maerindleston £600 Hayston
The sale was topped today at £170 for a pen of Cross Hoggets with Twin Lambs from T Dunbar, Stendep.
Store Hoggets sold to £70 from R W McKay & Co, Stronmaghan, Dalmally.
Leading Prices:-
Ewes with Twin Lambs at Foot
Chev X Ewes - £158 Walton
Cheviot - £158 Stendep Cont - £148 Findatie
Cont X - £142 Bridgehouse
BF - £96 Stendep
Ewes with Single Lambs at Foot
Suff Hgts - £130 Stendep
Cross Hgts - £128 & £124 Stendep
Chev Hgts - £120 Stendep
Cgev Ewes - £114 Findatie
Cross Ewes - £112 Walton
Cont Ewes - £110 Bridgehouse
BF Ewes - £82 South Ayley
Store Hoggets
Chev - £62 South Ayley
Chev X - £54 Torloisk
Cross - £52 Stronmaghan
Cont - £50 Boat of Hatton
BF - £45 Hutton
BF X - £44 Torloisk

STIRLING - United Auctions had a catalogue entry of 5879 breeding sheep on Monday May 15.
Scotch mule dry hoggs sold to a top of £136 per head for a pen of 26 consigned by M/s Wight, Townfoot (Midlock) purchased by D Morrison, Dalwyne.
Pure Tex ewe hoggs sold to a top of £520 purchased by D Morrison, Dalwyne.
A new centre record was set for a female Blackface at £12,000 for a ewe hogg, consigned by M/s Hunter,

Dalchirla, purchased by M/s McFarlane, Drumrange.
Mule ewe hoggs with lambs at foot sold to a top of £200 from M/s Barr, Easter Buckley.
Tex X ewe hoggs with lambs at foot topped at £200 from M/s Graham, Airthrey Kerse.
Averages
Dry Mule ewe hoggs £110.61 (-00.19) on the year
Dry Tex ewe hoggs £103.37 (-5.32) on the year
Dry Chev ewe hoggs £98.56 (+11.75) on the year
Dry BF ewes hoggs £129.82 (+33.28) on the year
The year
Scotch Mule hoggs with lambs £165.74 (+2.07) on the year
Tex X hoggs with lambs £162.66 (+10.90) on the year
Other Leading Prices
Dry Tex X ewe hoggs - £126 - Shanry Farm
Dry Tex X ewe hoggs - £108 - Kilbucho Place
Dry Chev/Mule ewe hoggs - £112 - High Mildovan
Dry Chev/Mule ewe hoggs - £106 - Little Balquohrie
Dry Chev ewe hoggs - £104 - Little Balquohrie
Dry Chev ewe hoggs - £100 - Newton of Crathie

STIRLING - United Auctions on Thursday May 11 sold 4288 prime sheep including 347 new season lambs selling to an average of 214.8ppkg and 3225 hoggs selling to average of 185.70ppkg and 716 ewes and rams.
Spring lambs (347) Woodhead of Aberdalgie (Tex) £120; Balnagarrow (Suff) £118; Netherton (Char) £108; Smailholm Mains (Chev) £105; The

Meadows (Hamp) £102; Finnich Blair (Zwa) £93.00.
Spring Lambs (347) Woodhead of Aberdalgie (Tex) £250; Smailholm Mains & Stanley (Suff) 245p; Southfield (Char) 238p; Easter Cash (X) 218p; Smailholm Mains (Chev) 212p; Finnich Blair (Zwa) 202p.
Hoggs (3225) Elmscleugh (Tex) £126.00; South Holm (BTex) £101; Sandford (Suff) £97.00; Kinaldy & Corshore (Chev) £96.00; Grange of Airrie & Groan (X) £90.00; Yorkston (Mule) £89.00; Torbanehill (BF) £86.00.
Hoggs (3225) - Luckenburn (Tex) 247p; South Holm (BTex) 230p; South Park (Chev) 229p; Clunbeg (Suff) 204p; Torbanehill (BF) 200p; South Holm (X) 199p; South Holm (Mule) 189p.
Ewes (716) - Elmscleugh (Tex) £125.00; Netherton (Char) £119.00; Easter Cash (Suff) £91.00; Collavoulin (BTex) £91.00; Dean (Chev) £88.00; Lochty (Mule) £79.00; Kerry Cottage (BFL) £78.00; Elmscleugh (BF) £70.00
Tups - Lyoncross (Char) £105.00; Finnich Blair (Zwa) £89.00; Lochty (Tex) £81.00.

STIRLING - Caledonian Marts Ltd on Thursday May 11 sold 185 cattle comprising 105 Bullocks, Heifers and Young Bulls, 10 Otm Cattle and 70 Cast Cows and Bulls. A reasonable show of cattle for numbers and quality were short of buyers requirements.
Prime Bullocks Averaged - 210p
Prime Heifers Averaged - 219p
Young Bulls Averaged - 194p
Beef Cows Averaged - 130p
Dairy Cows Averaged - 115p
Cast Bulls Averaged - 99p
Bullocks sold to a top of 240ppkg for a Limousin from D Dickinson, Brockwoodles, Canonbie.

Farmers reminded over wide-load movements

FARMERS and crofters are being reminded to apply to Police Scotland for an agricultural dispensation for wide vehicle movements.

A scheme, agreed by Police Scotland and NFU Scotland in 2015, means union members with wide vehicles can apply for the dispensation to avoid having to notify police for each individual movement.

Police notification is required if a vehicle, or implement, is over three metres in width and/or projects more than four metres, for example a plough, and is travelling more than five miles, or travelling on any road with a speed limit of less than 40mph.

Farmers or contractors wanting to use this scheme can obtain an application form from Police Scotland or members can get it from NFU Scotland. The completed form should be emailed to OSDAbnormalLoadsScotland@scotland.pnn.police.uk.

On receipt of this form, if deemed appropriate for a dispensation, Police Scotland will issue a dispensation letter. This will cover a full year and mean individual notifications are not required unless the width on the original application form is exceeded.

Members wishing to make a one-off movement with a wide vehicle can apply to Police Scotland for a one-off movement, providing at least 48 hours' notice of the intended movement. Please take into consideration public holidays and weekends when applying for one-off applications.

NFU Scotland members looking for more information in relation to wide vehicle movement requirements can seek advice from the free NFU Scotland helpline for transport and vehicles.

Jamie Smart, legal and technical committee chairman, who runs NFU Scotland's ag-

ricultural transport and vehicle helpline, said: 'It is vital NFU Scotland members ensure that if they require a dispensation, they have applied for this and had it returned from Police Scotland ahead of moving vehicles.'

'The union has worked hard to put this in place for farmers and crofters over the past two years and it is of benefit to save those carrying out wide vehicle movements time and effort in applying for a dispensation.'

'The dispensation document should be carried in vehicles pertaining to it and produced in the event the vehicle is stopped by Police Scotland.'

Superintendent Fraser Candlish of Police Scotland's road policing branch, commented: 'Police Scotland has worked in partnership with NFU Scotland to try and ensure compliance with road traffic legislation is made simpler and easier for farmers.'

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Please contact PO BOX 28 Oban Times, Lochavullin Estate, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

Appointment of North Ballachulish grazings committee
A meeting of shareholders for North Ballachulish will be held for the purpose of electing a new Grazings Committee
on Tuesday 30th May 2017
7.30pm
at Caolas North Ballachulish.

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West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

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THE TERMS YOU NEED TO KNOW WHEN BUYING A HOUSE

BY ELLIOT CASTLE

Buying and selling a property can be a confusing and stressful process. Property is, for most of us, the highest value asset we will ever own, so when it comes to buying or selling, the pressure is on us to make the right decisions.

Negotiating and communicating with estate agents and solicitors, who use confusing property transaction language and jargon, can make the already stressful process more daunting and overwhelming – especially for first-time buyers or sellers.

As a property expert and CEO of UK home buying service, We Buy Any Home (www.webuyanyhome.com), I like to keep things simple, and help my clients sell a property quickly, efficiently and stress-free. Therefore, to help others going through the stressful time, I have created a guide that decodes some of the most confusing lingo used in the industry.

• AMORTISATION: the process of paying off debt with a fixed repayment schedule in regular instalments over an agreed period of time, with a mortgage for example.

• ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE (APR): a compound interest rate figure used to compare different mortgages. APR shows the true cost of borrowing over the entire term and should appear on all mortgage illustrations.

• APPRAISAL VALUE: value of the property, as estimated by a surveyor.

• BREAK CLAUSE: a clause in a contract that allows a person to end the contract early. This can be included in a lease allowing either the landlord or tenant to end the lease early.

• BRIDGING LOAN: a short-term loan taken out to cover the interval between two transactions, typically the buying of one house and selling of another.

• COLLECTIVE ENFRANCHISEMENT: the right of owners of flats in parts, or the whole, of the building to join together and buy the freehold of that building – this requires the coordination of at least 50 per cent of the buildings tenants.

• COMPLETION: the final step in the legal process of transferring ownership of property. Completion is usually the point at which the purchase price for the property is paid and the transfer documents are dated.

• COVENANT: an agreement or written promise between two individuals that constitutes a pledge to do or refrain from doing something.

• CONVEYANCING: in law, conveyancing is the transfer of legal title of real property from one person to another, or the granting of an encumbrance such as a mortgage or a lien.

• DILAPIDATION: this refers to any breaches of lease agreements which relate to the condition of property, damage and upkeep in particular, during the term of tenancy or when the lease ends.

• DISBURSEMENTS: fees paid by the solicitor on buyer's behalf, such as stamp duty, land registry and search fees, AKA legal fees.

• DISCHARGE FEE: paid to some lenders for releasing their hold over a property once you've paid off your loan. Often applies if you've paid it off early.

• EASEMENT: is a non-possessory right to use and/or enter the property of another without possessing it, used to describe the right of way between landowners.

• ENCUMBRANCE: is a claim against, limitation on or liability against real estate. This includes liens, deed restriction, easements, encroachments and licences. An encumbrance may restrict the owner's ability to transfer title to the property, or lessen its value.

• EXCHANGE: the exchange of contracts, when the agreed terms become binding on the buyer and seller.

• FLYING FREEHOLD: a flying freehold exists when one part of a property extends over or under a neighbouring property.

• FREEHOLD: when the owner of the property also owns the land.

• GAZUMPING: when a seller

accepts a higher offer from a third party on a property that they have already agreed to sell to someone else prior to exchanging contracts.

• GAZUNDERING: when a buyer reduces their offer at the eleventh hour.

• GROUND RENT: the annual charge levied by freeholder to leaseholder.

• HOLDING DEPOSIT: money paid to a landlord or letting agent to reserve a rental property before the signing of a tenancy agreement. This is normally non-refundable in the case of withdrawing an application for tenancy.

• INITIAL MONIES: the monies paid by a tenant before the tenancy starts. This will cover the deposit, rent for the first month or quarter, tenancy agreement fee and check in charge.

• LAND REGISTRY: the government department responsible for registering ownership of land.

• LEASEHOLD: this means to own a property for a number of years, but not the land under it

• NEGATIVE EQUITY: is when the value of an asset falls below the outstanding balance on the loan used to purchase that asset.



• PROBATE: the legal process wherein the estate of a decedent is administered and a will is proved valid or invalid.

• PEPPERCORN GROUND RENT: nominal periodic rent usually paid annually.

• REDEMPTION: when a mortgage is fully repaid.

• RING FENCED: refers to money held in such a way that it can only be used for a specified purpose. For example, in the case of a tenancy deposit, it can be used only for the purposes set out in the tenancy agreement.

• SHARE OF FREEHOLD: freehold on which property stands is owned by a limited company and the shareholders of that limited company are the owners of the property.

• TENDER: a tender is a way of marketing and selling a property whereby offers (tenders) for the

property are made to a set date and time (set by the vendor), the vendor then privately considers each offer. Tenders can be conditional offers.

• TITLE DEEDS: paper documents showing the chain of ownership for land and property. They can include: conveyances, contracts for sale, wills, mortgages and leases.

• TITLE SEARCH: investigation carried out by a conveyancer or solicitor into the history of ownership of a property. Will check for liens, unpaid claims, restrictions or any other problems that may affect ownership.

• UNENCUMBERED: a property that is free and clear of any encumbrances, such as creditor claims or liens.

• VOID PERIOD: the period of time when the property is empty/unoccupied by the tenant.

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THREE OR MORE TENANTS IN YOUR PROPERTY? A GUIDE TO HMO REGULATIONS

PROPERTIES FOR SALE & TO LET



extinguishers are working. Carry out an inspection of all electrical equipment every five years, and obtain a copy of the report.

Supply new tenants with a copy of the electrical safety record and the annual gas safety certificate within seven days of occupancy.

Ensure all tenants have a copy of the landlord or property manager's contact details, including name, address, and telephone number. Emergency call-out details should also be provided.

Failure to obtain this license and operating an HMO without one can potentially result in fines and even in prosecution from the local council. If you obtain a licence but fail to adhere to the conditions outlined within it, you could be fined up to £5,000. If you allow a higher number of occupants than that which is permitted by the license, you can face a fine of up to £20,000. Operating an HMO without a license is a criminal offence in Scotland, carrying a maximum fine of £50,000! If you have any questions about HMO regulations or any letting matters, you can contact a member of our team today on 01631 569 466.

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BREADALBANE LANE, TOBERMORY

- Detached bungalow
- 2 bedrooms/1 bathroom
- Popular residential area
- South facing garden & conservatory
- Close to amenities
- EPC Rating: E54

OIRO £150,000

A TWO BEDROOM BUNGALOW situated in a POPULAR RESIDENTIAL AREA in the town of Tobermory. An Teallach is a 2 bedroom bungalow situated in a popular residential area in the pretty town of Tobermory. The property benefits from a practical layout, on entering the property there is a small porch leading to the well-proportioned lounge. The lounge has an exterior door allowing access to a patio area in the garden, the perfect place to sit on a sunny afternoon!

LONGSDALE TERRACE, OBAN

- Two bedroom flat
- On street shared parking
- Newly decorated throughout
- Part furnished
- EPC Rating: D64
- Landlord registration: 79400/130/07590
- AVAILABLE NOW

£550 PCM

Recently renovated 2 bedroom flat in popular residential area. This spacious home has two double bedrooms, a large lounge with balcony and kitchen with white goods provided. The bathroom has shower and bath facilities. With all newly painted walls and new carpets this flat is ready to move in to. Rent excludes council tax (band B) and utilities (electric heating).

ISLE OF MULL

- Detached farmhouse and 2 outbuildings with planning permission
- Spectacular sea views over the Sound of Mull
- Unique development opportunity
- Excellent holiday let potential
- Set in 14 acres of land
- EPC Rating: D65

OIEO £480,000

FANTASTIC and RARE OPPORTUNITY to purchase a SUCCESSFUL HOLIDAY COTTAGE boasting SPECTACULAR SEA VIEWS, set in 14 ACRES with TWO LARGE OUTBUILDINGS with OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION for conversion. This traditional detached farmhouse is situated within approx. 14 acres, above the Sound of Mull with far reaching views in all directions. Upon entering the property through the front door, the central hall leads to a cosy sitting room, complete with wood-burning stove.

CRAIGARD ROAD, OBAN

- One bedroom flat
- Unfurnished
- White goods included
- Town centre location
- EPC Rating: E49
- Landlord Registration: 440359/130/08551
- AVAILABLE NOW

£460 PCM

Cosy one bedroom flat in Oban Town Centre. This property comes unfurnished with white goods and a large standing double wardrobe in the bedroom. It is freshly painted and has carpets throughout. The property is within walking distance to Oban's sight seeing attractions, the leisure centre and local shops. Electric Heating Throughout. Deposit and references required. EPC - E(49) . Council Tax Band B.

GEORGE STREET, OBAN

- Second Floor Flat
- 1 Bedroom / 1 Bathroom
- Ideal Investment Opportunity
- Views Across Oban Bay
- EPC Rating - C

OIRO £85,000

Flat 2, 60 George Street A spacious 1 BEDROOM FLAT with stunning SEA VIEWS across Oban Bay. Perfect location in the centre of the town of Oban, offering potential as a HOLIDAY LET or RENTAL INVESTMENT. The property has an open plan kitchen/diner with a bay window through which you can enjoy stunning sea views over Oban Bay, Kerrera and beyond. There is a small kitchen area and breakfast bar in the corner of the room.

SHUNA TERRACE, OBAN

- Electric storage heating and double glazed windows throughout.
- Available Mid June.
- EPC Rating: F25
- Landlord Reg: 433602/130/27551

£550 PCM

Modern 3 Bedroom Property in upper Oban. The accommodation comprises of 2 double bedrooms with built-in wardrobes & 1 single bedroom. There is a spacious kitchen, lounge, bathroom with bath & shower plus a separate WC. Back garden includes drying green, patio and shed. Rent excludes Council Tax (Band B) and Utilities. Deposit & References required.

LERAGS, OBAN

- Spacious detached bungalow
- 3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Stunning Loch Views
- Large 1.1 acre garden
- Detached garage with workshop/office
- EPC Rating - E51

OIRO £280,000

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CANNES FILM FESTIVAL DEBUT FOR NEW TRAFIC SPACECLASS

RENAULT adds Traffic SpaceClass, a high-end shuttle for professional and private customers with room for up to nine people.

The 70th Cannes International Film Festival marks the debut of Renault's all-new vehicle: Traffic SpaceClass.

Traffic SpaceClass positions Renault in the high-end shuttle market, providing space and comfort for all passengers inside.

Ashwani Gupta, senior vice-president and global head of Renault-Nissan light commercial vehicles business unit, said: 'Traffic SpaceClass is an entirely new product that fulfils the requirements of customers looking for a best-in-class driving and comfort experience.'

'We chose the Cannes Film Festival as the first time to debut this high-end vehicle to show that it can be used effectively with VIPs and business people all the way to the airport.'

With room for up to nine people, Traffic SpaceClass boasts class-leading spaciousness and comfort. The modular design of the seats on rails in rows two and three enables more than 50 different configurations, a unique feature in the segment.

Each passenger is treated to the highest levels of comfort, with dark-tinted rear windows, regulated air-conditioning, individual LED reading lamps, and exclusive leather upholstery available depending on the version.

Traffic SpaceClass is also able to transform into a mobile office with pivoting seats and a removable central table containing numerous storage spaces, depending on the version. All versions are equipped with 220V and USB sockets for charging laptops and electronic devices, including in the rear of the vehicle.

The dashboard features a legion of practical and distinctive details, including a leather-covered steering wheel, a host of storage compartments, and chrome and gloss-black inserts. The seven-inch screen is home to the MediaNav navigation system or R-Link with Android Auto, and reversing camera, depending on the version.

Outside, Traffic SpaceClass stands out instantly through its front lighting signature, chrome grille and painted bumpers, as well as SpaceClass logos on the front wings, exclusive Comet Grey launch paint, numerous gloss-black details and 17-inch diamond-effect wheels, depending on the version.

Traffic SpaceClass targets professional customers placing a premium on the comfort of all passengers, regardless of journey times. It is particularly adapted for companies and hotels operating shuttles from train stations and airports. The new high-end shuttle is perfect for passenger-transport professionals such as taxi drivers and independent chauffeurs.

Traffic SpaceClass will also appeal to private customers like families looking for generous cabin volume and modularity.

Traffic SpaceClass will be launched starting in September 2017 in the main European markets.



New Renault Traffic SpaceClass

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Vacancy – Diocesan Treasurer

Post: Diocesan Treasurer

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Location: Oban

Salary: £18 per hour

The RC Diocese of Argyll and the Isles is seeking to recruit a part-time Diocesan Treasurer, based in the Diocese Offices in Oban. This is an important new post, carrying significant responsibility to offer financial direction across the Diocese, overseeing the day-to-day management of all financial functions. In line with the Church's Code of Canon Law (Canon 494), the Diocesan Treasurer will be regarded as the Diocesan Financial Administrator and will be appointed for 5 years, after which the appointment may be renewed.

The Treasurer will work closely with the Vicar General and Diocese staff to be responsible for the financial strategic plan, accounts, budgets, audits and fund-raising, ensuring robust and compliant monitoring and reporting mechanisms.

The successful candidate will be a qualified Accountant (ACCA, CIMA, CIPFA), be able to think strategically, with excellent organisational skills and a proven ability to work outside of the job description on occasions. All applicants must be willing to work within a Christian framework and be sensitive to its ethos.

An Application Form and Job Description / Person Specification can be obtained by emailing the Vicar General at FrRoddyJohnston@aol.com. Completed application forms should be returned by post to: Rev. Roderick Johnston VG, Our Holy Redeemer Church, 71 Kenneth Street, Stornoway, HS1 2DS.

The closing date for applications is at 5pm on Friday 2nd June

Company Accountant

Steinsvik UK Limited

Unit 36A, Ben Nevis Estate,
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Steinsvik UK Limited are looking for a UK company accountant to join our busy team based in Fort William.

You will be an ACCA, ICAS, ICAEW or equivalently qualified accountant with experience of working in a management accounting environment within a group structure capable of working independently but alongside the finance team in Norway.

Your responsibilities will be all management accounting and financial reporting, including reporting to the parent company in Norway. You will report the company cash flow and financial position to the UK manager and oversee the work undertaken by the finance assistant. As the company continues to grow you will be expected to enhance internal controls and systems. You will preferably have experience in the use of Microsoft Dynamics Navision software.

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Salary £16,574 - £19,498

35 hours – Permanent

For further details and to apply visit the recruitment section of our website www.acha.co.uk

If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team:

Tel 01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

For more information, please contact Allan MacDonald on 01546 605877 or email allan.macdonald2@acha.co.uk

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 26 May 2017

Interviews will be held in Lochgilphead on 7 June 2017

PSV Driver/ Tour Guide

required for mini-bus day tours of the West Coast of Scotland.

Excellent rates of pay for the right individual(s) who must be enthusiastic, customer-focused and keen to share their extensive local knowledge. Full time and/or part-time positions available.

Please send initial enquiries, with attached CVs, to info@skye-tours.co.uk.



MATERIALS LABORATORY TECHNICIANS/ APPRENTICE TECHNICIAN – WEST REGION, ARGYLL

We are currently seeking to recruit Materials Laboratory Technicians or apprentice technicians based at our West Area laboratory near Oban.

Materials Laboratory Technicians ideally will be candidates who have an interest in the Construction industry and laboratory testing. You will be trained to carry out physical and mechanical testing of; aggregates asphalt and concrete on construction sites, and within an accredited laboratory environment.

Experience in the Construction industry would be an advantage but not essential as training will be given.

The successful candidates will ideally have a minimum Highers, and/or National Certificate level qualifications. A valid UK driving license is essential. We offer a competitive salary, pension scheme and benefits associated with a progressive employer.

All applicants must be able to demonstrate their right to work in the UK.

To apply, please forward your current CV to: recruit.northern@breedongroup.com

Breedon Group plc is the largest independent construction materials group in the UK. We operate nearly 60 quarries, 27 asphalt plants, just under 200 ready-mix concrete and mortar plants and three concrete block plants throughout Scotland, England and Wales, employing more than 2300 people.



Estate Agent and Agency Administrator

Two full time positions have arisen in our Oban Office. We are seeking an Estate Agent and an Agency Administrator.

Although experience would be preferred, it is not essential as full training will be provided. Candidates should be familiar with the geographical area and have a passion for property, be highly motivated and have good communication skills, enthusiasm and be well organised.

A full driving licence and a car are essential.

Salary will be commensurate with skills and experience.

Bell Ingram is an equal opportunity employer.

CVs should be sent to:

**Carl Warden, Senior Associate,
Bell Ingram LLP, Durn,
Isla Road, Perth PH2 7HF
or carl.warden@bellingham.co.uk**

MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION

REQUIRE

TRAINEE SURVEYOR / ESTIMATOR

Based in Lochgilphead

Previous experience not necessary as training will be given

Enquiries in writing and/or cv to
Kilmory Industrial Estate,
Lochgilphead, PA31 8RR.

Or

E-mail – lil@mkmaclLeod.co.uk



The Knipoch Hotel requires

Waiter/Waitress

Full time live in

£7.50 per hour

Apply to Camma on 01852 316251



Caretaker with cleaning duties

10 hours per week. Living wage employer. Flexible hours.

Paid Youth Ambassadors for front of house duties. 16-18 years. Free Cinema

**Apply to Louise Glen
toplady@me.com for application form or text your details to 07717526999**

RECRUITMENT

Caledonian MacBrayne
Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

CalMac Ferries Limited

Duty Piermaster

Oban
£9.68 per hour
40 hours per week

Ref: 956-SB

Reporting to the Port Manager, you will need a flexible approach to your day-to-day responsibilities. Your duties will include:

- Control of 3rd party vessels at Railway Pier and South Pier
- Collection of pier dues
- Gangway movement/maintenance
- Controlling parking on pier
- Supervision of Night Watchmen
- Defect reporting
- Building security
- Cleanliness of the pier
- Supervising bunkering operations
- Carrying out any other duties required by the Port Manager

You must be customer literate, with excellent verbal and written communication skills. You are expected to have a flexible approach to working, as shift and weekend work will be involved. You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

The successful candidate must be able to commute to the Oban Ferry Terminal on a daily basis. Please apply online at <https://www.calmac.co.uk/article/5512/Duty-Piermaster-Oban> no later than 24 May 2017.

CalMac Ferries Limited is an equal opportunities employer.

ACHA Repairs Assistant **Helensburgh**
Salary £19,717 - £23,197
Fixed term to 31 May 2018
17.5 hours per week

For more information please contact Nick Banks on 01546 605 951
Interviews will be held in Helensburgh on 12 June 2017.

AHFA Chimney Sweep **Argyll-wide**
Salary £20,753 - £24,414 per annum
Permanent
37.5 hours per week

For more information please contact Lee Holness on 01546 605815
Interviews will be held in Inveraray on 16 June 2017.

Service Administrator **Helensburgh**
Salary £16,574 - £19,498 per annum
Fixed term post 6 months
35 hours per week

For more information please contact Lynne Stokes on 01546 605834.
Interviews will be held in Helensburgh on 22 June 2017.

AHFA Plumber **Oban & Lorn**
Salary £25,519 - £30,023 per annum
Permanent
37.5 hours per week

For further information please contact Lee Holness on 01546 605815
Interviews will be held in Inveraray on Friday 16 June 2017

Closing Date for all posts: 12 noon on Friday 2 June 2017.
These posts will be subject to a basic Disclosure Scotland check.

To apply please go to the recruitment section of our website at www.acha.co.uk
If you are unable to access the website please contact the recruitment team;
Tel 01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk
CVs are not accepted

The Scottish Salmon Company

Your Career Right Here

Mechanical Treatment Operative x 2

Flexible - North & South Regions
Salary: £17,510 - £20,163

An exciting new opportunity has arisen for Mechanical Treatment Operatives. Under the direction of the treatment supervisor you will be responsible for proactively and efficiently completing lice treatments. Fish husbandry experience, would be an advantage in, ensuring best practice for fish welfare, equipment and safety standards. Applicants will be required to work a continental shift pattern. As this position will require travel to other sites, a full clean driving licence is essential, along with a flexible, independent approach to enable support across our site teams.

Net Washing Operative

South Region
Salary: £17,510 - £20,163

We are also recruiting for a Net Washing Operative to join our Net Washing Team operating across our sites in the South Region. Under the direction of the Team Leader duties will include cleaning nets, operating and maintaining net cleaning equipment to a high standard. The successful applicant will have excellent practical and problem solving skills, along with good standards of fitness, and the ability to pass a full ML5 medical examination. Previous net washing experience would be useful, but not essential as full training will be provided. Applicants will be required to work a continental shift pattern. As this position will require travel to other sites, a full clean driving licence is essential.

To apply and/or request a detailed job specification please use contact details below.

Angela Gibson
The Scottish Salmon Company
Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow, Argyll PA26 8BH
Tel: 01499 600 430
angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com
Closing date: Friday 2 June 2017

www.scottishsalmon.com

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

Ceannard Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis (Gàidhlig Riatanach)
Head Teacher Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis (Gaelic Essential)
Tuarastal £53,187

Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a' sireadh Ceannard-sgoile air stèidh mhaireannach airson Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis. Thathar a' cur fàilte air tagraidhean bho luchd-teagaisg le teisteanasan is eòlas iomchaidh, a tha fileanta a' bruidhinn na Gàidhlig agus a leughas is a sgrìobhas i cuideachd.

The Highland Council seeks to appoint a permanent Head Teacher for Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis. Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced Teachers who are fluent Gaelic speakers and who can also read and write Gaelic.

Faodar ceistean neo-fhoirmeil a chur gu Coinneach Moireach, Oifigear Foghlaim na Sgìre, air 01463 702074.

Cuiribh a-steach IARRTAS AIR-LOIDHNE aig www.myjobscotland.gov.uk. Mura h-urrainn dhuibh iarrtas a chur a-steach air-loidhne agus sibh airson pasgan iarrtais far-loidhne fhaighinn, cuiribh fios gu Business Support HR Hub C&L, Fòn: 01349 868640 (post-gutha 24 uair) a' toirt seachad àireamh fiosrachaidh na dreuchd.

Mus tèid an neach-dreuchd a dhearbhadh, feumaidh tagraichean soirbheachail ballrachd a ghabhail ann an Sgeama Dion nam Buidhnean So-leònte.

Tha pasgan ath-shuidheachaidh cuimseach aig a' Chomhairle agus dh'fhaodte gum bi seo ri fhàitinn dhan tagraiche soirbheachail airson dreuchdan maireannach.

Ceann-latha: 29 den Chèitean 2017.

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
INCREASE TO MOORING AREA, GLENAN BAY, LOCH FYNE

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Salmon Company has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of increase to mooring area to an existing marine farm at:

Cost	Latitude	Longitude
£2000		
Location	Co-ordinates	Co-ordinates
Glenan Bay,	55° 52.44' N	005° 19.88' W
Loch Fyne	55° 52.48' N	005° 19.78' W
	55° 52.55' N	005° 19.87' W
	55° 52.59' N	005° 19.77' W
	55° 52.52' N	005° 19.69' W
	55° 52.58' N	005° 19.55' W
	55° 52.39' N	005° 19.31' W
	55° 52.26' N	005° 19.35' W
	55° 52.22' N	005° 19.44' W
	55° 52.25' N	005° 19.64' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Lochgilphead Post Office, 46 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, PA31 8NE.

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:
Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: **MCMS No. 05689 BS Scottish Salmon Company**

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
INCREASE TO MOORING AREA, TARBERT SOUTH, LOCH FYNE

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Salmon Company has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of increase to mooring area to an existing marine farm at:

Cost	Latitude	Longitude
£2000		
Location	Co-ordinates	Co-ordinates
Tarbert South,	55° 50.11' N	005° 21.27' W
Loch Fyne	55° 50.14' N	005° 21.20' W
	55° 50.20' N	005° 21.30' W
	55° 50.24' N	005° 21.22' W
	55° 50.19' N	005° 21.12' W
	55° 50.24' N	005° 21.03' W
	55° 50.09' N	005° 20.74' W
	55° 49.98' N	005° 20.74' W
	55° 49.94' N	005° 20.82' W
	55° 49.95' N	005° 20.98' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at; Lochgilphead Post Office, 46 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, PA31 8NE.

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:
Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: **MCMS No. 05687 Scottish Salmon Company**

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

I MacDonald
1 Cornaigmore, Tìre 75575
0.120 ha
Reason - Site for a dwelling house
Condition - Fencing

M J Hall
Stronmilchan (tonbuie), Glenorchy & Innishail 76912
Reason - Site for new dwellinghouse
Condition - Fencing

A Lawson
Seaview Croft, Colonsay 77881
Reason - Amenity ground
Condition - Fencing

Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Argyll and Bute Council

Councillor Kieron Green (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)

Councillor Green will be holding a surgery on Friday 19th May 2017 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

He can be contacted by email - Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 562 444

Highland Hospice

Memorial Service
Tuesday 30th May 2017

An open service for families and friends in the Lochaber area to remember loved ones, including those who have been cared for by Highland Hospice.

This will be held at St Andrews Episcopal Church Hall Fort William at 7.30pm

Light refreshments will be served following the service

For more information please contact:
Tina McGarrell, Clinical Secretary on 01463 227901

SC011927

WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION
PARTNERSHIP LEAD
GRADE 8 (TEMP)
(Up to £39,000 pro rata dependent on experience)

West Highland Housing Association Ltd, who are a member of the Link Group, have an exciting and challenging opportunity for someone with a professional housing background.

Argyll and Bute Council have recently approved the Master Plan for Dunbeg in the Oban area, and within the next 3 years Link Group are delivering over 300 houses – these homes will be managed by West Highland Housing Association.

The new post of Partnership Lead is designed to create and develop local partnerships with strategic agencies including Argyll and Bute Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Health and Social Care. In addition the post will also work with local businesses, community councils and other representative bodies ensuring that local people are at the heart of this sizeable housing development.

One of the key outputs of the post is to masterplan the housing demand for Oban, Lorn and the Isles for the next 5 years.

The post will be based in Oban in WHHA's office and will be 21 hours per week and initially for a period of one year.

Application packs can be requested by phoning the office on 01631 566451 or emailing oriana@westhighlandha.co.uk.

Closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 2nd June 2017.

LINKGROUP INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

SCOTTISH CHARITY IN SCOTLAND NO. SC037357 REGISTERED SOCIETY UNDER THE CO-OPERATIVE AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY ACT 2014. NO LEGISLATION AND SECTION 4 OF THE HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1988 REGISTERED NO. REFUGES. PROPERTY FACTOR REGISTRATION NUMBER PFO00015.

01631 566 451 | Freephone 08453 402 058 | mail@westhighlandha.co.uk | www.westhighlandha.co.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

First Registration of a Croft

Linda MacLachlan has registered her croft Part 39 North Ballachulish, Kilmallie on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by January 28, 2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4005

First Registration of a Croft

Martin John Hall has registered the croft Stronmilchan (Tombuie), Stronmilchan, Glenorchy & Innishail, on the crofting register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 13th January 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C3842.

First Registration of a Croft

Mrs Annie Lawson has registered the croft Seaview, Drumclagh, Isle of Colonsay on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 07 Jan 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C3887

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
17/01835/PIP	Land 80M NE of Garbh Bheinn, Kentallen	Erection of house and detached garage, installation of septic tank and soakaway
17/01953/FUL	Workshop, Camaghael, Fort William	Alterations and change of use to 4 units: Class 4 Business, Class 5 General Industrial and Class 6 Storage and Distribution
17/02081/FUL	Kinlochleven to Blarmafalach Fort William	Installation of communications cable and associated works
17/02106/FUL	The Old Rectory, Ballachulish	Erection of 6 no. holiday cabins and 1 no. spa unit, installation of sewage treatment plant with partial soakaway
17/02128/PIP	Land 50M W of 72 Camaghael, Fort William	Renewal of Planning Permission in Principle (Ref: 13/04744/PIP) for erection of a house
17/02156/FUL	Land 110M South of Runival, Mallaig	Erection of house (amendment to approved scheme Ref 16/04838/FUL)
17/02173/LBC	High Land, 1 New Buildings, Arisaig	Replace existing windows; cladding on existing rear extension; and replace existing side extension with new build

Time period for comments is 14 days, 17/02173/LBC is 21 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

REF. No.	PROPOSAL	SITE ADDRESS	LOCATION OF PLANS
17/01192/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South East Of Barranrioch (Plot 1) Glenurruiten Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
17/01092/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, detached garage, installation of sewage treatment plant and retrospective formation of vehicular access/access gates and boundary wall	Land West Of Kilmelford Fire Station Kilmelford Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
17/01166/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 10/02150/PP (Erection of dwellinghouse and ancillary steading)	Site North West Of Rockside Farm Bruchladdich Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA49 7UT	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
17/00746/LIB	Installation of street lighting equipment	Connel Bridge Connel Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Connel Bute
17/01141/PP	Erection of airport hanger building	Tiree Airport Crossapol Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6UP	Tiree Area Office
17/01193/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South East Of Barranrioch (Plot 2) Glenurruiten Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/finding-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

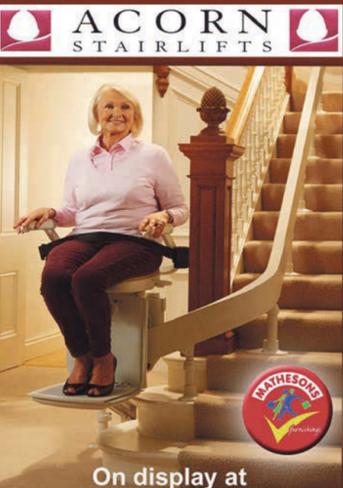
To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll and Bute Council

First Registration of a Croft

William Lawson, has registered their croft Annie's Croft, Drumclagh, Colonsay on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 5th February 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4020.

MOBILITY



ACORN STAIRLIFTS

On display at
MATHESONS FURNISHINGS
Soroba Road Oban PA344HQ
01631 565195 info@mathesons.co.uk

SKIP HIRE

Argyll Resources Group

OBAN SKIP HIRE
• DOMESTIC • CONSTRUCTION • COMMERCIAL WASTE



Waste recycling centre in Oban
We can provide customers with skips ranging from 6 to 16 yards and 20 to 40 yard ROROs

Contact: Call and speak to our commercial team.
Tel: 01631 566370 (Oban) / 01397 701414 (Fort William)
Email: info@argyllresources.co.uk
Open Monday - Friday - 8am to 5pm.

CHIMNEY SERVICES

ARGYLL & ISLES CHIMNEY SERVICES

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07979 826614
Email: oban.blinds@hotmail.co.uk

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T: 01631 562208
North Rd, Fort William PH33 6TQ
T: 01397 700744

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West Coast PROPERTY SERVICES

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All General building works



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Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED

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FIREARMS

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PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN GOOD QUALITY
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LEADING MANUFACTURERS
TELEPHONE: 01250 872056
info@jamescrookartandson.co.uk
JAMES CROCKART AND SON
Blairgowrie Gunmakers est. 1852

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BICYCLES
CYCLE ROOF RACK Thule Provide 591, racks for two bikes plus wing bars and clamps. All fully lockable with keys. Has been rarely used, £175 Telephone 07789 351244

GENTS VINTAGE CYCLE good tyres and condition, first £60 Telephone 01631720036

LADIES BICYCLE Hardly used in very good condition, £75 Telephone 07969 526155

BUILDING / DIY
SECONDARY GLAZED PANELS Second Hand -11 assorted approx sizes- 1@50x90cm, 7 @ 5 x 1 0 0 c m , 2 @ 1 0 0 x 1 2 0 c m , 1@95x115cm, £30 Telephone 07979 050299

UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED bottom opening window, 1630 width, 1070 height. Cost £234 new, £99 Telephone 07867 864436

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES
COOKER Bush electric freestanding cooker, white, single drop down door, 4 sealed plate hobs. Very good condition. £55 Call evenings Telephone 01852 300154

DISHWASHER Dishwasher Pro-Action, full size, white, excellent condition, very little used. Calls evening, £99 Telephone 01852 300154

INTEGRATED WHITE HYGENA oven and grill (used) also matching 4 ring gas hob. Both in good condition, £50 Telephone 07867 864436

EQUESTRIAN
MARE 13.2hh conemarra grey mare, good all round pony, £680 inc tack Telephone 07795 473154²

FIREARMS
BERETTA 20 bore, o/u, 2 1/2 years old, hardly used, FAC required, £1200 Telephone 01546 603152 (eves)

FURNITURE
ANTIQUA PINE BOOKCASE 38" x 25" vgc, £25 Telephone 07920 487939.

BED SIDE CABINETS PINE two small £10 each and one large £15, drawer with shelf under, good condition, £30 Telephone 01631 770698

CHEST OF DRAWERS white, 5 drawer, brand new, built but never used, £60 Telephone 07472 652021

COMPUTER DESK light grey with pull out shelve and another two shelves to hold paper/printer, vgc, £20 Telephone 07920 487939

DINING TABLE oval extending teak table. Good and clean condition, £20 Telephone 01631 770698

GLASS TELEVISION TABLE Strong glass TV table with glass shelf, chrome legs, £5 Telephone 01631 770698

IKEA POANG ARM-CHAIR birch frame with dark cream seat, excellent condition, £40 Telephone 07795 841941

PINE DESK Solid antique pine desk with two drawers, vgc, 50" x 28", £45 Telephone 07920 487939

STORAGE UNITS/ WARDROBES two cream canvas and pine storage units/wardrobes, with hanging, shelf and shoe storage, vgc, £20 each, Telephone 07795 841941

SWIVEL CHAIR blue, vgc, £15 Telephone 07920 487939

TABLE extendable wooden kitchen/dining table. H 74cms W 78cms L100-135cms. Good condition, £30 Telephone 01631 565142

TWO BEDSIDE TABLES with small drawer, £20 the pair, Telephone 07920 487939

WARDROBE white, brand new built but never used, £70 Telephone 07472 652021

GARDEN
EGG HONESTY BOX Superb craftmade honesty box. Fretwork sides, chicken motifs, slate roof and lead surround, grey painted sign included, £30 Telephone 01631720369

GAS BBQ 4 burner plus side burner, used twice, only, £40 Telephone 01631 564452

GAS BBQ Patio Mate 2 wheeled gas bbq with char-grill, solid griddle and roasting hood, £40 Telephone 01586 552773

GREEN HOUSE Dutch Barn Greenhouse 8x6ft, good frame no glass, dismantled ready to go, £25 ono Telephone 07748 700087

STRIMMERS 3 x Robin N211 Strimmers, 2 working, £20.00 each or £50.00 for all 3, £ Telephone 01631 770613

GARDEN MACHINERY
PETROL LAWNMOWER good condition and full working order, 18 inch cut self-drive, £95 Telephone 01631 720159

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS
PEARLISED PAPER & CARD White, Blue and Pink colours in stock available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print, Telephone 01586 554975

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COMPUTER DESK very good condition, 2'4" x 4'7", £40 Telephone 01631 720452

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ENGAGEMENTS

CADZOW - MORAN - The engagement is announced between Alexander Cadzow, younger son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Cadzow of Iken, Suffolk and Rachel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Adair Moran of Donegal.

DEATHS

AFFLECK - Margaret. Passed away peacefully at Hairmyres Hospital, East Kilbride on Thursday May 11, 2017, Margaret, aged 94 years, beloved wife of the late Hamish, loving mum, gran and great-gran to all her family. Funeral Service to be held at South Lanarkshire Crematorium, Blantyre on Thursday May 18 at 2pm.

BARNESLEY - Peacefully, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on Friday May 5, 2017, Gillian of Camus Road, Dunbeg, beloved wife of Colin McWilliams and much loved daughter and sister. The support received from friends and colleagues, has been overwhelming and will be forever appreciated. Gillian will be sorely missed. A gathering to celebrate Gillian's life, will take place at Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban, on Thursday May 25 at 1.00 p.m. Family request that bright outdoor clothing be worn. Family flowers only. Donations if desired, for the Macmillan Suite at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban.

BOWMAN - (née Campbell) Margaret Jane. Peacefully, at Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice, Glasgow, after a long illness on May 12, 2017. Wife of Bertie. Mother to Robert and Jane. Much loved sister and aunt. Funeral at Torosay Parish Church, Isle of Mull at 12:30 on Friday May 19, 2017 and thereafter to Kilpatrick Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations to Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice. Gus Am Bris An Latha.

CAMPBELL - Katrina Campbell (née Gibson), peacefully passed away at the Royal Jubilee National Hospital, Glasgow, on May 15, 2017. Trina was a dearly loved mother, nana, sister, sister-in-law, auntie and friend. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Funeral will take place at Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban, on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 1.00 p.m. to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery.

CARMICHAEL - Peacefully passed away at home, Malcolm Carmichael (Calum), aged 86, father of Alison, Hughie and Sarah and beloved grandfather of Karen, Cameron, Lynn, Kevin and Sandra also beloved great-granddad to six children. The funeral service was held at Oban Parish Church

on Tuesday May 16, with donations to Oban Macmillan day bed unit and local Marie Curie nurses.

CRUICKSHANK - On Tuesday May 9, James (Cruickie/Jimmy) aged 76, passed away. A much loved husband to Moira, father to Alison and Fiona, father-in-law to Craig, grandfather, brother, brother-in-law and uncle. Always a gentleman, who will be missed by many. A special thank you to Sandra and John Grieve for their invaluable love and care. Dr's and staff at Lorn Medical Centre, the Carers Centre, Crossroads, Affinity Trust, Dementia team and staff at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley. Our sincere gratitude to everyone that helped and supported James and the family over the years.

GIBSON - Peacefully at home, on May 11, 2017, Douglas Campbell Gibson, aged 87, much loved husband of the late Jean (Fielden) and cherished brother, uncle, neighbour, friend. Born in Swatow, China, and later of Edinburgh, Lytham and Luing. Service and burial were held at Kilchattan, Isle of Luing, on Wednesday May 17 at 1.30 pm. Donations for Mary's Meals would be gratefully received c/o Hamish Hoey, Stevenson Street, Oban.

WELLS - Suddenly and unexpectedly, on Friday, May 12, 2017, at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, with his family by his side, Iain, "Alisdhorn", Kilmore, much loved and devoted husband of Lillian, loving father to Rhoda and Finlay, dear father-in-law to David and Helen and proud and doting Grandpa to Orla and Connor. A devastating loss to the whole family. Funeral will take place at Kilmore Kirk, Kilmore, By Oban, on Monday, May 22, 2017 at 1.00 p.m. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DRUMMOND - The family of the late David Henderson Drummond would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy shown following their recent sad loss. Thanks to all who cared for Davie at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Lorn Medical Practice and to all the staff at Eadar Glinn Care Home for their exceptional care of Davie during his time there. Thanks also to the warden and staff at Dunmar Court where Davie previously resided and to all the carers who attended him and staff at Lysinde. To Rev Christine Fulcher for her comforting service, and to all at Hamish Hoey and Son for their efficient and caring funeral arrangements, to Rowantree Hotel for catering and to all who paid their last

respects at the funeral. The sum of £186.80 was collected for Eadar Glinn Residents Comfort Fund.

McNIVEN - The family of the late Laura McNiven wish to thank all friends and family for their support during Laura's time in hospital and to all staff in Ward 1 for the care she received, to the Rev. Dugald Cameron for his comforting service. Many thanks to Catriona and Hamish Hoey's for the care and attention during the funeral arrangements, to Moreen Gracie for the beautiful floral arrangements and the Falls of Lora Hotel for the refreshments. A total of £792 was collected for the Macmillan Day Care Bed Unit in Oban.

MEMORIALS

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of a dear father and grampa Alasdair, who died May 18, 1988.

Always in our thoughts and hearts - Lorne and Kathie, Eriskay, Alasdair, Christine and family, Blairgowrie.

EVANS - Treasured memories of my dear husband and our dad and granddad Billy Evans, who passed away May 19, 2016.

Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts - Janet and all our family "Croschal"

GIBSON - In loving memory of John (Gibby), who passed away May 16, 2015. Loved and remembered every day.

- Mum, Jackie, Linda and families.

KENNEDY - May (Gillespie), died May 18, 2008, loving mum and granny. Sadly missed, forever loved.

- John, Catherine, John, Niall and Michael.

MACCOLL - In loving memory of dear Neilie, who passed away on May 13, 2003. Though absent you are always near

Still loved, still missed, still very dear. Gad chaidh gu bràth. - Margaret.

MACINTYRE - Treasured memories of a dear dad and seanair Donald Archie (D.A) who passed away May 16, 2005. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts - Neil, Jennifer, Charles and families.

MACKINNON - Precious memories of a dear mother and nana Duncanina, who passed away May 20, 2007, and a dear father and grandfather Hugh, who passed away April 6, 1985. In God's care you rest above In our hearts you rest with love Memories of you are ours to keep Our words are few but our love is deep Also remembering dear loved ones gone before and after - Elizabeth, Iain, Iona and Ewan.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of a dear wife, mum and granny Morag, who died May 14, 2012.

Also remembering loved ones gone before and after. They say it's a beautiful journey from the old world to the new Someday we'll make that journey which will lead us straight to you And when we reach that garden in which there is no pain We'll put our arms around you and never part again. - Donald and family, Tیره and Somerset.

MACLENNAN - In loving memory of my dear mother, grandmother and great grandmother Margaret (Mena), who died May 17, 1989.

You always had a smile to share

Time to give, time to care Never selfish, always kind These are the memories you left behind. Sadly missed.

- Inserted by her loving daughter Morag.

MACLEOD - Duncan, died on May 24, 2014.

Duncan was a much loved husband, dad and papa. He is sorely missed and remembered and loved forever by us all.

- Doreen, Gillian and Hilary (and grandchildren) Duncan, Iain and Luca.

NICOLSON - Treasured memories our dear father and grandfather Donald, who died May 22, 1980, also our dear brothers and uncles, Joseph (Joe), died April 30, 1987 and Alister accidentally drowned September 16, 1965.

Loved and remembered always

Sadly missed by all the family.

STEWART - In loving memory of Isobel, who died at Lynn of Lorne Care Home, Benderloch, on May 22, 2014, in her 83rd year. Isobel, daughter of the late Duncan and Kate MacFarlane, sister of Flora and the late Cathy, dearest wife of the late James Stewart and beloved mother of Gordon and the late Norma. Always in our thoughts.

TURNER - In loving memory of my wife Margaret, who died May 18, 2012. Lonely is my home without you

Life to me is not the same All this world would be like Heaven Just to have you back again - Kenny

TURNER - In loving memory of our mother Margaret, who died May 18, 2012. My heart is full of memories With pride I speak your name Though life goes on with out you

It will never be the same - Tracey and Kathleen



Members of Oban Parish Church of Scotland Kirk Session met last week at Glencruitten House in the town for their annual conference. The guest speaker from Church of Scotland, Edinburgh, was Robbie Morrison, whose themes were Mission, Discipleship and sharing faith.

A letter from the bishops of Scotland ahead of the general election

THIS general election presents us with an opportunity to reflect on Catholic social teaching.

As Christians, we have a civic and moral duty to engage with our democracy.

As Catholics, we believe that the primary goal of society should be the common good; that is the good of all people and of the whole person. Indeed, the common good is the very reason political authority exists.

This election provides an opportunity to reflect on the beauty and goodness of church teaching and to keep that teaching at the forefront of our minds as we engage with candidates across all parties.

During elections, a range of issues compete for your attention; we highlight some of them here in the hope that you will reflect on them and raise them with your candidates.

Poverty

Too many people still struggle to make ends meet.

This sad reality cannot and should not endure in our country in the 21st century. Our concerns should also extend to providing international assistance, while ensuring that aid is not used to support immoral practices such as

those which compromise the basic right to life.

Refugees, asylum seekers and immigration

The United Kingdom should be a place where the most vulnerable are welcomed and given the resources necessary to rebuild their lives. At the same time, we should provide for those people living in and around conflict zones, and commit to working towards the peaceful resolution.

Living in Europe

There are millions of EU citizens living in the UK and millions of UK citizens living across the EU. Mindful of the uncertainty affecting them, candidates should commit to working towards delivering stability and security for them in future. Our politicians should forge and renew international partnerships and establish rights for those who wish to work in the UK, in a spirit of cooperation and friendship.

Freedom of religion and conscience

Millions of people worldwide are persecuted for their beliefs. People of faith, including Christians, should be able to freely practise their faith and bear witness to it in their lives,

without fear of prejudice, intolerance, abuse or violence. Candidates should be committed to the right of people not to be forced to act against their conscience.

Nuclear weapons and the arms trade

The use of any weapon that causes more than individual and proportionate harm to civilians is immoral and, thus, rejected by the church. As we cast our votes this election, let us bear in mind the words of Pope Francis when he said: 'The greatness of any nation is revealed in its effective care of society's most vulnerable members.'

Our nation, our parliament and our government will be judged on how it treats its poorest and most vulnerable citizens.

Devotedly in Christ, Philip Tartaglia, President, Archbishop of Glasgow; Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh; Joseph Toal, Vice-President, Bishop of Motherwell; Hugh Gilbert, Episcopal Secretary, Bishop of Aberdeen; Stephen Robson, Bishop of Dunkeld; John Keenan, Bishop of Paisley; William Nolan, Bishop of Galloway; Brian McGee, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles.

Event promotes work and life of church

AN EVENT to celebrate the life and work of the church will take place in Fort William on Sunday.

Heart and Soul is a festival which takes place in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh.

Heart and Soul Local will take place at Fort William Duncansburgh Macintosh Church on the same day - Sunday May 21. Tapping into a live web

stream to follow some of the Edinburgh events, there will also be local input, including music from the Duror and Glencoe Praise band. Steve Aisthorpe will lead a seminar on 'the invisible church', and Out of the Box Puppets will be performing.

The live web stream from Edinburgh will begin at 2pm, with local events from 3pm,

and the closing worship, when we will join with thousands gathering at Princes Street Gardens at 5pm.

Lochaber Presbytery and its congregations invite everyone to share in this celebration.

Details are available at www.presbytery.org.uk/heartandsoul or from Rev Donald McCorkindale, presbytery clerk, 01967 402234.

Thought for the week

'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.' 1 John 1 v 9.

Have you ever made a mistake that you now deeply regret?

Perhaps it was something said or written to a friend or colleague; perhaps a momentary loss of control on the sports field in the heat of the moment.

'Messing up' in the 21st century can often have quite far-reaching consequences. Connectedness to the world via Twitter, Facebook and Instagram ensures that some mistakes can go viral in a short space of time.

Naive young people in particular have found that their mistakes can have pretty catastrophic consequences for their future careers and relationships.

However, the good news is that when we mess up, we're not alone, because everyone who has ever lived has made mistakes. It's all part and parcel of being human.

The Bible is littered with examples of such people. In

the Old Testament, the Psalmist King David's mistakes included murder.

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul admitted: 'I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.'

While the fact of being a human is frustrating for all of us, the Bible offers us some really good news when we mess up.

The Apostle John tells us: 'If we confess our sins, He (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'

So the next time you mess up, follow the Bible's five-step process for turning things around: turn to God, take responsibility, apologise, accept forgiveness, thank God - and get back on track.

C E Morrison

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Oban win away at Gargunnoch

Cricket

OBAN Cricket Club travelled to Gargunnoch in Stirlingshire for their first fixture of 2017 and came away with a welcome seven-wicket victory.

Batting first, Gargunnoch started well and they looked on target for a big total before Oban began to take wickets at vital times. Reaching 100 for the loss of only two wickets, the home side were in pole position but opener Andrew Lloyd was caught off the bowling of Ronnie Kelly for 34 and, after he departed, the runs dried up and wickets fell regularly. Daniel Booker picked up 4 wickets, Ronnie Kelly and Tristan Carre two each as Gargunnoch finished all out for 140, a score they must have thought was disappointing considering their good start.

In reply, Oban lost an early wicket and Jahed Ahmed and Dan Booker had to play well to steady the innings. Booker was well caught for 23, but Jahed and Tristan Carre then proceeded to bat very sensibly, and the score continued to climb steadily. Jahed completed his 50 just before the finish as Oban passed the 140 total with plenty overs to spare. Jahed was 54 not out at the end and Tristan Carre finished unbeaten on 44 to complete a very good days work for the Oban side.

Scores: Gargunnoch 140 (Lloyd 34; Booker 4-37)

Oban 142-3 (Jahed 54 not out, Carre 44 not out)

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Vikings plunder to win their own Dalriada

Mini rugby

MINI RUGBY teams from around Argyll gathered at Etive Vikings RFC Taynuilt pitches on Sunday in the latest Dalriada mini festival. Oban Lorne RFC, Isle of Mull RFC and Mid Argyll RFC all attended the event along with highland visitors Lochaber RFC.

Score from the day are as follows: P4/5 - Etive Vikings 5-0 Oban Lorne; Mid Argyll 3-3 Lochaber B; Etive Vikings B 2-2 Oban Lorne; Lochaber A 1-5 Etive Vikings; Oban Lorne 3-1 Lochaber A; Etive Vikings B 5-1 Lochaber A; Mid Argyll 1-5 Etive Vikings; Etive Vikings 5-0 Lochaber B; Etive Vikings B 5-1 Mid Argyll; Mid Argyll 4-3 Oban Lorne; Lochaber B 0-5 Etive Vikings B; Mid Argyll 4-1 Lochaber A; Lochaber B 2-2 Lochaber B.

P6/7 - Lochaber 7-7 Mid Argyll; Isle of Mull 5-1 Oban Lorne; Etive Vikings 6-1 Isle of Mull; Oban Lorne 1-4 Lochaber; Mid Argyll 5-0 Oban Lorne; Etive Vikings 6-1 Lochaber; Lochaber 5-4 Isle of Mull; Mid Argyll 2-2 Etive Vikings; Mid Argyll 3-6 Etive Vikings; Etive Vikings 8-4 Oban Lorne

Congratulations to Etive Vikings RFC who were unbeaten on the day in both age groups.

The standard of rugby on show was fantastic, proving that the hard work of the volunteer coaches around the clubs is having a big effect in the development of the young players.

Oban Lorne host the last festival of the season at Glencruitten on Sunday May 28.



Determination written all over the face of young Etive Vikings Aidan Lawrie as he runs past Oban Lorne's Ruan Kemp. Picture: Stephen Day



John McPhee in action during the Spanish Grand Prix.

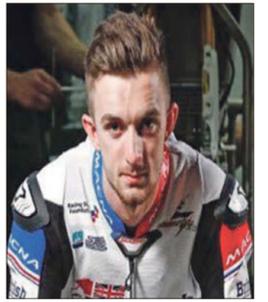
John retains fourth place in championship despite disappointment in Spanish Grand Prix

BRITISH Talent Team rider John McPhee had a troubled qualifying session for the Spanish GP, but the Connel rider shot up from a P25 starting position to fight his way past half the field and lead the second group.

Fighting hard with riders around him and on course for another points finish, McPhee then suffered a lowside crash and out of contention at turn one, retiring from the race soon after.

The Scot retains fourth position in the championship, with the aim now to cut the gap and gain a big points haul in Le Mans at the French GP.

After the race John said: 'It was a difficult weekend all round and definitely one to forget. I've had more or less good pace all weekend and that was backed up in the race only being 0.2 from the fastest



John McPhee.

Moto3

lap. However, from a mixture of bad luck and a few mistakes I didn't finish in the way we wanted.

'We will regroup from what we have learned and come back much stronger in Le Mans on May 21.'

ON SUNDAY April 30 Oban BJJ coach 'Coogie' Potter received his purple belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu from Marcos Nardini at the annual MNBJJ interclub. This milestone marks seven years of effort in coaching and training and came as a shock to Coogie, who had no idea he would be receiving his belt at the event in front of over a hundred other students and coaches.

In 2007, the organic formation of the Oban club began to take shape as the financial burden of travelling regularly to Glasgow to learn MMA (mixed martial arts) at the famous Griphouse, took its toll. Coogie began looking for other like-minded people, with an interest in practicing the drills he had learned in Glasgow.

A few months later, a small handful of keen club members started staying after their kickboxing class, where Coogie would put them through those Griphouse drills. This was long before the UFC exploded in the UK and many people at the time still thought of MMA as human cockfighting. Not the globally respected sport it has become today.

Gradually club numbers grew and MMA training with Coogie became a permanent fixture. Training seminars became a regular highlight for

MARTIAL ARTS WITH IAIN RODGER

Purple belt for Coogie

the club with coaches coming to Oban from all over Scotland to help teach, among those was UFC coach James Dolan and current UFC fighter Joanne Calderwood.

The club's next evolution saw members compete in fighting competitions across the country, where they enjoyed great success and which cemented them as a respected up-and-coming martial arts club.

The commitment and time it took to get fighters ready for competition as well as normal work and family commitments meant after a few years Coogie could not commit the time needed to dedicate to the fighters so the decision was made to concentrate on one discipline.

The choice was easy, through their love and respect of the discipline, the club turned to

BJJ. Since 2012 Coogie has been entering BJJ competitions and has won gold in every event he entered.

In Motherwell, during one of those event Coogie approached the clubs current professor Brazilian Marcos Nardini. Coogie said: 'I liked his attitude and demeanour, Marcos was well respected in Scotland coming as he did from Brazil and had established schools around Kilmarnock and Glasgow. I asked him if he'd help me as I set up our BJJ school and the relationship has blossomed since.'

The club now regularly travels the UK to enter various competitions and has amassed over 70 medals in just a few years, something that Coogie is extremely proud of 'the best measuring stick as to where

we stand and how we are doing is to put students into competitions and see how they compete against other folk with similar time training, we have never come away from any competition without a few bits of bling and as a coach that's a great feeling.'

The future of the club looks bright with students training four times a week and monthly seminars with Marcos. When asked his thoughts on receiving his new grade Coogie said: 'The purple belt is something I'm very proud to receive, all the hours teaching, training and competing is what I enjoy the most and I hope that rubs off on anyone who wants to learn BJJ.'

Anyone interested in learning BJJ should contact Coogie on coogiepots@gmail.com.



Coogie Potter receives his purple belt from Marcos Nardini.



Taynuilt won both the P5 and P7 titles at the South of Scotland Primary Schools Championship.

Double up for Taynuilt in south primary school sixes

A GREAT turnout of 22 teams spread across primary seven and five sections arrived at Taynuilt Playing Fields on Sunday May 7 to compete in the annual South of Scotland Primary School Championships.

Play got under way at 11am and, unusually, the playing fields were basked in sunshine without a cloud in the sky.

In the P7 section, Kilmory and Rockfield shared a goalless draw to give each other a steady start in the competition, while the Balla Bears and Rockfield Rockets beat Bute and Edinburgh respectively to get off to a flyer. With the P7 games being five minutes in length this ensured that most of the games were tight and made for an exciting group.

The P5 games were equally exciting with some high scoring matches ensuring plenty of ac-

tion for the spectators. At the end of the group stages the four teams qualifying from the P7 section were Taynuilt, Rothesay, Glasgow Gaels Reds and Aberdeen respectively. Taynuilt Tigers and Inverkeithing qualified from their P5 section while Glen Aray and Dunollie qualified from their group.

Possibly the most exciting match of the tournament came in the P5 semi-final where Inverkeithing came back from two goals down to eventually beat Glen Aray 2-0 on penalties. Taynuilt continued their impressive form and beat Dunollie to set up the P5 final. Taynuilt won the trophy for the second year in succession by eventually beating Inverkeithing in a close final.

In the P7 section both Taynuilt and Rothesay won by the same 3-1 scoreline against GG

School shinty

reds and Aberdeen respectively. With the heat playing a part on the players by now Taynuilt beat Bute by two goals to nil to make it a double for the Taynuilt junior shinty club.

This year's individual winners were Ewan Donnan, Glen Aray, who won the P5 player of the tournament and Callum McMillan, Rothesay, who won the P7 award. In addition to this Regan Craig from Bute Shinty was presented with the Sheena Cameron memorial shield by Dougie Cameron for his outstanding effort and sportsmanship on the day.

Thanks must go to all the volunteers who gave up their time on the day to help run, provide catering, organise facilities and referee.

Fort prepare for North of Scotland cup final

Football

TWENTY-TWO years on from their last Cup Final, Fort William head to Rothes on Saturday to face Brora in the final of the Menzies Distribution North of Scotland Cup.

In season 1994/95, Fort William won through to the final of the North Cup, defeating Ross County, Caledonian Thistle and Brora Rangers on the way, but lost out to Lossiemouth in the final at Forres.

On their way to the final this season, Fort William have beaten Lossiemouth, Invergordon and Rothes.

Returning to the Rothes ground following the win there two weeks ago means that the team are familiar with the pitch.

Ally Ewen, manager, said: 'The squad are really fired up for this important match.'

The cup final will be the last match of the 2016/17 season for Fort William.

Fort William directors, committee, management and player squad are hoping for a strong support to head to Rothes to cheer on the Fort on Saturday (May 20).

The match will kick off at 3pm at Mackessack Park, Rothes.

Welcome funding for Glencoe Boat Club

Yachting

GLENCOE Boat Club has received a £7,500 cash boost from the Royal Yacht Association (RYA) and Sports Scotland Awards for All which will see the birth of a new youth training programme.

The club held its Push the Boat out day at the weekend when 250 people turned out to take part in a water sports ranging from canoeing to rowing yachts and rib boats.

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times*, vice-commander, Nigel Tozer, said: 'The money will allow us to create a youth training programme within the club to try and encourage more young people to join.'

'A number of our junior members are now grown up and married, and being part of the club has also led them to a careers in the marine industry.'

With the money, Mr Tozer said the club is going to hire an instructor for youth training, purchase more equipment such as bouy aids, wetsuits, and two new safety boats.

'We want to have someone who can come once a week and run a course for six to eight weeks, at night or at the weekend,' said Mr Tozer.

Over the winter club members were busy upgrading the pontoon, making it 'user friendly' and they were pleased to unveil it at the event.

Mr Tozer said: 'Everyone loved the look of our improved pontoon and it has been in use the past couple of days which shows its in good working order.'



Winners of the Texas scramble, sponsored by Mike McFall to raise funds for Marie Curie, were, left to right, Hazel Cameron, Liz Merry, Kim Topping, Iona Cameron, Peter Stewart and Kevin Kerr, with Mike McFall. Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Texas scramble raises cash for Marie Curie

ALMOST £3,000 was raised for Marie Curie in the second annual Mike McFall Funeral Directors charity Texas Scramble.

Some 120 players took part in this year's event on Saturday May 6 at Fort William Golf Club.

No lucky winners scooped up the car prize on hole 12 again this year, but Sean Fraser shot a fantastic hole in one on the 16th which saw him take home a cash prize of £750.

Senior funeral director at Mike McFall's, Jamie Manson, said: 'A big thank you to all who participated in our second annual charity Texas scramble. It was another

fantastic day and we couldn't have asked for better weather.

'A big thanks to everyone who donated prizes for our raffle, bought raffle tickets and supported our event once again.

'This year we raised more than £2,900 for Marie Curie, this wouldn't have been achieved if it wasn't for all our golfers and supporters.

A big thank you once again to our hosts Fort William Golf Club, and all the staff for all their efforts, and to everyone that supported us and made it as good a day as it was. We all hope you enjoyed it and look forward to hosting next years

Golf

which will take place on Saturday May 6, 2018.'

Results were as follows: Ladies: 1 Iona Cameron, Hazel Cameron, Kim Topping and Liz Merry, net 65 (74 - 9); 2 Ann Lovatt, Rosemary Macintyre, Kathleen Leitch and Helen Brian, net 66 (74 - 8)

Men: 1 Frank Sweeney, Pat Cassidy, Peter Stewart and Paul Campbell, net 54 (59 - 5) bih; 2 Kevin Kerr, I Stockwell, M Stockwell and J Dunbar, net 54 (60 - 6) bih; 3 Willie Duncan, Stewart Leitch, Eric Wallace and John Hearman, net 54 (58 - 4)



The MacKleeners Balloted Pairs Shield is presented to the winners of Fort William Railway Bowling Club. Photo: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

Five out of five for Allan in MacKleeners balloted pairs

ALLAN MacDonald has made it in the winning team for the MacKleeners balloted pairs shield five years in a row.

The annual competition was played at the weekend.

Bill Clark (right) presents the MacKleeners Balloted Pairs Shield to the winners of Fort William Railway Bowling Club's competition, Allan MacDonald, centre, and Eddie

Bowls

Downs (left), with runners-up Kevin Douglas (back left) and Brian Moffat (back right).

Monty pays a visit to Kinlochleven

Boxing

CLAYMORES Boxing Club in Kinlochleven had a visit from old friend, Monty Ogilvie, last Monday.

Monty, who has just recently stepped up to box as a pro for Mack the Knife Promotions in Edinburgh, came to visit on Monday May 8.

Monty used to be a well-known face in the Kinlochleven gym when he boxed for the now closed 1314 boxing club in his amateur days.

Claymores head coach Martin Glenesk said: 'Monty kindly took time out his busy schedule to come over and give our lads a few tips ahead of his next bout on June 3 in Meadowbank.'

'We will be taking a squad through to cheer Monty on, in his second bout after winning his debut before Christmas. This will be a good chance to let the lads see how the pros do it.'

Tickets for Monty's show are still available direct from him, contact him through Facebook, or at the Ticket Master website.

Golf News



Glencruitten

LEADING qualifiers for the Terry Ng Trophy at Glencruitten on Saturday were Duncan Forgrieve 71 - 13 = 58, Martin Rae 65 - 05 = 60, Steven Murphy 64 - 4 = 60 and Ian Cameron 81 - 21 = 60. Duncan Forgrieve also won the Cancer Research with his net score of 58.

On Sunday the Save the Children was won by Malcolm MacKillop and Kirsty MacKenzie with a score of 80 - 15 = 65. In second place was Louise MacLeod and Donald MacLennan with a score of 98 - 22 = 76.

On May 11 the Loretta Cup first round leading scores were Mary Plunkett 89-27 = 62, Kirsty Mackenzie 88-24 = 64, and Maureen Devine 102-35 = 67.

This Saturday the Isis Trophy and Captain of Dunstaffnage Trophy second round takes place along with a monthly medal.

Fort William

ON SUNDAY May 7 the May Medal was played with the following result: Section 1 - 1 Rusty Duncan net 67 (80 - 13); 2 Paul Campbell net 69 (75 - 6) bih; 3 Steven Jamieson net 69 (74 - 5)

Section 2 - 1 David Ballantyne net 76 (91 - 15); 2 Scott Dingwall net 81 (97 - 16); 3 Frank Sweeney net 82 (98 - 16).

On Tuesday May 9 the Campbell Homes Medal was played with the following result: 1 Stephen Howden net 67 (79 - 12); 2 Ronald MacDonald net 72 (84 - 12); 3 Graeme Worsdall net 73 (89 - 16).

On Saturday May 13 the Craig Paterson Trophy was played for with the following result: 1 Jason Wallace net 66 (82 - 16); 2 Steven Jamieson net 68 (73 - 5); 3 Graeme Worsdall net 69 (85 - 16).

On Sunday May 14 the Senior May Medal was played with the following result: 1 Willie Duncan net 66 (80 - 14); 2 Alex Stewart net 68 (82 - 14); 3 Willie McCann net 69 (83 - 14).

Fort lose out to Highland

Rallying

SATURDAY saw Fort William Cricket Club meet Highland in an early season top-of-the-table clash.

But it was the Inverness team who won out with a 116 stand by Wolton and Crabtree contributing to a final total of 236. Fighting back against a strong start wickets fell regularly with DJ Duncan and Ross Lavin both taking three wickets.

In reply, Forts free-scoring batsmen never really got going. Opener Charlie Luxton hit 20 and DJ Duncan top-scored with 24, with Fort all out for 114.

Fort are determined to return to winning ways against Elgin this weekend.

Ladies: On Sunday May 14 the May Medal was played with the following result: 1 Rosemary Macintyre net 78 (89 - 11) bih; 2 Ann Lovatt net 78 (104 - 26).

Killin

SENIOR Gents Open: Wednesday 10 May - Category 1 (0-14) - 1 Robert MacKellar (Dunblane New) 60; 2 Dickie Lewis (Killin) 63; 3 Richard Downie (Polmont) 68.

Category 2 (15-28) - 1 Graham Wayte (Whitecraigs) 60; 2 Jim Burton (Balbirnie Park) 63; 3 Chris Vermeulen (Largs) 65.

Nearest the pin 15 - 28: Graham Wayte (Whitecraigs) Nearest the pin 0 - 14: Willie Henderson (Bruntsfield) Nearest the pin in 2: H Arbuckle (Crieff)

Handicap winner (Kiltyrie Trophy): Graham Wayte (Whitecraigs) 60 BIH Mac-tagtagg Trophy (Best Local handicap 15 - 28): Allan McHenry 67. Lix Toll Trophy (Best Local h/cap 1 - 14): Dickie Lewis 63

Magic 2s - Willie Henderson (Bruntsfield), Stephen Herron (Scotsraig), Richard Nicoll (Scotsraig), Graham Wayte (Whitecraigs) CSS: 66.

Tobermory

MEN'S Section: Jubilee Cup - 1 Graham Davidson 33 pts; 2 Calum MacLean 32 pts; 3 William MacCrone 30 pts.

Ladies Open played on 13 May - 1 Mary Phillips, Isle Of Seil; 2 Doris Hargreaves, Tobermory; 3 Christine Cameron, Glencruitten.

Islay

RESULTS: Summer League played Wednesday 10 May - 1 C Campbell 42 pts; 2 R MacLean 39 pts; 3 I Gray 38 pts Cps 68.

Guy Quach played Friday 12 and Sunday 14 May - 1 A Maclean 73+67=140; 2 R Quail 69+74=143; 3 G Hamilton 69+75 = 144.

Taynuilt

LADIES: Club Championship (scratch) and medal: 1 Alice MacCalman 89-27-62; 2 Anne MacCalman 78-13-65(bih); 3 Moira MacVicar 86-21-65.

Club Championship, 1st round - 1 Anne MacCalman 78; 2 Carol MacLarty 85; 3 Moira MacVicar 86.

Lotto numbers

MARIE Cameron has won £300 in the Caol Regeneration lotto draw on May 11. The winning numbers were 1, 10 and 20. The jackpot will now return to £100 for today's draw (May 18).

Christina Whiteford won £200 in the Fort William golf club lotto draw on May 11. Her winning numbers were 1, 6 and 11. The jackpot is back to £100.

There were no winners in the Ballachulish Shinty Lotto draw on May 14. The winning numbers were 4, 13 and 18. The draw is up to £600 for Sunday's lottery.

The winning numbers for the Caol Community Centre Bingo Lotto were 2, 5 and 17. There were no winners on May 14 so the draw goes up to £200 for this week.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1650

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

D Fletcher
Ballinluig
Pitlochry

M Gracie
Laurel Road
Oban

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



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SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Oban Camanachd and Kyles reach Celtic Society Cup final

OBAN Camanachd and Kyles Athletic will contest the Gregor Cameron Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final and Newtonmore will play either Kinlochshiel or Kilmallie in the MacTavish Cup Final following the shinty action on Saturday May 13.

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup - first round

Fort William 3 Oban Celtic 3
Fort William and Oban Celtic will have to do it all over again this Saturday after they drew 3-3 in their Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup first round tie at An Aird.

Fort William's Bryan Simpson was free of suspension for this 3pm throw-up but didn't play. Alexander MacMillan was also missing.

Oban Celtic suffered a number of late withdrawals. Top scorer Neil Carmichael had a foot injury whilst Ally McKerracher, Lee Askew, Rory Bruce, David MacInnes and Scott Burnett were unavailable. Iain MacKechnie and Michael MacKinnon were carrying knocks. However, goalkeeper Stephen Davidson and full back John Hill both returned to the starting line-up.

Oban Celtic started well and were 2-0 ahead inside 12 minutes. Daniel Madej got the opener in the first minute and doubled the Oban side's lead on 12 minutes.

Fort William's response was immediate as their impressive full centre Arran MacPhee pulled a goal back just a minute later.

A bit of confusion in the Oban Celtic defence led to the Fort's equaliser. Celtic keeper Stephen Davidson thought he heard a call to allow a low ball to run out of play but it crept just inside the post, much to the disappointment of everyone in a green and white jersey.

Fort William moved up a gear but the Celtic defence held tight and they regained the lead on 26 minutes when make-shift full forward Andy MacDonald, who had an excellent game, brought the ball down and held off his marker before slipping a pass to Allan Mackie who rifled the ball home on 25 yards.

Fort William started the second half in search of an equaliser and it came on 51 minutes when substitute JD MacMaster was allowed time and space to bring the ball under control from a corner and netted to make it 3-3.

Fort William were reduced to 11 men shortly after when referee Ross Brown sent off Lewis Clark following an incident with Andy Hunt.

Oban Celtic were unable to

make the extra man count and they too fell a man short when full back John Hill picked up his second booking of the game.

Oban Celtic should have a number of players back for the replay which takes place at Mossfield this Saturday with a 2.30pm start. A second round tie at home to Newtonmore is at stake.

Strathglass 4 Ballachulish 0

Strathglass will host Kilmoryn in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup second round after they beat Ballachulish 4-0 in their 3pm throw-up at Cannich.

Two goals late in the first half put the home side in control.

Scott Douglas got the opener on 41 minutes with Darren Reid adding a second 60 seconds later.

Steven Hyslop made it 3-0 on 64 minutes and Josh Fraser rounded off the 4-0 win four minutes from time.

MacTavish Cup - semi final

Newtonmore 3 Glenurquhart 1

Three goals in the final 30 minutes gave Newtonmore a 3-1 win over Glenurquhart in their 3pm throw-up at The Eilan.

Newtonmore manager Paul John MacKintosh made changes to his side after the previous week's 4-1 league defeat to Kinlochshiel.

Rory Kennedy went to full back with Steven MacDonald switching to buckshee forward. Jamie Robinson was injured so veteran Kenny Ross was called up from the second team to start at full centre. Craig Ritchie slotted in at wing back in place of Andy MacKintosh who hurt his groin in training during the week.

Glenurquhart boss Iain MacLeod welcomed John Barr and Andrew Corrigan back into defence. Connor Golabeck and Euan Lloyd also returned with the latter starting on the bench. Neale Reid, who has been missing in recent weeks with a hamstring problem, was listed as a substitute, whilst David MacLennan was suspended.

The first half lacked entertainment and the closest to a goal was a Steven MacDonald effort which came back off the post whilst, at the other end, a James MacPherson effort was well-saved by Norman Campbell.

Glenurquhart full back John Barr was marking Glen MacKintosh but Newtonmore moved MacKintosh to buckshee forward with 10 first half minutes remaining and he stayed there for the rest of the game.

Glen MacKintosh was finding more space in his new role and

broke the deadlock on the hour mark as he hit a ground stroke from a tight angle on the Newtonmore left, the ball taking the slightest deflection off John Barr to beat Garry MacKintosh in the Glenurquhart goal.

Newtonmore started to use full forward Drew MacDonald in wide positions on either wing with John Barr left to decide whether to follow him or stay on the 'D'.

Glenurquhart made their first change on 57 minutes when Euan Lloyd replaced Eddie Tembo.

Newtonmore introduced Iain Robinson for Fraser MacKintosh for the final third of the game and Drew MacDonald scored from inside the 'D' to make it 2-0 on 70 minutes. Glenurquhart claimed for an earlier infringement on Andrew Corrigan, but referee Deek Cameron

Kyles did the damage in the first half with Scott MacDonald giving them the lead on 23 minutes.

Thomas Whyte made it 2-0 five minutes later and a second Scott MacDonald strike three minutes before the break gave Kyles a comfortable 3-0 lead.

GMA played as well as they have done against Kyles for a number of years.

However, they couldn't take their chances.

Euan Forsyth hit the post in the second half from a well-worked corner and he had another good chance late on.

Kyles were clinical and took their chances well, maintaining their 100 per cent record this season.

GMA's Ryan Harrison did what no other defender has managed this season; he prevented Kyles forward Roddy

tapped the rebound home from close range to make it 1-0. A mixture of good goalkeeping from Scott MacLachlan and wasteful finishing prevented the Oban side from scoring more first half goals.

Inveraray tried to get a goal back and had a period of pressure before half time but the Camanachd defence, in which Gary McKerracher was outstanding at full back against Inveraray danger man Allan MacDonald, stood strong.

The second half started in much the same fashion with both teams looking dangerous on the counter attack but unable to convert the pressure into a goal.

As the tie moved into the final third, Inveraray replaced Douglas Dando, who was suffering from a strained achilles, with Ally McDonald. Hamish MacLennan also came off with young Ruairaidh Graham taking over on the wing.

Oban Camanachd had a lot of possession in the second half without creating too many chances and Inveraray were always dangerous on the break.

With time running out, Inveraray finished strongly with their centre line closing down their opponents at every opportunity.

Inveraray were unable to conjure up an equaliser though and with three minutes injury time played, referee Graham Cameron blew for time.

Inveraray will be happy with their standard of play considering they are going through a transitional phase and they want to install a winning mentality within the squad.

Oban Camanachd will now play Kyles Athletic in the 2017 Gregor Cameron Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final.

The sides meet at Tighnabruach in the league this Saturday with a noon throw-up.

Strathdearn Cup - second round

Lochcarron 1 Kingussie 3

The Kingussie second team came from a goal down to defeat Lochcarron 3-1 at Battery Park.

Lochcarron's Sean MacCuish was ruled out with a broken thumb.

Kingussie fielded Rory Fraser at full back and Kevin Thain at full forward in what was otherwise a very young squad.

The match started off at a good pace with Lochcarron threatening the Kingussie goal after three minutes when Peter MacKenzie shot wide of the post.

Lochcarron were awarded a free-hit on 10 minutes, just in their own half, and Crisdean Finlayson found Lance MacCuish who unleashed a powerful 25-yard shot which flew into the roof of the Kingussie net.

Kingussie pressed for an equaliser and home full back Douglas MacKenzie was playing well against Kevin Thain, stopping the hit-man from creating shooting opportunities.

Lochcarron had a good chance to double their lead when good forward play ended with a sublime Liam Arnott pass to Peter Mackenzie who was left unmarked on the edge of the 'D' - but he shot high over the crossbar.

Kingussie equalised on 40 minutes when Dylan Borthwick turned his marker and sent a low shot past keeper Iain Cameron's left-hand post.

Kingussie took the lead for the first time on the stroke of half time. A good shy from the right sent the ball into the 'D' where



Newtonmore's Glen Mackintosh and Glenurquhart's John Barr tussle for the ball during last Saturday's MacTavish Cup semi final which Newtonmore won 3-1. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

it fell kindly at the back post for an unmarked Kevin Thain and he made no mistake, slamming the ball into the back of the net.

Lochcarron made a strong start to the second half. Liam Arnott's running was causing problems in the Kingussie defence and he set up a couple of chances for Peter MacKenzie.

However it was Kingussie who extended their lead on 62 minutes when a corner was flicked on to Kevin Thain who juggled the ball before turning and squeezing the ball between the keeper and the post.

Lochcarron claimed the ball went into the side netting but the goal judge signalled a goal and referee John Angus Gillies pointed to the centre.

Lochcarron were good in defence with Douglas MacKenzie playing a man of the match role.

David MacCuish and David Bauermeister played really well in midfield whilst forwards Liam Arnott and Lance MacCuish worked tirelessly to try and break down the Kingussie defence.

Father and son duo Rory Fraser and Sorley Fraser starred for Kingussie whilst Kevin Thain and Dylan Borthwick were sharp around the goal area.

This was a good cup tie, played in good spirit, with no bookings.

Fort William 3 Kinlochshiel 1

Fort William and Kinlochshiel seconds met for the third time this season at An Aird.

It was one win apiece ahead of this noon throw up so this was always going to be a close contest.

Bobby MacMillan gave Fort William the lead after 18 minutes but Morgan Fraser levelled on 25 minutes.

A blistering Cameron Grant strike on 43 minutes made it 2-1 at the break.

It stayed that way until the final minute when a sweet Cal Brown finish confirmed the Fort's place in the next round.

Glenarry 4 Glenurquhart 3

Glenarry held off a late comeback to beat the Glenurquhart second team 4-3 at Craighard.

A Nick Dalgety goal in the opening minute got Glenarry off to a great start.

However, when referee Brian MacKay pointed to the penalty spot on 23 minutes, Calum Miller equalised.

Nick Dalgety got his second seven minutes after the restart and Daniel MacLennan made it 3-1 from the penalty spot on 61 minutes.

When MacLennan scored again five minutes later, Glen-

garry looked home and dry.

However, another Calum Miller strike on 75 minutes reduced the deficit and when Finlay Ralston found the back of the net on 83 minutes, the scene was set for a grandstand finish.

Glenarry stayed in front though and they now host Fort William in the last eight of the competition.

Boleskine 0 Skye Camanachd 9

The Skye Camanachd colts were too strong for Boleskine, winning 9-0 in their 1.30pm throw-up at Smith Park.

Skye youngster Ross Gordon scored on eight and 15 minutes to give the islanders a two-goal advantage.

Another U17 player, Connor Gilpin, netted on 26, 32 and 35 minutes to grab a nine-minute hat-trick.

Skye Camanachd player/manager Kenny MacLeod added his name to the score-sheet on 41 minutes to make it 6-0 at the interval.

Three goals in the final 20 minutes took Skye's tally to nine goals.

Ross Gordon completed his hat-trick on 70 minutes whilst John Angus MacInnes, 10 minutes later, and youngster Martin Pringle, five minutes from time, rounded off the win.

Kilmallie 2 Caberfeidh 1

The Kilmallie reserves edged out the Caberfeidh reserves 2-1 in their noon throw-up at Canal Parks.

Stuart Sloss got both Kilmallie goals with Ruairidh MacLeman countering for Caberfeidh.

Kilmallie's reward is a trip to The Dell to play Kingussie in the next round.

Lochaber 9 Lewis Camanachd 0

A clinical second-half performance earned the Lochaber second team a 9-0 win over Lewis Camanachd in their 2pm throw-up at Spear Bridge.

Keith Neville gave Lochaber the lead after seven minutes but that was to be the only goal of the first half.

Neville got his second to make it 2-0 a minute after the restart and a goal-glut followed.

James MacRae on 58 minutes and an Iain Fyfe double on 62 and 64 minutes made it 5-0.

Lachlan Campbell added a sixth on 74 minutes and Keith Neville completed his hat-trick a minute later.

Harvey Allison on 78 minutes and a second from Lachlan Campbell a couple of minutes from time rounded off the 9-0 win.



Oban Celtic's Ciaran Carney tackles Fort William's Lachie Shaw during last Saturday's Camanachd Cup tie at An Aird which ended in a 3-3 draw. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

waved away their pleas. Clever play from Glen MacKintosh made it 3-0 with five minutes remaining. MacKintosh was composed under pressure as he lifted the ball past the keeper to score.

Neale Reid's introduction gave Glenurquhart more of a cutting edge in attack and he bagged a cracking goal in the final minute, taking a Daniel MacKintosh free-hit in the air to score.

Rory Kennedy was impressive for Newtonmore, whilst Kenny Ross put in a power of work before he was taken off.

Newtonmore now await the winners of this Saturday's semi-final between Kinlochshiel and Kilmallie, whilst Glenurquhart will be concerned about a late hand injury, suffered in a challenge with Glen MacKintosh, which is likely to keep John Barr sidelined for a number of weeks.

Gregor Cameron Glasgow Celtic Society Cup - semi final

Kyles Athletic 3 Glasgow Mid Argyll 0

Holders Kyles Athletic reached the Gregor Cameron Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final thanks to a 3-0 win over Glasgow Mid Argyll in their 3pm throw-up at Tighnabruach.

MacDonald from scoring. Innes MacMillan took over the marking duties when Harrison was moved to half forward late in the second half.

Inveraray 0 Oban Camanachd 1

Oban Camanachd will play Kyles Athletic in the Gregor Cameron Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final after they beat Inveraray 1-0 at The Winterton.

Inveraray manager Ruairaidh Graham made a change with Nicholas Crawford returning to his half back role meaning Hamish MacLennan started on the wing. This was just reward for the youngster who has been on great form recently and has a fantastic attitude towards training.

Oban Camanachd boss Iain Hay had to do without defender Scott McKillop who went over his ankle in training. Garry Lord made his first senior team appearance of the season after suffering a broken leg in a pre-season friendly with Strathglass.

Both defences looked solid from the throw-up, playing very well and demonstrating a high level of fitness and composure on the ball.

Oban Camanachd made the break-through on 35 minutes. There was a melee inside the 'D' following a corner. Inveraray keeper Scott MacLachlan made a save but Daniel Cameron



Celebrating the second goal for Newtonmore, Drew Macdonald jumps on his team captain Steven Macdonald. Photograph: Neil Paterson.



Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

**Strathglass 1
Inverness 0**
(After extra time)
The Strathglass second team beat the Inverness seconds 1-0 after extra-time in their noon throw-up at Cannich.
Some good goal-keeping from Inverness custodian Kenneth Loades, including an extra-time penalty save, kept the home side at bay but youngster Penri Jones got the winner with five minutes of extra-time remaining.
Strathglass seconds will now host Skye Camanachd seconds in the Strathdearn Cup quarter finals.

**Newtonmore W/O
v Lovat**
Holders Newtonmore reserves were given a walk-over to the quarter finals when the Lovat reserves were unable to raise a team for their noon throw-up at The Eilan.
Newtonmore travel to play the Lochaber seconds in the quarter finals.

Marine Harvest Premiership

**Kilmallie 0
Kingussie 2**
An early Ryan Borthwick double gave Kingussie a 2-0 victory over Kilmallie in their 3pm throw-up at Canal Parks.

Kilmallie's Liam Cameron was free of suspension but Aaron Sandison and Martin Stewart were banned. Former Fort William player Steven Stewart played well in defence on his Kilmallie debut. His brother Daniel Stewart was on holiday so didn't play.

Kingussie had Lee Bain back and he started on the bench. Kingussie were still without long-term injury absentees James Falconer and Martin Dallas.

Ryan Borthwick scored after two minutes to give Kingussie the lead. Ryan Macwilliam played a ball forward towards Ruaridh Anderson and Savio Genini and when the ball broke to Ryan Borthwick, he drilled a waist-high shot from 16 yards out past keeper Shane Gillies to make it 1-0.

Ryan Borthwick got his and Kingussie's second on 12 minutes. Kingussie worked the ball down the left where Chris Holleysong did well and found Borthwick outside the 'D'. He let the ball run across his body before tucking it into the bottom corner of the net.

This was a good, solid Kingussie performance which takes them level on points with leaders Kyles and two points ahead of third-placed Kinlochshiel. Kingussie have played more games than their rivals though.

Kilmallie remain in the relegation zone as they turn their attentions to this Saturday's MacTavish Cup semi-final against Kinlochshiel at Kirktown.

**Lovat 1
Lochaber 0**
Lovat climb to fifth spot in the division after a Martin Bell goal gave them a 1-0 win over Lochaber at Balgate.
Lovat were without the suspended Drew Howie, Callum

Cruden and Lorne MacKay. Martin Bell started at full forward and his inclusion paid dividends after just 10 minutes. A Scott MacKenzie shy fell for Greg Matheson who played the ball back to MacKenzie who fed a low ball to Martin Bell's feet. Bell turned and hit a low, powerful shot past Callum MacDonald in the Lochaber goal.

The game never really hit any great heights but Lovat will be delighted to take the points which lift them into the top half of the table.

Marine Harvest National Division

**Skye Camanachd 4
Beaulieu 0**
Skye Camanachd stay out in front in the Marine Harvest National Division after they beat Beaulieu 4-0 at Pairc nan Laoch.

Skye got off to a great start when Iain MacLellan, in the team for the injured James Pringle, swept the ball home with just 40 seconds played.

Two clean strikes from Jordan Murchison on 18 and 25 minutes made it 3-0 at the break.

Danny Morrison ghosted in at the back post to add a fourth from a Jordan Murchison free-hit on 69 minutes to round off the 4-0 win.

Skye are a point ahead of second-placed Caberfeidh with both sides having played five matches.

**Inverness 0
Caberfeidh 7**
Caberfeidh continued their good run, beating Inverness 7-0 at The Bught Park.

Craig Morrison put Caberfeidh in front on 15 minutes and Kevin Bartlett made it 2-0 on 33 minutes with Liam Symonds adding a third four minutes before the interval.

The same three players scored again in the second half. Kevin Bartlett got his second goal of the match on 55 minutes and Liam Symonds did likewise four minutes later.

Caberfeidh used the open spaces on the Bught Park to their advantage and their speedy forwards caused the Inverness defence problems all afternoon.

A second Craig Morrison goal on 63 minutes made it 6-0 and there was still time for Kevin Bartlett to complete his hat-trick on 81 minutes.

Caberfeidh are now a point ahead of third-placed Fort William, although they have played a game more.

The sides meet again this coming Saturday in the Balliemore Cup quarter finals with Caberfeidh having home advantage this time.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

**Col Glen 0
Lochside Rovers 5**
Lochside Rovers remain in top spot in Marine Harvest South Division 1 after they scored five times without reply at Col Glen.
Lewis Buchanan grabbed a hat-trick with Craig MacMillan and Daniel Sloss getting the others.



Ballachulish's Stuart Carmichael gets his block in on Josh Fraser of Strathglass during their Camanachd Cup first round tie.

**Kyles Athletic 1
Bute 4**

Bute continue to claw back their eight point penalty for dropping a division as they beat the Kyles Athletic second team 4-1 in their noon throw-up at Tighnabruach.

The islanders showed they meant business with two goals in the opening four minutes.

John MacCallum put them ahead on two minutes with Robert Walker doubling their lead a couple of minutes later.

Kyle McMartin gave Kyles hope with a goal after 10 minutes, but a second from John MacCallum on 51 minutes and a 62nd minute James Craig effort gave Bute both points.

Bute remain bottom of the table but their points differential has been cut to minus three.

**Taynuilt 0
Aberdour 3**
Aberdour stay second after they beat Taynuilt 3-0 at Taynuilt Sports Field.

The visitors travelled without Cammy McCue who has a broken toe.

Taynuilt had most of the first half pressure but were unable to turn their dominance into goals.

Aberdour came into the game in the second half and took the lead with 15 minutes remaining when Roddy MacColl beat his marker to score.

McCue added his and Aberdour's second a couple of minutes later after he was set up by David MacKenzie.

Taynuilt were never out of the game, but it was Aberdour who scored for the third time in a prolific eight-minute spell when David MacKenzie forced home a rebound off the keeper to make it 3-0 with 83 minutes played.

**Glenorchy 1
Tayforth 4**
Third-placed Tayforth beat Glenorchy 4-1 at Mart Park.

Finlay Stark scored on 10 and 18 minutes to give the visitors an early advantage but a 25th minute Kieran MacKay goal made it 2-1 at the break.
James Roy restored Tayforth's two goal advantage on 75 minutes and Finlay Stark completed his hat-trick five minutes from time.

Glenorchy's Kieran Gallagher was sent off by referee Robert Baxter.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

**Oban Lorn 2
Bute 0**
Second-placed Oban Lorn scored a goal in each half to beat the Bute second team 2-0 at Ganavan.

David Martin put the home side ahead on 31 minutes and Ewan MacCorquodale made it 2-0 on 68 minutes.

**Glasgow Mid Argyll 1
Strachur 4**

Strachur go third in the division after beating the Glasgow Mid Argyll second team 4-1 at Yoker. Stuart Robertson, Iain Wilson, Ian MacLennan and Duncan Smart netted for the visitors with Nick Lavin scoring for GMA.

**Dunoon 0
Aberdour 2**

The Aberdour seconds recorded their first league win of the season, beating Dunoon 2-0 at Dunoon Stadium.

Andrew Fraser scored both goals on 65 and 86 minutes.

Strathdearn Cup quarter finals

The Strathdearn Cup quarter-final ties are now known following last weekend's second round matches:

Saturday June 17
Lochaber v Newtonmore
Strathglass v Skye Camanachd
Glenorchy v Fort William
Kingussie v Kilmallie

Saturday July 15
Strathdearn Cup - semi final
Kingussie/Kilmallie v
Strathglass/Skye Camanachd
Lochaber/Newtonmore v
Glenorchy/Fort William

The Strathdearn Cup Final takes place on Saturday August 12 with the venue yet to be confirmed.

WCA round-up

The ladies action turned to the regional division with most matches played on Sunday May 14.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

**Glenurquhart 4
Glenorchy 0**
Glenurquhart recorded an impressive 4-0 win over Glenorchy at Blairbeg on Saturday May 13.
Two goals from Hazel Hunter and one each from Ishbel Barr and Claire Hannon confirmed the win.

**Strathglass 0
Strathspey Camanachd 4**
Strathspey turned in their best performance of the season to defeat Strathglass 4-0 in their 3pm throw-up at Cannich.

The excellent Jade Longworth notched a hat-trick, whilst Katy Minard also scored.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

**Glasgow Mid Argyll 2
Oban Lorn 0**
The Glasgow Mid Argyll second team beat Oban Lorn 2-0 at Yoker.

Katie Mullen and Evie Coultas got the goals.

**Ardnamurchan W/O
v Lorne Ladies**
Ardnamurchan were given a walk-over in their match against Lorne Ladies.

Youth round-up

**Marine Harvest
U17 London Shield
Section A**
Glenurquhart defeated Strathglass 3-0 at Cannich. Cameron Bremner, Jed Stoddart and Ruaridh Ralston were on target.
The match between Fort William and Kinlochshiel at An Aird was postponed.

Section B
A Callum MacDougall penalty late in the game gave Kilmallie a 2-1 win over Lochaber at Canal Parks. Dan Nixon for the home side and Dylan Brookie for the visitors were also on target.
The meeting between Oban Camanachd and Newtonmore will be re-arranged.

Marine Harvest U17 Development League

The Skye Camanachd B U17 development squad beat Glenorchy U17 9-1 in the Development League at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree. Abby MacLean scored four times, Niall MacPhee grabbed a hat-trick, whilst Jamie MacPhie and Taylor Matheson got the others. Duncan MacPherson netted for Glenorchy.

The match between Inverness and Caberfeidh was postponed.

Marine Harvest U14 League

Section A
The meeting between Lovat and Newtonmore was postponed, whilst the game between Kingussie and Lochaber will be rearranged for a later date.

Section B
An Aiden Love goal gave Kilmallie a 1-0 victory over Ardnamurchan.

The game between Glenorchy and Fort William will be rearranged.

Section C
Skye Camanachd U14 overcame Caberfeidh U14 16-1 at Castle Leod. Taylor Matheson scored five times including a three minute hat-trick. Archie MacDonald netted four times with Holly MacLean and James Coull bagging doubles. Liam MacQueen, Calum Nicolson and Lewis MacLeod got the others.

Section D
Glenurquhart edged out Beaulieu 5-3 at Blairbeg. Cameron Bremner notched a double for Glenurquhart with Angus MacCallum, Fergus Reid and Fergus Robertson also scoring.

Marine Harvest U14 South League

Dunoon beat Oban Lorn 9-0 with Finnan Kennedy scoring



Ewen MacKinnon, Inverness, gets to the ball before Niall McCallum of Strathglass during last weekend's Strathdearn Cup tie.

five times and Murray McClymont, Cam Bulloch and Kyle Kerr also on target. Oban Camanachd were too strong for Kilmory, winning 12-0. Ross Campbell claimed four goals, Murray McKay and Innes Jackson scored hat-tricks with Calum MacMillan and Lennon MacKechnie also scoring.
The match between Bute and Ballachulish was postponed.

National Under 14 Development Trophy

League A
The matches between Ballachulish and Ardnamurchan, Oban Lorn and Ballachulish and Ardnamurchan and Oban Lorn were all postponed.

League B
Glenorchy beat Strathglass 10-0 at Craighard. Gabrielle MacCallum grabbed a hat-trick, Ronan Blakey bagged a double and Cameron Fraser scored five times.

The games between Strathspey and Strathglass and Strathspey and Glenorchy were postponed.

2017 Artemis Macaulay Sixes

The 2017 Artemis Macaulay national sixes take place at Mossfield on Sunday June 11.

Entry forms for this primary school aged competition can be downloaded from the Camanachd Association website and should be sent to Davie Hamilton, The Shieling, Longsdale Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5JU.

Teams are encouraged to enter as soon as possible, preferably no later than Monday June 5, to allow time to prepare the running schedule for the day.

Abercorn School retain National Disability First Shinty Festival

Aviemore was the venue last month, for the 17th annual Disability First Shinty Festival which saw Abercorn School from Glasgow emerge as winners.

Seven teams and five schools from Inverness, Oban, Perth Glasgow and North Ayrshire enjoyed coaching from qualified shinty coaches and games throughout the two-day event which culminated in a tournament.

The tournament was played on a round robin format with all seven teams playing each other once, with the top two teams making it through to the final.

Abercorn topped the group on maximum points, with record holders Drummond clinching second place, two points behind Abercorn.

The final, surprisingly, was a one-sided encounter with defending champions Abercorn proving too strong for their Inverness opponents Drummond, running out convincing winners by six goals to nil.

Fixtures

Saturday 20 May
Marine Harvest Premiership
Kyles Athletic v Oban Camanachd
Lachie Wood - Noon
Lovat v Glasgow Mid Argyll
Innes Wood
Newtonmore v Kingussie
Deek Cameron
Glenurquhart v Lochaber
Calum Girvan

Marine Harvest National Division
Inverness v Skye
Martin MacLean

Marine Harvest North Division One
Kinlochshiel v Glenurquhart
Iain Kennedy - Noon
Skye v Fort William
John Matheson
Aberdeen Uni v Kingussie
Archie Ritchie
Beaulieu v Newtonmore
Brian MacKay

Marine Harvest South Division One
Kilmory v Col Glen
Willie MacDonald
Aberdour v Glenorchy
Euan Pearson
Lochside Rovers v Ballachulish
Graham Cameron

Marine Harvest North Division Two
Strathspey v Boleskine
Steven MacLachlan 1.30pm
Glenorchy v Lochcarron
Referee the
Kilmallie v Strathglass
Jim Innes
Lewis v Lovat
Ronnie Campbell
Lochaber v Inverness
Des McNulty

Marine Harvest South Division Two
Bute v Inveraray
Ewan MacDonald

Camanachd Cup first round replay
Oban Celtic v Fort William
Ross Brown

MacTavish Cup semi final
Kinlochshiel v Kilmallie
John Angus Gillies - 3pm

Balliemore Cup
Taynuilt v Beaulieu
David Mitchell
Caberfeidh v Inverness
Evan MacRae
Inveraray v Bute
Robert Baxter

Bullough Cup
Kilmory v SCOTS Camanachd
SCOTS unable to field a team.
Walkover to Kilmory
Strachur v Glasgow Mid Argyll
Graham Fisher
Oban Lorn v Dunoon
Neil MacDonald
Kyles Athletic v English SA
Alex MacVicar

Throw ups 2.30pm unless stated

Results

Saturday May 13
Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup first round
Fort William 3 v 3 Oban Celtic
Strathglass 4 v 0 Ballachulish

MacTavish Cup Semi Final
Newtonmore 3 v 1 Glenurquhart

Gregor Cameron Celtic Society Cup Semi Final
Kyles 3 v 0 Glasgow MA
Inveraray 0 v 1 Oban Camanachd

Strathdearn Cup second round
Glenorchy 4 v 3 Glenurquhart
Boleskine 0 v 9 Skye
Fort William 3 v 1 Kinlochshiel
Kilmallie 2 v 1 Caberfeidh
Lochaber 9 v 0 Lewis
Lochcarron 1 v 3 Kingussie
Newtonmore P v P Lovat
Lovat unable to field a team, walkover to Newtonmore
Strathglass 1 v 0 Inverness

Marine Harvest Premiership
Lovat 1 v 0 Lochaber
Kilmallie 0 v 2 Kingussie

Marine Harvest National Division
Inverness 0 v 7 Caberfeidh
Skye 4 v 0 Beaulieu

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Kyles Athletic 1 v 4 Bute
Glenorchy 1 v 4 Tayforth
Col Glen 0 v 5 Lochside Rovers
Taynuilt 0 v 3 Aberdour

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Dunoon 0 v 2 Aberdour
Glasgow MA 1 v 4 Strachur
Oban Lorn 2 v 0 Bute



Kilmallie's Michael Rodger sees this attempt go wide during his team's 2-0 home defeat by Kingussie in the Marine Harvest Premiership. Photograph: Abridgside Photography.

Coaching session Youth football



Brian Sproul.

LAST Monday evening several volunteer youth football coaches from Oban and the surrounding areas attended an excellent coach in-service organised by Oban Saints Youths in conjunction with the Scottish Youth Football Association.

SYFA national development officer Brian Sproul came to Oban and delivered a fantastic educational session for the coaches present.

Brian has spent several years in the professional game and has a wealth of experience at the top level, with Kilmarnock and St Mirren among the clubs he has been involved with.

All the coaches present from Saints Youths and the Oban Primary Football League went away having learnt a great deal.

Oban Saints Youths would like to thank Brian and the SYFA for taking the time to come to Oban to help our hard-working local volunteers and we would also like to thank the Saints youth players who took part in the session.

Oban Saints youths results and fixtures Youth football

RESULTS: Helensburgh 2, Under 13s 9; Barrhead 9, Under 14s 0; Kilpatrick 0, Under 15s 2; Under 15s 17, Westerton United 1. Dumbarton Utd 0, Under 15s 2.

This weekend's fixtures: Saturday - Under 13 v Ardencaple; Under 14s no game; Scotstoun Athletic v Under 15s;

Sunday - League Cup semi-final, Under 15s v Dumbarton United, Mossfield, kick-off 11.30am. League Cup final, Saints Under 16s v Saints Under 17s, Mossfield, kick-off 2pm.

Scottish AFL results and fixtures Football

LAST Saturday's results: Jimmy Marshall Cup semi-final - Hillington 1, Oban Saints 4; Premier Division - Shawlands 2, Campbeltown Pupils 1; Premier 2B - Tarbert 3, Paisley 0; Hall Cup quarter-final - East Kilbride 1, Lochgilphead Red Star 1. East Kilbride won 4-2 on penalties.

Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - East Kilbride v Oban Saints; Inverclyde v Campbeltown Pupils; Jimmy Marshall Cup semi-final - Easthall Star v Dunoon.

Oban Lorne AGM Rugby

OBAN Lorne RFC will be holding their annual general meeting on Tuesday May 30 from 6pm in the clubhouse.

MacEwan's magic helps Saints reach Jimmy Marshall Cup final

Hillington	1
Oban Saints	4
Jimmy Marshall Cup - semi-final	

Oban Saints reached their fourth Scottish Amateur Football League Jimmy Marshall Cup final in five seasons with a 4-1 win in a rain-soaked Penilee Community Centre last Saturday.

After a fairly even goalless first half, Saints turned up the heat on Premier Division One opponents Hillington with Craig MacEwan netting a hat-trick to take his tally for the season to 36 goals.

The victory gave Saints some small measure of revenge for the agonising 2013 final penalty shoot-out defeat at the hands of Hillington at Somervell Park, Cambuslang, and guarantees the Saints faithful another cup final day out to look forward to.

Hosts Hillington kicked off in heavy rain defending the community centre end where, after some early sparring, Saints forced the first corner kick of the match in the third minute. Marc Maccallum played the ball up to Fraser MacFarlane who, in turn, fed Jamie Graham.

Jamie's overlapping run to the bye-line was halted by Lee Wales at the expense of a corner kick.

Craig MacEwan rose through a ruck of players at the back post to head Fraser MacFarlane's delivery back across the face of goal with Scott Gold showing a good measure of composure to control the ball and volley clear just short of the goal line.

Matthew Kelly was enjoying his new midfield role and got on the end of a threaded pass from colleague Myles McAuley in the fifth minute. Matthew made a run into the box but was unable to get the ball out of his feet and a good chance was lost.

Another run forward from Matthew Kelly was halted by a mistimed tackle from Scott Gold 28 yards from goal.

With Willie Gemmell missing due to work commitments, Kerr Newbigging assumed responsibility for the deadball but sent his free-kick 18 inches over Paul McGuire's crossbar.

Hillington had the ball in the net in the 18th minute when Gary Wilson stole in behind Dene Cassells from another deep Ross Hamilton free-kick but assistant referee Philip Hogg raised his flag for offside and referee Robert Doolan disallowed the goal.

Five minutes later on the opposite touchline, Mr Doolan's other assistant, Derek Milton, raised his flag against Kerr Newbigging to deny Fraser MacFarlane a tap-in at the back post.

The offside flag was up again in the 28th minute this time against Paul Carmichael who was enjoying a fascinating physical battle with Ross Hamilton.

Matthew Kelly battled well in the centre circle to win possession and laid off to Kerr Newbigging whose well weighted ball sent Paul racing through on goal but Mr Milton judged that Paul had started his run from an offside position.

A 34th-minute run along the



The Jimmy Marshall Cup.

Saints 18-yard line from William Mitchell was well matched by Marc Maccallum, allowing no way through for the Hillington midfielder with the Saints skipper eventually making a decisive challenge to snuff out the danger.

As the half wore on, Saints began to gain the upper hand in the vital midfield area but still struggled to get in behind the home defence thanks in no small part to a solid display from young centre half Stuart Aitken.

The visitors came within inches of opening the scoring just before the interval when Paul Carmichael held off a strong challenge from Nicholas Baird and burst through into the box only to be denied a goal by the outstretched left foot of Hillington keeper Paul McGuire which deflected the big Saints striker's net bound shot wide of target.

Before the corner kick could be taken Mr Doolan took the

name of Nicholas Baird for his challenge on Carmichael.

The Oban side had the benefit of the breeze for the second half which would steadily increase in strength as the half progressed. Much to the relief of the hardy band of spectators, the rain also eased off for the start of the second period which Saints kicked off attacking the park end.

The second half was only one minute old when Matthew Kelly had the first strike on goal which was deflected wide of Paul McGuire's right-hand post for a corner kick.

Saints were already showing signs that they would go on to dominate almost the entire second half with Craig MacEwan skinning Lee Wales on the Saints right before sending a ball into the box which was tantalisingly out of reach for Fraser MacFarlane, allowing Paul McGuire to thump clear.

Hillington lost the services of influential midfielder Scott Gold to an ankle injury after just four second-half minutes. Gold was replaced in the middle of the park by Gary Wilson.

Kerr Newbigging's ball up the right wing for Paul Carmichael saw the Saints man turn Ross Hamilton and dig out a cross from the bye-line which just evaded Craig MacEwan at the near post and ended up in the grateful hands of Paul McGuire.

On the hour mark, Ross Hamilton picked up the second yellow card of the match when he felled Paul Carmichael wide on the right after a good turn from the Saints striker. From Matthew Kelly's delivery onto the six-yard line Craig MacEwan somehow managed to direct a header towards goal despite having Nicholas Baird's arm across his throat. Marc Maccallum coming in behind bundled the ball over the line and wheeled away in celebration but his joy was short-lived as Mr Hogg flagged for a handball against the Saints skipper.

The Saints back four, assisted by the strengthening wind, remained comfortable and on a rare occasion when Stuart Ashton got the better of Scott Maitland on the Hillington right Marc Maccallum was quickly across to snuff out the danger.

Maccallum's central defensive partner Dene Cassells was instrumental in setting up Saints opening goal in the 67th minute. Dene made a decisive interception on the halfway line and charged forward into the



Craig MacEwan is congratulated by Kerr Newbigging, Myles McAuley and Paul Carmichael on netting his hat-trick. Match report and photos: Derek Black

Football

Hillington half, playing the ball up to Paul Carmichael. With his back to goal, Paul deftly flicked the ball on with the outside of his right foot to Craig MacEwan who wrong-footed Paul McGuire and stroked the ball into the net to give Saints the lead.

Controversy surrounded Saints' second goal in the 74th minute. A wind-assisted goal kick from Thomas McCulloch was expertly brought down on the left by Craig MacEwan and curled high into the net past a rooted-to-the-spot Paul McGuire. Saints celebrations of a wonderful goal from Craig were curtailed by an offside flag from Mr Hogg. However, after a brief discussion with his assistant Mr Doolan, who was clearly otherwise minded, pointed to the centre circle awarding the goal to Saints.

This was the cue for Saints manager Alex Craik to make a double substitution, replacing Matthew Kelly and Fraser MacFarlane with Martin Bonar and Dean Smith.

Both substitutes were heavily involved in Saints' third goal. With Hillington pushing forward desperately looking for a way back into the game, Saints broke forward with Dean Smith holding the ball up well and releasing Martin Bonar on the right wing. Martin's run was supported by Jamie Graham who popped up in the inside right channel, taking the ball into the box and squaring to Craig MacEwan. Craig's low shot struck the inside of the post and bounced into the path of the luckless Christopher Flannery who tried to control the ball but



Fraser MacFarlane shields the ball from Nicky Baird.

only succeeded into turning it into the unguarded net.

A miserable afternoon for Christopher Flannery was rounded off with two minutes of normal time remaining. Paul Carmichael charged through the tiring Hillington defence once again and was scythed down 28 yards from goal by Flannery with referee Doolan reaching to his back pocket and producing his red card.

The left of centre position of the free-kick would have been ideal for Willie Gemmell but in his absence Kerr Newbigging grabbed the ball. The instructions from the sidelines for Kerr to hand the ball to Craig MacEwan were baffling as nobody could remember Craig ever having taken a free-kick before. However, the decision proved to be an inspired one.

Craig curled the ball around

the wall and past the despairing left hand of Paul McGuire to seal his hat-trick.

Some of the shine was taken off an excellent all-round Saints performance when they conceded a last-minute consolation goal after switching off at a hotly disputed throw-in. Hillington took full advantage of a fortuitous award, quickly working the ball down the left and into the box for the unmarked Gordon Phillips. With the Saints defence appealing in vain for an offside flag, second half substitute Phillips planted his header low inside Thomas McCulloch's left hand post denying Saints a long sought-after clean sheet.

Referee Doolan brought proceedings to a close after three added minutes confirming Saints place in the final where their opponents will be either Easthall Star or Dunoon.



This header from Martin Bonar goes wide.

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WEATHER

Thursday Sunny intervals
Winds light south westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 13°C.

Friday Heavy rain showers
Winds light easterly
Temperatures 8°C to 14°C.

Weekend Cloudy on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Winds moderate west north westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 13°C.

FRIDAY

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday May 18, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm				
Thur	04.25 1.8 09.57 2.9 16.43 1.8 22.45 3.1		Ardershaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	05.36 1.8 11.09 2.8 17.52 1.8 *** *		Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	00.15 3.1 06.50 1.7 13.05 2.8 19.02 1.7		Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	01.52 3.2 08.00 1.5 14.24 3.0 20.10 1.4		Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	02.51 3.4 08.58 1.3 15.12 3.3 21.10 1.2		Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	03.39 3.7 09.48 1.0 15.54 3.5 22.04 0.9		Ferry Crossings/Sea States			
Wed	04.23 3.9 10.34 0.7 16.35 3.8 22.54 0.6		Oban to Barra/South Uist		Moderate	
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)						
Oban to Coll/Tiree						Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay						Moderate

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New all-weather marina project given green light

Mòd hits road to inspire new generation

MONICA GIBSON
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PLANS for a £2.5 million, 40-berth marina in Corpach has been given the go-ahead.

The Highland Council has awarded planning permission to Caol Regeneration Company, on behalf of the Thomas Telford Corpach Marina Project, for a new all-weather yacht marina and public slipway at the entrance to the Caledonian Canal.

Andrew McKenna from Thomas Telford Corpach Marina Project (TTCMP), said: 'It's exciting news for marine tourism on Loch Linnhe - full steam ahead. The steering group has been working hard for months and is grateful to the Highland Council, HIE, LEADER, Crown Estates and Scottish Canals for their encouragement, support and initial funding.'

Katie Hughes, director of estates at Scottish Canals, added

her congratulations, saying: 'We're delighted that planning permission has been granted for the new marina and look forward to continuing to work with the Caol Regeneration Company as the project develops.'

Members of the TTCMP held a public consultation in Kilmallie community hall last October to showcase the latest design plans for the development, before submitting their application.

Local business Northern Light was commissioned in February to begin the process of sourcing funding opportunities for the project and, at a later stage, to manage the tendering process for construction contracts.

The project is supported by councillors Allan Henderson and Ben Thompson, MSP Kate Forbes and general election candidate Ian Blackford, as well as several key Caol and Corpach businesses and individuals.

Previously, Mr McKenna said

Fort William could access an untapped market due to the fact there are no major marinas between Inverness and Oban. The steering group and many others believe that Fort William and Loch Linnhe's marine tourism future looks bright when community groups work together to provide complementary visitor facilities.

The new marina project follows the recent development of pontoons at the West End which has already allowed hundreds of cruise-liner passengers easy access to Fort William with more visits planned for 2017.

With this cruise-liner market established and developing fast, the steering group believes it is time to provide first-class marina facilities for local and visiting yachts together with sheltered slipway access for small boats on Loch Linnhe at Corpach.

With the marina now able to progress, a Marine Scotland licence is the next stage.

As the project moves forward, two different, but complementary, sectors of marine tourism are on the cards for the communities around the shoreline of upper Loch Linnhe between Corpach and Fort William town.

The steering group says these projects are not just about marine tourism, adding: 'This is local energy looking to grow our local economy, working to make Fort William an even better place to live and a great destination by creating quality, well-considered facilities. It's about potential new job opportunities and new community economic benefits.'



A right royal smile from Caol Queen Ellie

ELLIE CAMERON has been named this year's Caol gala queen.

Twelve-year-old Ellie, a first-year pupil at Lochaber High School, will have attendants Millie Henderson, 11, and Keira Conn, eight, by her side when she carries out her royal duties on Saturday June 24.

The girls will be driven around Caol before heading to the gala. Ellie will be crowned queen

of the day and will hand out the 2017 Citizenship Award.

Organiser Kirsty Kyle told the *Lochaber Times*: 'We have Highland dancers, cheerleaders and a strongman competition. We will have our usual gala granny, a piper and possibly a baking competition. It's all coming together well now, but we are still looking for two more volunteers to run sports events.'



Boudicca through Corran Narrows on May 10.
Photograph: DigitalStudio, www.wingman.co.uk

MORE than 14 schools across Lochaber have accepted an invitation to participate in a project designed to get more youngsters taking part in the Mòd.

The Highland Council, An Comunn Gàidhealach and the Lochaber National Mòd Local Organising Committee (LOC) are working in partnership with Fèisean nan Gàidheal to deliver the Mòd Academy Project in the lead up to the Royal National Mòd in Fort William in October.

The Mòd Academy Project will see experienced Gaelic tutors and teachers give language and musical tuition to pupils. An Comunn officers will also visit schools to raise awareness of the Mòd and how pupils can participate.

Ronald Cameron, chairman of LOC, said: 'We are delighted The Highland Council, in partnership with An Comunn Gàidhealach, has engaged Fèisean nan Gàidheal to deliver the Mòd Academy Project to 14 schools across the area and prepare pupils for both local Mòds and the Royal National Mòd.'

'The project includes highly experienced and renowned singers and tradition bearers, including Joy Dunlop, Mary Ann Kennedy, Janet Campbell and Sileas Sinclair. Thanks go to the organisers, tutors and all the head teachers involved with the project.'

John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn, said: 'We are grateful for the funding support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the Highland Council, the Patrons' Fund and the contributions from the families of the late Charlie MacColl and the late George Smith.'



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New Glenelg play park wins cash backing

A TWO-YEAR project to build a new play park in Glenelg has been successful after Glenelg and Arnisdale Development Trust was granted £35,000.

Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Local Area Partnership has approved EU match funding from the Highland Leader Project of £34,997.50 towards a new community park in Glenelg, taking the total amount raised by the trust to £69,995.

The project has been ongoing for the past two years, during which time the community has raised more than £8,000 through various events.

Tina Martin, a director of Glenelg and Arnisdale Development Trust, said: 'The existing play area in Glenelg is very popular but no longer fit for purpose as it floods and needs upgrading.'

'The grant from Leader will allow us to create a new play park adjacent to the current play site on land owned by the trust.'

'A group of like-minded parents got together and said let's do this. And now we hope to start work on the new play park in July.'

New innovative pieces of play equipment will be installed, along with safety surfacing. As the park is near Glenelg Brochs, the park will include replica brochs seating as well as new interpretation boards to provide information about the Brochs.

'We hope the park will become a visitor attraction and gathering place for local people and visitors,' added Ms Martin.

The trust hopes to get children from Glenelg Primary School involved with

putting the rocks for the Brochs in place. 'The park is such a big part of the community and the children don't really have anywhere else they can go and play. They are all very excited about the plans.'

The trust has worked hard over the past few years to seek other funding to bring the park back to life.

In addition to Leader, funding has been awarded by Tesco Ground Works, Highland Council ward funding, Big Lotteries Families and Communities, Big Lottery Awards for All and Historic Scotland. The Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Local Area Partnership has a budget of £506,688 to award to projects by March 2019.

Amy MacDonald, partnership chairwoman, said: 'We are delighted to support this project.'

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Trust marks housing milestone in Staffin

THE COMPLETION of a house in Flodigarry, Staffin, on the Isle of Skye, marks the 50th home to be delivered by The Highland Small Communities Housing Trust's (HSCHT) Rent to Buy scheme.

Using loan funding from the Scottish Government, the innovative scheme has provided affordable homes for rent then purchase in more than 20 Highland communities since it was launched in 2013.

Flodigarry is a crofting township in the north-east of Skye and is famous for once being the home of Flora MacDonald, who famously helped Bonnie Prince Charlie evade capture.

HSCHT invited the community to suggest a new name for the house, which is near Dun Flodigarry Hostel and Flodigarry Hotel. Several suggestions were made, most of them in Gaelic, and Flodigarry's oldest resident, Lena Nicolson, picked Buailtean Gorma as her preferred choice.

Minister for Housing Kevin Stewart said: 'I'm delighted our funding has helped make affordable housing a reality in this rural area. This latest house is a great example of providing a tailored solution to the needs of individuals, allowing them to remain within, and sustain, their communities.'

The 50 properties are spread throughout the Highlands in many locations where mainstream housing options would be unlikely to be provided, including Acharacle, Shieldaig and Balmacara.



The housing trust's 50th home.

Mission thanks railway staff

THE LOCHABER TIMES received the following thanks from the Fishermen's Mission: 'The Fishermen's Mission would like to thank staff on the West Highland Line, especially those on the Fort William to Mallaig route, for helping to reunite a fisherman with his belongings.'

'Embarrassing' election result could be catalyst for women

MONICA GIBSON
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THE 'DEPRESSING and embarrassing' outcome of the 2017 Western Isles Council election, where no women were successful, could be the catalyst the islands need, according to some.

For the first time in Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's 20-year history, the council is comprised of entirely men.

Lesley McKenzie was one of only six women who stood in the May 4 election across the Western Isles. The mother-of-two stood for South Stornoway and lost out to Neil MacKay but

she told the *Lochaber Times* the concern over the lack of female representation far outweighs that of her own defeat.

She said: 'The outcome is hugely disappointing but there was only six females out of 60 candidates so in that sense it wasn't hugely surprising.'

'In the past few months, a group called Hebridean Women's Network has started up in recognition that whilst there are strong women in the area, there is not necessarily much female representation in public life. Around 30 women attended the initial meeting and we all came out buzzing.'

'As a result of that meeting,

myself and Caroline Birch decided to stand.

'It was a case of 'why not' as opposed to something I've thought about before. I certainly hadn't been planning my campaign for years.'

'I obviously wasn't elected but came a lot closer than I thought. I was 11 votes behind the guy who was elected and he is a big employer.'

He brings jobs to the area and perhaps that's what drives votes, especially in the current climate. But in Orkney they have 30 per cent female representation. It is sad we are going in the opposite direction from the rest of the world.'

Highlands and Islands results show the Scottish Conservatives made historic gains. Ranald Fraser from Benbecula was one of three members returned for the Sgìr' Uige agus Ceann a Tuath nan Loch ward. Party Leader Ruth Davidson congratulated the Highland Games champion's appointment with a tweet.

Independents continued to dominate the Western Isles election, with 23 independent candidates elected, followed by seven SNP and one Conservative. There are no Labour councillors.

Mrs McKenzie continued: 'There is energy here and the fact

there's no female representation is ridiculous and embarrassing. We hope the group will raise awareness. The fact we have an all-male council will no doubt give us something to talk about and what we hope is it will be a catalyst. We need to examine why there are less women. Of course there are people who justify the outcome and say it is a democratic process so people vote the way they did because they wanted to, but there are men who say things need to change and it was actually men who encouraged me to stand.'

'What we need is to address barriers which perhaps exist more for women. Is childcare

an issue, for example? There are circumstances which women have to grapple with more than some men. Definitely stepping into an environment which is a sea of men can be quite intimidating - no matter how strong you are.'

A Comhairle spokesperson said: 'There were only six out of 60 candidates that were female so it was unlikely there would be many female members. Unfortunately none of the six were elected and that is far from ideal, resulting in no female representation for the first time on the Comhairle. It is, however, the result of democratic elections.'

Glenfinnan landfire disrupts train service for hours



Train services between Glasgow Queen Street and Mallaig were affected by a fire on Friday. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

PASSENGERS travelling by train between Mallaig and Glasgow last Friday faced major disruption following land fires.

The blaze broke out around 11am on May 12 and spread across 50 acres between Glenfinnan and Lochluichart.

Services on this section of the West Highland Line were cancelled while firefighters attended the scene and replacement bus services were running from Mallaig to Fort William. Emergency services have been busy in recent weeks as dry and windy weather have caused several similar incidents around Lochaber.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Services have asked people to be extra vigilant when camping outdoors and there have been calls from locals to not light fires in these conditions.

Early reports suggested Friday's fire could have ignited by a spark from the steam train.

The line re-opened around 5pm on Friday evening.

Top jazz quartet heads for Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

A QUARTET of Scotland's top jazz musicians will descend on Sleat this weekend.

Konrad Wiszniewski, Euan Stevenson, Mario Caribe and Alyn Cosker will come together at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, An Talla Mòr, at 8pm on Saturday May 20.

Scottish saxophonist Konrad Wiszniewski and award-winning Scottish pianist and composer Euan Stevenson's New Focus has been described as one of the most appealing, most beautifully realised projects to emerge on the Scottish jazz scene in recent years.

The project was set up to create a unique soundscape of original compositions for jazz quartet, string quartet and harp and as a tribute to the 50th anniversary of saxophone giant Stan Getz's 1961 classic album Focus.

New Focus' debut album launched at the 2012 London Jazz Festival to widespread critical acclaim, becoming the only jazz/classical album to be short-listed for the 2012 Scottish Album of the Year Award and subsequently short-listed for five awards at the awards the following year. A second album, New Focus on Song, was released in August 2016. The quartet will be joined on the night by double bassist Mario Caribe, of Moïshe's Bagel and the Leo Blanco Trio, and the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra's drumming dynamo Alyn Cosker.

Swimmers urged to go the extra mile for cash

SWIMMERS are being asked to take an extra plunge to help raise cash for Mallaig pool's refurbishment fund.

Swim Around the Islands is an annual event run by Mallaig Pool and Leisure, where individuals are asked to swim 4,000 lengths of the pool, the equivalent distance - 49.72 - if you were to swim around the Small Isles of Eigg, Muck, Rum and Canna.

Participants get two months to complete the challenge from April 24 to June 23. Entry costs £5 and all the money raised goes towards the pool's refurbishment fund.

A spokesperson from pool said: 'So far we've raised more than £309,000. That doesn't include money raised on our behalf by people taking part in the Road to the Isles Half Marathon on Saturday May 12.'

Proceeds from the wife carrying competition at the Road to the Isles Agricultural Show on Saturday June 10 will also go to the pool fund.

New Portree dental practice welcomed

THE WAIT for dental care in Skye and Lochalsh is to be reduced with the opening of a new practice.

Portree Dental Care will be located in the same premises as NHS Highland's public dental service clinic at Sraid An Eorna.

A significant number of patients from the health board clinic, principally those not prioritised as having additional needs, will now be transferred to the new dental practice. Portree Dental Care will be run by dentist Mr Zahid Ahmad, who has

relocated to Skye with his family and will be joined at the practice by dentists Muhammad Anwar and Rana Osman.

Announcing the new service, Portree Dental Care said: 'The practice offers predominantly NHS general dental services.'

'Our aim is ensuring affordable, accessible and quality routine dental care and emergency dental services for everyone in Portree and throughout Skye.'

'We have extended our opening

hours to make it more convenient for all age groups.'

Recent difficulties in recruiting and retaining dentists at the public clinic resulted in a waiting list for appointments.

In a move to further reassure those patients being transferred, NHS Highland added: 'You will be entitled to all the same NHS treatments you received with the public dental service team and if you pay for your NHS treatment, the same charges will apply.'

NHS Highland has prioritised appointments for those patients requiring emergency care and routine appointments for children, as well as adult patients with additional needs. Alex Fraser, NHS Highland's dental service development manager, said: 'This is great news. Our focus has always been to provide a sustainable and accessible dental service for people in north Skye that will help maintain and improve oral health. The new dental practice at Sraid An Eorna will help us do that.'

Summer bus services on Skye hit the road early but anger remains

BUS SERVICES on Skye have partially resumed following pressure from the island community.

While the news was welcomed by Sleat Transport Forum, anger remains that the situation arose in the first place.

Last Thursday, May 11, Stagecoach announced the early introduction of the summer bus service 52 connecting Armadale to Portree via Broadford to bridge the gap in service left after the end of service 601 - not operated by Stagecoach - on April 24.

From Monday May 15, a bus service will also be reinstated to allow connections between Portree and the ferry at Armadale, but Sleat Transport Forum is unconvinced by the changes because of the high numbers of visitors who have already been 'stranded' when they arrive on Skye.

Rob Ware, secretary of Sleat Transport Forum, said: 'Whilst welcoming a nominal return to a service on the Sleat bus route, it is still too little too late. There has been no service to and from Armadale/Broadford/Portree since April 24 causing inconvenience to visitors and residents.'

'Every day we are seeing independent travellers arrive at the ferry terminal expecting a public bus service to take them north to connect to other places on the island and beyond. There are no



Stagecoach has started its summer bus service to Armadale early. F205kyeNewDepot

alternatives other than taking a taxi at considerable additional expense or to find lifts.

'Similar scenarios are occurring daily in Portree and Broadford. From May 15 until June 5 there will be just one service southbound from Portree at 11.30am and from Armadale at 12.40pm which means residents can't visit Broadford and return the same day. And the service will only operate Monday to Friday.'

Stagecoach has promised a new service between Kyle and Portree providing connections to trains to/from Inverness.

An 'enhanced' service 57 from Portree to the north end of the

island will also be introduced for the summer allowing more connections to visit attractions including the Old Man of Storr, the Quiraing and the Museum of Island Life.

Mr Ware added: 'In what is expected to be the busiest summer on record for visitor numbers to Skye, the forum is dismayed this situation has been allowed to happen on what is a popular and vital summer bus service on the island.'

'Whilst recognising that in the current economic climate every aspect of the council's spend needs to be closely considered, it is unacceptable the conclusion of the recent re-tendering of

contracts should have been allowed to continue into the summer causing inconvenience and expense to visitors and residents.

'We support MSP Kate Forbes' call for a review of this contractual process with operators and have offered to take part in that dialogue. Tourism remains the key economic driver for Skye and we must do all we can to ensure our visitors have an enjoyable time here in every aspect. Managing visitor expectations is key to ensuring they will return.'

The re-tendering negotiations took place between bus operators and the Highland Council earlier in the year.

One of the factors affecting timetable change is amendments to school opening hours in Skye and because of this, Stagecoach says some other services will see minor timing revisions from Monday June 5 to accommodate changes to school bus times.

Mark Whitelocks, managing director for Stagecoach North Scotland, said: 'We are delighted to introduce part of our summer 52 bus service early this year. We regularly meet with local transport groups across our network and it is fantastic to shape our plans for our summer bus network in Skye based on valuable feedback from the local community. We will look forward to welcoming tourists and locals on board our summer services.'

The timetable is available online at stagecoachbus.com.

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New traders' group wants say on future of Fort High Street

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A STRONG desire for High Street businesses to have a voice on the area's development was expressed at the first meeting of the newly-formed Fort William Retail Association.

Twenty representatives from High Street businesses met on Monday May 15 to discuss the recent Highland Council decision to ban coaches carrying tourists stopping in town centre bus stops to let passengers off.

After an outcry from town centre shopkeepers, plans to remove signs detailing the drop-off ban were initially opposed by a few Fort William councillors.

But, as reported in the *Lochaber Times* of April 27, councillors later agreed the bus stop beside the Nevis Sport shop, and at the West End of town, can be used as coach drop-off points temporarily.

It was also agreed a consultation would be carried out with interested parties with a view to improving coach arrangements.

High street shop owner Drew

Purdon who started the new retail association, which now has 32 members, was named chairman at Monday's meeting. Maggie Wilson from Highland Hospice was appointed vice chairwoman and Simon Purdon is secretary and treasurer.

Drew Purdon said: 'The general consensus of the meeting was that the Highland Council deliberately does not consult prior to enacting decisions which are detrimental to the high street.'

It was agreed the association would request a meeting with councillors as soon as possible

to ensure the association's concerns can be expressed in 'the strongest possible terms'.

Secretary Simon Purdon said after the meeting he was pleased with the turnout: 'We got a real sense of enthusiasm and you can see there is a desire to have something in place that can represent retailers.'

'We hope to maintain that level of enthusiasm and in the long term have an organisation which has a say on the High Street and a vision for it.'

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times*, Ms Wilson said: 'There

was a meeting held in private with councillors about the coaches. To my mind, that is not a consultation. I understand no-one directly affected by the decision to stop buses was consulted. This was all done behind closed doors and this is an inherent problem we have in Lochaber.'

'This coach issue has suddenly galvanized people and there should be a voice for the High Street, because you can't continue to be bypassed, especially on this crucial issue.'

'We need to have an open and

transparent dialogue with the council because had we been consulted the outcome would have been very different.'

Ms Wilson said that while there have been 'grumbings' about the coach problem, she thinks, in time, there will other matters the association will consult on.

'We need to have a vision for the High Street that makes people want to come here and I think that is attainable. When I look at the High Street, I see such potential. But we need to be working together with the council.'

Have your say on plans for future

A NEW document outlining a 20-year plan for potential future development in Wester Ross, Lochalsh, Skye and Lochaber has been published by Highland Council.

The Proposed West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan, also known as WestPlan, has now gone out for an eight-week consultation.

The plan shows where and when future development could happen and the council wants anyone with an interest in the future of the area to have their say.

Tim Stott of the development plan team explained: 'Identifying a site for development confirms the principle of development so it's important people have their say on whether they agree with the sites identified.'

'Any development proposed would still require a planning application that would be consulted on separately. Typically sites are actually developed by either the landowner or a developer. In most cases it won't be the council.'

The consultation closes at midday on Friday June 30. To view the plan and make any comments head to consult.hIGHLAND.GOV.UK. It can also be viewed at public and mobile libraries in the plan area.

Club hosts 17th Am-Am event

THE ROTARY Club of Lochaber is hosting its 17th annual Am-Am golf tournament on Sunday May 28 at Fort William golf club.

The club is looking for players to take part and make up teams of four.

The cost is £40 per team and money raised will support local charities. To take part or for more details contact Donald Young at dy.melby@btinternet.com

Artistic skaters make grade as club celebrates 30 years

SKATERS from around Lochaber have been showing off their skills and making their coach proud.

Members of Lochaber Artistic Roller Skating (LARS) Club took their Federation Skill Test (Free Dance Elements) earlier this month.

Some youngsters were taking their test for the first time and according to chief coach Frida Alexander did very well, with some achieving more than one grade. Adult skater Jane Young completed the skills test and got five grades.

As well as the grading, judge Max Wahid, along with trainer Scott Macdonald and his twin daughters Caitin and Mary, all from Manchester, held a two-day workshop.

Frida Alexander said: 'Well done to the test skaters who made the club proud.'

The club also celebrated its

30th birthday on May 10 and Frida thanked members past and present who have supported the club over the past three decades and pointed out some of her pupils now are the children of pupils she had when the club first started.

She said: 'I didn't think we would last that long.'

'I was 45 when I started and here I am now, 75.'

'How long I will stay is in the lap of the gods.'

Ms Alexander said while LARS has had ups and downs like any other club, there is a lot of talent which has helped put the Lochaber branch on the map.

Frida Alexander, far right, Lochaber Artistic Roller Skating Club coach, with her students following their successful grading exams.



Abandoned bus finally moved by council

A DOUBLE decker bus abandoned in Upper Achintore 'for several years' has finally been removed.

The yellow eyesore, belonging to Transdev Lancashire United Bus, based in Blackburn, England, was removed from Angus Crescent.

Fort William councillor Andrew Baxter told the *Lochaber Times* it has taken the council 'too long to solve the problem'.

He said: 'I am extremely disappointed it has taken so long to remove this eyesore.'

'Although officers had to undertake the proper process of notifying the registered keeper we were going to remove and dispose of this bus, it's taken too long. It seems the council was reluctant to take action because we can only legally recover a few hundred pounds from the culprit. We need to be campaigning for a change in this particular law.'

He added a zero-tolerance approach should be taken to cases like this.

Mr Baxter said: 'Serve the appropriate notice, wait until it is expired and then take action. No dithering. No delay. The council is risk averse with cases like this - scared an individual will respond with legal action. Let them. We only need one case to prove we aren't going to be bullied in that way and we will take action to prove we won't tolerate this sort of disregard for our area.'

A council spokesperson said: 'Local authorities are not required to remove abandoned cars from private land, although they have a duty to remove them from land under their control. The council is happy to work with landowners to try and identify the owner of vehicles if they are defined as abandoned, however, because of the costs of removal, storage and disposal, local authorities in Scotland do not have to process such vehicles. The police should be contacted on 101 if it is considered an abandoned vehicle on a public road is dangerous or is causing an obstruction.'



Pupils and staff said thank you and farewell to Mr Sturrock who retired after 16 years. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

Teacher retires on his birthday

STAFF and pupils from St Columba's Primary School near Fort William said an emotional goodbye to a teacher retiring after 16 years' service.

Andy Sturrock has worked with the school since it was called Lochside Primary. He and his colleagues made the transition to the new Caol Campus last year but he stepped down from his post on his birthday, Friday May 12.

A school spokesperson said: 'Mr Sturrock has been a valued member of staff for almost 16 years, specialising in many subjects includ-

ing science, technology, art, computing and PE. Mr Sturrock has had overall responsibility for our school website and has always been an excellent support to pupils and staff in many aspects of school life.'

'We thank Mr Sturrock for his exceptional support and commitment to the school over the years and wish him every happiness in his retirement. He will be very much missed by us all. He was presented with gifts and had a lovely farewell meal at Corrou Station with staff on Friday evening.'

Parking charges rake in £20,690 in six months

A PROJECT to de-criminalise parking in Lochaber has racked up £20,690 in its first six months.

In October, Highland Council (HC) introduced a £550,000 programme which saw the appointment of parking enforcers across Lochaber.

After an introductory period to allow drivers to familiarise themselves with the new terms and conditions, £60 fines have been handed to anyone caught parking illegally since October 24.

Throughout the winter, the number of charges fluctuated with 86 issued in November and 45 during the shorter month of February. As the season has picked up, however, the figure rose to 71 charges in March and a spike of 123 in April.

From the outset, HC said money raised through the penalty charges will be spent on maintaining the service and for traffic-related projects.

The *Lochaber Times* asked HC if any projects had benefited yet, but it said it first has to break even on service delivery, currently estimated at £400,000 a year.

HC confirmed that, combined with Inverness, 5,125 penalty charges have been issued since October, creating a total value of £213,450.

Only seven charges have been formally appealed but 446 have been cancelled.

According to the council, the most common reasons for cancellation have been when a valid permit has been held but not displayed, where an error in ticket issue has occurred due to evidence not being gathered or where the vehicle was, in fact, permitted to park.

While the increase in the number of charges may be unsurprising due to the summer season starting, the *Lochaber Times* asked the council to comment on the success of the project given that the figures do not suggest a decline in parking offences in either Lochaber or Inverness.

A spokesperson said: 'The enforcement service has been very successful in managing traffic sensitive areas where we have rolled out our service and ensure that contraventions are addressed. There will always be a level of non-compliance with regard to parking and our officers are available to manage that issue.'



DIOPLÒMA ANNS NA MEADHANAN GÀIDHLIG

Tha an cùrsa seo air a dhealbh airson luchd-trèanaidh ullachadh airson saoghal craolaidh an latha an-diugh. Tha oileanaich air a' chùrsa a' faighinn sàr eòlas is brosnachadh bho na diofar òraidichean a bhios a' tadhal orra, a tha ag obair gu proifeiseanta sa gnìomhachais.

'Se cùrsa fad dà bhliadhna a tha seo leis a chiad bhliadhna aig a cholaiste agus 10 mìosan anns a ghnìomhachais anns

“Chan eil cùrsa cho prìseil coltach ris ann an Alba, a bheir dhut am fiosrachadh agus an tuigse a' dh'fheumas thu airson dreuchd anns na meadhanan.”

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FW

WHAT'S ON

THE TRADITIONAL Music and Song Association of Scotland will present the finalists of the 2016 BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the year award at the Nevis Centre on Wednesday June 7.

The tour visits the home town of each finalist, Fort William being home to fiddler Hanna MacRae. Moshen Amini, concertina and 2016 winner, Claire Hastings, voice and 2015 winner, Murray Willis, accordion, Jessica Burton, clarsach, Ryan Young, fiddle, and Robbie Greig, fiddle, will also perform, accompanied by Jean Damei. Doors open at 7.30pm.

A RACE night and raffle in aid of Caol-based Lochaber Sensory Care will take place tomorrow (Friday May 19) in the Volunteer Arms, Fort William, at 7.30pm.

LSC representatives will be visiting Morvern Medical Practice, Lochaline, on Tuesday May 23 from 10.30am til 12.30pm to offer support and advice to those living locally with sight or hearing loss. They will also supply NHS hearing aid batteries, re-tube and maintain the hearing aids and help with any other difficulties. No appointment required.

LOCHABER Rugby Club's annual general meeting will be held in the clubhouse at Banavie on Thursday May 25 at 7pm. A good turnout by club members would be appreciated. The club's end of season awards (Smoker) is on Saturday (May 20) at 7pm.

KILMALLIE Singers will present their spring concert this Saturday in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church from 7.30pm. Tickets on the door.

View from the Chamber

FOR MANY small businesses, including Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, it is time to choose an automatic enrolment pension scheme for employees (as required by the Pensions Act 2008).

All businesses should have received a communication from the pensions regulator with instructions on how to go about choosing a pension scheme. The government has set up a pension scheme that businesses can use, NEST, which is free of charge. However, there are other pension schemes available. A list of these can be found on the pensions regulator website.

Once your business has selected a pension scheme, it is important to begin a 'declaration of compliance' to ensure the business does not incur a fine. If you are unsure about your obligations as an employer, seek professional advice or get in touch with the pensions regulator directly.

Your business could be fined if you do not comply.

If your business is not yet a member of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, find out more about how membership can benefit you by contacting membership and events officer Fiona McCormick on 01397 705765 or email membership@lochaberchamber.co.uk.

Tragedy inspires trio to clock up miles for funds

MONICA GIBSON
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

THREE amateur cyclists, inspired by the tragic loss of a Lochaber man, have taken on the challenge of cycling from Ballachulish to Ballygunner in Ireland.

Orla Purcell, Andrew Gault and Lara Gray will ride 400 miles in four days starting on Wednesday July 5 in memory of Orla's late fiancé Richy Crossland.

Richy was a fit and healthy 32-year-old non-smoker when he was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer while travelling through New Zealand on a year out in 2011. After a short, aggressive six month fight, he lost his battle with the illness.

Orla told the *Lochaber Times*: 'While Richy would maybe (definitely) have thought we were mad to under take this cycle, I know he would be proud



Richy Crossland was travelling with fiancée Orla Purcell when he was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2011.

and that he will remain with us for each pedal, each push and each hill along the way.'

Since Richy died, Orla has returned to her native Ireland but she and Richy's mum, Cona MacNicol, who has lived in Ballachulish all her life, have stayed close.

Cona told the *Lochaber Times* she is full of support for Orla. She added: 'Richy was such a great son and this happened so suddenly to him and poor Orla. They were travelling through Asia and were heading off to New Zealand when he was diagnosed.'

'They were heading for such an adventure and were in their prime.'

'I am very, very lucky that Orla has stayed in our lives. Andrew is her new boyfriend and I think it is lovely they are doing the cycle together. He is very nice - very different from Richy - but very nice and I am so happy for her.'

'This is going to be a terrific challenge for them but they have been training very hard. They are supporting really worthwhile charities and I hope they have a wonderful time doing it.'

Throughout the challenge, the team will raise money for the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation and Waterford Hospice.

Orla explained: 'The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation is the only UK charity solely dedicated to defeating lung cancer. It provides invaluable support, education and help for lung cancer patients and their family, and funds essential research into a cure.'

'We will also be raising money for the Waterford Hospice which is a not-for-profit organisation providing palliative care and support for people living in the south east of Ireland.'

To support Orla, Lara and Andrew visit www.survivetheride.net



Michael MacEachan. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

Michael pedals off on Road to Lisbon

FORT William's Michael MacEachan is taking part in a two-week cycle from Celtic Park to Lisbon to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Lisbon Lions winning the European cup.

Last Thursday, May 11, 28 Celtic fans set off on the Road to Lisbon to raise money for three charities: The Celtic Foundation, Solving Kids Cancer and Children in Crossfire.

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times*, Michael said: 'I was heavily involved with Fort William Football Club but when I stopped that two years ago, I had a lot of time on my hands so I took up cycling. I have been putting in the miles, about 200 a week, to get ready for this. I love it, it's been great getting out on the bike.'

More than £1,400 has been raised so far through Michael's fundraising page with amazing support from people in Fort William.

Fort William Celtic Supporters Club raised £300 from a bucket collection at a recent concert in Caol.

Michael said: 'It was a great night. The supporters club has also given me another £250 raised from the raffle.'

The group is due to arrive in Lisbon on Wednesday May 24 and will be cycling to the Lisbon stadium on Thursday May 25 - the official 50th anniversary of the Lisbon Lions winning the European cup.

Garden project needs volunteers

KILMALLIE Community Centre (KCC) is looking for volunteers to help bring the village gardens back to life.

The group will be meeting on Saturday (May 20) at 10am.

The gardens were opened by Princess Anne on October 14, 1999, but fell into disrepair.

Recently the Community Services Team has repaired the bridge, painted the seats, fence and picnic benches and cut down the overgrown areas.

KCC has been awarded £1,860.57 from Foundation Scotland's Express Grants, in particular the Forbes Fund, £250 from Volunteering Matters Action Earth Grant and £100 from Scotmid in vouchers for Semichem which were raffled off at the KCC coffee morning on Saturday April 22 and raised £90. The cash was split between KCC and the garden project.

Call the centre on 01397 600111 to offer your help.



Above: Boudicca made the first of an expected three visits in 2017 to Loch Linnhe on Wednesday May 10.



Left: Captain Sartela was presented with whisky, heather honey and a beeswax candle by Sarah Kennedy of Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company.

Below: Country dancers entertained passengers on Cameron Square.

Photographs: Abrightside Photography.



Volunteers pull out all the stops for cruise liner's second visit

BUSINESSES and groups in Fort William joined forces to put on a warm welcome for the return of Boudicca cruise liner last week.

The luxury Fred Oslen ship once again negotiated the Corran Narrows to sail into Loch Linnhe on Wednesday morning following her debut visit last September.

Trips and coaches had been put in place to whisk passengers away to Glenfinnan and Glencoe, but volunteers also did their bit to entertain those who decided to stay in the High Street.

Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company (FWM-SC), which is responsible for the installation of pontoons at the West End car park to help make cruise liner visits viable, thanked Captain Juha Sartela and said: 'It was really great to see so many passengers and crew come off the ship and

we hope you all enjoyed yourselves in our beautiful part of the Highlands of Scotland.'

'A huge thank you to all our volunteers from Fort William Town Team, West Highland College, Megan and Amber, our wonderful pipers, Lochaber Geopark for carrying out two talks, Delicraft and Chocolate Box for the chocolate tasting, the Lochaber branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dancers for the Scottish dancing and The Lime Tree for extending the Casting Shadows exhibition.'

'Last, but not least, a huge thank you to the FWMSC team members who helped with the tenders on the pontoons. Well done, James, Gordon and Davey.'

Another liner, the Braemar, will make her Loch Linnhe debut on Thursday May 25, followed by a second visit by Boudicca on May 27.

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Charity walker takes in Lochaber

A HEART transplant patient is walking through Lochaber as part of a 5,000-mile trek in support of British Heart Foundation's (BHF) life-saving research.

Kieran Sandwell, 45, from Hertfordshire, is taking on the challenge, called 'Trail of Two Hearts', to mark the end of his long battle with heart disease after having a heart transplant eight years ago.

After setting off on February 1 from London, Kieran has already walked 1,000 miles. He hopes to raise £100,000 for BHF. Kieran will be passing through more than 60 towns and villages during his time in the Highlands including Malgait and along Loch Linnhe. Anyone wishing to support Kieran should visit www.atrailoftwohearts.com for more information.



Kieran Sandwell.

New bid to tackle loneliness

LIVING It Up has teamed up with NHS Highland to tackle social isolation and loneliness in the north of Scotland.

The digital service designed to help people get more out of life and stay happier, healthier and safer has joined the health board's Reach Out campaign to combat loneliness in communities across Highland.

NHS Highland's health promotion specialist Jane Chandler said: 'We look forward to working with Living It Up to spread the word of the campaign and the fantastic work that they do.'

Call for planning inquest

ELLIE FORBES
eforb@obantimes.co.uk

CONCERNS over a planning application for new houses in Spean Bridge have led to a resident requesting an investigation into the standards and procedures of the Highland Council's planning department in Fort William.

Plans for the development opposite Spean Crescent angered Richard and Rachel Matthews last year, as reported in *The Oban Times* of September 15, 2016.

Density of the proposed homes and the cutting of mature trees were just two of the issues raised by Mrs Matthews in her comments to planning.

Six objections to the application have been made to the Highland Council.

But Mrs Matthews has told the *Lochaber Times* she has growing

concerns about 'procedural matters which have not been adhered to'.

She said: 'I have requested an investigation into the planning department, not just because of the way this housing application has been handled but because systematic failings continue to happen.'

'Changes have been made on this application, but we have not been given proper information as to what these changes are.'

'The notice we received is most unhelpful and doesn't explain anywhere that we are being served a copy of it because the applicant has submitted further information in support of an existing application.'

Mrs Matthews added: 'It would have been helpful if the council had included a letter telling us what has changed and what information we are now expected to be viewing and responding to. They are not making the in-

formation accessible for people, but then still expecting people to put in their comments.'

In a letter to the Highland Council Mrs Matthews said: 'After repeated and consistent failings by the planning department based in Fort William of even the most basic of standards, procedures and protocols of national and local guidelines, I am now requesting an investigation.'

'Basic procedural requirements from Highland Council Planning Office Fort William are not being adhered to and as you have a professional duty to ensure standards are being met within your departments, we feel you ought to made aware of this.'

'We have highlighted our concerns previously and yet no changes have been made and they continue to carry on regardless.'

The three main procedural concerns with the planning ap-

plication for Spean Bridge were that it has not been considered a major development, only five households have been consulted in a population of more than 600 people, who 'ought to be given the opportunity to voice their opinions,' and how a material change in an application does not result in the original application being withdrawn and a new appropriate application being submitted.

Stuart Black, director of development and infrastructure, responded to Mrs Matthews in great detail, saying the Fort William planning office 'comprises a small team of hard working and dedicated officers who strive to make considered, balanced and fair decisions which benefit the local area and the wider Highlands and in whom I have every confidence undertake their duties in nothing other than a professional manner.'

'Whilst I have no doubt as to the competence of the Fort William team, I recognise that you have raised a valuable point regarding community engagement and will consider what improvements could be made to raise the public's awareness of the planning processes and hopefully prevent the negative experience you have had.'

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'If someone is not content with the response they receive from The Highland Council they should write back stating why.'

'If they are still unsatisfied they can contact the Ombudsman.'

Mrs Matthews said: 'We might have taken this investigation as far as it can go, but I am fully prepared to take it to the judiciary review at Holyrood.'

'I won't let this go and I am not doing it to be difficult. I am doing it because this cannot continue.'

Great support for Rotary soup and sandwich lunch

THE ROTARY Club of Lochaber continued its efforts to eradicate polio by holding a special lunch last week.

The generous Lochaber public, and a big turnout of visitors to Fort William, helped raise several hundred pounds at a soup and sandwich lunch on Saturday May 13 in Duncansburgh Church Hall.

Polio is a crippling and potentially fatal infectious disease. The Rotary polio campaign dates back to 1985 when Rotarians promised to the mothers of the world that polio would be eradicated and their children would no longer suffer from the disease.

The Lochaber branch says this promise is on the brink of being

fulfilled, with just 37 polio cases in three countries in 2016 and that there are real hopes 2017 will see the last case.

Last Saturday, the soup and sandwiches were complemented by tea, coffee and shortbread.

Club members produced a range of home made soups including sweet potato and parsnip, tomato and lentil and cream of celery, followed by platters of freshly prepared sandwiches.

Club president Paula Ross said she was delighted by the public support and added: 'At one stage there was hardly an empty table. Ending polio is just one of the hundreds of initiatives Rotary is involved in to make a difference to communities at home and abroad.'



Lochaber Rotary continued its efforts to eradicate polio by holding a soup and sandwich lunch.

New application for restaurant

A NEW drive-through restaurant may be coming to Fort William.

Michael Herbert of Kirk Bryson Limited submitted an application to the Highland Council on May 3 for a restaurant with drive through including car parking, potential for outdoor seating and associated works at Nevis Square on North Road.

Work is currently under way on part of this site where a Costa coffee shop is being built.

This development is also by Mr Herbert, trading as Herbal Eastern Limited (HEL). Planning was approved August 31 2016.

The new application matches a previous one submitted by Mr Herbert's HEL in 2014.

Mr Herbert, who is the owner of the largest KFC in Europe and luxury apartment complexes in Belfast, had planned to open a KFC in Fort William but the project never got off the ground.

For more on this story read next week's *Lochaber Times*.

Plans for more outdoor events

LOCHABER organisations are exploring plans to hold more outdoor entertainment events in the area.

Ballachulish Community Company and Ballachulish Community Council are exploring the possibility of acquiring a public entertainment licence for the quarry.

The licence would cover the annual fireworks event, which the community council currently organises each year, and other projects for a period of three years.

The company has been in discussions with the Highland Council with regard to a possible community acquisition of part of the quarry.

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JUST imagine the number of skilled trades working on the many MacLeod Construction sites around Argyll and the Isles.

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These new divisions were developed by Jonathan MacLeod, the firm's services manager, along with contracts manager John Mckellar.

There are 25 skilled staff members dedicated to the small works team. Among this number are electricians, plumbers, joiners, roofers, scaffolders and general maintenance trades - all supported by a dedicated office team.

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L-R: David King Electrical Foreman, Robert Long Plumbing Foreman, Chris McGowan Maintenance foreman, John Mckellar Contracts Manager



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Kinlochleven

PUPILS at Kinlochleven High School were celebrating after carrying home nine awards from the Rock Challenge 2017 following their showcase about mental wellbeing.

Thirty-two pupils travelled to Eden Court, Inverness, last Thursday to perform in front of an audience of 800 people. The school won awards for, Excellence for Concept, Cultural and Educational Achievement Award, Award for Positive Inclusion, Excellence for Stage Crew, Excellence for Performance Skill, Award for Achievement in Substance Awareness, Excellence for Set Design and Function, Award for Excellence for Entertainment, and Award for Excellence for Visual Enhancement.

With the support of See Me, a Scottish charity which tackles mental health stigma and discrimination, pupils created a story using five teenagers from different backgrounds and interests, showing how they are affected by different emotions through their life experiences.

As well as planning the performance and choreography of the dance, the pupils also worked on all the backstage details, with a professional set of theatre flats were designed and built by Jodie Daynes (S3).

Head Teacher Rebecca Machin said: 'The day spent at Eden Court was incredible. They performed from their heart in front of a crowd of 800 people and for some of the 32 performers it was their first time on stage. They were incredibly brave and thoroughly deserved the awards which they received.'



The pupils were very successful at the event in Inverness.

KINLOCHLEVEN Community Trust is encouraging amateur photographers to enter its calendar competition.

Every year, hundreds of Kinlochleven calendars are sent to friends and family around the world, letting them enjoy the beauty of South Lochaber in print.

Amateur photographers in two categories, general entry and under 18s, can send photographs to be in with a chance of having it featured on the calendar and winning a £50 gift voucher. Ten runners up will receive a £25 gift voucher. All winners will get copy of the 2018 calendar and discount vouchers towards additional purchases of the calendar. All profits from calendar sales will be used by the community trust to help fund village projects.

The closing date for entries is Friday June 16. Entry forms and competition rules are available from the KCT office, 01855 831779, or email jayne.wilkinson@kinlochleven.co.uk.

Morvern

COMMUNICATION and transparency between all parties is key to success, according to groups embarking on a project to make Morvern a better place to live, work and visit.

A public meeting took place in Lochaline Village Hall recently to gauge the community's opinion on a potential Morvern landscape project.

More than 70 people turned up, with representatives from community groups including Morvern Community Development Company (MCDC), Morvern Community Council (MCC), Morvern Community Woodlands (MCW), Morvern Community Trust (MCT), the heritage society, Lochaline Village Hall and several large and small landowners including Ardtornish and Drimnin Estate and the Forestry Commission.

While discussions on a possible landscape project are at a very early stage, some, but not all, aspects could be connected to a native woodland restoration project.

MCDC stressed it was important not to cross over with projects that are already under way. It was decided to form a steering committee to further consult with the community using some of the outcomes and discussion points of the meeting as a basis for a questionnaire.

A full report of the meeting can be found at www.morvern.org



Ladies of the Duncansburgh Macintosh Women's Guild held a successful soup and pudding lunch in the church hall to raise funds for Guild projects. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Soup and pudding lunch a recipe for success

A SUCCESSFUL soup and pudding lunch has raised £300 for two charities.

Fort William Duncansburgh Macintosh Guild held the soup and pudding event in the new hall of Duncansburgh Macintosh Parish Church on Saturday May 6.

All proceeds from the lunch are going towards guild projects.

The Church of Scotland Guild works in three-year strategies. The three-year strategy for 2015 – 2018 is Be Bold, Be Strong.

Each year has a theme; 2015/16 was Go in Peace, 2016/17 was Go in Joy, and 2017/18 is Go in Love.

For each three-year strategy, there are six projects seeking Guild financial and prayer support.

Fort William Duncansburgh Macintosh supports two projects each year. This year it is supporting Christian Aid's project to provide solar-powered ovens in Bolivia and Care for the Family Let's Stick Together, which supports families in Scotland struggling when a new baby comes into the family.

Morag Muirhead from the church told the *Lochaber Times*: 'We held the soup and pudding lunch to raise funds to help us contribute to our projects for this year.'

'It is thanks to initiatives like this that guilds all over Scotland have been able to raise funds for the projects.'

'Thanks to everyone who came and enjoyed our soups and our puddings.'

'We will be able to put just over £300 towards our donation this year.'

The total raised by the whole national Guild on April 28 was £426,170.29.

This is distributed between the Ascension Trust £84,034.71, Care for the Family £70,354.32, Christian Aid £61,978.66, Feed the Minds £92,316.92, Mission International £57,140.85, Prospects £60,344.83.

Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club meeting

ISLAND musicians are getting ready for this year's Isle of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Festival.

The weekend event kicks off on Thursday May 25 at 7.30pm in the Royal Hotel, Portree.

The festival attracts a host of musicians and friends from the length and breadth of the country each year.

The club recently held its May meeting at the Royal Hotel. Younger players came to the fore and an evening of great music began when MC Jim Campbell invited Emily Matheson on stage with her accordion to play several sets which included a beautiful rendition of Hector The Hero and Miss Rowan Davis.



May meeting of the Skye accordion and fiddle club.

Later in the evening Emily was joined on stage by Ellie MacPherson with her accordion in place of her usual fiddle for great accordion duets backed on drums by Donald John Campbell

who was making a welcome return to the club.

Emily was followed on stage by young accordionist Erin Baker, accompanied on guitar by her father, George. The audience was

delighted to be entertained by visitor Alan Smith of Lanark who played sets on a borrowed accordion backed by guest band member Jacqui MacDonald of Inverness and Donald John on drums.

Guest band of the night was the Caithness-based Elizabeth MacKenzie band with Elizabeth on accordion, Iain MacDonald on fiddle and Jacqui MacDonald on piano.

The band served up a superb programme for the appreciative audience including a fiddle solo from Iain and an accordion solo from Elizabeth to complete a night of fine music on the club's final night of its 2016/17 season.

Trio of top awards for island restaurant

SKYE'S The Three Chimneys started its season in spectacular style with a trio of awards at the inaugural Scottish Food Awards.

The remote island restaurant was awarded a gold medal for real and

local food and the Restaurant with Rooms of the Year award. It also collected a Geographical Food Destination award for the Isle of Skye as a whole, which certifies the region's worldwide status for dishes that

represent the incredible variety of the island's natural larder.

The winners were announced at an awards ceremony and dinner at The Principal, Edinburgh, on Sunday May 7.

RETRO Roamer

The Roamer column was the highlight of a Thursday for many Lochaber readers so he has returned with a timely look back at the events and people that made it into his columns in the mid 1980s.

There was I, minding my own business, walking along the east end of the High Street under the Hiellan's man's Umbrella. An eager Southron visitor approached me, pointed across to the Cow Hill and asked 'Is that Ben Neevis up there?' And, yes, he did pronounce it as 'Neevis'. I forget how I answered him – but it would have been in detail!

'Does everyone like curry?' asked the Boys Brigade's alfresco chef on the recent visit to Dudley. Several hands went up, while a few more of the boys thought they might like to try some. So the chef – a Cameron, no less – busied himself by emptying into the huge cooking pot all the various foodstuffs he couldn't get the youngsters to eat a day or two before. And everyone enjoyed the Cameron Curry, without chips, which goes to prove a couple of culinary points.

An American couple were in Templeton's studying the shelves of biscuits, having decided to let the calories look after themselves. Bypassing Abernethy they asked a local housewife, 'Say, are these Bourbon Creams whisky flavoured?' Came the reply: 'Well, if they are, you don't make very strong whisky in the States.'

The Banavie picnic area has caved in. A big hole has appeared in the middle of it and around £2,500 will be required to return the sinkhole site to its normal unused condition. One Crown Cottage resident observed: 'What picnic area?'

A circular received last week by one of Lochaber's government branch offices concerned 'a local troll of board and lodgings'. Since training operations play a large part in the government service hereabouts, this caused a great deal of mirth among staff members, vying with one another to see who could produce likely-looking 'Lochaber Trolls' to act as landlords and landladies. Aye, a very drawl trawl!

How about the safety officer in one of our august local bodies, who was on the point of gaining some light relief in the first floor toilets of his new office block when he realised that the blinds, which screened the toilets from the outside world, were not drawn. So our hero fiddled with the blinds and contrived to pull them down on himself, injuring his hand! If you see a professional gentleman with a white bandage on his hand, and a somewhat red face, you'll know what happened.

A cattle trailer was being towed away from the auction mart on Friday – with a large cow inside it. Presumably unbeknown to the driver, the floorboards of the float were rotten which meant the poor animal had two hooves in the trailer and two through the floor on the road. It may have sounded funny to hear of the vehicle and trailer being partly propelled by 'cow-power' but it was a bit hard on the cow. Fortunately the float didn't get farther than the level crossing before the driver realised something was amiss.

At the next sale, a Corpach worthy bought a roof rack. He then drove home, across the road, and returned with a trailer onto which he loaded – the roof rack.

A hirsute person, from out of town, in dock at the Sheriff Court told the Procurator Fiscal he hadn't replied to a summons because there was no stamped addressed envelope enclosed with it.



Parade Garage management and mechanics of the 1950s.

I was just thinking at the match at Claggan Park on Saturday that the Fort have come a long way since the amateur days when Pasha & Co used to take the field at the Town Park with two large paperbacks wedged into their socks – as shinguards. Mind you, it would be interesting to see a computerised, simulated match between Argyll Rovers and Fort William FC – because the Rovers could certainly play a bit.

The continuing wet weather is having strange side effects. Take the case of the fella who 'lives up the hill', for example. He went to lock his front door the other night and, hopping along the lobby to meet him, was a frog! It's not often you find one of them on the carpet, but it was duly – and gently – frog marched out the front door.

Meanwhile a 999 call to Fort William advised that a tortoise was on the loose in Caol's Kilmallie Road! A squad car was despatched immediately to locate it and deny it a quick getaway.

It's the all-weather centre again. It seems it is likely to become a non-purpose-designed tourist information office. In keeping with that famous 'original concept', the two cinemas will be located upstairs, seating 110 and 60 respectively. I still maintain this came about as a result of someone confusing the white elephant's wiring diagram which read '110 volts/60 cycles'.

Leading officials of a certain Lochaber organisation were invited to a posh 'do' in Aberdeen. Off they set with their dinner suits and patent shoes. On arrival they said: 'Good evening, we're from Fort William and we're here for the annual dinner.' The receptionist looked at the Highland visitors and said: 'Good evening to you, too. But you're a day too early. That function's not till tomorrow night.'

That same weekend a local hotelier went into an erstwhile colleague's hotel for lunch. In the bar, after despatching his gin and tonic, he was invited to take a seat at table in the dining room. Then he was advised that he couldn't order a meal from that particular table – as it didn't have a number. Somewhat popped, he exited the dining room with the words: 'I came here for lunch, not for a raffle!'

A great turnout to say 'cheerio' to Jack Kennedy who is taking his leave of the Volley after having been called to the bar these past 17 years. It was standing room only – right out onto the street – for his farewell weekend appearance.

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JEWSON



Catherine and the choir are practising hard for their upcoming concert.

Singers mark spring with conductor's first concert

KILMALLIE Singers will stage its first concert with Catherine Macdonald as full-time conductor next week.

The choir will perform traditional pieces including Vivaldi's Gloria and Handel's Zadok the Priest and more contemporary numbers including John Lennon's Imagine alongside the Cill Chuimein Community Choir of Fort Augustus with its conductor Kathryn Sharples.

The concert, named *Spring, Glorious Spring*, will take place on Saturday May 20 in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church from 7.30pm.

The singers will be accompanied by Jennifer Skene on piano and Kevin Cameron on the organ. Kevin will also perform solo. Mrs Macdonald is no stranger to conducting the choir. Although this is her

first concert since becoming conductor in January this year, following Andrew Simpson's retirement last year, she is a music teacher and has stepped in to help the choir in the past.

She said: 'I did one concert before when Andrew was ill. I stood in at the last minute. I was asked if I would step in after he left and I used to deputise for [previous conductor] Heather.'

'I enjoy conducting. It's a lovely friendly choir and they're pretty good.'

'We've got some professionals and some good amateurs. We've also got new members as well so it should be good. I'm looking forward to the concert.'

Tickets for the event are available on the door and there will be a retiring collection for Clie Sargent and Christian Aid.



Jason's widow Caroline MacIntyre, centre, with the Jason MacIntyre Memorial Trophy, and daughters, Morgan, left, and Chloe. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Trial winner John Archibald, left, with organiser Stephan Blom and world biking legend Graeme Obree, right. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Champion Jason honoured in first Cycling Time Trial event to be held in Scotland

A FORT William cycling champion has been honoured in the first Cycling Time Trial (CTT) event to come to Scotland.

Tragically killed in a collision at Carrs Corner in 2008, Jason MacIntyre was a rising star in British cycling. The 34-year-old was a triple British and Scottish champion time trial cyclist and heading for the Olympic Games before his death.

Every year since his passing, the cycling community has held a memorial for him, and this year Britain's biggest time trials organisation, CTT, allowed the Scottish district to hold an event in memory of Jason.

Organiser and friend of Jason, Stephen Bloom, told the *Lochaber Times*: 'This was an event that had never been done

before, but CTT chairwoman Shelia Hardy said this was the best one they had ever seen, with the location and the stunning scenery. Everyone was raving about it and the comments we got back were 10 out of 10.'

Cyclists completed the 17.8-mile route round Loch Leven before heading to Ballachulish Village Hall for a presentation of the fastest lady, local rider and veteran.

John Archibald, 26, who is based in Glasgow, clocked 38.40 to win by 51 seconds.

This year John has broken long-standing records over various distances, including some held by Fort William retired rider Mark Atkinson.

Jackie Field, 52, from Cambridge, was fastest female and

wrapped up her overall series win in the veteran women's category.

'All the racers from down south said it was well worth the drive up to Scotland and these are really high profile racers,' said Stephen. 'The hope is the riders will go home and spread the word and next year this will be an even bigger event, which will be another great boost for the economy.'

'Jason loved doing these events and he would have been immensely proud this event came to his home patch.'

Stephen said guest of honour Graeme Obree gave a 'lovely presentation, and thanked all the volunteers who helped.'

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times*, Jason's widow, Caroline

MacIntyre, said: 'The whole event turned out fantastic and the day was really good. It was quite difficult and bitter sweet in a way, because Jason would have loved to be able to do the race up here, but it's lovely that the first time it came to Scotland it was for him.'

'It was great to hear everyone talking about him and seeing his bike and memorabilia. People were all swapping stories about what he was like on the bike and his best times.'

Caroline said Jason's bike and biking gear is now being sent to Dooleys Bike Shop in Paisley where it will be on show.

'It was really difficult to part with his things because they have been in the house for so long and now they are not

going to be there. But his bike deserves to be in Dooley's, on show for people to look at and talk about him and his achievements,' said Caroline.

Stephen said he hopes next year the event can be bigger and better, with more community involvement.

He added: 'Out of the blue two guys from the Co-op in Ballachulish came round to the village hall and gave us four boxes of bananas and four crates of tangerines. We can see how much bringing this event to south Lochaber meant to the community. We weren't really in a position to do fundraising this year, but I put a donation box out and we got £101 which is being given to Ballachulish Scouts.'

Marquee delight for Fort William Town Team



James Kennedy of Fort William Town Team receives £100 from Lochaber Times' reporter Ellie Forbes for the work he did to Cinema Lane. Photograph: Iain Ferguson The Write Image.

FORT William's Town Team has been awarded £892 for a temporary marquee to be used in Cameron Square.

The funds were awarded by Foundation Scotland following the team's application at the beginning of April.

Sue Keen from the Town Team said: 'The professional quality waterproof gazebo measures 4 x 8 metres and comes complete with weights and side walls with windows if required. It's a 'pop-up' design so it should be fairly easy to put up and take down. Primarily we'll be using it on wet days when passengers from cruise ships are in town, but who knows what other uses we may find for it.'

The canopy will also be available for charities and non-profit making groups to borrow.

The proposal to build a permanent structure just off the High Street was a joint venture between Fort William Town Team (FWTT) and Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company (FWMSC).

However, concerns raised by nearby shops and business owners that the structure's size meant it would hide them from view of visitors, lead to the withdrawal of the planning application, which was submitted to the council last year.

Until alternative plans can be agreed, the temporary marquee will be put in place.

Sarah Kennedy of the FWM-SC told the *Lochaber Times* the marquee is due to arrive from Denmark in time for the next cruise ship. She said: 'It apparently only takes 60 seconds to pop up which is perfect because we didn't want one which would take a lot of people to set it up.'

Mrs Kennedy emphasised the structure, which belongs to the Town Team, is temporary and can be used by charities and non profit making groups in the town: 'It will allow people to make a real thing of charities events.'

The *Lochaber Times* has donated £100 to the Town Team, after member James Kennedy painted Cinema Lane.

MORVERN lines

A very special Highland postman

WITH the cost of sending a letter, let alone a parcel, by Royal Mail these days, it cannot be long before this famous service disappears altogether.

Despite their usefulness at times, Facebook and Twitter haven't helped. Who and whatever eventually replaces our postmen and women, who are the eyes and ears of our remote and rural communities, their demise will alter a way of life forever.

Believe it or not, there are still many folk living alone in the Highlands and Islands who look forward to the arrival of a hand-delivered message and rely on the social contact.

In the long history of mail deliveries in Argyll, few posties were as conscientious about maintaining the ambitious standards set by the great British Post Office for the area as Hector Currie, Lochaline, who could claim to have walked a 112,000 miles in the course of his duty.

In the 1840s, the Mull and Morvern mail came from Oban, as it does today. Instead of leaving Oban and arriving in Craignure, it went via Kerrera to Grasspoint and then to Fishnish.

After being sorted, letters, for there were few parcels in those days, were returned to the mail bag which was duly sealed and ferried across the Sound to Lochaline in the mail boat to the post office at Kiel, where Samuel Cameron added to his duties of schoolmaster, session clerk,



Today's Lochaline to Fishnish mail ferry.

precentor, catechist and elder those of the local postmaster.

At that time mail came just once a week. Although the population of Morvern numbered almost 2,000 - today it is less than 400 - letters were few and only delivered as opportunity offered. Post haste, claimed the parish minister, was unknown in these parts; the poste restante being much more common.

Hector Currie's duties with the Post Office began in 1837 when, at the age of 19, he and his brother Gillean, took charge of the Lochaline mail ferry. For the next 25 years or so the brothers sailed backwards and forwards over the unpredictable Sound in their open boat, summer and winter, without any loss of life or their precious cargo. They

were a popular sight and always ready to oblige.

Dr John MacLachlan, the celebrated Gaelic bard of Rahoy, was a frequent passenger when attending to his patients on Mull and beyond and wrote a song praising Hector's boatmanship and friendly nature (translation): 'Seaman of surpassing skill, when the sky is being torn asunder, a fierce sea roaring and heaving up in great masses. From your early days you were highly esteemed in the place, for the way in which you would so safely steer a boat to land. You would not refuse to ferry a timid woman or a destitute man. I hope that prosperity and blessing may attend you as long as you live.'

With the opening of the Highland railway to Kingussie in 1860, Fort William, instead

of Oban, became the head post office for Morvern, which meant the withdrawal of the Sound of Mull mail ferry boat. This created a good deal of disappointment in Morvern, so much so, that a petition was raised but it was unsuccessful and Hector, much against his wishes, had to exchange the tiller for a shoulder bag.

Donald Mackinnon, another Morvern bard, penned a very fine song sympathising with Hector in his new role in which he wrote: 'In the evening I heard a report and I am sure that it is true; that the Lochaline packet had been drawn up on the land. It is contrary to nature for you to have a bag on your back, and that the steersman of the boat should take to the glen. I am sure you would prefer spray

from the crests of the waves than to travel through bog land carrying a heavy bag.'

When this new arrangement started, the Morvern mail was routed from Fort William via the Corran ferry. It was then carried to Inversanda by the Strontian mail cart where it was passed on to Archibald Maclachlan. He carried it between there and Kingairloch where he arrived each alternate day at 4am.

Hector's role in all this was rural mail messenger, which saw him walking the 16 miles to and from Kingairloch with the outgoing and incoming mail each alternate days in the week.

One of Hector's unofficial duties was to cut the Kingairloch minister's hair for which he always got a large dram. On one occasion, when the measure was less than usual, probably on account of the manse supplies, the minister asked his friend why he was looking so thoughtful. 'Well, minister,' came the reply, 'I was just thinking how nice it would be if you had two heads.' The hint was taken and the glass recharged.

Hector retired in 1881 after 44 years' service and was given a purse of gold sovereigns from his friends and a private pension from Thomas Valentine Smith of Ardtornish - a great Morvern benefactor in the days before state pensions.

Hector died in 1906 and is buried with his family in Kiel, overlooking his beloved Sound of Mull.

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

Lisa's got a new job, and a new problem...



Hi Julie, how are you?

I love my new job, and the office is in a lovely old building but the windows are so draughty and the noise from the street is terrible.



I really wish there was something my boss could do about the windows but we're in a conservation area... I wonder if Cairngorm could help?

Yes Lisa, help is at hand. We specialise in helping people who have homes or businesses in a conservation area. Fitting secondary glazing is a cost effective and efficient way of insulating and sound proofing your existing windows. We'll soon have you keeping the cold and noise out, the heat in and the bills down.



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#MeetTheCairns

Row breaks out over new berths at Oban North Pier

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A PUBLIC row has broken out over the financial impact of publicly-funded pontoons planned for Oban Bay.

Directors of privately-owned Dunstaffnage Marina say Argyll and Bute Council has shifted the goalposts for its planned Oban transit marina.

The directors claim that Oban Bay Marina will potentially be able to host upwards of 80 vessels, rather than the 36 previously proposed, and say the bigger marina threatens its business – putting permanent jobs at risk and is based on ‘childlike’ figures.

Two part-time jobs will be created by the Oban transit marina.

Funding for the Oban project is being borrowed through prudential borrowing and will be paid back over 25 years.

Argyll and Bute Council says the size and scale of the project has not changed since planning permission was granted in 2016.

The argument appears to be over the difference between 36 berths and 36 finger berths. Berths offer harbour to individual vessels, while finger berths can offer space to two boats.

Neil McLauchlan, of Dunstaffnage Marina, said: ‘Directors were never concerned about a 36-berth marina.’

‘However, Dunstaffnage was never consulted at any time about any marina, far less this much bigger and more significant marina, which is just three miles from Dunstaffnage.’

‘We have never had to turn boats away – even at the height of the season – so this certainly indicates a market that does not merit yet

more berths. Dunstaffnage Marina has invested heavily into the marina market with infrastructure, local staff and training.

‘Therefore, to simply stand back and allow our business to be decimated because of some misjudged proposals and crude finances would be very wrong indeed.’

‘The directors are very determined to follow this through to a satisfactory conclusion.’

Due to the risk to his business, Mr McLauchlan asked Argyll and Bute Council to raise the matter with the Scottish Government’s state aid unit, which will judge the right of the council to spend public money on a project that may displace business from a private company.

He said: ‘It seems on our insistence it was referred as late as the April 21, 2017. This was well after planning approval was granted in 2016 and the order for hardware to suppliers was placed at the start of 2017.’

Mr McLauchlan continued: ‘Once the underwater hardware is installed there is no jurisdiction for planners on its configuration as it is not on the land. It would be for the Crown Estate to decide.’

‘The massive marina hardware shows a potential for a far bigger facility.’

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: ‘The investment in the transit berthing and associated maritime facilities has strong and widespread local support and will complement existing marine facilities in the area.’

‘Other local facilities and industries will be able to take advantage of the increase in visitors and vessels that will come to the area.’

‘We were directly petitioned by around 80 local businesses,



Family of charity hero Nonny hand over cheques

Cheques for £7,000 were handed over to cancer support charities from the organisers of a fundraising football and family fun day for We Will Walk This Road Together. Karen MacInnes, right, alongside daughter Jenna, left, handed over the cheques, with John Scott, centre, the main organiser of the event, overseeing the exchange. Lillian Kermode accepted the cheque on behalf of Marie Curie while June Pearson accepted the Cancer Research UK donation. A further donation will be made to Oban Hospice once the accounts are finalised. Townsfolk were shocked earlier this year when one of the founding members of the charity, Nonny MacInnes, died after a battle with cancer. Nonny, Karen, Jenna, Kirsty and Rhoda MacInnes, and a team of volunteers and musicians, ran a number of hugely successful concerts in the Corran Halls, supporting Cancer Research, Oban Hospice and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

including other local marinas, and consulted widely, including hosting a well-attended open day.

‘There has been no change in the size of the facilities and berthing numbers have not increased since the original planning consent, business case and marine licence were approved.’

‘These first-class facilities will

be a real asset to Oban and the surrounding area and help fulfil our ambition of making the town a focus for the West Coast marine tourism industry. This investment of more than £3 million will make it easier to welcome marine visitors to Oban and provide easy access to the town for kayakers, yachters, cruise ships and tour operators.

‘We are providing short-stay berths, bringing economic benefits to the town and surrounding area. The finger-berth pontoons and concrete floating breakwater will provide flexible short-stay capacity.’

‘The facilities will contribute to the country’s marine tourism strategy, Awakening the Giant,

which is backed by all main Scottish development agencies and which identified the need for more berthing facilities.’

‘Due to the ongoing construction, car parking in the area of the North Pier may be limited at times and drivers are asked to park considerately and safely while the work is ongoing.’

Highland line friends are given presentation

PRESENTATIONS from two major train company officials featured in last week’s annual general meeting of a group promoting the development of train services in the West Highlands.

Friends of the West Highland Lines welcomed Alex Sharkey, head of operations at Network Rail, and Alasdair Smart, tourism manager at ScotRail, to the Alexandra Hotel last Friday, May 12.

Mr Sharkey outlined plans for cutting vegetation on the West Highland Line (WHL). He said £50,000 is available for the work.

He said: ‘This year we were going to spend some money doing the Kyle of Lochalsh line but because the vegetation is so bad on the WHL we have decided to spend all of the £50,000 on it and try to get extra funding to do the Plockton area.’

Mr Sharkey explained the cost of maintaining and renewing the WHL is around £11m a year and millions have been spent in Scotland on drainage, following bad storms. On the development and future of the line, the idea of bringing more freight trains was discussed. ‘In the next couple of years we need to be looking at encouraging freight onto the railways. There needs to be conversations about what freight we can lift on to the railways to take it away from the roads.’

Improvements to Banavie swing bridge should be finished in six weeks. Mr Sharkey, who visited the bridge before the AGM, said concerns about ‘potential access to the workings underneath the bridge’ are being addressed. Concerns about people who are visually impaired knowing when the bridge was going to swing were also raised.

A buzzer to sound the bridge beginning to swing was suggested.

Argyll College UHI gears up for outdoor adventure

Are You Open to Adventure?



If adrenaline-fuelled outdoor activity is your idea of fun, Argyll College UHI has a brand new course which is ideal for you.

NC Outdoor Adventure Sports is a one year course which will include a range of Adventure Sports units overseen by one of the country’s most experienced outdoor activity instructors – Andy Spink of Oban-based Hebridean Pursuits Ltd (HPL).

Andy, who has spent nearly 30 years running HPL, is passionate about outdoor education. He will be teaching Adventure Sports (canyoning, gorge walking and coasteering), Rock Climbing, Paddle Sports, and Summer and Winter Hillwalking. The course

may also include a multi-activity week at HPL’s Tavool House outdoor centre on Mull.

Anatomy, Nutrition, Contemporary Fitness and other subjects are also studied. ‘It’s very exciting for us to be given the opportunity to get students participating in - and hopefully enthused by - outdoor adventure and education,’ Andy said.

‘This course will be a fantastic way for anyone who’s keen on adventure sports and outdoor activities and thinks they might want to pursue a career in that area to get themselves onto the first rung of the ladder. Who knows where that ladder might lead?’

Successful completion of the Level 5 course could

lead on to various opportunities including other further education qualifications, apprenticeships and even a degree. The University of the Highlands and Islands currently offers degree courses in Adventure Education, Adventure Performance and Coaching and Adventure Tourism Management at The School of Adventure Studies in Fort William.

According to Andy, there’s no better place in the UK in which to be involved in outdoor education.

‘The West Coast of Scotland is one of the world’s best adventure playgrounds, and we’re right in the middle of it,’ he said.

‘We’ll be doing some really adventurous, fun, ex-

citing activities. There will be a classroom element but this is primarily designed as a practical, skills-based course. Our highly experienced team of instructors can’t wait to meet the first group of students and get started.’

More information about this course can be found at www.argyllcollege.ac.uk – search for ‘outdoor adventure’.

Hebridean Pursuits Ltd is part of the Roses Charitable Trust. All proceeds subsidise The Roses Project, which offers residential adventure activities for disadvantaged young people at Tavool House on Mull. For more details, please go to www.hebrideanpursuits.co.uk



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Viewpoint



Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

It is a measure of how much society has changed in relatively recent times that the outcome of the local authority election in the Western Isles has been described as 'depressing and embarrassing'.

That description has been levelled, of course, because there is not a single woman councillor elected in the Western Isles. It is not so long ago that such a result would not have prompted comment at all in some areas.

In part, the problem with a lack of representation stems from a small number of women candidates, which saw only six females out of 60 hopefuls. As one of the

candidates, Lesley McKenzie, told the *Lochaber Times*, that the shortage of women standing makes the outcome hardly surprising.

On a more positive note, Ms McKenzie pointed out that there is a recently-constituted group called the Hebridean Women's Network which has started up in recognition of the lack of female representation in public life. Ms McKenzie now says she hopes the 'ridiculous' election result will prove to be a catalyst for more women to come forward for election in the Western Isles. We can only hope that is the case.



Days gone by – 1996

This week we go back to June of 1996 and the 'christening' of a new bus for Oban business Stealaway Diving Contracts. Doing the honours with the bottle is Carol Waplington, watched by Myra and Liam Griffin to her right, and the rest of the Stealaway Diving Contracts team.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
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Public pressure is key to Billy's release

I AM not a fan of hot climates and last Sunday, as I waited in a long slow-moving queue under the blazing Mediterranean sun, getting cooked while waiting to check in for a delayed return flight, my indignation was on the rise.

The discomfort was growing, as was my frustration at the lack of information being given to passengers. We had been waiting for a nearly an hour at this stage with no signs of resolution.

Wiling in the heat, I felt justified in feeling angry and impatient, as well as worried about missing our connecting flight home.

That was until I had a look at my Facebook page and at the top of my newsfeed was a photograph of a hand-written letter from Billy Irving to Prime Minister Theresa May.

For three and a half years now Billy has been feeling his life pass by in the sweltering heat of a disgusting Chennai prison cell with no clean water to drink, no sanitation and no prospect of freedom. After reading the letter, my own insignificant discomforts and frustrations were immediately put in their place.

Billy's plight has been covered well by



Billy Irving with fiancée Yvonne MacHugh and son William

this paper, by some parts of the wider media, by a strong Facebook campaign and by his family, who have been working tirelessly trying to make progress in bringing this heart-rending tale to an end.

I wrote about the injustice of the situation in an article before Christmas, and I am very sorry to say that since then almost nothing has changed and Billy and his 34 colleagues are no closer to gaining release.

I laid out my interpretation of the facts then and will re-post that piece on Facebook for anyone who would like to read the prelude to this article.

There is no clear way to a resolution, but one definite possibility to bring

about Billy's release is direct intervention by the British Government.

Regardless of the complexities of the case and despite the political quagmire in which they are caught up, if there was enough political will, the British Government would do what it takes to get the six British citizens released.

All over the country are newly and re-elected councillors, and on June 8 there is a general election. Now is a good time for the public, by all means possible, to press upon elected council representatives and those seeking parliamentary election and re-election to add their weight and will, pushing to the highest level of government the urgency and injustice of this situation.

Politics is an intricate game but there is no doubt that pressure from the public – especially at times of election – is a clear route to get issues dealt with.

Billy will soon be seeing another birthday pass by with no prospect of being reunited with his fiancée Yvonne MacHugh and young son William. That boy is growing up without a father and a family's existence is being ripped apart.

The conventional legal route is not working, so by writing letters, sending emails, talking to door-stepping candidates, writing and sharing Facebook statuses, tweeting and telling friends, together we can all help to bring Billy back.



Donald Bowness quipped: 'Wow a sea eagle takes a lamb when thousands are killed every day to put food on our tables. That eagle has more right than us to have it!'

Laura Cook said: 'Crows are dreadful creatures too, they remove the eyes of lambs and sheep, given half a chance, I can't remember if it's the crow, or the raven that takes the tongues of lambs. The difference is, farmers can and do control numbers of crows, where Ravens are protected.'

Megan Seacord posted: 'I've gone from thinking ravens were clever and admirable to having a raging hatred for their butchering ways. I'd happily shoot them all!'

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

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

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

Pesticide Gazelle is about to be banned

Sir,

In response to the letter from Tim Liddon of Tilhill Forestry (*The Oban Times*, April 27), many pesticides that are now banned – eg, organophosphates – were once authorised and approved by government and scientific authorities.

Neonicotinoids are already banned in some European countries, and are shortly to be banned by the EU.

Pesticides are designed to kill, and neonicotinoids destroy acetylcholine in nerves and the brain.

The hazards for the neonicotinoid pesticide Gazelle (which is an acetamiprid) are: highly water soluble, very persistent in aquatic systems, moderate mammalian toxicity, high potential for bio-accumulation, highly toxic to birds and earthworms, toxic to aquatic organisms, and contaminates other plants, which depend on insect pollination, by the fungal mycorrhizal association from the systemic treated trees.

Yes we enjoy the forests, but also for their wildlife and flowers.

Mull has one of the richest variety and concentration of wildlife in Europe – golden eagles; a flourishing hen harrier population (which is declining in the rest of UK) and insects not found anywhere else.

Tilhill Forestry has a responsibility, as custodian of the land for future generations, to ensure that this wonderful diversity of wildlife and flowers (which depend on insect pollinators, like bees) is protected.

Wildlife tourism is also a major factor in Mull's economy.

**Michael Shilton,
Dervaig, Isle of Mull.**

Dunbeg people have been kept in the dark

Sir,

Thank you for letting Dunbeg Community Council and us know about the planning approval for 600 new houses in three phases. Without *The Oban Times*, we would not have known.

The lack of information from Argyll and Bute Council, Link Group and Transport Scotland to our community council and people who live and work in our village in this whole process has been appalling.

Dunbeg Community Council is the only one that went round and found out what residents and people who work in the village want. The message was very clear: no more houses without proper roads, school and other infrastructure. We need to find out the following from councillors, Transport Scotland and Link Group.

* What number of each type of housing is being proposed? How many people will be taken off the housing list with these houses?

* What are the plans for the school which we know is near capacity? One rumour circulating is Portakbins and we all know the history of Rockfield School and temporary buildings.

* How does Transport Scotland back a roundabout from the Oban side sometime in the future? How does it think 300-plus extra cars moving morning, lunchtime and evening can get into

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



MAR A THA MI air a thogail roimhe bho chionn ghoidid, saoilidh mi gur iomadh seanfhacal agus gnàthas-cainnte a tha a' call brìgh mar a thèid na bliadhnaichean seachad agus dòigh-beatha agus obrach an t-sluaigh ag atharrachadh.

Ach tha aon a tha gu cinnteach cho fìor an-diugh 's a bha e a' chiad turas a theireadh e, agus sin gur iomadh rud boidhe nach òr agus gur iomadh rud boidheach as fhìach a sheachnadh! Freagraidh comhairle nam briathran seo air iomadhach suidheachadh ìbhinn agus sòlaime, agus thàinig iad nam intinn is mi ag èisteachd le tomhas de dh'umhas ris an naidheachd gun robh eucoraich air bhioras a chruthachadh a bh' air briseadh a-staigh dha clàran-fiosrachaidh didseatach sheirbheisean slàinte na dùthcha.

Cha b' ann air na seirbheisean sin a-mhàin a rinneadh call, tha gnìomhachasan feadh an t-saoghail air fulang cuideachd, ach saoilidh mi gum bi a' mhòr-chuid d'ghrèidh gum faodadh fiosrachadh dìomhair mun cuid slàinte a bhith air fhòillseachadh.

Tha na thachair an seo na dhearb-

or out the village using the existing entrance without a roundabout? Has the A85 to be blocked at these times by people trying to get in or out of Dunbeg? Who is the person or persons liable in Transport Scotland if there are injuries or fatalities caused by its advice?

* It has been said that a meeting is being planned for a Friday between 4pm and 6pm to tell people about this. Who is going to come to a meeting at this time? It is clearly more lack of communication. It is clear that everybody who resides and works in Dunbeg needs to get information through their letterbox.

It is clear that the only way forward is to say no to any more houses without meaningful dialogue with Dunbeg Community Council and the residents and those who work in Dunbeg.

**Bill Harvey,
Castle Road, Dunbeg.**

Parking problems will be discussed again

Sir,

Oban Community Council welcomes the highlighting of the parking situation in Oban, which has repeatedly been discussed at our meetings.

We have several times expressed our willingness to bring together all the interested parties to develop the best achievable arrangements, now and in the future.

These must encompass short-stay parking for those having business in the town centre, all-day parking for those who commute into Oban for work, spaces for the many town centre residents, and long-stay parking for ferry passengers and crew.

While we are very willing to listen to suggestions from others, we believe that these arrangements should be developed in Oban, by Oban and for Oban.

Our next meeting will be on May 29 at 7pm in the Rockfield Centre. Perhaps we can make arrangements for a suitable forum?

**Marri Malloy, convener,
Duncan Martin, deputy convener,
Oban Community Council.**

Councillors should get on with the day job

Sir,

I am disappointed to note three recently-elected Argyll and Bute councillors – Alan Reid (Liberal Democrats), Aileen Morton (Liberal Democrats) and Gary Mulvaney (Conservative and Unionist) – have decided to stand as candidates in the general election on June 8.

While it is not unusual for council members to put themselves forward for parliamentary consideration, the timing here is suspect and shows a complete lack of regard for both the council and the electorate of Argyll and Bute.

I urge these councillors to serve their constituents and communities by getting on with the day job that they were elected to just two weeks ago.

**Councillor Julie McKenzie,
Creag Bhan Village,
Oban.**

Many thanks to all my 'stickers' and helpers

Sir,

I wish to thank all who supported me during the recent council election. I am delighted to have been returned to represent you for a third term of office.

Thank you to my family who have supported me over the previous two terms and also this year in my leaflet delivery, and for all the chauffeuring. Thank you to Brian and Chris Swinbanks for organising the team of people who turned a bad situation into a good one by sticking all the stickers onto my leaflets. Thanks to all the 'stickers'.

Thanks to the Cameron and Fisher families, the McClymont family, Carol MacKenzie, Julie Walker, Alasdair MacDougall, and Catherine and Alastair Carswell for all the leaflets you delivered for me. What a super help that was and greatly appreciated.

A big thank you to all who voted for me and allowed me to be your representative on Argyll and Bute Council. Whether you voted for me or not, whether you are a member of a political party or not, I am your representative and will be working on behalf of you all, irrespective of your political persuasion.

**Councillor Mary-Jean Devon,
Mull.**

Pleased to prove my doubters wrong

Sir,

May I say a huge thank you to everyone who voted for me in the local election. Our new intake of members and our veterans were a terrific help during this election as was my local association and family. I could not have done it without you all.

I was told by many separatists that I had no chance of winning and that I was wasting my time. I'm proud to have proven them wrong.

With an increase of nearly 100 votes on my result last time, I have been elected as your councillor for the Kintyre and the Islands ward. I will fight hard to see our roads and infrastructure improved across our ward. I will strive to serve and represent all of my council ward not just the people who share my political views.

If you have a problem or concern, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.**

Congratulations to successful candidates

Sir,

I would like to thank the people in Oban South and the Isles who voted for me. I very much enjoyed meeting residents, in particular at the various meetings.

It is clear from these meetings that residents are very committed to their areas. I am disappointed that I will not be able to represent the ward.

Finally, I would like to congratulate those who were elected: Mary-Jean Devon, Roddy McCuish, Jim Lynch and Jamie McGrigor.

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

Ailean Caimbeul

Social media

DRAMATIC photographs of a sea eagle carrying away a lamb in its talons provoked lively debate about wildlife, conservation and farming. David McLoughlin posted: 'Probably not happy but we can't stop nature we have to live with it. We ran this bird to extinction in this country we should be proud they are now coming back.'

Lucy Nicholson explained: 'I am not Lucy Nicholson I am her husband and a farmer and know sea eagles take lambs but conservationists are talking of reintroducing lynx more lambs decimated but am sure it will bring in the holidaymakers.'

Alex Eaton slammed: 'I hate when conservationists think to solve one prob-

lem you introduce another species like the lynx into the food chain and hope it only does what you want it to do, how many times has reintroducing animals back into the wild actually worked without affecting unintentionally other species and landscape around it? Just think of the extra cost to farmers to protect their livestock from lynx as well.'

Katharine Elwis offered: 'I have heard RSPB representatives say, categorically, that these birds do not take lambs. Farmers beg to differ.'

Kirstine Hancock wrote: 'We (humans) breed and kill thousands of lamb every year for food..... but god forbid any other animal should do the same as us!'

Press policy

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

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

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

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

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

Your letters

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

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

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

Lochaber Phoenix boxers end the season in style

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club held their final home show of the season last Saturday in a sold-out Nevis Centre.

Almost 400 people packed into the hall in An Aird to watch 12 bouts featuring 24 boxers from all over Scotland, including eight from the host club.

Senior middleweight Dawid Jarzab topped the bill against Jamie Walker from the Jacobite club in Nairn and this bout proved worthy of its bill-topping status as the two boxers went to war in a bout which featured multiple meaty exchanges where defence wasn't high on the agenda and the only surprise was the only knockdown which came in the final punch of the bout when Walker hit the deck from a Jarzab right hand on the bell.

Main reason

The more accurate left hand jab of Dawid was probably the main reason the decision went the way of the Fort William boxer, who was making a welcome return to the ring after an amazing six-year absence and also clinched him the boxer of the night trophy.

The Lochaber club had three senior boxers making their debut on the show, the first of which was middleweight Graham Al-

lison, who faced another boxer in Jacobite's Duncan Cameron.

Allison showed great speed and quality footwork for someone engaging in their first bout and seemed to grow into the contest as his confidence improved with every round. Fittingly, the final bell sounded with Cameron pinned on the ropes under a barrage of punches from the Lochaber boxer which helped seal the points victory for Allison.

Light-heavyweight John MacKenzie faced Mark McKendrick of Cambusnethen, a fellow debutant, in another crowd-pleasing battle.

MacKenzie moved well in the opening round, keeping McKendrick at long range and winning the round. McKendrick, however, closed the gap in the second round which led to a fiercely contested final round which MacKenzie took due to some strong two-fisted attacks. A well deserved points win for John.

Welterweight Alasdair Greens faced another Jacobite boxer in Tam Corley. Both boxers tried to control the centre of the ring in the first round with neither really stamping their authority. Through the

course of the contest each of the combatants took turns to launch two-handed assaults with varying degrees of success. This was a really evenly matched bout with Greens edging the points on the scorecards and taking home a debut win.

Entertaining

Welterweight Lee Bruce faced middleweight Keiron Burke of Forgewood Boxing Club in a thoroughly entertaining exhibition in which Lee showed some wonderful skills considering he was only entertaining a boxing crowd for the 10th time, superbly negating the larger Burke's advantages in size and strength and delighting the purists.

Fifteen-year-old multi-talented Cameron Whyte clinched the young boxer of the night trophy with a typically virtuoso performance against the teak tough Robert Hewitt of Glasgow's Southside Boxing Club.

Whyte never really moved out of first gear as he stalked the Glaswegian, showing excellent head movement and a great awareness of distance.

Producing a huge variety of punches and constantly varying the areas of attack, Whyte looked every inch the experienced international boxer



Lochaber Phoenix boxers (back row, left to right) John MacKenzie, Lee Bruce, Graham Allison and Dawid Jarzab; front row, left-right Max Derbenovs, Cameron Whyte and Josh Dieguno. Photo: Abrightside Photography.

he is as he soundly outpointed his opponent, gaining the young boxer of the night award and also picking up the club's boxer of the season award.

Appreciation

Twelve-year-old Max Derbenovs showed enormous improvement in his battle against Forgewood's Andrew Sneddon.

Although narrowly losing out on the scorecards, Derbenovs not only brought his customary all-action style to the bout but also a newly found appreciation of defence as he in turn blocked, used head movement and good footwork to avoid a large number of the shots coming his way. It looks like there could be a

lot of success coming his way in the future.

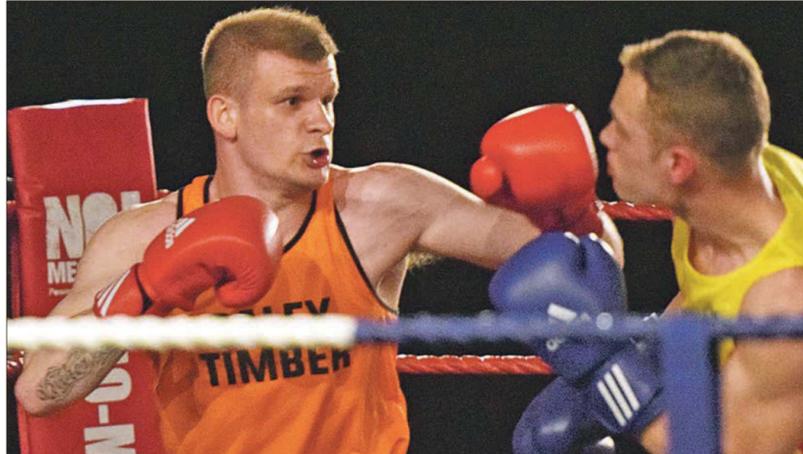
Ten-year-old Josh Dieguno showed why he was voted the club's most improved boxer this season as he edged his scored skills bout against HBA's Ruari Urquhart. Dieguno showed good adaptability in changing tactics during the contest from

Boxing

boxing on the back foot inviting Urquhart to attack and also pressing the action to force his Invernessian opponent backwards. A great learning contest for Josh who was surely got a big future in store.



Alasdair Greens edged past Thomas Corley taking home a debut win.



Dawid Jarzab returned to the ring after an absence of six years. He defeated Jamie Walker and also won the boxer of the night trophy. Action photos: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



Ten-year-old Josh Dieguno after winning his bout against Ruari Urquhart.



Lee Bruce took on Keiron Burke.



Graham Allison defeated Duncan Cameron on points.



John MacKenzie outpointed Mark McKendrick in an entertaining bout.

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

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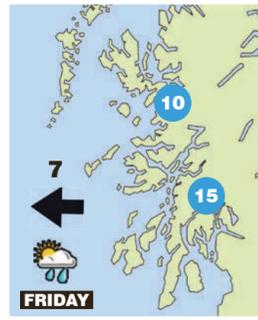
Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

WEATHER

Thursday Sunny intervals
Winds light south westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 13°C.

Friday Heavy rain showers
Winds light easterly
Temperatures 8°C to 14°C.

Weekend Cloudy on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Winds moderate west north westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 13°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday May 18, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date		am		pm	
Thur	04.25	1.8	09.57	2.9	16.43
Fri	05.36	1.8	11.09	2.8	17.52
Sat	00.15	3.1	06.50	1.7	13.05
Sun	01.52	3.2	08.00	1.5	14.24
Mon	02.51	3.4	08.58	1.3	15.12
Tues	03.39	3.7	09.48	1.0	15.54
Wed	04.23	3.9	10.34	0.7	16.35

Port	Difference	Port	Difference
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

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)



spa



YOUR GUIDE TO RELAXATION
AND PAMPERING



spa

With more of us looking for ways to boost self-confidence or learn how to manage stress, it is little wonder that spa days are a rising trend in the wellness world. Spas are places devoted to overall well being through a variety of professional services that encourage the renewal of mind, body and spirit. With today's busy work and family schedules, sometimes we need an escape. Perhaps there is a niggling problem that we could use some help with, such as tight and aching muscles or chronic pain. Maybe we just want to indulge in a bit of pampering or enjoy a special beauty treatment. There are so many benefits to shutting out the world and giving yourself the gift of a little 'me time', and a visit to a spa is the perfect way to do this! In today's fast paced life, it becomes very essential to allay stress as much as possible. By visiting





a spa you will feel pampered and rejuvenated, whether you are getting a massage, a skin treatment or just a manicure. When you take time out for yourself, the return on your investment will be improved well-being.

And when you put yourself in the expert hands of a spa therapist, she can help your skin, hair and nails look their absolute best with a variety of ancient time-proven therapies and 21st century treatments using natural ingredients such as Scottish seaweed and aloe vera. And when you feel relaxed on the inside and beautiful on the outside, it's a huge boost in self-confidence, giving you a whole new outlook on life.

Spa days are a brilliant way to celebrate with the girls, spend quality time with your sweetheart or just take some time alone, with nobody yelling, 'Mum!' for at least an hour- ah, think of the bliss! Who needs to jet off to the big city or Europe for world-class spa treatments?

Here on the West Coast, we are spoiled for places to chill out, relax, recharge, reflect, detoxify and re-energise.

What to expect from your first spa visit

You have booked your first spa appointment and are all ready for a pampering session, what should you expect?

Be sure to tell the spa receptionist that it's your first visit- he or she should take as much time as you need to answer any questions you may have. They can explain the different treatments on offer and make suggestions to customise your visit. You might also ask for a tour of the facility.

The most popular spa treatments are massage therapy, facials, body treatments, manicures and pedicures, but there are also more exotic treatments on offer, such as a Rasul Mud experience or a frozen crystal facial.

It's best to arrive at least 15 minutes early to fill out any paperwork and make sure you are not rushed- after all, the whole idea is to relax, and if you are late, you will be stressed out. Also, your time slot usually can not be extended, so if you arrive late, your treatment might be cut short.

When you arrive, you may be shown to the changing room and given a robe, slippers and towel, or taken straight to the therapy room, where, if needed, the therapist will leave you to disrobe and get comfortable on the treatment table or chair.

Now it's time to lie back, relax and put yourself in your therapist's expert hands. This is your time, so enjoy the tranquillity, beauty and sense of refreshment that only a visit to a spa can offer!



RESIDENTIAL PACKAGES & WELCOME PACKS

Stobo Castle means many different things to guests who come back to us year after year. Some join us for relaxation and pampering; some for rest among tranquil surroundings, or exercise and toning. Others are simply seeking a personal treat or beauty boost.

REVITALISING BREAK

No treatments included – please choose from our wide range of individual treatments if you wish. Rates are per person per night.

PURE SPA BREAK

Includes two nights' accommodation, one Express Facial (25 mins) and a choice of: one Full Body Massage (55 mins) or one Jessica Prescriptive Manicure Deluxe (55 mins) or one Luxury Mud Wrap (55 mins).

Prices are per person and include VAT. A supplement of £15 per person applies on a Friday night and £25 per person applies on a Saturday night. A deposit of £100 per person is required to confirm a reservation.

Start enjoying your Stobo experience a little bit earlier by joining us for a delicious buffet lunch in the Coffee Shop on your day of arrival. No booking necessary.

*Deluxe rooms include bottled water and fresh fruit.

**The Cashmere Suite includes a bottle of Bollinger champagne, chocolates, bottled water and fresh fruit on arrival.

RESIDENTIAL PACKAGES INCLUDE:

- All meals from dinner on arrival to lunch on departure
- Unlimited use of the health suites and spa facilities
- An extensive range of optional fitness and aqua classes
- Guided walks including the Japanese Water Gardens

SO STOBO WELCOME PACKS

What could be nicer than finding one of our beautifully presented 'So Stobo' Welcome Packs waiting in your room with your name on it.

Whether it's a special occasion or just a 'thank you' gift, the range of packs available will cater for all your requirements. Just choose from the following options and call 01721 725300 to place your order quoting the recipient's name and their arrival date, at least seven days beforehand.

OPTION 1 - £25

- Bottle of "So Stobo" House Wine (Red, White or Rosé)
- Sleeve of "So Stobo" chocolates
- Card with personalised message

OPTION 2 - £55

- Half bottle of champagne
- Fresh flower arrangement
- Sleeve of "So Stobo" chocolates
- Card with personalised message

OPTION 3 - £65

- "So Stobo" fluffy, white bathrobe
- Pair of "So Stobo" slippers
- Set of two Stobo Luxury products
- Card with personalised message

OPTION 4 - £85

- So Stobo Terramundi Money Pot
- Teddy Bear
- Bottle of champagne
- Card with personalised message

Please note that payment for Welcome Packs is non-refundable and payment for option 2 is requested at the time of booking

RESIDENTIAL PACKAGES 2017 – PRICES

	REVITALISING BREAK		PURE SPA BREAK	
	SHARING	SINGLE	SHARING	SINGLE
CASTLE LODGE	£135	£195	£345	£465
STANDARD	£155	£215	£385	£505
CLASSIC	£175	£235	£425	£545
DELUXE*	£195	£255	£465	£585
CASHMERE SUITE**	£299	£399	£690	£890



STOBO CASTLE HEALTH SPA

SCOTLAND'S ONLY DESTINATION SPA

Nestled among the beautiful Scottish Borders countryside, Stobo Castle offers excellent service, fine food, elegantly trained staff and above all, the ability to find peace in a frenetic world.

The magnificent Scottish Castle is set deep within the Scottish Borders countryside in private grounds and surrounded by vast pine forests and a tranquil lake. Award-winning Stobo Castle is the ultimate escape where one can indulge in a luxurious haven, unwind and enjoy some of the finest hospitality and first class service that Scotland has to offer.

From the sweeping driveway when one enters the castle, guests are enveloped into an environment of unrivalled luxury, serenity and calmness. The personality of each room is unique but all are rich and elegant with perfect ambience to make one feel comfortable. The internationally renowned Cashmere Suite is Scotland's most luxurious and opulent bedroom. A haven of sensual pleasure, it is the ultimate in style and comfort, featuring cashmere wall coverings and "his and her" four poster beds. A handcrafted, oval limestone

bath weighing over a ton and big enough for two is the focal point, with an extensive range of Molton Brown products for guests to enjoy whilst relaxing in the decadence of the bathroom.

Guests at Stobo are drawn to Scotland's only 25m Ozone Pool offering panoramic views of the Borders countryside and giant Hydrospa with relaxing water jets. Knowledgeable fitness trainers run a full range of classes throughout the day, suitable for every level of fitness. 2013 saw the complete refurbishment of the gymnasium and more recently, three outdoor, torch-lit hot tubs were added.

Whatever the senses desire, there are customised spa treatments available to detoxify, smooth, tone and revitalise as the mood suits, carried out by highly-trained personal therapists. The new range of Couples Treatments include truly special rituals designed for

two people to enjoy together or be massaged with 2,000 litres of warm water without getting wet on a Dreamwater massage bed.

The gently burbling Japanese Water Gardens are truly spectacular and are specially designed to promote a Zen-like calm. Water from the Stobo Lake tumbles down a cascading waterfall, whilst delightful little bridges take you over peaceful pools.

At Stobo chef's create dishes sourced from only the finest Scottish produce that are not only delicious but promote healthy eating whilst satisfying even the heartiest appetite. In case there was any doubt, decadent desserts are on the menu, as are champagne, cocktails and fine wine.

Stobo Castle combines the finest spa facilities in Europe with premier hotel service and adds a personal touch to make Stobo your very own personal haven.



SPA DAYS

STOBO CASTLE AFTERNOON TEA

£19.95 per person

£26.95 per person - Includes a glass of Bernard Robert Cuvée Reserve, NV, champagne

A traditional afternoon tea served in the Dining Room - includes:

- Your choice of finger cut sandwiches
- Freshly baked scones served with cream and jam
- Delicious handmade cakes
- A selection of Twinings loose leaf teas

Served between 3pm and 4pm, pre-booking is essential and payment is required at the time of booking.

MORNING CHILL OUT

£55 per person*

- Arrival from 9.30am – departure 1.30pm
- Unlimited use of the spa facilities
- Optional fitness and aqua classes and access to the Japanese Water Gardens
- A delicious, healthy buffet lunch with tea or coffee served in the Coffee Shop.

LAZY AFTERNOON

£55 per person*

- Arrival from 2pm – departure 6pm
- Unlimited use of the spa facilities
- Optional fitness and aqua classes and access to the Japanese Water Gardens
- A traditional afternoon tea served in the Coffee Shop

EVENING ESCAPE

£34 per person*

- Arrival from 6pm - departure 10pm
- Unlimited use of the spa facilities
- Access to the Japanese Water Gardens
- Refreshments are available to purchase from the Coffee Shop

* £4 supplement applies on a Saturday and Sunday.

RELAXING SPA DAY

£99 per person**

- Arrival from 9am – Departure 5pm
- Dream Water Massage (15 mins)*
- Express Facial (25 mins)
- Optional fitness and aqua classes and access to the Japanese Water Gardens
- Unlimited use of the spa facilities
- A delicious three course lunch with coffee served in the Dining Room

*Not suitable for pregnant ladies.

STOBO SPA DAY

£125 per person**

- Arrival from 9am – Departure 5pm
- Choose two of the following treatments:
Back Massage (25 mins)
Facial Massage (25 mins)
Jessica Hand Treatment (25 mins)
ZenSpa Foot Treatment (25 mins)
File & Polish - Hands Only (25 mins)
- Optional fitness and aqua classes and access to the Japanese Water Gardens
- Unlimited use of the spa facilities
- A delicious three course lunch with coffee served in the Dining Room

LUXURY SPA DAY

£165 per person**

- Arrival from 9am - Departure 5pm
- Choose two of the following treatments:
Full Body Massage (55 mins)
French Facial (55 mins)
Luxury Mud Wrap (55 mins)
Jessica Prescriptive Manicure Deluxe (55 mins)
ZenSpa Pedicure Deluxe (55 mins)
- Optional fitness and aqua classes and access to the Japanese Water Gardens
- Unlimited use of the spa facilities
- A delicious three course lunch with coffee served in the Dining Room

** £15 supplement applies on a Saturday and Sunday.



FULL TREATMENT LIST

SIGNATURE TREATMENTS

- DREAM WATER MASSAGE
- BODY EXFOLIATION
- BACK MASSAGE
- FULL BODY MASSAGE
- MOTHER-TO-BE BACK MASSAGE
- MOTHER-TO-BE FULL BODY MASSAGE
- PARAFFIN WAX
- PARAFFIN WAX FULL BODY WITH ESSENTIAL OILS
- STOBO CASTLE LUXURY MUD WRAP*
- SERAILBAD MUD ROOM
- STOBO'S TOP TO TOE SUGAR GLOW
- STOBO'S EXCLUSIVE HOT STONE MASSAGE
- AROMATHERAPY
- INDIAN HEAD MASSAGE
- REFLEXOLOGY
- SPORTS MASSAGE** †
- FAKE BAKE SPRAY TAN
- STOBO CASTLE EXPRESS FACIAL
- STOBO CASTLE FACIAL MASSAGE
- STOBO CASTLE FRENCH FACIAL
- EYELASH TINT
- EYEBROW TINT
- EYELASH/BROW TINT
- EYEBROW SHAPE
- PERSONAL MAKE UP

CAUDALIE

- VINO PERFECT RADIANCE FACIAL
- VINO SOURCE ANTI-OXIDANT HYDRATING FACIAL
- VINEACTIVE GLOW ACTIVATING ANTI-POLLUTION FACIAL
- RESVERATROL LIFT FACIAL
- ANTI-AGEING EYE TREATMENT
- PREMIER CRU ULTIMATE ANTI-AGEING FACIAL
- DIVINE MASSAGE
- PRE-POST NATAL BODY MASSAGE

DARPHIN

- PERFECT POLISH
- DEEP RELAXATION BACK MASSAGE
- DEEP REBALANCING FULL BODY MASSAGE
- EXPRESS FACIAL
- ESSENTIAL FACIAL
- EXPERT FACIAL
- DIVINE LIFTING FACIAL

NEOM

- DE-STRESS TREATMENT
- ENERGISE TREATMENT
- HAPPINESS TREATMENT
- SLEEP TREATMENT
- EXPRESS DE-STRESS TREATMENT
- ENERGISING FOOT TREATMENT
- EXPRESS HAPPINESS TREATMENT
- PREGNANCY WELLBEING TREATMENT

PHYTOMER

- SEA HOLISTIC RADIANCE TREATMENT
- SCULPT ZONES
- LEG REVIVAL TREATMENT
- EYE PERFECTION
- DISCOVERY FACIAL
- PIONEER FACIAL
- CITY LIFE FACIAL

HOLISTIC THERAPIES

- REIKI **
- SEIKHEM-HATHOR© **
- THETAHEALING® TECHNIQUE**
- COMBINATION WELLBEING SESSION**
- CRYSTAL HEALING AND CHAKRA BALANCING **

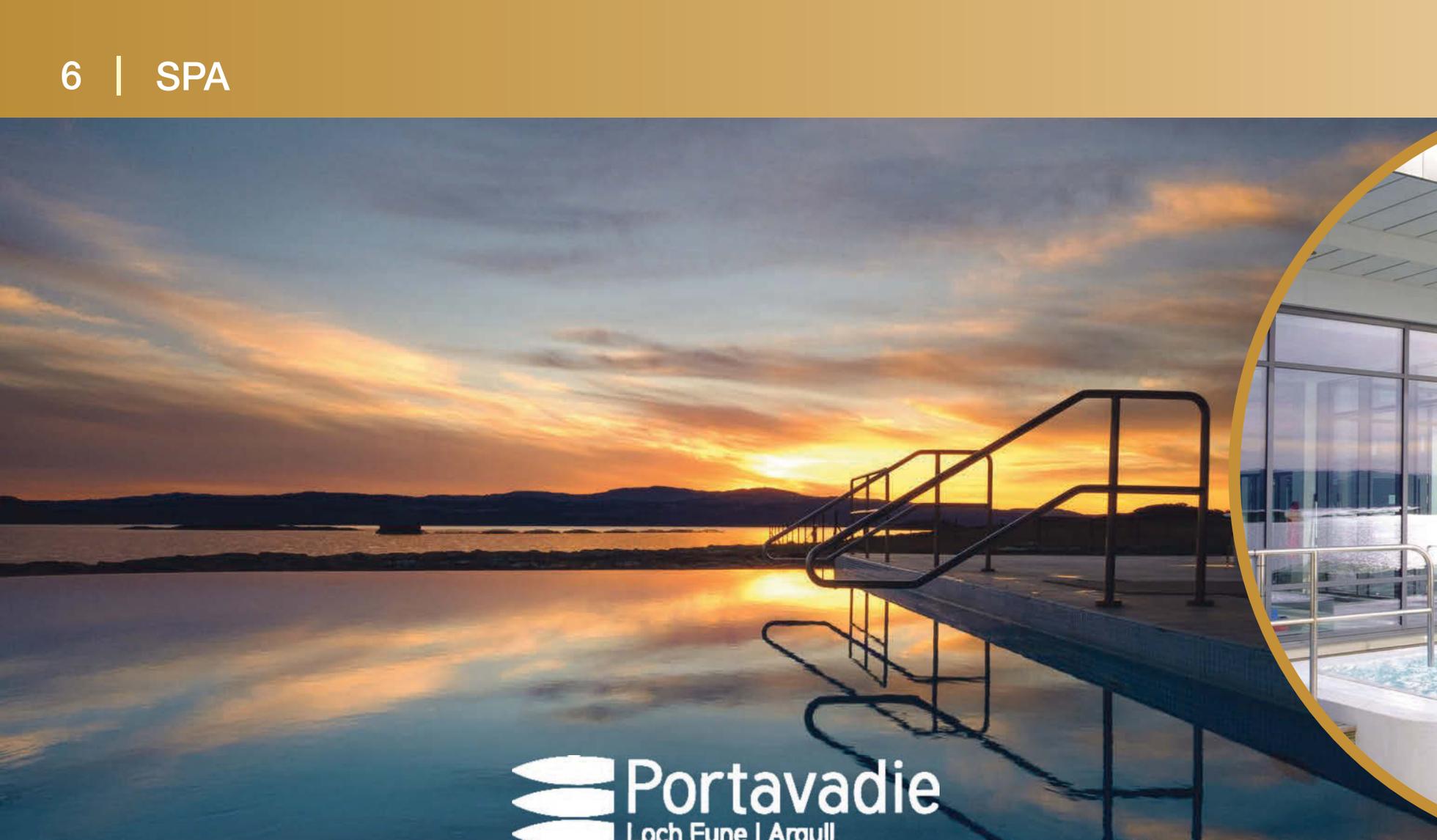
TREATMENTS FOR MEN

- MARINEPURE – DEEP CLEANSING
- MARINECALM – CALMING & RELAXING
- MARINEZEST – ENERGISING *
- MARINEFOOTSPA – FOOT TREATMENT
- MARINEHANDSPA – HAND TREATMENT

HANDS, FEET & WAXING

- JESSICA PRESCRIPTIVE MANICURE *
- JESSICA PRESCRIPTIVE MANICURE DELUXE INCORPORATING THE LEREMEDI BY JESSICA HAND TREATMENT PROGRAMME *
- JESSICA FRENCH MANICURE
- LEREMEDI HAND TREATMENT BY JESSICA
- JESSICA PHENOM FILE & POLISH
- ZENSPA PEDICURE *
- ZENSPA PEDICURE DELUXE WITH THERMAL BOOTIES *
- ZENSPA FRENCH PEDICURE
- ZENSPA FOOT TREATMENT
- JESSICA GELERATION MANICURE
- JESSICA GELERATION PEDICURE
- WAXING





Portavadie
Loch Fyne | Argyll

MEET THE TEAM

AVRIL VERNON, PORTAVADIE'S SPA & LEISURE MANAGER, SHARES HER FAVOURITE TREATMENTS AND SPACES AT PORTAVADIE.

'Our range of bespoke signature treatments offer something for everyone, from special packages for mums-to-be to treatments tailored to men. For complete relaxation, I love the DECLÉOR Aromatherapy Warm Stone Massage. It's 55-minutes of pure bliss. The heat-releasing stones help to relieve tension and soothe aches while the melting aromatic balms leave your skin feeling as soft as silk.

The ishga Detoxifying Seaweed Body Wrap is another favourite, combining the detoxifying and nourishing effects of the purest seaweed gel with the stimulating and hydrating properties of a scrub. Naturally healing, moisturising and anti-ageing, seaweed is rich in vitamins, minerals and anti-cellulite properties. Imagine lying back and relaxing in a hot bath filled with fresh, hand-harvested Scottish seaweed and mineral sea salts. The ishga Seaweed Bath is the perfect treatment.

After your treatment you can continue to relax and unwind with the exclusive Spa Experience. It is truly stunning, with floor-to-ceiling windows offering Lemi relaxation beds, hydro pool and sauna all with views across Loch Fyne to the Isle of Arran. Then as the sun begins to set, don't miss the chance for a dip in the infinity pool or a soak in the outdoor spa pools and enjoy a Portavadie sunset. The views are incredible.'

WELCOME TO SPA & LEISURE AT PORTAVADIE

The luxurious Spa and Leisure Experience at Portavadie sits right on the shore of Loch Fyne. From the incredible outdoor infinity pool to the tranquil treatment and relaxation spaces, it's a truly stunning development. There's something for everyone, whether you're looking for a pamper day with the girls or family poolside fun.

With Scotland's biggest outdoor infinity pool, an indoor pool, splash pool, spa pools and sauna, the Leisure Experience is the perfect way to spend time with family and friends. The facilities are complemented by a state-of-the-art Precor gym.

The exclusive Spa Experience features a hydro pool, Scandinavian sauna, steam room and a relaxation space, all with breath-taking floor-to-ceiling views across Loch Fyne. In line with the luxurious surroundings, the spa therapists offer reviving spa and beauty treatments from spa brands DECLÉOR and ishga in sumptuous treat-



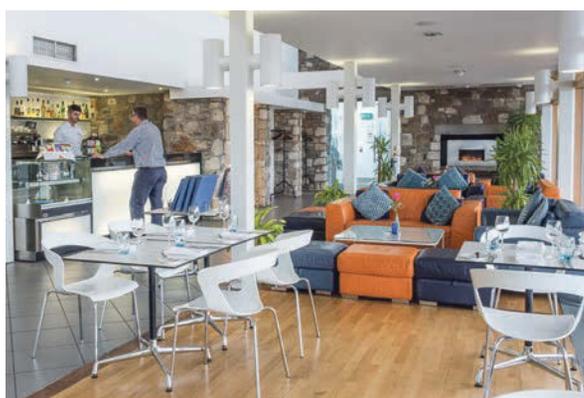
ment rooms complete with mood lighting.

Bespoke signature treatments and spa day packages ensure total relaxation. For great deals, look out for our seasonal residential spa break offers.

DINE WITH US

Enjoy a taste of Argyll's finest local produce, including seafood fresh from Loch Fyne, at Portavadie's

restaurants. The Spa & Leisure Café is a great space to chill out. Tuck into stone-baked pizzas, deli sandwiches, bento box salads and home-churned ice cream in this relaxed and fun space. The café overlooks the pools while the outdoor terrace provides panoramic views of Loch Fyne. For award-winning cuisine head to the Marina Bar & Restaurant and for hearty portions of home-cooked food try the Lodge Kitchen & Bar.



Photos: Ronnie Cairns Photography



TREATMENT LIST

SPA PACKAGES

Choose from a selection of sublime spa days at Portavadie and feel your stresses melt away! All the packages include a bento box lunch, ¼ bottle of Prosecco, tea and coffee and full use of the Spa & Leisure Experience.

HARMONY RETREAT

Mon-Fri £91, Sat & Sun £98

Fall head over heels in love with Loch Fyne with this wonderful day package. Choose one 55-minute ishga or DECLÉOR treatment.

FYNE ESCAPE

Mon-Fri £146, Sat & Sun £154

Enjoy a day of pure relaxation and bliss with this fabulous package. Choose any two 55-minute treatments and create your own perfect spa experience.

PORTAVADIE PARADISE

Mon-Fri £161, Sat & Sun £169

Treat yourself to a comprehensive day of pampering. Indulge your senses with this exquisite mind-and-body experience for complete top-toe tropical relaxation.

RADIANT MUM TO BE

Mon-Fri £106, Sat & Sun £112

Sit back and relax with the choice of prenatal or postnatal treatment. The perfect spa day for some well-deserved 'you' time.

SIGNATURE TREATMENTS

Our signature treatments from luxury spa brands ishga and DECLÉOR offer the ultimate in relaxation. They're guaranteed to leave you glowing!

For our full treatment menu check out www.portavadie.com/spa-experience

Indulge yourself

Chill in our indoor pool or take in the picturesque views of Loch Fyne from our heated infinity pool.

Work out in our state-of-the-art gymnasium or simply relax in the heated sauna, all at a time that suits you.

Adults: £48 **SAVE £57!**

Children: £20 **SAVE £15!**

Terms and conditions apply. Passes are valid for 60 days from issue. Non-refundable.



T 01700 811075
E leisure@portavadie.com
Portavadie | Loch Fyne | Argyll | PA21 2DA



Buy a **Seven Day Flexi-Pass** to our wonderful Leisure Experience





The Stables Spa at Isle of Eriska

Isle of Eriska Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort is set on an enchanted 300-acre private island, accessible via a private bridge and private mooring. An ideal escape for a unique experience with a host of activities and facilities. The hotel boasts the Stables Spa, with a selection of luxurious spa treatments and thermal spa area, Deck Restaurant with outdoor terrace offering all day dining, a six-hole golf course running along the West Coast of the island, and indoor sports facilities. A jewel in Scotland's West Coast the island resort offers the very best of Scottish hospitality on the most beautiful surroundings imaginable.

The Deck Restaurant, flooded by natural light and complimented by an outdoor terrace, combines contemporary design with breath-taking views. Along with the views, the menu on offer is Scottish and moreish, from their own home-smoked salmon to a wide selection of light bites and main courses, also serving local beers and beverages to match, starting from £15 for two courses. The restaurant's suppliers

are selected with traditional Scottish tastes in mind, but also lead with quality and range. The island itself is also a supplier, adding home-grown vegetables and herbs to the dishes, selected by 'green fingered' chefs from the kitchen's own garden. The Deck is open all year round (restricted winter hours) and is the perfect spot for residents and non-residents to meet for morning coffee, late lunch or early evening dinner, with dining available from 12.30pm until 6.30pm. Tea and coffee served daily from 10am.

The Stables Spa: set in the former stables building and accessed by a path through the Spa Garden. Offering five treatment rooms, a Rasul Mud Chamber, 17-metre indoor pool with spa pool, sauna and steam room. It offers luxurious facials, massages, body treatments, bathing rituals and finishing treatments. Post treatment, Eriska's guests are welcome to continue their spa journey in the Relaxation Room to slowly awaken and indulge in the views of Eriska. Experience the Rasul Mud Chamber with finest mineral muds to gently steam, de-stress and detox the body, beneath a twinkling starry sky – the



For bookings or enquiries contact us on 01631 720 371 or email spa@eriska-hotel.co.uk

Isle of Eriska Hotel, Spa & Island, Benderloch, Argyll, Scotland, PA37 1SD | Tel: 01631 720 371 | office@eriska-hotel.co.uk | www.eriska-hotel.co.uk



*Reflexology
now available at
The Stables Spa.
Enjoy a 1 hour treatment
and 2 hours access to the
Thermal Spa for only £50.
Quote 'May Spa'
to book.*



ideal therapy before a massage or facial.

Along with ESPA's professional products the spa also uses ishga, a 100 per cent organic Scottish product from The Hebrides, using ingredients straight from the sea. Seaweed is one of the leading ingredients which is known for its anti-oxidant and anti-aging properties.

Hosting an **indoor sports hall**, Eriska offers sports from tennis and badminton to football or table tennis. At £15 per hour it can be the ideal way to work up an appetite or offers an alternative on those wet Scottish days!

The Eriska Links Golf Course began life in 1994 and has now evolved into a six-hole course. The ethos behind the course is for it to melt and immerse into the landscape, the course naturally follows the West Coast of the island making this a gem of a course. It has its quirky challenges for the experienced players but also a thrilling game for beginners, starting from £15 for a day pass, it also offers a peaceful and scenic walk for the caddy. Along with the course, the island offers practice facilities and driving range to hone and refine your game, finishing in front of The Deck Restaurant where you can enjoy a drink or meal with your tactical talk.



Reachable by land or sea and only three miles from Benderloch or 12 miles from Oban, once you set foot on The Isle of Eriska the sheer purity of the air you breathe promotes relaxation and an unforgettable experience.

*Day Spa
packages
available
from £80.*

TRENDING SPA TREATMENTS

Most everyone has experienced a manicure or massage, but what about some of the more interesting spa treatments that are available? Let's deconstruct some of the hot trends in spa therapies.

RASUL

Rasul thermal mud treatment is a traditional cleansing treatment that is traditional in Arabia, combining the health enhancing properties of heat, steam and mud for a relaxing and skin conditioning treatment in a magical and sensory private environment, complete with twinkling lights and fragrant vapours. In a Rasul treatment, Detoxifying Body & Muscle Essential Oil Clay Lotions are applied to specific areas of the body, then you relax with a combination of steam and cool showers.

REIKI

Reiki is a form of non-intrusive energy healing originating in Japan in the early 1900s in which naturally occurring electromagnetic energy is channelled by an 'attuned' practitioner. Once associated with the incense soaked realm of new age hippies, Reiki is rapidly infiltrating the mainstream. Like acupuncture and reflexology before it, doctors are now recommending Reiki as a viable healing method, and today it's practiced through the world by many millions of people.

REFLEXOLOGY

Reflexology is a type of 'zone therapy' which involves applying pressure to certain points on the hands, feet and ears. Doing this is believed to encourage the body's natural healing process in corresponding areas. It can also be used for stress relief and to improve overall well-being. The therapy is based on the principal that certain points on the feet, hands and ears (known as reflexes) are linked to other areas of the body. For example, the tips of the toes correspond with the head and the heel is associated with the lower back and intestines.

CUPPING

Cupping is a lesser-known treatment that comes from Asian medicine, one that can provide an especially pleasant experience. Cupping is the term applied to a technique that uses small glass cups or bamboo jars as suction devices that are placed on the skin. Once the suction has occurred (with the use of heat), the cups can be gently moved across the skin (often referred to as 'gliding cupping').

The suction in the cups causes the skin and superficial muscle layer to be lightly drawn into the cup. Cupping is much like the inverse of massage - rather than applying pressure to muscles, it uses gentle pressure to pull them upward.

ION CLEANSE

An ion cleanse is meant to be a detoxification system to reduce the symptoms of unavoidable 'toxic overload' through a series of detox sessions. Simply relax with your feet in water for about 30 minutes. The procedure is painless and comfortable. The therapist uses a basin containing sea salt dissolved in purified water and then place an electrical unit, called an array, in the water. The array generates alternating positive and negative ions around the feet. The ions enter the body through your feet and begin neutralizing the toxins. Why the feet? Apparently, the largest pores in your body are located in your feet, allowing for the greatest release of toxins in the shortest amount of time.

ROSE QUARTZ FACIAL

Rose quartz facial massage therapy is a treatment for mind, body and soul. Rose essential oil, rosehip oil and rosewater are used to nourish the skin, while a facial massage with rose quartz crystal wands stimulate cell renewal, heal and re-energise the skin while promoting a feeling of wellbeing. Rose quartz contains a number of minerals, including iron, magnesium, sodium, manganese and silicium, as well as oxygen. Thanks to the ability to transfer energy, this crystal is believed to have a positive effect on body, mind and soul and improve skin moisture, increase vitality and stimulate circulation.

A BOTTOM FACIAL

Why stop at your face when going for a beauty treatment? In America, derriere therapy is all the rage. Scrubs and microtherapy help smooth out the little bumps and lumps on your tush, while a finish of spray tan makes sure your bum is beach ready.



SALT CAVES

The curative effects of the salt cave are believed to lie in the anti-bacterial, anti-microbial, and anti-inflammatory properties of Himalayan crystal salt. Himalayan Crystal Salt is more than mere salt: it is the energy of the primal sea, the Earth, the Sun, and the stars. Once sought by emperors, kings, and sultans, natural crystal salt is believed to be a panacea and it has been known and used as a holistic remedy for centuries. Halotherapy ('halos' in Greek means salt) is a completely natural treatment with no side effects. It takes place in a dry, sterile, and hermetic environment that recreates a natural microclimate identical to ancient salt caves and salt mines. Throughout the therapy, salt aerosol is constantly scattered into the air for the patients to breathe in. The salt aerosol consists of tiny and dry salt particles which are ground in a special salt generator. These aerosolized microparticles can penetrate into the deepest regions of the lungs and deposit upon the surface, destroying bacteria and fungi.

CRYOTHERAPY

Cold air therapy takes place in a whole-body chamber, which has dry fresh, oxygenated air — due to the lack of moisture (humidity) or wind chill, and is not painful like an ice bath or immersion. During the treatment, your skin temperature will decrease between 30-45 degrees over 2.5 to 3.5 minutes inside the chamber. You will immediately warm after exiting the chamber, with full range of motion in your muscles and joints, unlike water or ice treatments, where the joints remain stiff for hours. Even if you don't like being cold, this process will rejuvenate your body, skin and mind, and you will leave feeling warmer than when you arrived.

BEER BATH

Beer has always been the secret to shiny tresses, but in Germany they are taking it to the next level with a beer bath. Besides being bubbly, warm and portable, this whirlpool like treatment is meant to soothe and cleanse the skin with B vitamins, biotin and protein compounds.

The following three treatments are all available at One Spa, Sheraton Grand Hotel, Edinburgh:

AYURVEDIC TREATMENTS

Ayurvedic medicine ("Ayurveda" for short) is one of the world's oldest holistic ("whole-body") healing systems. It was developed more than 3,000 years ago in India. It's based on the belief that health and wellness depend on a delicate balance between the mind, body, and spirit.

Abhyanga is a form of Ayurvedic medicine that involves massage of the body with large amounts of warm oil. The oil is often pre-medicated with herbs for specific conditions.

SERAIL MUD CHAMBER

A traditional Egyptian treatment, the Serail Mud Chamber harnesses the therapeutic benefits of min-

eral mud to improve the complexion, relieve rheumatic discomfort and remove toxins by encouraging blood flow to revive tissue and stimulate the lymph system.

CHAKRA BALANCING

Chakras are seven subtle energy centres in the body that affect our equilibrium and inner harmony. When blocked, these Chakras can affect the body and mind emotionally and physically.



one

SPA

NEXT TIME YOU STAY IN EDINBURGH... BE AT ONE AT THE AWARD-WINNING ONE SPA

One Spa at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, Edinburgh is a natural balance of energy, water and heat in a beautiful, light-filled space. An infinity edge swimming pool and shimmering rooftop Hydropool go hand-in-hand with a rejuvenating Thermal Suite and a soothing spa treatment programme, while the advanced gym and fitness studio tones and balances the body's core.

TREATMENTS

Experience a series of spa treatments designed to restore balance and purify the body. Many of One Spa's treatments include time in the rooftop Hydropool and Thermal Suite. Their full range of spa treatments includes:

Ayurvedic body wrap, Serail mud chamber, facials, massages and spa packages to renew, restore and refresh.

SPA DAYS

Dedicate the whole day to nothing but you, with a series of bespoke Spa Days designed to restore balance, purify the body and stimulate the senses. Each spa day programme includes the signature spa experience *Escape at One* (excluding New Beginnings and Bridal Bliss).

ESCAPE AT ONE SPA EXPERIENCE

£70

Relax the mind and rejuvenate the body with Escape at One. A calming space where you are free to explore the collection of heat and water treatments inspired by the ancient Celts and Romans, the iconic rooftop Hydropool and light-filled indoor swimming pool. Includes: Rock Sauna, Bio Sauna, Laconium, Tepidarium, Hammam, Aroma Grotto, Tropical Rain & Cold Fog Showers, Indoor & Outdoor Rooftop Hydropool, Gym & Fitness Studios, 19 Metre Swimming Pool, Poolside Sauna, Relaxation Areas

Escape at One is available for 3 hours, Monday - Friday.

SAMPLE ESPA TREATMENTS...

5 Hours of bliss...

Ayurvedic Body Wrap with Hot Stones £155

2 hours, treatment includes:

- Traditional foot cleanse & personal Ayurvedic consultation
- Full Body Exfoliation
- Algae or Mud Body Wrap
- Dosh Specific Body Massage with warm oils
- Head Massage
- Escape at One (additional 3 hours)

Ama Releasing Abhyanga £162

2 hours, treatment includes:

- Traditional foot cleanse & personal Ayurvedic consultation
- Full Body Exfoliation
- Facial Cleanse
- Ayurvedic Marma Point Body Massage with warm oils
- Head Massage
- Escape at One (additional 3 hours)

Serail Mud Chamber £45

25 minutes

Treatment begins with self-application of muds to face, scalp and body. A soothing warm temperature will allow the mud to bake. The chamber then fills with gentle steam to soften the mud and a warm shower completes the experience. This is a fantastic experience for friends, couples and groups. (Maximum 4 people)

Full Body Salt & Oil Scrub £40

25 minutes

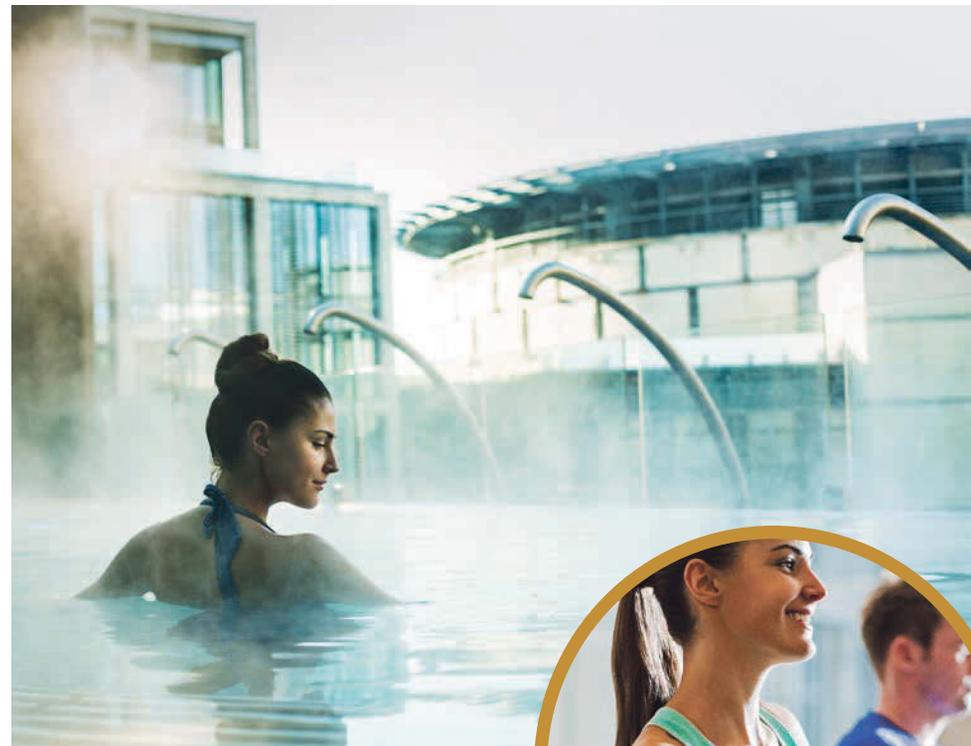
An exfoliation combining sea salts, nourishing and essential oils to leave skin feeling moisturised and smooth. If desired, a lighter Body Polish can be applied instead of Salt & Oil Scrub.

Intensive Facial £82

55 minutes

Naturally improves the condition of the skin and enhances its appearance. Each facial is adapted to suit your personal requirements and includes:

- Double Cleansing
- Gentle Exfoliation
- Acupressure Facial Massage



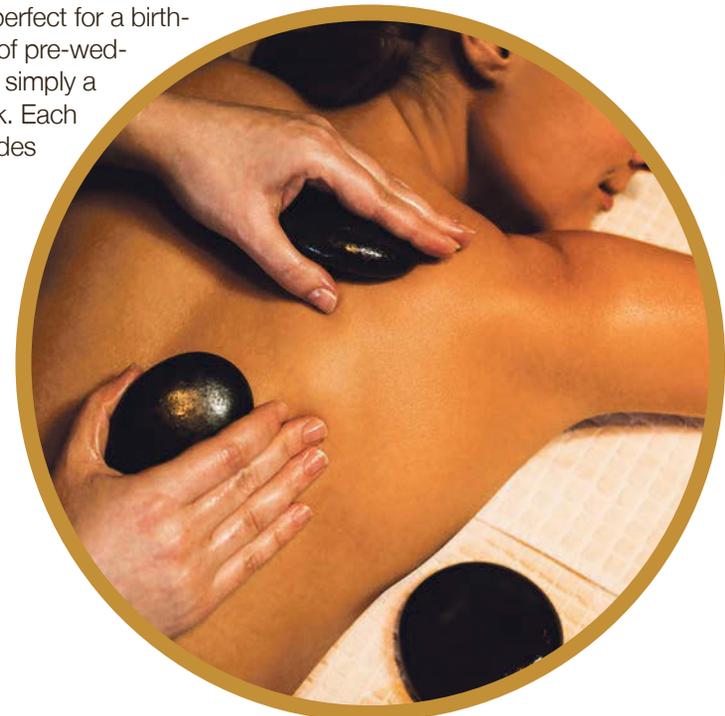
- A Prescriptive Face Mask
- Head Massage
- Specific Moisturising & Protection

GROUP SPA DAYS

Join your friends or family for a whole day of pure indulgence. Created with groups of five or more in mind, the Spa Group Days are perfect for a birthday treat, a spot of pre-wedding relaxation or simply a well-earned break. Each programme includes Escape at One.

SPA OPENING TIMES

Monday
to Friday :
06.30 - 22.00
Saturday &
Sunday :
07.00 - 21.00



AND NOW...

More beauty in less time



by ONE SPA

NOW BY ONE SPA

More beauty in less time

An all-new salon in the heart of Edinburgh. Open from early morning for a stylish start to the day, now by one spa offers a range of express treatments from big-hitters including HD brows, LVL lashes and OPI gel nail polish. The perfect pick-me-up and fast feel good stop in the heart of the city!



SAMPLE TREATMENT LIST

VITA LIBERATA SPRAY TAN

Vita Liberata is a luxury non-toxic, organic self-tan + skincare brand. Our tan is odourless, organic, toxin free and doesn't give you that fake tan look.

£25.00

HD BROWS

HD Brows is a seven step eyebrow shaping treatment that focuses on shape and design. It involves a combination of techniques, including tinting, waxing and threading, using specialist HD Brow products.

£30.00

LVL LASHES

LVL stands for length-volume-lift, and the idea is simple: a therapist uses a setting serum to straighten your natural lashes at the root (making them look curled up), and then your lashes are tinted, creating the appearance of mascara.

£50.00

CACI

CACI International - non-surgical face & body treatments deliver visible and corrective results without the need for surgery.

FROM £15.00

NAILS, HANDS & FEET

Foot treatments, sole boosters, pedicures, manicures, file, polish

FROM £15.00

EXPRESS FACIALS

This mini facial is ideal for those on the go. Your skin is cleansed, lightly exfoliated and gently massaged. A pore-refining mask is then applied, followed by a veil of light moisturiser.

FROM £15.00

WAXING

Including Full Leg, Half Leg, Basic Bikini, Under-Arm, Lip and Chin, Back, Chest, G-String, Brazilian, Hollywood

FROM £12.00

To view full treatment list please visit

www.onespa.com/now

THE STARS OF THE SHOW



ISHGA - ishga is derived from the Gaelic word for water. ishga products have been developed in the Outer Hebrides using the highest quality and purest Scottish seaweed combined with water from a natural spring situated on the beautiful Hebridean Isle of Lewis. Seaweed has been used for centuries for its natural healing and therapeutic properties. It contains a high content of vitamins, minerals and powerful natural antioxidants that are considered essential for maintaining glowing skin. More recent scientific research shows the seaweed extract used in ishga preserves the skin's natural collagen. The mineral rich seaweed extract is carefully blended with cucumber extract, macadamia, jojoba, aloe vera and lemon peel so that your ishga treatment will detoxify, nourish, firm and hydrate the skin. It is suitable for all skin types.

Available at Portavadie and Isle of Eriska Stables Spa

tic massage, each treatment is tailor-made to meet the precise needs of every customer. This bespoke, holistic approach together with expert massage techniques and highly concentrated, potent formulas help address each individual skin concern and leave all complexions balanced, comforted and glowing with health.

Available at Portavadie

scientific power of the purest natural ingredients from around the world developing a range of natural products and treatments to help you to have beautiful skin and inner calm. 'Everything we produce has a simple aim: to work with your skin's natural processes to give you immediate, visible results and long term benefits. And leave you feeling and smelling wonderful, of course'.

Available at One Spa, Now by One Spa and Isle of Eriska Stables Spa



MADE FOR LIFE
by Spiezia Organics



SPIEZIA ORGANICS

All Made for Life by Spiezia Organics treatments have been designed to create a true sense of well-being for the body, mind and emotions. Using Made for Life by Spiezia's 100% organic ingredients and a range of specialised massage techniques they will de-stress, unwind and are suitable for all skin types.

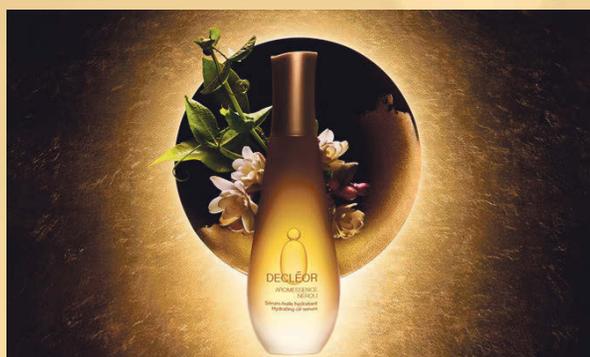
Available at One Spa and Now by One Spa



CAUDALIE

Caudalie is a most beautiful, glamorous, French skincare brand that combines the latest scientific techniques with the ancient secrets from their vineyards in Bordeaux. A Caudalie product delivers gorgeous textures and aromas that are a delight on the skin, whilst delivering exceptional results. Caudalie Vinotherapists are extensively trained to deliver the ultimate in luxurious, indulgent treatment experiences.

Available at Stobo Castle



DECLÉOR

DECLÉOR's wide range of targeted and results-driven treatments for face and body are renowned worldwide for the simply stunning results they achieve and the deeply serene sense of well-being experienced by customers. At the heart of every treatment are powerful essential oils imparting heavenly scents and delivering pure, natural beauty. Beginning with a unique and relaxing back diagnos-

ESPA

Working with biochemists, skin experts and aromatherapists, ESPA took the knowledge from traditional holistic therapies and combined this with the





DARPHIN -

When Pierre Darphin opened his first “Institute de Beaute” in Paris, he revolutionised beauty with his exclusive skin-sculpting techniques, sensory experiences and customised skin analysis.

It is often said that a Darphin Skin Therapist has magic fingers. Each Skin Therapist is extensively trained in modelling and heritage application techniques, which require mastering each hand position, type of pressure and rhythm. A Darphin treatment is for someone who has a keen sense of luxury and pleasure, combined with visible results.

Available at Stobo Castle



NEOM -

Masterminded by the Neom team of 11 wellbeing experts, and drawing together 6 of the most effective therapies – meditation, shiatsu, cranio, Thai massage, trigger point and reflexology – Neom Wellbeing Treatments have been created to provide true therapeutic wellbeing benefits.

Available at Stobo Castle





spa

WYVEX MEDIA

TO FEATURE YOUR SPA OR SALON
IN OUR AUTUMN SUPPLEMENT
TEL: 01631 568000 EMAIL: nmurphy@wyvexmedia.co.uk