

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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INSIDE

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Laura found in hospital but Eilidh still missing

LOUISE GLEN

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TRIBUTES from across the world are flooding in for two teenagers and their community who have been caught up in the Manchester Arena bombing.

Laura MacIntyre, 15, and Eilidh MacLeod, 14, were reported missing shortly after the bomb went off at 10.35pm on Monday.

Laura's dad Micheal MacIntyre put out a heartbreaking message on social media looking for support in finding the two young girls. The message was shared more than 30,000 times from various sites. Another, from Eilidh's aunt, was also shared thousands of times.

Laura was eventually found after a desperate search.

At the time of going to press, Eilidh had still not been found.

The girls attended Castlebay Community School. A spokesman for the school said: 'We are closely monitoring events around Eilidh and Laura. Our thoughts are with the families of the two girls. We are mindful of the impact on pupils and staff at the school and are providing all necessary support.'

There were 22 people killed in the attack, including children, and 60 people injured.

Prime Minister Theresa May condemned the 'soft target' attack on children, confirming it was one of the worst terrorism attacks on UK soil.

Mrs May visited hospitals in Manchester on Tuesday afternoon.



Floral tributes are placed in Manchester where, inset, Barra girls Laura MacIntyre, 15, left, and Eilidh MacLeod, 14, were attending the concert as part of Eilidh's birthday treat. It was Laura's first major concert.

Laura and Eilidh were on a 'trip of a lifetime' to see the superstar singer Ariana Grande, with tickets purchased as a special treat for Eilidh's birthday.

It is understood that Laura's mum was on the trip with the girls, and had received a text shortly before the last song – and moments before a suicide bomber detonated what police said was a 'home-made' improvised explosive device.

Witnesses said there were nuts and bolts packed into

the bomb, with many victims suffering shrapnel injuries as a result.

Turmoil in the aftermath of the event meant that it was not discovered that Laura was in hospital until late afternoon on Tuesday. By that time, it is understood the families of both girls had made their way to Manchester.

Laura's injuries are being described as significant and she remains in intensive care at the time of going to press.

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh led a tribute at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday and issued a statement.

It read: 'The whole nation has been shocked by the death and injury in Manchester last night of so many people, adults and children, who had just been enjoying a concert.'

'I know I speak for everyone in expressing my deepest sympathy to all who have been affected by this dreadful event and especially to the families

and friends of those who have died or were injured.

'I want to thank all the members of the emergency services, who have responded with such professionalism and care. And I would like to express my admiration for the way the people of Manchester have responded, with humanity and compassion, to this act of barbarity.'

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon led a minute's silence in Holyrood on Tuesday morning,

before indicating that family liaison officers were working with the families of both Laura and Eilidh.

The Vatican sent a telegram to say Pope Francis was 'deeply saddened' by the attack.

'His Holiness Pope Francis was deeply saddened to learn of the injury and tragic loss of life caused by the barbaric attack in Manchester,' the telegram said.

The so-called Islamic State (IS) has claimed it was behind the attack, but this has not been verified by intelligence officers. The statement was made via IS channels on the messaging app Telegram. The group frequently claims attacks in their aftermath.

Tributes from across the world are helping the community of Barra.

Politician Angus Brendan MacNeil, from Barra, who is well-known to both families, said the care and compassion from all over the world was helping a 'community in dire pain'.

Mr MacNeil continued: 'Everybody is upset and in shock over the horrific events in Manchester. People want to know what is happening, as it is quite unbelievable.'

'It cannot be measured but the way in which Barra people and its friends from throughout the world have sent their prayers and hope for our girls has been comforting and graceful.'

'People must continue to hope and pray for the whole community.'

INSIDE YOUR
OBAN TIMES
THIS WEEK

St Kilda Challenge

A SECOND St Kilda Challenge yacht race is being planned following excellent feedback from competitors and visitors who enjoyed the first event back in 2015.

Full story – page two.

Full of Hope

OBAN'S Hope Kitchen has been named as a Charity of the Year finalist in the Scottish Charity Awards.

Full story – page three.

Cheque mates

MONEY raised by CalMac staff for the RNLI has been presented to volunteers at Oban Lifeboat station.

Full story – page four.

Stay Alive on A85

A THREE-CAR crash on the A85 close to the Halfway House filling station has starkly illustrated the urgent need for better safety on the road.

Full story – page five.

Teacher's honour

AFTER working for 40 years in the same school – 25 as the head teacher – Dunbeg's Sine MacVicar has been nominated for national recognition just ahead of her retirement.

Full story – page five.

Oban Live

DON'T miss our double-page special preview of Oban Live ahead of another brilliant weekend of music.

Full story – pages 16 and 17.



Outpouring of concern for girls

CONCERN, sympathy and prayers were offered on *The Oban Times* Facebook page from a wide cross-section of society to the news that Barra girls Laura MacIntyre and Eilidh MacLeod were missing following the Manchester suicide bombing atrocity.

Pat Trehan posted: 'I cannot imagine the agony their families are feeling. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. They are our bairns, we stand by your side.'

Sine Murray wrote: 'Thoughts are with their families and I hope they are found safe and well.'

Mystialeigh Smith said: 'I hope these young kids are safe and get home safely. It's a shame that young kids and adults can't even go to a concert without getting hurt. My heart goes out to all those still missing.'

Essa Macfadyene wished: 'Hope they are found safe and well, our thoughts go out to both sets of parents, what a worry, from one Island to the other.'

Rona Grant offered: 'Hope they are found safe and well, our grandson was there and is safe and well and on his way home. Our hearts go out to the people who had devastating news. The world is getting a terrible place shame on the coward.'

Isobel Mackechnie said: 'I hope the girls are just misplaced my heart goes out to you all thinking of you all.'

Alison Kerr echoed: 'Hope they are found safe devastating time for the parents.'

Linda Lindsay said: 'I can't imagine how their families are coping. As you say keep praying.'

Jean Roberts posted: 'Come on girls,

your parents will be waiting for a hug, let's get you home to them.'

Ciaran Steaksauce Smith posted: 'Love and support xx hope there well soon.'

Danni Hay added: 'Thinking of their families. It's every parents worst nightmare.'

There were also comments on social media after the news broke that Laura had been found and was being treated in hospital in Manchester for her injuries.

Colleen Mead wrote: 'Glad for this news. Continued prayers her recovery and finding Eilidh safe.'

Liz Macneil said: 'Glad one of the girls has been found let's hope they find the other girl soon.'

Sandra Morissetti posted: 'Thank God waiting to hear about Eilidh.'

Kirsty Mccuaig said simply: 'I am keeping them both in mind.'

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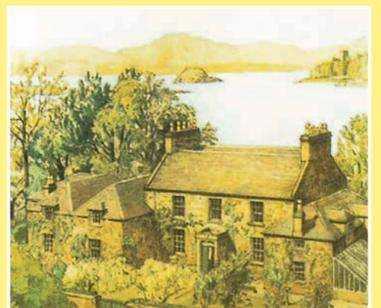


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Mull's past revealed by industrious volunteers

AN INDUSTRIOUS group of volunteers cleared up an almost hidden street behind Main Street in Tobermory on the isle of Mull.

Known locally as Shore Street, the street was strewn with decades of debris and overgrown bushes, but with a concerted effort from a dozen or so volunteers its appearance was immediately improved.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon helped to organise the event and a treat for everyone who came along to help, with a barbecue to round off the work.

Mrs Devon said: 'This is one of the oldest streets in Tobermory and for many years has been neglected.'

'In June actress Elaine C Smith is coming to film her *Bird's Eye View* programme and we are going to have a party on the street to show it off. We wanted to make sure this piece of history was on show for her, and everyone else, to see.'

'The team of volunteers all gave two hours and it was incredible the difference we made. We picked up 36 bags of rubbish and found lots of old pots and planters. Shore Street will be Tobermory's answer to Ashton Lane [in Glasgow].'

Stuart and Helen Orr who own an arts and crafts business on Shore Street said: 'The area behind the Co-op was a bit unkempt and in some places it was falling to bits. We hope to continue the work at An Camus. In time we would like to open a studio for artists and crafts people.'

Oyster farmers to benefit from new genetic tool

OYSTER farmers are set to benefit from a genetic tool that will help prevent disease outbreaks and improve yields.

The technology will enable hatcheries to assess the genetic make-up of their oysters, so they can select animals with desirable characteristics from which to breed.

Scientists at the University of Edinburgh have developed a chip loaded with DNA – each carrying a specific fragment of the oyster's genetic code.

Using a tiny sample of DNA from each oyster, the chip can measure small genetic variations that are linked to physical traits.

Delight as second St Kilda yacht challenge confirmed

A SECOND St Kilda Challenge yacht race is being planned following excellent feedback from competitors and visitors who enjoyed the first event.

The inaugural event was launched in 2015 by organisers Comann Na Mara and race managers Clyde Cruising Club, with the first regatta taking place the following year.

The regatta and its associated shoreside festival has the support of Holyrood's cross-party marine tourism committee and chairman Stuart McMillan MSP was present at the launch to underline the group's backing.

Last year's event was a welcome economic boost for North Uist, with 30 yachts bringing dozens of crew ashore, while the festi-

ties on shore attracted visitors to the town of Lochmaddy.

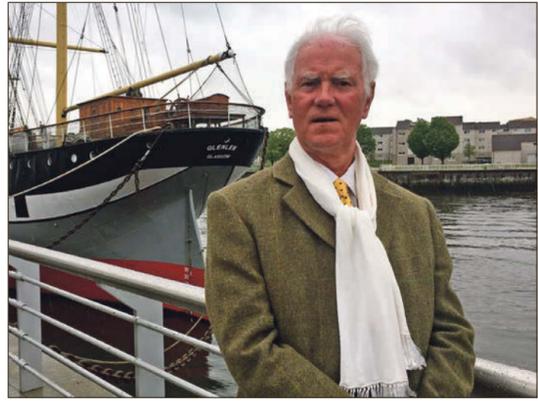
Accommodation, local services and attractions, as well as food, drink and craft producers, all reported a significant rise in trade.

The 2018 edition of the St Kilda Challenge will build on the strong foundations of 2016's event, with the addition of a third fleet. Indications are there will be a substantial increase in participants for the event from June 14 to June 16 2018.

In addition to the racing fleet, which uses the islands of St Kilda as turning marks on a 100-nautical-mile long course, there is also, a cruise-in-company fleet which leaves the start line at the same time but has

the ability to anchor in Village Bay at Hirta on St Kilda to go ashore. We have had exceptional encouragement and support from the community, participants and those who were sorry to have missed the first event,' said Comann Na Mara chairman Gus MacAulay.

'I was overwhelmed at the end of the first event to hear so much positive feedback, so for me and the other organisers there was only ever going to be one outcome – another St Kilda Challenge. We are excited about making the event bigger and better for 2018 and look forward to welcoming many more people to North Uist before sending them on their way to the great adventure of the St Kilda archipelago.'



Comann na Mara chairman Gus MacAulay confirms the second St Kilda challenge at its launch on board Tall Ship Glenee in Glasgow.

Innovation fund for aquaculture opens

SMALL to medium enterprises (SMEs) working in the aquaculture supply chain in the Highlands and Islands can now apply to a £1 million innovation fund.

Announced in March, the 30-month pilot programme Accelerating Aquaculture Innovation (AAI), is led by HIE and delivered in partnership with Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre (SAIC).

It offers SMEs the opportunity of match funding to help deliver innovative new processes, products, services or technologies.

The programme has the potential to boost industry turnover in the region by £8 million and create up to 50 jobs.

The value of innovative concepts can take different forms – financial, commercial, economic, social or public – but it must be measurable and it must benefit both the industry and the Scottish economy.

Aquaculture is a priority sector for HIE and of growing importance to Scotland's economy.

It is estimated to contribute as much as £1.8 billion turnover a year to the Scottish economy and support around 8,000 jobs.

The Aquaculture Growth Strategy 2030, 'A Strategic Plan for Farming Scotland's Seas', states the industry has potential for this to increase to £3.6 billion and 18,000 jobs by 2030.

Elaine Jamieson, head of food and drink at Highlands and Islands Enterprise, said: 'The full range of projects, from £25,000 to £1 million, will be considered. Where applications are successful, the AAI programme could typically provide up to half the project cost.'

'Where applications don't quite meet the programme criteria, the AAI team will point SMEs to more suitable support avenues so they still receive the help they need to develop their concept.'

Companies can apply for AAI funding by submitting a short expression of interest form.

This will then be assessed by the AAI team and, if successful, the submitting company will be invited to complete a fuller application.

Full details on how to apply, along with downloadable forms and guidance notes, are available at <http://scottishaquaculture.com/work-with-us/accelerating-aquaculture-innovation-programme/>



Rob Wainwright, back, with the team of virtual marathon challengers and Mary's Meals founder Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, centre back.

Rob leads team on charity marathon from Coll to Karonga

FORMER Scottish Rugby captain Rob Wainwright and supporters from around the world are undertaking another mammoth challenge to raise money for Mary's Meals.

The ex-rugby star-turned-farmer and 370 participants have signed up to a 'virtual' event to raise money to continue feeding an entire school of hungry children with Mary's Meals for a further three years.

They are hoping to raise £30,000 by clocking up a total distance of 5,555 miles – the equivalent of cycling from Coll, where Rob lives, to Malawi – before October 27. Participants will cycle, run, swim or row any distance as part of the challenge, which is mapped out online, and can do so individually or as a team.

Among the 370 taking part are Scottish rugby players, double Olympic gold rower Heather Stanning and record-breaking long-distance cyclist Mark Beaumont.

In 2014 Rob and a team of eight friends completed a gruelling 811-mile cycle across the Highlands in eight days.

The money raised from that event allowed Mary's Meals to provide daily

meals to pupils at a school in Karonga, Malawi, over three years.

Rob and supporters have so far raised £15,000 from their latest fundraising efforts and hope to double that amount to allow them to cover the cost of funding meals for the 1,050 pupils at Kasoba Primary School for another three years.

Rob and a team of around 25 cyclists stopped off at the Mary's Meals headquarters in Dalmy last Friday (May 19) as part of a cycling weekend where they plan to cover 200 miles over three days as part of their latest challenge.

Rob said: 'We were inspired to fund-

raise for Mary's Meals again because of the massive difference we know one meal can have on a chronically hungry child – helping them to stay alive and giving them the energy to learn so they have the chance of a better future.'

'We're delighted with the support we have received so far for our Coll to Karonga Challenge and we hope that by highlighting this event more people will be motivated to get involved with Mary's Meals, knowing that no matter what part they play, they will be helping to transform the lives of children at an entire school.'

Islay to host series of events to commemorate First World War

ISLAY is to host a series of events next year to commemorate First World War.

Argyll and Bute Council is supporting the programme with funding of £25,000.

The series of commemorative events is planned to run from February 5 to November 11, 2018.

It is part of WW100 Scotland's national commemorations to mark the centenary of the final year of the Great War.

Centre piece of the island programme will be a Day of Commemoration on May 4. A service will take place at the American Monument on the Oa in remembrance of the hundreds of US servicemen and British crew who lost their lives when two troopships, the SS Tuscania and the HMS Otranto, went down off Islay.

This will be followed by a public service at Port Ellen war memorial, where wreaths will be laid in honour of Islay's war dead.

The May 4 Day of Commemoration will also include services at each of the cemeteries where men from the Tuscania and Otranto were buried.

Some of the resting places were tempo-

rary, others remain. These services will take place on February 5 and October 6 respectively.

Various events will take place and exhibitions will be created across the island throughout the year. Armistice Day services in each of the Islay communities will draw the commemorations to a close.

WW100 Islay is organising the programme as a part of the outreach work of the Museum of Islay Life.

WW100 Islay chairwoman Jenni Minto said: 'Every village on Islay lost men in the Great War. The war memorials in Bowmore, Port Charlotte, Portnahaven, Ballygrant and Port Ellen name almost 200, with a further 24 not confirmed on any memorial. It is clear the price paid by this one small Scottish community was very high. But the loss of the troopships SS Tuscania, torpedoed in the North Channel, between Islay and Northern Ireland, by UB-77 on February 5 1918, then HMS Otranto, which sank near Machir Bay after a collision with HMS Kashmir on October 6, brought the Great War directly to Islay's shores. The

ships were carrying thousands of young American servicemen to fight on the battlefields of Europe. Many were saved after heroic rescue missions but sadly hundreds perished: 166 from the Tuscania and 470 from the Otranto. Many washed up on Islay's shoreline.

'Immediately after the war, the American Red Cross commissioned a monument in recognition of America's lost. A lighthouse-like structure sits proud atop the cliffs on the Mull of Oa and is a poignant reminder of these two disasters.'

'It is these tragedies and the part the islands played in the rescue of survivors and the respectful funerals of those lost, as well as the loss of Islay's own, that are being remembered with these commemorative events. They will be drawn together into a lasting legacy that can be revisited by individuals and communities in the future.'

WW100 Islay is supported by the Argyll and Bute First World War Commemoration Steering Group which is chaired by Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute Patrick Stewart.

Fish farm staff welcome installation of defibrillators

THE SCOTTISH Salmon Company (SSC) has installed defibrillators in all of its sites after staff saved a colleague's life.

When Randy Laursen, a worker at the SSC Cairndow processing plant, suffered a cardiac arrest at work in June last year, the actions of his colleagues saved him. They carried out CPR and used an onsite defibrillator on Randy, who has since made a full recovery.

The Scottish Salmon Company has now installed defibrillators at all 60 of its sites

across the west coast of Scotland and Hebrides and at its head office in Edinburgh.

Welcoming the announcement, Craig Anderson, chief executive officer at the Scottish Salmon Company, said: 'We take the health and wellbeing of our staff very seriously and, with many of our sites located in remote rural areas, it's vital we have the necessary equipment in place in the event of an emergency. This large-scale investment means we can deliver these state-of-the-art defibrillators to all our sites.'



Randy Laursen, Andrew Aitken and David Bradley with the new defibrillator.

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Jail term for Oban paedophile shows public 'revulsion'

A PAEDOPHILE caught with more than 150,000 indecent images of children at his Oban home has been jailed for 14 months to show 'the revulsion of society'.

Liam Martin, 34, of Dungallan Terrace, admitted in April possessing indecent photographs or pseudo photographs of children, between November 14, 2008, and June 21, 2016.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC had

deferred sentence until May 23, telling Martin to expect prison.

Last Tuesday defence agent Simon Collins told Oban Sheriff Court police had recovered 148,000 sexual images in category C, where A is the most serious in the scale, from Martin's computers and memory cards.

'On any reading of the circumstances,' Mr Collins said, 'there were a very large number of still and moving images recovered.

The vast majority were category C. There were still a number of category A and B. From 2008, he downloaded images from a file-sharing site. The difficulty of any file-sharing sites is you get no idea from the title what is therein.

'He did not delete things. He spent time cataloguing, and has not deleted any on his computers. And that is part of his propensity to hoard and OCD [obsessive compulsive disorder].'

Sheriff Anderson asked of the category A images: 'He did not have an interest in them - they just happened to be there?'

Mr Collins replied: 'He did not get any stimulation from the images when he downloaded them. They were not his interest. His predominant interest is in category C images.'

'He probably has seen them when they came down, but he has not gone back to look at

them while they have been on his computer. One would expect them to be deleted, but that is not in Mr Martin's psyche. He does not clear out his computer.'

'Mr Martin accepted that he has a problem. He has attempted to address it - unsuccessfully. He has since 2015 and onwards relapsed into the same behaviour.'

Sheriff Anderson said: 'We are not dealing with any physical contact with a child. He has a great

deal of photographs and moving images of children. There is only one disposal which is appropriate to mark the revulsion of society. I am conscious of the fact there are in excess of 10,000 category A images, some of them involving children as young as two or three. The vast bulk are category C.'

Sheriff Anderson sentenced Martin to 14 months in prison and placed him on the sex offenders' register for 10 years.

New manager for hospice

OBAN Hospice has appointed a manager for the Dove Centre, its new Maggie's-type facility on Stevenson Street which is due to open in the summer.

Peter Darling has been appointed to take over the project. Mr Darling was previously with Argyll Training. The hospice has recently had feedback from Lorn and Islands Hospital on two patients' rooms and a relatives' room which have been refurbished for patients required for palliative care by Oban Hospice.

A report to the board from hospital managers reads: 'We have two side rooms which were upgraded by Oban Hospice in 2011 and these rooms are in almost constant use for end-of-life care, symptom management, treatment of chronic disease and isolation for precaution.'

'The verbal feedback from patients and their relatives is that the rooms appear bright and airy and the ensuite shower room has been upgraded to a high standard.'

Kirk Road plan to be discussed

AN INFORMATION event will be held in Dunbeg on Argyll and Bute Council's plans to upgrade the village's Kirk Road.

Proposals are in place to improve the road, with work anticipated to start later this year, subject to a successful application for Scottish Government housing infrastructure funding.

It is part of the Dunbeg Corridor Strategic Masterplan, which sets out proposals for sites between Dunbeg and Ganavan.

The information evening will take place in Dunbeg Primary School on Thursday June 1 from 4pm to 7pm.

Hope Kitchen is nominated for national Charity of Year

SANDY NEIL
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OBAN'S Hope Kitchen has been named as a Charity of the Year finalist in the Scottish Charity Awards.

Organised by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), the awards celebrate the life-changing work of charities, community groups and individuals dedicated to making Scotland a better place to live.

Hope Kitchen's elated service manager Lorraine MacCormick said: 'We cannot believe it. They had hundreds of entries and now they're down to the final four. We are delighted and stunned.'

Last year Hope Kitchen secured a Big Lottery grant of £150,000 and, during April, its 'Take in a Tin' campaign led to 800 cans of food and half again in dried food being donated by benefactors.

Service supervisor Beth Campbell said: 'The charity

should be rightfully proud, and it is down to the hard work of volunteers. Without the volunteers, there would not be anything.'

Martin Sime, SCVO's chief executive, said: 'Year after year, Scottish charities and voluntary organisations prove themselves to be beacons for creativity, tenacity and innovation. This year's Scottish Charity Awards finalists demonstrate these qualities in abundance and are shining examples of how people can work together to make Scotland a better place.'

All shortlisted entries will also compete for the People's Choice Award, which will be decided by the public via online voting. The winners will be announced at a ceremony in the Edinburgh International Conference Centre on Thursday June 22.

Pictured left to right are Beth Campbell and Lorraine MacCormick.



Oban High School teacher guilty of sexual assault

AN OBAN High School chemistry teacher has been found guilty of sexual assault after touching a former pupil inappropriately in an Oban shop.

Henry Boyd Sigerson, 41, who is currently suspended, has been placed on the sex offenders' register while he awaits sentencing.

Sigerson appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday (May 22) and pleaded guilty.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court that on March 4 at 10.30pm an 18-year-old woman was walking home through Albany Street car park and along Shore Street, Oban, when she noticed a man walking in the opposite direction.

However, when she crossed the road, Sigerson doubled back and began to walk towards her. The 18-year-old then walked into a shop while Sigerson remained outside.

Mr McGinty revealed that the woman said in her statement to the police that upon choosing her items, she lingered in the shop longer than she would normally have because he was waiting outside. Mr McGinty said: 'After she was in the shop for a period, the man entered. He went to the right and appeared to look at the top shelf magazines. As he did, she went to pay for her items.'

'It's apparent from the CCTV the accused was watching her.'

'As soon as she went to pay for her items the accused came up behind her and deliberately touched her on her bottom.'

The procurator fiscal added: 'She said that she could feel him breathing on the back of her neck.' Mr McGinty said that in her statement, she said she felt panicked and looked at the woman behind the till who gave her a look as if to

say, 'I saw what happened'. The woman then left the shop as soon as possible, but instead of walking her normal route home, she walked back towards the Oban Station Square and phoned to be picked up.

She reported the incident the following day and police officers retrieved the CCTV footage from the shop and Sigerson was identified immediately by one of the officers. He was detained later that day.

Sigerson's solicitor, Kevin McGinness, informed the court that his client is a married man but has recently separated from his wife.

On the day of the incident he had been drinking since the afternoon.

Sentencing has been deferred until June 20 for social work reports and Sigerson has been placed on the sex offenders' register.

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

Man had drugs

OFFICERS searched a house in Miller Road, Oban, on Friday May 19, and recovered a quantity of cannabis. The occupier, a 27-year-old man, has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

Careless driving

THREE cars were involved in a crash at 4pm on Saturday May 20 on the A85 near the Halfway House filling station, Dunbeg. One of the drivers has been charged with careless driving.

Drivers caught

OVER the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, May 20 and 21, at various places on the A85 between Dalmally and Tyndrum, three drivers were stopped and charged with speeding. The three men have been reported to the procurator fiscal.

Work goes on to repair tower lights

ARGYLL and Bute Council has confirmed the lights on McCaig's Tower are not working - but they will be fixed.

The lights were part of a publicly-funded project installed less than three years ago. When

working, the tower lights up in different colours to support charities and organisations.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'We have an electrical design engineer available who will be working

on a number of projects.

'The lighting at McCaig's Tower has been prioritised and we intend having the tower illuminated once again in the near future. We thank the public for their understanding.'

Oban's business is cruising at the moment

IT'S all happening in Oban Bay these days with our new transit marina and boats and ships of all shapes and sizes coming and going, writes Oban ambassador Kay MacDonald.

One of the greatest pleasures of my job is seeing the constant activity in the bay and knowing that it's going to transfer to the town. Whether it's passengers from the ferries, fishing boats tying up or cruise ship passengers coming ashore, it all adds to the buzz.

During the past few years I've noticed that we have more ships dropping off and picking up passengers in the town, which is great. It shows that we have the transport links required and, for many of the passengers, it will mean a stay in the town either before they board for their trip or on their return before they head off

home and, having spoken to quite a few, I know that often they extend their holiday with a few days in Oban.

We're also lucky enough to have smaller companies such as the Majestic Line and Hebridean Cruises based here. Coming and going on a weekly basis, their boats really add character to the bay, as does the beautiful Hebridean Princess another weekly visitor.

Add in the tall ships constantly in and out and you have a photographer's dream.

It's always a pleasure to welcome our cruise ship visitors, no matter how long they're here for. I know that is a concern for some but a lot of work has been done to try to accommodate the local businesses and the cruise operators for whom excursions are a large part of their business.

One of the figures I have heard is that fewer than 50 per cent of passengers chose to go on the excursions, with a few choosing to remain on the ship and the majority coming ashore to explore.

I should also mention that the excursions are usually for a half-day and remain within our area, going to Kilmartin, Inveraray and Glencoe before then returning for the rest of the day in Oban.

I know my hope always is that they will fall in love with our wee town and the welcome they've received from everyone and want to return for a longer stay to get to know us better.

And if the response I've had from the passengers is anything to go by, I'd say it's not far off the mark.

As for the picture, I know a

few of you spotted last week's photo and a fair few didn't. It was actually the building beside Webster of Oban Photographic Centre which I think used to be Pearl Insurance. Good luck with this week's photo - I think it's a doozy!

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CalMac staff donate £1,000 to Oban lifeboat volunteers

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

MONEY raised by CalMac staff for the RNLI has been presented to volunteers at Oban Lifeboat station.

The £1,000 cheque was received on behalf of the institution by branch chairman Mike Robertson, treasurer Les Stewart and lifeboat mechanic Tom Kennedy from CalMac, Captain Mark Scott, master of MV Isle of Lewis and a volunteer coxswain for Oban Lifeboat and port manager Allison McDermott.

Oban's lifeboat was the fifth busiest in Scotland in 2016, answering 51 calls to those in distress and rescuing 46 people, devoting 1,272 hours to operations and training.

The crew is made up of 22 volunteers, with further supporters taking shoreside roles including publicity and administration.

CalMac's donation to the charity represented a pound donated by the company for every staff member who volunteered to take part in a recent questionnaire in support of Investors in People – a total of 777, which was topped up by the company to £1,000.

Chairman of Oban Lifeboat Mike Robertson, who was also a long-standing crew member, said: 'It was a pleasure to welcome Captain Mark and Allison to Oban Lifeboat station and to receive this cheque from CalMac on behalf of the RNLI.'

'These fundraising efforts are much appreciated and go towards ensuring our lifeboats and volunteer crews across the country are ready, at a moment's notice, to save lives at sea - sometimes in challenging conditions.'

Oban's current lifeboat is the 14-metre Trent Class Mora Edith MacDonal, which arrived in the town in 1997, replacing a Brede Class vessel which served from 1983-97.



RNLI branch chairman Mike Robertson, treasurer Les Stewart, lifeboat mechanic Tom Kennedy, Captain Mark Scott and port manager Allison McDermott with the cheque.



St Columba's retained the inter-school mile race shield.

Sports day fun for St Columba's pupils

PUPILS from Oban's St Columba's Primary School enjoyed a fun and action-packed sports day on Friday May 19 at Mossfield Stadium.

The children were piped into the ground by Oban High School Pipe Band and did a lap of the track in their clans.

They wore their clan colours of Iona, Gartan, Derry and Clonard, with colourful painted faces and hairstyles on display.

The starting event was the inter-school mile race which resulted in St Columba's retaining the winning shield. Well done to the winning team of Callie Campbell, Natalie Lopez, Charlie MacKenzie and Daniel

Beaton, and everyone who took part in the event.

Children took part in various events with younger pupils enjoying the hoop, jumping and running races, while the older ones had great fun with the three-legged, wheel barrow and skipping races.

There was a great turn out of spectators and the day ended with the pre-school race with lots of little ones enjoying taking part.

An ice lolly was a great treat to cool everyone down at the end.

The school thanks everyone who helped make it a success and well done to everyone for taking part.

Senior Oban-based nurse to retire after 37 years' service with NHS

ONE OF NHS Highland's senior nurses, Pat Tyrrell, who is based in Oban, is retiring after 37 years of service with the NHS in Scotland.

The board's deputy director of Nursing and Midwifery has had a long and varied career which has taken her the length and breadth of the country – the last 10 years with NHS Highland.

Pat intends to take a long holiday with her husband. The three-month trip will include travelling across Europe and taking the Trans Siberian railway across Russia, Siberia, Mongolia and China.

The couple then hope to take the train to

Hong Kong before travelling to Australia to attend one of Pat's best friend's birthday.

On her return, Pat will still be working with some of her NHS Highland colleagues.

'When I get back, there are a few things I'll be doing,' said Pat. 'This will include frontline nursing with the Marie Curie service and community nursing with the NHS Highland nursing bank.'

'I'm also going to be a clinical advisor for the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman and I'm going to carry on working as a trustee for the Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland. I also hope to have more time to do some work within my local community.'



Pat Tyrrell, NHS Highland's deputy director of Nursing and Midwifery, is retiring.

Two callouts and a shore side emergency

OBAN lifeboat volunteers had a busy day on Thursday May 18 with two callouts and a shore-based emergency.

The day began for the volunteer crew at 9.26am when they were called to help a fishing vessel with engine failure close to the island of Fladda in the Sound of Luing. Stornoway Coastguard asked vessels in the area to standby until the lifeboat arrived.

The fishing boat, with two people on board, was located by 10.03am with another fishing vessel standing by. Oban lifeboat set up a tow and took the stricken vessel to Craobh Haven.

The lifeboat returned to Oban and was made ready for service again by 1pm.

Shortly after, assistance was required as someone had fallen and sustained a head injury close to the station.

Oban's full time coxswain, the station's mechanic and a deputy coxswain took care of the casualty until an ambulance arrived.

Just before 3pm the lifeboat was launched for the second time following reports of a missing kayaker in Port Appin. The volunteer crew departed Oban but were stood down shortly after as the kayaker was confirmed safe and well.



Primary four pupils Rhiona, Jessica and Anna.



Action from the primary one boys hopper race, left, and a winning smile from a P2 boys race winner.

WHITE VAN Man

Change of colour in Kilmory

THE council elections are done. Some of those elected are old, no-one seems to be borrowed (unless one of the top cats is elected as an MP), but there is a definite surge of blue.

Do I detect a slight change in the political map? We will need to wait and see. I think we might be in for a few surprises.

After the council election there has been jiggery pokery goings on in Kilmory.

The Lib Dems, the Independents and the Tories voted together to form a new group taking control of Argyll and



George Berry.

Bute Council. So what of the SNP – who knows what tactics they will need to establish themselves.

Is this a political marriage that started in heaven and will end in hell? I will watch and listen.

But what of the district council election campaign itself. What about the conduct of candidates at the door giving opinions and perhaps promises?

Over the last two weeks I have been approached regarding the way people were spoken to at the door by candidates when they said they were not planning to vote, or not voting for the political party standing before them.

Is it time that Argyll and Bute Council needs to vet candidates or political parties before being allowed to stand

for election? Humility and grace costs nothing - not a single penny. The democratic process is important but in my opinion people who are not spoken to in a respectful manner should contact the council and report the issue.

I feel that Argyll and Bute Council must have a code of practice that has to be followed. In light of this I would urge anyone who felt they received disrespectful treatment on the doorstep should report it to the council or to the political party the person belonged to immediately.

Having been informed of this issue, I feel that some people are not fit to stand for a bus, far less the council.

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David Pollard, left, and Jacek Suchodolski outside the Regent Hotel with their trophies.

Players flock to 42nd Oban Bridge Congress

MORE than 100 bridge players from across the UK competed in the 42nd annual Oban Bridge Congress last weekend.

The event took place from Friday May 12 to Sunday May 14 in the town's Regent Hotel.

For the first time a local pair won the pairs competition. David Pollard, from Kilmory, and Jacek Suchodolski, from Ardfern, who play regularly at Oban Bridge Club, were also part of the best Oban team along with David Pender and Allistair Duff.

Oban Bridge Club meets every Monday and Wednesday evening and Friday afternoon in St Columba's Cathedral Hall.

Visitors are welcome and beginners classes are held regularly. Contact club secretary Joy Usher on 01631 710550 for more information.

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www.facebook.com/obantimes

Oban man blasts BT's divisive phone book

AN OBAN BT customer is angry his phone number has been missed out from the BT residential phone book.

Last week, *The Oban Times* reported on the Highlands and Islands phone book and the Lomond and Argyll edition dividing the town with PA35 4 numbers in one book and PA35 5 numbers in another.

John Watson of Polvinster Road said: 'This is the third phone book which has excluded Polvinster Road where I live. I wrote and emailed BT after the first and second books were issued and was ignored each time. When telephoned, a Glasgow lady said she would take it up with the phone book department but admitted it may be a waste of time. I then discovered that PA35 4 numbers were in Lomond and Argyll and PA35 5 were Highland. So not only were the numbers for my neighbours missing, I had been given the wrong book for two years.'

A BT spokesman said: 'Some parts of Oban share the PA34 5 postcode and these postcodes have been historically included in the Highlands and Islands phone book rather than the Lomond and Argyll edition. In this year's Lomond and Argyll edition, we included businesses who were part of PA34 5 postcode ranges. Subject to stock availability, customers can request the neighbouring phone book to their own area free of charge. 'The customer service team can be contacted on 0800 833 400. The phone book is also available to search for free online at thephonebook.bt.com.'



Sine MacVicar will be much missed by pupils, parents and her colleagues at Dunbeg Primary School.

Fun farewell as head retires after 44 years at school

AFTER working for 40 years in the same school – 25 as the head teacher – Dunbeg's Sine MacVicar has been nominated for national recognition.

Dunbeg Primary's Ms MacVicar is in the running for head teacher of the year at a national awards ceremony next month.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Sine has been widely praised for her 44 years of devotion to Dunbeg Primary School, and the atmosphere of support

and encouragement she has brought to the school and to the community.

'Her personality and tendency to go above and beyond for pupils have allowed her to become a cherished member of the Argyll community.

'All of the finalists will be invited to attend an awards ceremony at the Hilton Hotel in Glasgow on Wednesday June 7, when judges will unveil the winners of each award category.'

Before that, this Saturday (May 27), Dunbeg Primary will be hosting its annual family fun day.

The parent council and staff organise this event to help raise funds for extra materials, resources and trips for the pupils.

The fun-filled day will be packed with great things, including a bouncy castle, beat the goalie, wellie fling, splat the teacher, a raffle with amazing prizes, bottle stall and, back-by-popular-demand,

a slip'n'slide (change of clothes/swimsuits advisable). There will also be teas, coffees and homebaking, as well as Jackson's burgers.

Ms MacVicar has made an immense impact on the community and children who have been taught by her. She will be much missed. Ex-pupils are welcome to join in.

The event starts at 11am and the raffle will be drawn at 2pm. It will be followed by a concert by the children for Ms MacVicar.

Firm aims to re-open Tyndrum gold mine

PROSPECTORS applying to re-open Cononish's underground gold mine say it could create up to 60 jobs.

Scotgold Resources Ltd, based in Upper Tyndrum Station, is scoping for a proposed gold mine 3km south-west of Tyndrum, according to a pre-application submitted to the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority.

Extraction and processing operations at Cononish gold mine were originally permitted in 1996, and subsequently in 2012 and 2015. This revised application, with redesigned phasing and tailing, is intended to bring financial and environmental

benefits. Since May 2016, Scotgold has been producing the precious metal above ground via its Bulk Processing Trial, which has processed 2,400 tonnes of ore stockpiled from the 1980s.

Its first ounce of Scottish gold, the first to be mined commercially in Scotland from Cononish gold and silver mine, sold for £21,000 at an auction in Edinburgh.

'Twelve rounds' of gold an ounce in weight, and each stamped with the Scottish Gold Mark of the stag's head, sold for an average price of £4,557.9 per ounce.

However, the ore stockpile is due to be exhausted by the end of the year,

and the mining firm now hopes it can extract 560,000 tonnes of ore from an underground quartz vein carrying gold and silver.

'The gold-bearing ore will be extracted using standard underground drill and blast methods,' Scotgold's pre-application states.

'The mining schedule is hoped to start in April 2018, with the first ore available in 2018. It is proposed to apply for a mine life of 16 years. It may be possible to reduce this to around 10 years.'

Scottish gold is expected to add a 10 per cent premium.

Scotgold said: 'The mine will provide employment for around 50 to 60 people, the majority of whom will be sourced from the local area, with the exception of around 13 specialist positions.

'Cononish mine uses clean, modern methods to recover gold: there will be no mercury or cyanide at the project.

'Instead, a gravity and flotation method separates the gold from the host quartz. It is vital that the clear streams and rivers of the Highlands remain uncontaminated.'

A public consultation will be held in Tyndrum Village Hall on May 24 from 10.30am to 8.30pm.



Some SWI members at the successful Lorn Group rally.

Successful SWI group rally in Connel

THE SCOTTISH Women's Institute Lorn Group rally held in Connel Hall was the most successful in recent years.

There were a total of 453 entries ranging from baking, crafts, photography, art and floral art.

The atmosphere was excellent with members exchanging hints and tips. The area with the highest

points was Oban and the area with the highest points per member was Kilmore. The best exhibit in the craft section was a necklace made by Alice Campbell of Taynuilt. The best exhibit in the baking section was decorated sponge by Fiona Coult of Kilbrandon and Taynuilt won the community tray section.

Three cars in accident pile-up

A THREE-CAR collision on the A85 near the Halfway House Filling Station on Saturday afternoon (May 20) has starkly highlighted the need for enhanced safety measures on the road between Oban and Connel, a campaign supporter said this week.

A man involved in the incident has been charged with careless driving and a report has been sent to the procurator fiscal.

While not referring to this case, Bill Milne from Connel, who saw the accident, said: 'Highlighting the problems on the road through the Stay Alive on the A85 campaign, along with a



concerted campaign by Oban police has started to change driver behaviour. I am sure that people are driving more carefully and considerably.

'But accidents are still going to happen. There are definite improvements that should be made to the road. Often when one car overtakes before the corner at

the Halfway House the driver is oblivious to the oncoming traffic due to the tight bend.

'People who live here think there is plenty of time to overtake, while others think the A85 is a country road and that we all drive slowly for the fun of it.

'The accident on Saturday was pointless. Overtaking on that section of the road gets you nowhere.'

Next week: The Oban Times sends a letter to the transport minister.

Email editor@obantimes.co.uk with your stories.

The petition closes on June 28. Sign it below or online at www.obantimes.co.uk/stayalive85.

The Oban Times petition for safety improvements on the A85.

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

PLEASE SIGN BELOW:

Name

Address Tel

..... Email

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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The 306: Day is supported by The Forteviot Charitable Trust, The Thomson Charitable Trust and The Cross Trust. Please note the performance contains some strong language, violence, nudity and is not suitable for children. An age guide of 14+ is suggested. Photograph by Christopher Bowen. Design by Dill Design.

OT

Appin

FEIS na h-Apainne is delighted to have received two grants, one from Feisean nan Gaidheal and one from Argyll and Bute Community Funding.

The feis runs once a month and provides quality tuition in the traditional music of clarsach, pipes, chanter, whistle, guitar, fiddle and accordion, as well as offering tuition in Highland dance, group work and music technology. It is open to all ages and enables participants

a chance to learn these instruments. They choose four or five each time.

Music tuition opportunities are hard to get in rural areas and can be expensive.

The feis offers regular and affordable tuition and a good choice for children to try and then develop. Grants cover about half the costs, with fundraising and low fees paying the rest. The next one is June 10.

For more information, go to fiona@kinlochlaich.plus.com.

Inveraray

THE regeneration of Inveraray will take a major step forward thanks to a masterplan for the town.

The Inveraray Project masterplan is part of a wide-ranging programme to regenerate and revitalise the historic planned town.

Included in the programme is the renovation of five landmark buildings, the last of which is set to be completed this summer.

A development of 180 homes, community facilities, tourism and hotel provision, along with business units, are included in the masterplan.

It follows substantial investment in Inveraray by the council, which is spearheading a £2 million-plus conservation project.

The plan also makes provision for play parks, and for at least 45 of the new homes to be affordable housing.

Land between two existing housing developments in the west of the town has been earmarked for the homes.

The masterplan is part of the council's local development plan, which outlines major infrastructure proposals for the next five years.

The major conservation project has seen the restoration of four historic buildings – the Town House, Chamberlain's House, the Old Temperance Hotel and Relief Land. Work on a fifth building, Arkland, is expected to be complete by summer.

Stornoway

A FESTIVAL in Stornoway yesterday (Wednesday May 24) showcased publisher Acair's output over 40 years.

The event in An Lanntair included free literary events, starting with the opening presentation from Tìre writer Donald Meek.

Then, at 2.30pm, there was a creative writing workshop with writer Iain F MacLeod

before a discussion on Scottish publishing with the CEO of Publishing Scotland, Marion Sinclair.

Writer Finlay MacLeod and illustrator Andrew McMorrine discussed making of children's books. Finlay and Andrew worked together on the first children's book from Acair, *Rònan agus Brianuilt*, in 1977.

Dalmally

DALMALLY Community Centre is holding a table top sale on Saturday June 3 between 11am-3pm.

To book a table, costing

£5, contact Dalmally Primary School on 01838 200359. The money will go towards a school trip to Lochgoilhead.

Coll



Youngsters of all ages on Coll made the most of the arrival of Stramash.

Stramash makes a splash

COLL Kids Club enjoyed a two-day visit from Stramash, Scotland's outdoor social enterprise.

Youngsters came together to take part in a number of exciting outdoor activities, and bringing Stramash to the island made the event accessible and affordable for all of Coll's children.

Children as young as five had their first experience of 'coasteering', abseiling, archery and more, under the expert tuition of Stramash's Nona and Rob.

The high school youngsters, who had returned home for the holidays, got to spend some valuable time exploring the island

with their younger friends and siblings. The weather was, thankfully, reasonably kind and Stramash were able to make the most of the island's beautiful beaches and coastline.

Coll Kids Club provided this opportunity with the support of Branddaddy, Coll Association, Coll

Community Council and Coll Seniors Club.

The club is also grateful to CalMac for sponsoring the transport, making it possible for Coll Kids Club to bring Stramash and their equipment, and to Stramash for taking time to give the youngsters this great opportunity.

Cladich

CLADICH'S village phone box has been given a fresh coat of paint and a new lease of life, thanks to residents who want to restore its place as a community icon.

The bright-red former BT box is now a tiny shop, selling home baking, cards and paintings.

It will open daily for the summer season.

Situated in a scenic spot in the Loch Awe-side hamlet, the out-of-use landmark captured the imagination of local friends Holly Ford,

Bron Campbell and Hilary Ollason.

'We decided that selling cakes from the phone box would be a way to bring it back to life, involve the community and make an interesting and different place to stop in Cladich,' said Holly.

The phone box was obtained for community use through BT's 'Adopt a Kiosk' scheme, which aims to find new uses for classic phone boxes.

For more, go to facebook.com/cakesinthecallbox.

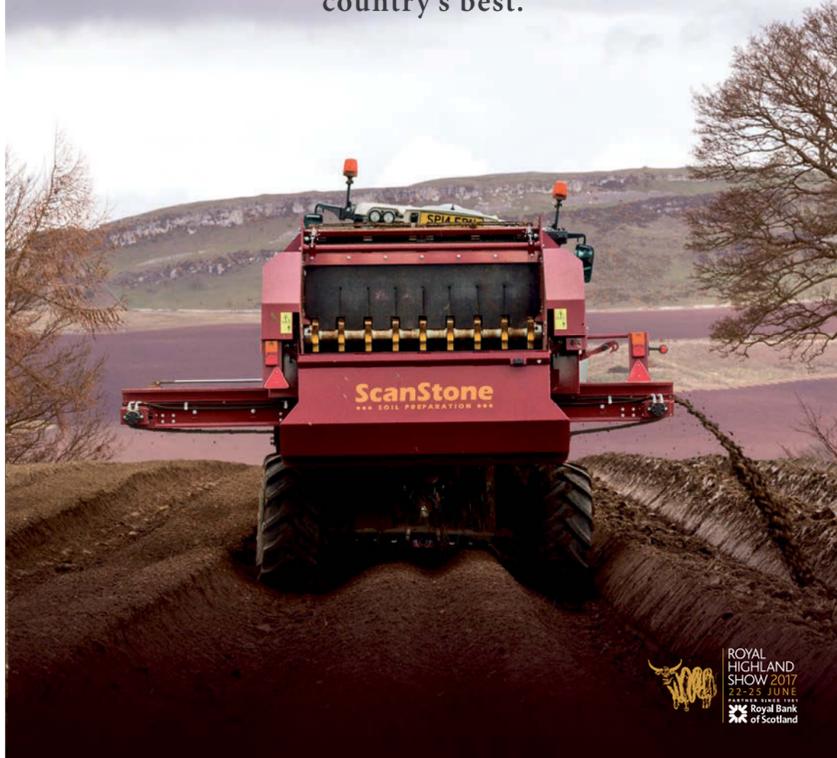


Holly Ford, Bron Campbell and Hilary Ollason.

Here's to the makers.

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Connel

THE National Theatre of Scotland chose Achaleven Primary School in Connel as part of a special nationwide photography project.

A project by celebrated Scottish photographer John G Moore was commissioned to capture six different locations across Scotland, and Achaleven school was chosen to showcase Argyll.

A neon sign saying 'BOX OFFICE' was designed by the company to travel around the country reflecting the many Scottish tours, by road, the National Theatre of Scotland undertakes every year.

The sign was taken to Achaleven Primary this spring where it was photographed in a classroom.

John said: 'It was a pleasure

working on such an exciting and creative project with the National Theatre of Scotland.

'The images all contribute to telling a unique visual story about the company, capturing its national reach, its bold productions and the different and sometimes unusual locations that the company plays in.'

Sharon Burt, head teacher at Achaleven, added: 'We were

very excited to be involved in this project. The National Theatre of Scotland's school productions encapsulate the expressive arts and the curriculum in a very engaging way and help inspire pupils who want to pursue a career in the creative arts.'

For more information on the project and to see the full collection of images visit www.nationaltheatrescotland.com.

At Random

MARTIN LAING
milaing@obantimes.co.uk



Relishing – and dreading – Am-Am

IT IS only days now until the annual Oban Rotary Am-Am golf competition.

This is an excellent charity initiative that over the years has raised more than £165,000. It is also one of the most eagerly anticipated events in the Oban social calendar, and rightly so.

Played over the beast that is Glencruitten golf course – the 12th hole should either be abolished or have a funicular railway installed – the Am-Am will again, I'm sure, be a fabulous day for all those involved.

Now in its 32nd year, the Am-Am, according to Rotary junior vice-president Iain MacIntyre, is crucial to the local Rotary Club's fundraising. Iain told The Oban Times: 'We raised just short of £11,000 last year. If we raise between £10,000 and £11,000 this year, I will be delighted.'

'The Am-Am accounts for about 60 to 70 per cent of our total funds raised each year.'

Among the beneficiaries of the sponsors' largesse are a number of local causes, with an emphasis on youth-oriented activities, such as school trips, junior golf development, shinty, football and rugby coaching, and the likes of the Oban High School Pipe Band. It also supports Mary's Meals, the Laurinburg School exchange, the local senior citizens' annual Christmas lunch and Oban Hospice.



The beastly 12th hole at Glencruitten.

More than 100 sponsors and nearly 200 players are expected for this year's event, which takes place on Sunday June 4.

Inexplicably, thanks to my Oban Times colleagues, I've been shanghaied into the paper's team. My playing partners might live to regret asking me.

Well-deserved recognition

A HUGE well done to the team at Hope Kitchen in Oban for being down to the final four in the Charity of the Year.

Part of the Scottish Charity Awards, making the shortlist

is brilliant recognition for the superb work done by Lorraine MacCormick and her team of volunteers at the Argyll Street-based premises.

Hope Kitchen's website states: 'Our aim is the advancement of services which provide food, shelter and companionship to vulnerable and marginalised people living within the area of Oban and Lorn.'

'Where possible and appropriate, we seek to address the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the people attending Hope Kitchen.'

It is a prosaic statement of intent but the team there deliver big time. Now they will have wait until June 22 to find out if they have won.

Regardless of the final out-

come, however, Hope Kitchen deserves all the plaudits it has already received.

Is this gaffe a bridge too far?

AND, finally, I received telephone call at The Oban Times office last week from a reader asking if I knew where the bridge over the Atlantic is located.

When I answered Seil, the caller, who didn't leave his name but told me he came from Kilcreggan on the Rosneath peninsula, said someone should tell Fred Olsen Cruise Lines.

The caller pointed out that Fred Olsen has a blurb in its marketing material for one of its voyages to the Faroe Islands which claims the only Atlantic span is located there.

Sure enough, I searched online and found on Fred Olsen's website: 'The only bridge over the Atlantic, as it is sometimes called, spans the narrow channel of Sundini to connect Eysturoy with the larger island of Streymoy.'

Shame on them!

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 milaing@obantimes.co.uk.

Bodach

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

This week, *The Oban Times'* resident Bodach (Gaelic: old man and, by experience, often a storyteller) highlights a selection of news over the years

Sturgeon, KGB, UFOs and a hero dog

A TRAWL of The Oban Times' archives 25 years ago has fetched up strange stories from the depths of 1992, including encounters with the KGB, UFOs, and a terrier that saved a skipper's life.

The journey down the rabbit hole began with a hunt for the Isle of Seil's 'bridge party', celebrating the 200th birthday of its Bridge over the Atlantic, which blooms purple with fairy foxgloves every May. This year the single-arch bridge is 225 years old, and still standing.

But back in 1992, we first found first sightings of actor Robert De Niro dining in the Inverloch Castle Hotel in Fort William, and then the United States' 'most secret military aircraft' flying through the skies above Kintyre at more than three times the speed of sound.

Reports of mysterious fast-moving radar blips and eerie engine noises increased speculation that Machrihanish was the base for a new hyper-sonic super-plane.

A national newspaper reported that an RAF air traffic controller was startled to see radar blips emerge from the joint RAF-NATO base travelling at three times the speed of sound.

The air traffic controller phoned RAF Machrihanish, but was told to forget what he had seen, the newspaper report claimed.

Speaking from Minnesota, an expert on stealth aircraft Bill Sweetman told *The Oban Times* he had heard similar reports in the US, citing a *New York Times* article describing the development of an aircraft with mach six capabilities. He added the remoteness of Machrihanish would make it perfect for a top secret operation.

Asked how secret the aircraft would be, Mr Sweetman said: 'Put it this way - in 1988 the US Air Force had 50 F-117 stealth aircraft operating in Nevada and still denied they even existed. It would be possible for something like this to be buried.'

Then Russia raised its head. Russia is currently disrupting American politics, but back then it was causing merry hell in Oban, when the KGB held up attempts to forge exchange links between a Russian and Oban Mountaineering Club.

Mr 'Ned' Rimmer had invited Russian mountaineers Igor Churakov, Yuri Kyarov and junior woman's rock climbing champion Anastasia over to sample Britain's topography and organise visits between the two countries.

The KGB, however, apparently for no reason, confiscated Anastasia's passport, which cost



dog proved skipper's best friend. He saved him the day when a high sea struck the island's Sea King. HMS Gannet was in the area. Mr Richard Fox was trying to get a clam dredge when it snapped and trapped his hand. He was lying on the ground on his way to the boat to get himself. It took 20 minutes for the boat to get to him. Each time he was helped by his dog.

RICHARD Fox ... reunited with Shellach

20/65/24



the equivalent of two years' wages. The KGB also told Mr Churakov that his documents and visas contained 'irregularities'.

'My reaction was that he wanted a bribe,' said Mr Rimmer of Kerrera. 'The bureaucracy is appalling. The KGB are little grey men in little grey suits who are suddenly faced with an initiative and can't seem to latch onto the fact that these people are free.'

Strange things were also happening at sea off Gigha, where, as reported on April 16, a rare sturgeon was caught by the Tarbert fishing vessel Caledonia.

The 23lb fish, renowned for its expensive roe caviar, was caught by skipper Kenny Brown's crew off Gigha's west coast. 'It was caught off the Russian,' Mr Brown said, ironically referring to the proximity of the catch to the stranded factory ship Kartli.

The sturgeon was kept alive in water until the boat docked in

West Loch Tarbert. It was then sold at auction on Tarbert quay for £35.50 to local fish merchant Malcolm MacKinnon. Mr MacKinnon said he would sell the fish on the London market, where it could fetch a price between £150 and £200.

Secretary of Tarbert Fishermen's Co-op Harold Scott said he had only come across one other sturgeon landed in Great Britain during the past 30 years.

Gigha's twilight zone continued onto May 14, with a story entitled 'A skipper's best friend', re-published below:

A skipper's best friend

SHELLACH the dog proved she was her skipper's best friend when she gave him the 'kiss of life' during a high sea drama on Saturday.

The Gigha ferry, the island's district nurse and a Sea King helicopter from HMS Gannet

were all involved in the dramatic air-sea rescue.

Lone fisherman Mr Richard Fox, of Clachan, was trying to unblock his boat's clam dredge when its metal teeth snapped shut, crushing and trapping his thumb.

Bleeding badly and lying on his back, he inched his way to the other end of the boat to get a crowbar to free himself.

During a painful 20 minutes, he fainted twice. Each time he was brought round by his dog 'washing his face'.

Speaking from his bed at Crosshouse Hospital, Kilmarnock, Mr Fox said: 'I think she was waking me up saying, go on, have another try.'

Mr Fox was fishing the Sound of Gigha on Saturday morning in his 10-metre steel trawler Searcher when the accident happened.

After freeing his thumb, Mr Fox was able to get to the moorings at Ardmish Bay.

Left: Richard Fox is reunited with his life-saving pooch Shellach.

Seil bridge, blooming with purple fairy foxglove in May, is 225 years old this year.

And a Tarbert boat landed a distinctly odd fish.

WHEN legend lengths to home-mac Film s Niro flew on Tuesday driven to for dinner. Along star of Deer Hunt at the wor Castle Hot The pa for dinner at the cas from the Managi castle M



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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.



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MORVERN lines

Taking a stick from the wood

THE old Highland proverb, 'Breac à linne, slat à coille, 's fiadh à fireach - mèirle nach do ghabh duine riagh nàir aisde' (a fish from the pool, a stick from the wood, a deer from the mountain - thefts no man ever was ashamed of), may have found favour with some 19th-century Gaelic-speaking landowners, but it cut no ice with one Morvern laird as a party of men from Lismore found to their cost.

It all began in September 1851 when John Alexander Sellar, son of Patrick Sellar, who became proprietor of Ardtornish Estate in 1844, was fox-hunting on the Garbh Shlios, a rough, tree-covered stretch of hillside on the Morvern peninsula opposite the southern end of Lismore, and found the stumps of birch trees that had been recently cut and dragged to the shore. Accompanying Sellar were John Douglas, the estate manager, and John Mathieson, the Eignais shepherd.

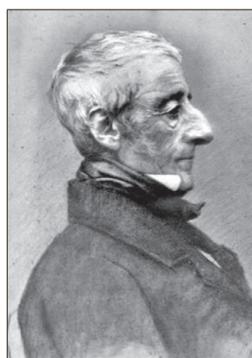
Sellar wrote to Henry Nisbet, the procurator fiscal in Tobermory, on September 20: 'Sir, in my father's absence I take the liberty of addressing you in your character of procurator

fiscal for this district; and to say that more than one hundred trees have been cut down and carried away from the estate by some evil disposed persons within the past few days.

'I have reason to believe that this has been done by people in boats from Lismore. Would you therefore be so good as to send the policeman here on receipt of this to examine into the circumstances and to report to you the result with a view to bringing the offending parties to justice.'

Nisbet lost no time in taking action. A few days after receiving Sellar's request, he petitioned William Robertson, sheriff substitute of the Northern District of Argyll, based in Tobermory, for a warrant to apprehend Colin Campbell, John McColl and John Carmichael, crofters, James Campbell, labourer, Duncan Carmichael, labourer, Donald Carmichael, cottar, Gilbert Carmichael, cottar, and Donald Macintyre and Alexander Macintyre, crofters, all residing at Achnadow [Achnaduin] in the united parish of Appin and Lismore and to hold them in Tobermory prison for examination.

The charge was that between September 1 and 24 they 'did all and each, or one or more of



Patrick Sellar of Ardtornish (1780-1851).

them actor or actors, or art and part wickedly and feloniously cut down and theftuously steal and carry away 150, or thereby, large birch trees, the property, or in the lawful possession, of the said Patrick Sellar.'

Speaking for Ardtornish estate, Sellar, Mathieson, Douglas and Robert Macdonald, the shepherd at Inniemore, stated that the accused did not have permission from Patrick Sellar to cut and take away timber. But Angus Mackinnon, wood ranger, Lochaline, aged 60, who had lived at Camusnagowan close to the place where the trees were cut and

which bears his name to this day, stated in Gaelic (as he could not speak English) that some of the Achnadow tenants frequently came over to the Garbh Shlios for firewood for which they always paid according to the prices he fixed.

After being cautioned and charged, all the accused denied any wrongdoing because they had permission. In a carefully-worded statement, Colin Campbell, aged about 60, speaking for most of his colleagues, said: 'I have known the wood [of Garbh Shlios] bought by Mr Sellar from Mr Gregorson for the past 60 years.'

'Achnadow belonged to the Duke of Argyll and the people of Achnadow had the right to take wood from it since my father's time some 80 years ago. Angus Mackinnon, Mr Gregorson's wood forester, used to go along with us to point out the trees we were to cut. We have been in the habit of cutting wood there since Mr Sellar bought the property and we did so in the middle of the day when Mr Sellar's shepherds were about who must have seen us cutting the wood but never challenged us for doing so. We never asked nor obtained authority from Mr Sellar to cut wood in Garalas.'

And there, unfortunately, the matter comes to a close. The Tobermory Sheriff Court papers for the period, which would have recorded the disposal, have disappeared. Contemporary newspapers are silent, suggesting the trial did not go ahead. Perhaps Patrick Sellar's death a few weeks later, or intervention by the Gregorson family, was the reason.

The Duke of Argyll's tenants in Tiree had the right to cut trees on the Ross of Mull but only under strict supervision. In 1686, the Earl of Breadalbane, who owned parts of Lismore, made an arrangement with Duncan Maclean for each family among his tenantry to take annually six loads of timber in six-oared boats from Kingairloch and Glensanda. They were not, however, allowed to take hazel because of its value for fishing rods, creels and hoops, or rowan, which was preserved for its edible berries and because of its use as a charm against witchcraft. Soon, without supervision, the Liosach boats got bigger and, by 1800, the coastal forests and peat bogs disappeared entirely through the chimneys of the Lismore houses.

Iain Thornber
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OT



Lochawe, Dalmally PA33 1AQ Tel: 01838 200880

A transformation of an extraordinary kind has happened on the banks of Loch Awe.

Out of the former Tight Line pub at Lochawe village, an unrecognisable venture has grown.

The Ben Cruachan Inn has opened up to a whole new audience in the former stables of the Loch Awe Hotel and has completed an incredible job of bringing fine ales and spirits together with a modern family atmosphere while offering incredible views of the loch.

And for those who don't want to drive home, or are taking a holiday in the area, there is the added benefit of five

spectacular bedrooms.

The Oban Times sat down with managers David Wilson and Lewis Ross to discuss their aspirations for the newly-opened inn.

David and Lewis between them have 24 years' experience in the trade and have built up a reputation as strong performers in the food, drink and hotel industry.

David, from Port Sonanachan, said: 'This is an amazing opportunity to bring on both a village restaurant and bar that works for the area along with the chance to attract a whole new generation of customers and visitors from all over the world.'

'The company that owns the inn is incredible to work for. We have an incredible team here.'

David manages the food and drinks in the inn and, as he says himself, it is all about Scottish provenance and low food miles.

'We try to keep our food and drink as local as possible.'

'At the moment we have 14 Scottish gins and counting. We have 84 whiskies on offer. We want people to come here and enjoy a drink with a member of staff who is knowledgeable about the product. We also sell Scottish teas and coffee that have been roasted in Dundee.'

'If people are looking for a particular thing, then we hope to be able to get it for them.'

Lewis, from Oban, is the general manager at the hotel, and already has a number of parties and events under his belt at the inn.

'I am hoping to have at least one live event at least once a month. Our first one was superb and we had such good fun dancing the night away.'

'I am always on the look out for other bands to come and play in the inn.'

'Part of the rebuild has been the introduction of five bedrooms - three double and two twin rooms. Some of the rooms have a view over Loch Awe while one room is wheelchair accessible and another has a small kitchen included in the room.'

'The inn is fitted with a lift and is fully accessible for someone who has problems with mobility or uses a wheelchair.'

'We hope to have something to offer for everyone. We have various board games for families and, of course, we have a pool table.'

'If it is raining, there are plenty things to do inside.'

'We also have seats on our amazing deck area which has spectacular views down the loch. It's the perfect place to enjoy a drink on a sunny day.'

Anyone who visited the old Tight Line pub will remember that it was dark inside - the

owners have opened it up and brought as much light as possible into one big room. When the owners took the building over they knew the local community wanted to have a pub on the site, so they set about making that happen.

The interior has some beautiful and quirky pieces of furniture and has created a modern dining area with a beautiful wood bar that was hand-crafted from an elm tree felled in Edinburgh.

Some of the paintings on the walls come with a story. Two paintings were bought in an auction and, in the first week of opening, the artist came in as he

happened to stop by for tea and saw his pictures.

So we met the man behind the art, a very talented Mr David Robertson. His pictures were serendipity at its finest.



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Project Managers
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Architects for the Ben Cruachan Inn Project

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'We were delighted to be involved as architects for the refurbishment and extension of the former Tight Line pub and its rebirth as the Ben Cruachan Inn. Best wishes for the future of the business to Tracey, Ian, Steve and the team.'

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'D. MacDougall Contractors have been involved with the Ben Cruachan Inn project throughout the refurbishment and are pleased to see it successfully completed. We wish the team all the best for the future.'

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'We are delighted to have been involved as the project quantity surveyors in this fantastic new development and wish the Ben Cruachan the best of luck'

'We designed, supplied and installed the air source heat pump system which provides the heating and hot water to the Inn. We hope your new venture is a success and you and your guests are warm with plenty of hot water.'

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'My involvement in the refurb was to design and make a bar that celebrated the natural elements of Scottish elm. I wish the Ben Cruachan Inn every success for the future.'

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'We are pleased to have been involved as the Civil and Structural Engineers for the above project. It was an interesting project to work on, trying to complete such an extensive full refurbishment within budget costs and timeframe. The building has responded well and we would like to wish our client all the best for the future.'

Buccaneers raise cash for RNLI



A BAND of pirates took over Port Appin hall last Saturday at an event that raised £900 for the Oban RNLI.

A competition for the best-dressed pirate brought out youngsters from Appin and Port Appin, complete with cutlasses, eye patches and hats.

While the little pirates sought out the treasure on offer, adults enjoyed some tea and homebaking and bought plants grown for the occasion by RNLI Oban committee member and Airds Hotel gardener Les Hazelgrave.

Moira Kerr, secretary of the RNLI Oban fundraising group, said: 'We are delighted at the turnout from the communities of Appin and Port Appin today and we have also had a great response from volunteers.'

'We have a small fundraising group but a lot of great helpers that we can call upon when we have events on. To be honest, we couldn't do anything like this without their help. I'd like to thank them for their continued support and thank everyone who contributed homebaking.'

Four-year-old Emily Hunt

won best-dressed pirate, followed by Emma Paterson, two, and William MacLeod, three, in joint second, and 18-month-old Amber Sterling in third. Competition judge, Dr Iain McNicol also made special mention of Iona Thomson, who made her own costume.

Clockwise from top right are: The little pirates gather for the judging;

The hard-working members of the RNLI Oban fundraising committee and helpers;

Friends William MacLeod and Emma Paterson were placed joint second in the best dressed pirate competition;

Four-year-old Emily Hunt from Appin was named best dressed pirate;

Little William Steuart-Fotheringham was one of the youngest pirates;

Pirate pals Courtney Keillor, left, and Emily Hunt.



Police officer Claire Brown was part of an emergency services visit.

Soaring towards summer at Rockfield Primary

ROCKFIELD pupils and staff have all been incredibly busy this term.

The school has been involved in fantastic educational trips outwith school, had wonderful visitors come to school to share their expertise and are involved in preparations for the annual sports day, which will be held at Mossfield Stadium on Tuesday June 13, weather permitting (reserve day Wednesday June 14).

Primary seven pupils have been involved in a transition project with Oban High School.

This year staff from the English department hosted a 'Book Trailers' day, when pupils used digital technology to create an advert for a science fiction/horror story by a current author of teenage fiction. Rockfield P7 pupils worked with P7 pupils from St Columba's on this successful venture.

P7 pupils were also given the opportunity to participate in a 'Healthy Me' project, run by Maureen Evans, youth worker. Pupils were involved in cooking and sporting activities, which culminated in a trip to trampoline park 'Ryze' in Glasgow.

P6 enjoyed a day trip to the banks of Loch Awe on Friday May 12, where they visited Cruachan power station.

The children have been studying a science project based on renewable and non-renewable energy, and have a keen interest in Scotland's energy sources. The class stopped for a picnic lunch and sandcastle building competition at Ganavan before returning to school.

The emergency services came to deliver a joint assembly on Friday May 12. Pupils from Rockfield and St Columba's were given the opportunity to learn about and sit inside a fire engine and police car.

There were smiles all round when

older children paired up with younger children last week to read some favourite stories together.

Paired reading helps to improve attitude to reading for pleasure, and improved speaking and listening skills.

P6 and P7 invited police youth engagement officer Claire Brown to Rockfield to help learn more about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

The school is taking forward substance misuse education work covering controlled drugs, safe use of medicines, alcohol, tobacco and solvents. Children and young people have been exploring the impact risk taking behaviour has on life choices and health. Giving clear information on the risks helps young people to make healthy choices.

P4-P6 have been lucky enough to be given the opportunity to participate in four weeks of tag rugby, facilitated by Allan Wright.

P3 and P4 went to Glen Coe to learn more about Scottish landscapes and how to protect wildlife.

P3 also enjoyed a trip to Cruachan power station and Ganavan Sands. Through their 'Hooftin' it Roon the Highlands topic, the children had been learning about the features of Scottish landscapes and how the land is used.

Children were thrilled to explore the hollow mountain to find out how it can be used to make electricity. The classes headed off to Ganavan Sands where they took part in a beach scavenger hunt and created some beautiful pieces of artwork in the sand.

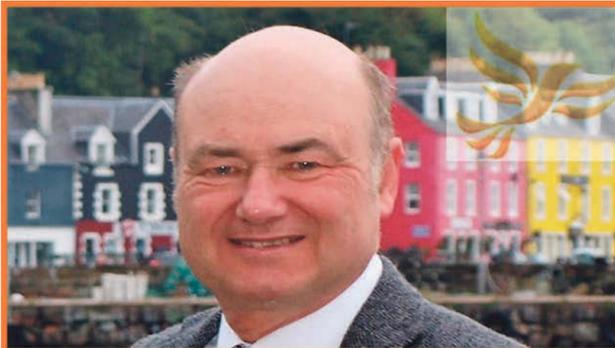
As part of their learning about travel and transport in Oban, P1 pupils visited Oban airport and were given a tour of the buildings, including the control tower.

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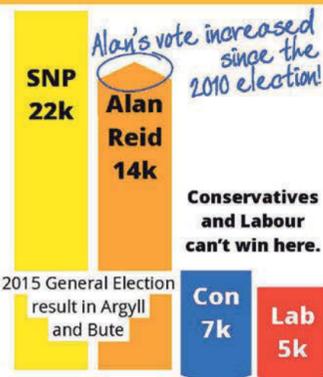
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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

On Tuesday morning the world woke up to the horrifying news of the suicide bomb attack at Manchester Arena on Monday night, where thousands of young people had just enjoyed a pop concert by Ariana Grande.

The disbelief that reverberated around the country that anyone could carry out such a cold, calculated, evil act against sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews and friends was palpable.

The horror was felt even closer to home with the news that two young friends from Barra have been caught up in the attack. At the time of going to press, Laura MacIntyre was seriously injured and being treated in hospital.

Her friend, Eilidh MacLeod, remains unaccounted for. There was some good news when two Fort William sisters who attended the concert and were caught up in the chaos were found safe and unharmed.

At times like these the one thing that stands out is the love and kindness of people, with messages of support and prayers from around the world flooding in for the Barra teenagers' families. The one thing our communities do well is to offer love, care and support to those in need, and it is that strength of character, which refuses to give in to fear, that will help defeat the small number of people who perpetrate these acts in the long run.



Days gone by – 1997

This week we turn the clock back to 1997 and two kenspeckle figures at the Arisaig Show. The photograph was sent in by Mrs M Maceachen, from Arisaig, who said the duo are Ewen Campbell and Archie MacDonald.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



Still haunted by the Iolaire tragedy

EMOTIONS triggered by historical events far in the distant past can affect us in a powerful way that transcends generations, geography and genealogy.

I have no family connections with the Isle of Lewis, but last Friday afternoon, as I was sitting in the cafe bar of Eden Court Theatre in Inverness refreshing my memory with the facts for the introduction to our song *The Iolaire*, I was reduced to tears.

It is testimony to the strength of the Lewis people that they recovered from such cruel blow and prospered again.

The name Iolaire is synonymous with one of the worst disasters ever to befall a ship.

The tragedy is not marked for the number of those drowned, but for the immensely cruel circumstances in which it happened.

Late on the evening of December 31, 1918, the motor yacht Iolaire left the pier at Kyle bound for Stornoway. On board were 280 men (numbers recorded are subject to possible error because of the rushed circumstances

of boarding), mainly from Lewis, who were returning home having survived the hell of four years of the First World War.

The men were mostly Royal Navy reserves, and although the majority of their time had been spent at sea, many had been drafted in to fight on land-based campaigns and many had experienced the brutality of trench warfare.

At that time the islands of Lewis and Harris had already lost more men per head of population than any other geographic area of the United Kingdom. But these men had survived and were soon to be stepping again on to their native Island of Lewis.

Waiting on the island in deep anticipation of their return were their families – wives, parents, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, girlfriends and a whole community joined by collective relief that these men, who had survived against the odds, were coming home.

The sense of celebration was even more keenly felt, because they would be returning and would be reunited on the morning of the New Year – a New Year of peace that meant healing and new beginnings.

Around 2.30am that night, with the

lights of Stornoway Harbour in sight and just yards from home, the Iolaire struck the rocks known as the Beasts of Holm. The sea, as it so often does in poor conditions, acted swiftly and callously.

Of the 280 men on board, 205 were drowned. Of the 75 who lived, many were saved because of the skill and bravery of John MacLeod from Ness, who managed to swim ashore with a heaving line and then secure a heavier rope to the shore. This saved more than 40 men.

As news of the tragedy spread through the island, the extent of the disaster became clear and, by the morning, families were searching the shorelines for the bodies of their loved ones.

One of the most cutting images told of that morning was of countless bodies washed up on the shore at Sandwick Bay and, scattered among them, the toys that many of the men had brought back as Christmas presents for their children – children whom they had not seen for four years and these children were never now see their fathers again.

Nearly 100 years since that fateful night, the irony and cruelty of the Iolaire disaster is hard to comprehend.



Social media

Three newly-elected councillors, including the newly-selected leader of Argyll and Bute Council, Aileen Morton, are standing as candidates in the general election. The news generated considerable comment. Suzy Anderson posted: 'So the leader of the council is so committed to the role that she managed to grab for herself, she's standing in the general election..... I see.....'

Laura Cook lamented: 'It just feels like they are using us as a practice run. We are not guinea pigs!!! I would like councillors not politicians, councillors who care and have a vested interest in the communities in which they live and are elected. I am wholly disappointed and

disheartened to have read about parties forming coalitions to keep others out. Surely all councillors should work together towards a common goal.'

Gus Laurenson wrote: 'Real commitment there, not!! If but it is a big IF, they get elected in June what a mess the council will be in then! Never mind tho, they will have their reward. They cannot be very confident about their prospects in the General Election to accept these posts now'

Irene A Harvey said: 'Why would they even be considered for these posts if they are standing in the General Election??? Depressing!!'

Lorna Ahlquist posted: 'Very sad to see this leadership, it will mean same

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.

New pontoons will benefit all of Oban

Sir, There appears to be a determined campaign by one or two individuals, on behalf of one out-of-town business, to destroy the most important development for the benefit of the entire Oban community in many years – the provision of a town centre berthing facility for visiting boats.

As someone who helped to found Oban Bay Marine, the community company which campaigned for 10 years to bring Oban in line with almost all other harbours large and small round the coast, by providing town centre facilities, can I make the following points.

In the past, commercial marinas explored the option of building a marina on the esplanade. They determined that because of the cost of installing the very heavy duty attenuators, or floating breakwaters, necessary in the exposed bay, it was not commercially viable for them.

OBM did a great deal of the initial work to organise a short-stay facility, but appreciated that only Argyll and Bute Council could address the market failure by taking on the major contractual works involved, for the benefit of the whole community.

There is a very clear difference between a marina such as Dunstaffnage, which has extensive shore facilities, and has a core business of long-term berth holders (with boats unoccupied most of the time), to that of the transit facility, which is limited to short stays for visiting boats.

In crude terms, the latter is the equivalent of a supermarket car park for boats; something that makes Oban a transport hub; an extremely convenient place for those visiting boats to tie up safely, shop, change crew, eat ashore, go to the hairdresser, do laundry and generally spread business across the whole town.

Should those short-stay visitors need work done on their boats or, finding Oban to their liking, wish to come here for the following season, then the adjacent marinas, including Dunstaffnage, will benefit from new business created. (Incidentally, the same marina has already had several months of business; the breakwater units themselves are being constructed at Dunstaffnage.)

The complaints are on the basis of potentially losing business to the council, which has had the benefit of public funding, or state aid.

My understanding of the situation, as explained at a public information meeting, is that once the facility is actually in the water, and has received all its official approvals, the right to operate it as a commercial enterprise will be put out to public tender. Contrary to the impression being given, the council will no more be in competition than if it were renting one of its offices.

In summary, the council has often been criticised for not taking action.

By contrast, here in Oban the streetscape works at Stafford Street and along the front have given the

town a real facelift. Tourism is at the core of Oban enterprise. Marine tourism is the fastest growing element of that.

The new facility will bring extra business, and sustain jobs, right across Oban and Lorn. The council's initiative in constructing that facility is something that should be applauded for the universal benefit that it brings to Oban.

Mike Robertson,
Dungrianach, Pulpit Hill, Oban.

Deportation is at the behest of Home Office

Sir, What a curious and confused message is conveyed in the letter from David Gallant (*The Oban Times*, May 4).

Mr Gallant suggests that the Canadian family who invested so much time, money and effort into transforming the Laggan Stores are victims of EU legislation and are but one of many other instances, and we know of several others, where families and individuals from outwith the EU are faced with deportation.

Mr Gallant claims we should respond to this discrimination by pursuing a 'hard' Brexit and refuse to trade with our EU neighbours and should impose a total ban on imports from EU members. He deplores racial discrimination and yet he suggests that we should practice it.

In truth, the move to expel the family from Laggan – and they have already, to our shame, gone – is entirely at the behest of the UK Home Office and despite strenuous efforts on their behalf by the local MP and his colleagues. Clearly, discretion exists to allow nationals from outwith the EU to remain. Were this not so, the NHS throughout the country would be on its knees and many other aspects of our services would be under even more strain than at present.

It is salutary to reflect that a former Home Secretary is now Prime Minister and that in her previous role she headed the most intransigent and unsympathetic department of government – and so it remains.

We should be taking steps now and without delay to regularise the status of foreign nationals from the EU and from elsewhere who are contributing tangibly to our economy. They help greatly to counteract the demography of Scotland and add greatly to our society.

Ken MacColl,
Villa Road, Oban.

Fish farm company needs reality check

Sir, Your article headed '3,000 sign Sound of Jura fish farm petition' (*The Oban Times*, May 11) ended with Kames Fish Farming's reaction to the many and substantial grounds of objection to its proposal.

It is much to be hoped that Kames will recognise the weight of opposition and adopt the approach of one

of its competitors, Marine Harvest Ltd, Scotland's largest producer of farmed salmon, which now recognises that there are 'sensitive sites' and, as reported on BBC Countryfile, says that it is 'open to looking at relocation of sensitive sites into less sensitive sites'.

Kames' own assessment of the site recognised that this is a landscape whose 'sensitivity is high due to value (designation) and lack of development/activity; remoteness, tranquillity and visual exposure from seaward'.

This being so, Kames must accept that there is a heavy burden on it to identify the impacts of its proposal and how the impacts could possibly be acceptable.

Your report of Kames' reaction shows it taking altogether too narrow an approach to the evidence it has to produce. It has to go much further than merely offering 'consideration'. Unless Kames adduces a compelling scientific case showing that there will be no or minimal damage, its proposal should be withdrawn and relocated to an area where it will do no damage.

David Furze,
Donnie House, Salen Mor Bay.

Candidate did not expect election

Sir, Following the letter sent in to your paper last week by Councillor Julie McKenzie, I must comment that our former MP Alan Reid agreed to stand in the general election after many local people told the Liberal Democrats they hoped he would put his name forward.

Many people told us Alan had been a very hard-working MP and was the only candidate who can overtake the SNP and stop another independence referendum. Alan finished in clear second place the last time, well ahead of the third-placed Tory.

When he stood for Argyll and Bute Council, Alan obviously didn't know that the Prime Minister intended to call a general election for June 8. Theresa May had promised repeatedly that she wouldn't do this. We clearly can't trust a word she says.

Councillor McKenzie criticised Alan for standing in the general election in last week's letter, but I don't remember her saying anything when 15 SNP councillors were elected to parliament at the 2015 general election, causing 15 by-elections.

Alan is carrying out his council duties as Councillor McKenzie well knows. He attended the whole of last week's council meeting. Councillor McKenzie also knows that there are no council or committee meetings between now and polling day because the council staff are too busy organising the election.

Councillor McKenzie's letter was just part of an SNP smear campaign. They are clearly very worried that Alan Reid will move from second place last time to first place this time.

Cathy McInnes,
Convener,
Argyll and Bute Liberal Democrats.

Aileen Caimbeul

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



AN RUD A CHÌ LEANABH, 's e nì leanabh! Bha dà thachartas bho chionn ghoirid a thug an seanfhacal air leth fìor seo nam chuimhne.

'S fhada bho thuig mac an duine an cumhachd a bh' aig foillseachadh, agus thar iomadach bliadhna bha gnìomhachas an tombaca ealanta na chuid margaideachd, a' cosnadh cumhachd agus fortain mhòra dhan feadhainn a bha an sàs ann.

Ach bho chionn beagan bhliadhnaichean tha luchd-iomairt air adhartas nach beag a dhèanamh nan oidhirp gus casg a chur air smocadh, agus anns a' ghluasad as ùire feumaidh toitean a bhith air an tabhann anns an aon sheòrsa pacaid le rabhaidhean cruaidhe a thaobh cunnart slàinte. Deagh chomhairle an sin ma-tà. An tachartas eile a thog m' aire 's e gun deach cuimhneachain Confederalach an leagail ann am baile New Orleans ann an Ameireagaidh. Cha b' ann gun spàirn a bhuaidhach ceannard a' bhaile le seo, ach an dèidh còrr air dà cheud bliadhna tha iomhaighean a bha a' comharrachadh tràillealachd agus fulang dhaoine dubha air a dhol a sealladh.

Abair cuirm ciùil shònraichte ann an Taigh-cluiche Cùirt Eden an Inbhir Nis Dihaoine seo chaidh is an còmhlan Skipinnish a' cur a' chlàir ùir aca air bhog gu h-oifigeil. Mealaibh bhur naidheachd fhearaidh, agus Raonaid Walker, airson feasgar a bha cho taitneach agus gach soirbheachadh le The Seventh Wave (An Seachdamh Tonn).

Saoidh m' gum bheil freumhan ciùil Skipinnish air am biadhadh à dualchas na Gàidhlig agus na Gàidhealtachd agus nach ann dhuinn uile a thigeadh a bhith moiteil à mar a tha ceòl Gàidhlig agus Gàidhealach air inbhe agus cliù eadar-nàiseanta a chosnadh thar nan deicheadan bhliadhnaichean a chaidh.

Sàr luchd-ealain a' sìor thogail air bunaitean a leag Runrig ceathrad 's a ceithir bliadhna air ais agus a tha iad fhèin air a ghleidheadh cuideachd. Chan eil teagamh nach eil an seòrsa ciùil seo a' cuideachadh anns an iomairt gus suidheachadh na Gàidhlig a neartachadh às ùr, agus tha gach foillseachadh clàir agus gach cuirm ann am bheil an ceòl ri chluinntinn na bhrosnachadh cudromach dhan chànan is dhan dualchas. Faodaidh mòran nach eil a' cleachdadh a'

chànain a bhith air am misneachadh tòiseachadh ri sin a dhèanamh a-rithist, agus faodaidh cuideachd feadhainn eile a bhith air an tìladh agus an cànan ionnsachadh.

'S fhiach aithneachadh a' mhar-gaideachd air leth luachmhor a tha an luchd-ciùil sin uile a' dèanamh dhan chànan, agus an còthrom sònraichte a' th' aca cur ri inbhe an dualchais le bhith a' cleachdadh beagan Gàidhlig air na h-àird-ùrlair.

THE YOUNG OF ALL species learn from the example of adults so the standardisation of tobacco packaging in the UK is a welcome step towards discouraging smoking and preventing costly illness. In America, the removal of New Orleans' Confederate memorials signifying white supremacy and a belief in slavery, deliver an equally significant and welcome message.

Congratulations to Skipinnish on the launch of its latest album *The Seventh Wave*, and for its positive promotion of Gaelic language and culture.

Aileen Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
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Bus fare rockets by £500 a year

ELLIE FORBES
eforb@obantimes.co.uk

A ROY BRIDGE resident has seen his bus fare to Fort William rocket by 82 per cent as he found himself having to buy two tickets to get to and from work.

Steven Bond uses the bus service between Roy Bridge and Fort William every day to get to work but has found himself £31.50 out of pocket each week following recent Highland Council contract changes.

On April 24, the council split the service into two contracts, one consisting of the service which operates via the high school and

a second for other journeys.

Mr Bond said the council's explanation for this is it 'enables a smaller bus to be used for non-school journeys to provide the council with better value for money.'

However, the council awarded the contract including school journeys to Shiel Buses while the other contract remains with Stagecoach, but neither operator will accept each other's tickets, meaning his bus fare has surged by 82 per cent.

Mr Bond told the *Lochaber Times*: 'I previously was able to purchase a seven-day ticket from Stagecoach costing me £17.15,

which had already increased from £16.50 at the beginning of April, which enabled to make unlimited journeys locally.'

'I now have to buy two single tickets to get to and from work costing me £6.30 per day - £31.50 a week - plus extra for any other journeys I need to make.'

Mr Bond says that, while he can understand the Highland Council's rationale for awarding two contracts, he said he 'cannot understand why they did not include mutual ticket acceptance in the contracts when awarding them.'

'It seems to me the council did not consider bus users when

awarding the contracts, as I cannot see any benefit to passengers whatsoever of the new timetables.'

Mr Bond only found out his travel costs would increase by more than £500 a year when he went to get on the bus for work on April 24.

He said he is 'dissatisfied at the lack of forward warning of this significant increase in fares by either the council or the bus operators.'

A spokeswoman for Stagecoach North Scotland said: 'When Highland Council contracts changed on April 24, there was no requirement for operators

to accept other bus operators' tickets.'

'We are actively pursuing this matter with the Highland Council as there are not currently any commercially provided multi-operator bus tickets available in Fort William.'

She added: 'We are prepared to discuss the potential for a commercially provided multi-operator ticket to make travel for the local community easier following the contract changes.'

'However, we would require commitment from Shiel Buses and any other interested operators as well as an independent body such as the Highland Coun-

cil to facilitate these discussions. Operators are not permitted to discuss fares directly with each other.'

'Unlimited bus travel on Stagecoach services in Fort William starts from just £1.41 per day.'

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'Introducing a multi-operator ticket requires the agreement of operators and a revenue sharing arrangement to be in place. In Lochaber this affects commercial bus services as well as those under contract to the council. We do intend to introduce a scheme but it will take some time to set up the arrangements.'

Torlundy woman broke kitchen window

A TORLUNDY woman must prove she can behave herself for six months and pay compensation for a window damaged when she drunkenly went round to see her ex.

Vanessa Anne Matheson, 23, of Happy Valley, Torlundy, had previously admitted at Fort William Sheriff Court behaving in a threatening manner and damaging the window.

On Tuesday the court heard from procurator fiscal Martine Eastwood that Matheson had gone to an address in Fort William where she knew her former partner was. She banged on the door and shouted that she wanted to talk to him.

'She was intoxicated,' said the fiscal. The man, and the woman he was with, declined to talk to her. Matheson then went to the back of the house and damaged the kitchen window.

But her defence agent said that Matheson, a first-time offender, had only banged on the window in frustration and 'did not expect it to break'.

He added that Matheson and the man had split up but she had received text messages from him and then discovered he was at the property in Fort William and that another woman was there.

Matheson worked for her father, a joiner, who was arranging for the window to be repaired.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald deferred sentence for six months for Matheson to be of good behaviour and to prove that restitution had been made for the window.

£1,000 will see Daisy enjoy safari park treat

MORE than £1,000 has been raised for a Fort William toddler with a rare form of cancer.

Daisy Thomson was diagnosed with an atypical teratoid rhabdoid tumour last March when she was just nine months old.

A whopping £40,000 has been raised for Daisy during the course of her illness by friends, family and Lochaber business.

In December, Daisy was given the all clear but her family was recently given the heartbreaking news that her cancer had returned and sadly, it looks to be terminal.

Close family friend Keira Wright has been busy fundraising for Daisy and held a successful raffle in Sunny's Bar, Fort William, on Sunday May 21. Forty people attended, with £1,108 raised.

Keria told the *Lochaber Times*: 'Her parents, Leah and Garry, have said they are going to take Daisy to Blair Drummond Safari Park as she really likes animals.'



Bar owner Ian Roger left, and organiser of the raffle Keira Wright, right, with Daisy's parents, Garry and Leah Thomson. Picture: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Community councils blast exclusion from A82 road summit

THE *Lochaber Times* has learned that community councils will not have a seat at the table for the A82 summit, writes Ellie Forbes.

Chairman of Ballachulish Community Council and the Association of South Lochaber Community Councils Kevin Smith received a letter from Transport Scotland saying they will not be invited to attend the summit on June 23 but can instead fill out a survey form.

And it was said the summit will be held in Crianlarich and not Fort William as was previously reported.

It is believed the A82 Partnership has been invited to the summit.

Mr Smith said: 'Surely a community representative should be invited, even if it's just to sit and listen.'

'It's the lack of consultation that is so concerning to me.'

'No-one has anything against the A82 Partnership but who elected them? And how are they going to represent all of our communities?'

Iain Jenner, chairman of Nether Lochaber Community Council, told the *Lochaber Times* he was 'furious'.

He said: 'This news flies in the face of the Community Empowerment Act. I am all set to go and doorstep them at the summit on June 23.'

'I can't speak on behalf of any other community councils, but

my community is bisected by the trunk road.'

'It's a defining feature of our community which affects our lives, so to not be able to give an opinion where we live and how any decisions may affect us is disappointing.'

'The transport authority has a history of poor consultation.'

'It comes up with a plan of what it wants to do, has an information day to say what ideas it has rejected, and then tells us what its going to do.'

'It's not a consultation, it's just a tick-box exercise.'

'And the Community Empowerment Act is meant to have changed all that. We are meant to have a say, which is why it's so disappointing.'

'Commercial people will have a say, but the people whose lives will actually be physically changed won't.'

Fort William and Ardnarnach councillor Andrew Baxter said: 'So much for the transport minister wanting a constructive discussion about the A82, when civil servants have dismissed any involvement by community councils.'

'It's a disgrace. It goes against the spirit of the government's new law that requires public bodies to enable communities to take part in decision-making.'

'Decisions about the A82 will affect these communities for decades to come - they must be allowed to have a say.'

£1m expansion to creates nine jobs at Lochaber sand mine

NINE jobs have been created in Lochaber thanks to a £1 million expansion of a sand mine.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has invested £100,000 in the development by Lochaline Quartz Sand Ltd on the Morvern peninsula.

HIE's approval will bring economic and social benefits to this rural part of Lochaber and take the total number employed at the mine to 20.

The investment towards the purchase of plant equipment, machines and the installation of buildings will assist the growth of the business.

The site was brought back into commercial operation five years ago in a joint effort between Italian mining group Minerali Industriali SRL and high-quality glass manufacturer NSG, parent of the Pilkington Group, the main buyer of the company's sand.

Sand being mined at the site is used in the production of glass products, from crystal and ceramics to sanitary ware and photo-voltaic panels.

Product diversification is said to be a major part of the expansion. New processes and markets are set to be developed for the firm's lower grade sand, which has to date been a waste product of the mining operation.

Daniele Trogolo Got, operations director at the mine, said: 'This latest capital investment underlines our commitment to the mine and local area. It should put us in a good position to supply high quality sand to new and emerging markets both in the UK and internationally.'

'The re-opening and refurbishment of the original Lochaline sand mine coupled with this latest venture and a highly committed workforce means we can look forward to the future with confidence.'

Head of business growth at HIE Alison Gainsford added: 'The expansion of the mine and the additional turnover and jobs created are both important economic boosts to this fragile area.'

'The additional wages generated as part of this development will have a significant impact on other community facilities, including the local shop and hotel.'

'It will also help retain the current local population and attract more people and families into the area, which potentially creates demand for new housing. Overall, this preserves the viability of public services such as the local school and has a long-lasting, positive impact on the economic sustainability and resilience of the community of Morvern.'

Lochaber man breached bail conditions

A 24-YEAR-OLD Lochaber man has been told it is up to him to keep himself out of jail.

David Paul O'Hara had previously admitted threatening and abusive behaviour, resisting, obstructing and hindering the police in the execution of their duty, by struggling, and possessing cannabis. He appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court for sentencing but he also appeared from custody for breaching the bail granted for the offences which he committed on May 11.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald was told on Monday that

O'Hara had not told a friend that he had said his friend's home would be his bail address; the friend objected and told the police. O'Hara now has a new address at An Aird.

The sheriff also heard that the same friend had been with O'Hara and had been trying to calm him down when he committed the offences outside his mother's home in Lochaber.

O'Hara had been intoxicated when the trouble occurred and was shouting and swearing abuse outside his mother's home.

He struggled with the police, tried to run away, broke free, ran away again and fell over. He was put in handcuffs,' said procurator fiscal Martine Eastwood. The cannabis was found in the pocket of his jeans.

The matter had previously been adjourned for a report to be prepared on O'Hara, prior to his sentencing.

O'Hara's defence agent, Hamish Melrose, said his client had been living at various addresses around the Fort William area, 'sofa surfing'.

'He is trying to find work. He has two interviews and is

trying to better himself and get his life sorted out.'

'He is adamant he would be willing to co-operate and engage if given the opportunity here.'

Sheriff MacDonald imposed a community payback order of a year's supervision and 110 hours of unpaid work to be completed within the next six months, with a review of the order on August 15.

Sheriff MacDonald pointed out that O'Hara had failed to complete payback orders before. She said: 'It is up to you, Mr O'Hara.'

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Conservation increases danger of lyme disease

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A NEW study, published by the Royal Society, has found some types of conservation action could increase the abundance of ticks, which transmit diseases such as lyme disease.

The research, led by the University of Glasgow in collaboration with the James Hutton Institute and Scottish Natural Heritage, examined how conservation management activities could affect tick populations, wildlife host communities, the transmission of the *Borrelia* bacteria that can cause lyme disease and, ultimately, the risk of contracting it.

The study found that managing the environment for conservation and biodiversity has many positive effects, including benefits for human health and wellbeing from spending time in nature.

However, the researchers suggested that there should be consideration of disease vectors such as ticks and mosquitoes in conservation management decisions.

Lead author Dr Caroline Millins, from the University of Glasgow's School of Veterinary Medicine and Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine



Ticks are increasing in number as a result of some types of conservation.

(BAHCM), said: 'We identified several widespread conservation management practices which could affect lyme disease risk: the management of deer populations, woodland regeneration, urban greening and control of invasive species.'

'We found that some management activities could lead to an increased risk of lyme disease by increasing the habitat

available for wildlife hosts and the tick vector. These activities were woodland regeneration and biodiversity policies which increase the amount of forest bordering open areas as well as urban greening.'

'However, if deer populations are managed alongside woodland regeneration projects, this can reduce tick populations and the risk of lyme disease.'

Deer are often key to maintaining tick populations, but do not become infected with the bacteria.

Research by co-author Professor Lucy Gilbert of the James Hutton Institute's Ecological Sciences group has focused on the roles of deer management, woodland expansion and other environmental factors in contributing

to tick populations and lyme disease risk.

Professor Gilbert commented: 'Our research so far demonstrates a clear relationship between deer densities and tick abundance in Scotland, and that deer management can help reduce ticks.'

'However, deer do not transmit the lyme disease bacteria (*Borrelia*), so current work at the Hutton Institute is testing for lyme disease risk at a lot of sites with widely varying deer densities to test the impact of deer densities on lyme disease risk.'

Senior author Dr Roman Biek, University of Glasgow's BAHCM, added: 'Widespread management activities can potentially teach us a lot about how changes to the environment can affect the chances of humans coming into contact with ticks and with the pathogenic ticks transmit.'

'We recommend that monitoring ticks and pathogens should accompany conservation measures such as woodland regeneration and urban greening projects.'

'This will allow appropriate guidelines and mitigation strategies to be developed, while also helping us to better understand the processes leading to higher lyme disease risk.'

Charities warn of worsening tick problem

AS TICK season begins, charities are warning of the dangers of lyme disease, a bacterial infection contracted via tick bites, as cases rise in the UK, Europe and North America.

At the turn of the century there were only around 250 reported cases of lyme disease in the UK each year, but now the government estimates around 2,000 to 3,000 people contract it annually – roughly eight people per day. However, the charities Caudwell LymeCo and Lyme Disease UK claim

the true number could be around 45,000.

Early treatment with antibiotics is generally effective, but if symptoms are not spotted early, the disease can be life-changing.

Caulwell LymeCo explains: 'Lyme can start slowly and feel like flu, or hit people like a sledgehammer. Apart from severe exhaustion and chronic pain, it can cause life-threatening irregular heartbeat, arthritis, encephalitis (brain inflammation) and neurolog-

ical problems ranging from loss of feeling and paralysis to mental confusion and memory loss.'

'Several thousand people in the UK are suffering chronic illness after catching lyme disease, some of whom are too ill to return to work or lead a normal life, while nerves can take years to heal after the infection has been cleared, and arthritis may never go.'

Incubation time is three to 30 days. The first symptom is usually a rash, which spreads from

the site of the tick bite, and is not generally painful or itchy. There are often accompanying flu-like symptoms.

In a small number of more serious cases, there is infection of the nervous system – symptoms include viral-like meningitis, facial palsy and nerve damage. Anyone with these symptoms who has been in a high risk area should seek medical attention.

In Scotland, lyme disease is most commonly caught in the Highlands and Islands, and the

risk of tick bites is highest from April to October, when the ticks are most active.

Most at-risk occupations are as sheep and deer farmers, gamekeepers, vets, forestry, agricultural and conservation workers, and outdoor pursuits instructors, but cyclists, ramblers and dog-walkers should also be vigilant too.

Last year the University of Bristol's Big Tick Project found 31 per cent of dogs checked at random during a vet visit were found to be carrying a tick.

THIS WEEK'S WALKS

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB
Please see full walk details at www.nevishillwalking.club.

If you would like to go out on the walk please contact the club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email the club at enquiries@nevishillwalking.club.

Sunday May 28

Glen Feshie – maps 36 and 43, NN850985

From the car park 1km north of Auchlean, walk down the road to just before the cottage and turn left on to the path that rises through the forest at first and climbs towards Carn Ban Mor. The path goes SE until it reaches a track going east. Follow this to its end (less than 1km) and cross the burn. The rest of the route is pathless and involves contouring at about 900m east, then south, then east again past Loch nan Cnapan and Loch nan Stuirteag until the summit is reached. Return the same way (31km, 1,340m ascent).

Suggested and co-ordinated by John Burton.

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.

Today (Thursday May 25)

Glen Nevis Munro and top – these two peaks at the SW end of the grand Grey Corries Ridge

make an easily achievable expedition in magnificent scenery in the shadow of Ben Nevis.

Start from the Upper Falls CP, NN167691, at the end of the Glen Nevis road. Follow the path E through the Nevis gorge and continue to Steall ruin. Continue on the path E for 2km, taking the upper route when it bifurcates. Leave the path where it crosses the Allt Coire a' BhuicEX, NN208691, and follow this burn up NNE. Once below the cliffs of Sgurr a'Bhuic, head up N to the col at an altitude of 731mEX.

Turn E and climb the ridge to the summit of Sgurr Choinnich Beag, 963m. Descend E to a col and climb the ridge to the

summit of Sgurr Choinnich Mor, 1,094m.

Return to the col then descend SW across the slopes to reach the path in Glen Nevis. Head W back to the start.

This is a strenuous walk of 17km, with a climb of 1,100m.

Meet at Fort William WM NN112742 at 9.15am, with the walk starting at 9.30am.

Contact leader Toril Frantzen on 07788 264007.

Saturday May 27

Rannoch Moor – a walk in the wilderness with views of splendid hills in all directions.

Start at Rannoch Station car park, NN422578. Head S on the B846 past a cottage then turn SW on a track.

Follow it across the railway and continue to the junction at the forest entrance at NN418579.

The gate in to the forest is locked but to the left of it, the barbed wire has been removed to facilitate access. Follow the track up NE through the forest, turning right near the top to emerge on to the open hillside.

Continue W on the track, ignoring a junction, to its end at NN411585, altitude 430m.

Continue up W over rough ground to reach Meall Liath na Doire, 580m, at NN400585. Turn WSW, descending about 60m before climbing up again to the summit of Meall a' BhuirichEX, 638m, at NN379573.

Descend slightly again, negotiating some peat hags, before climbing again up the shoulder of Stob na Cruaiche to the trig point at its summit, 739m, NN363571.

To return from the summit, follow an ATV track ESE for about 1.5km to a small spur at NN377567, from where you can see the forest and Loch Laidon.

Continue E diagonally down the slope to enter the forest at NN391569, cross the Allt a' BhuirichEX and follow its left bank down to the forest track. Follow the track NE back to Rannoch Station Tearoom and hotel for refreshments.

The train for Bridge of Orchy leaves at 6.38pm.

This is a moderate walk of 14km, climbing to 550m.

Meet at Longsdale car park, Oban, NM862307 at 9.25am, Glencoe car park 9.55am, or Bridge of Orchy Station for 10.48am departure. Start of walk at 11.10am.

Contact leader Andrew Gilbert on 07808 924722.

Watt on the Wildside

Having fun in Tobermory's back garden

I REALLY enjoy my trips to Mull. One of the most enjoyable aspects of my job is getting out and visiting our recreation facilities all over Argyll.

I especially enjoy going to Aros Park, which is our most visited site on Mull and the closest to Tobermory. It has been described as Tobermory's back garden.

The coastal trail forms a great link between Tobermory and Aros Park. It's rough and rocky but there are fabulous sea views along its length.

If you just fancy a five-minute leg-stretch, The Alann View trail is very short, wide and flat with a smooth surface and offers fantastic views of the Aros Burn waterfall. It's often more enjoyable after a lot of rain when the burn is higher.

The forest district has been

working on a programme of rhododendron clearance in this area to aid the eradication of phytophthora, but the benefits are two-fold in that the views around the park have really opened up and our network of trails offer a much better experience for all our visitors.

If you fancy a slightly longer walk, follow the lochan trail for a gentle wander around tranquil Lochan a' Ghurrabain. This is an artificial loch which was created as a feature for Aros House but also as a source of power for the sawmill down by the pier.

For the younger, or perhaps more adventurous, visitor, there is a play trail which follows the lochan route for a stretch before heading off further up into the woods.

The car park, which is the starting point for all the trails,

is also the site of Aros House, bought in 1874 by the Allan family and demolished in 1962 because it was very seriously decayed and quite dangerous.

Much of the stone from the house was used to build the car park and the front doors of the Church of Scotland in Tobermory.

The Forestry Commission Scotland looks after many of the forests on Mull. As well as Aros Park, we manage forests all the way up the east coast of the island. You can walk in all of these forests and we provide waymarked routes in each of them, from Scallastle in the south to Ardmore in the north.

We restore native woodland and encourage the growth of broadleaf trees. We also manage the forests for a sustainable

supply of timber. Woodchips from our forests are used on Mull and, among other things, heat the oven of the island bakery which always provides a good excuse (if one were needed) to devour their biscuits.

Mull is one of the best places in Britain to look for wildlife. Our wildlife hides at Fishnish and at Loch Tor near Quinish are great places to start.

If you happen to be there at the same time as one of the Mull and Iona Community Trust rangers, they'll fill you in on all the animals to look out for and the best places and times to explore.

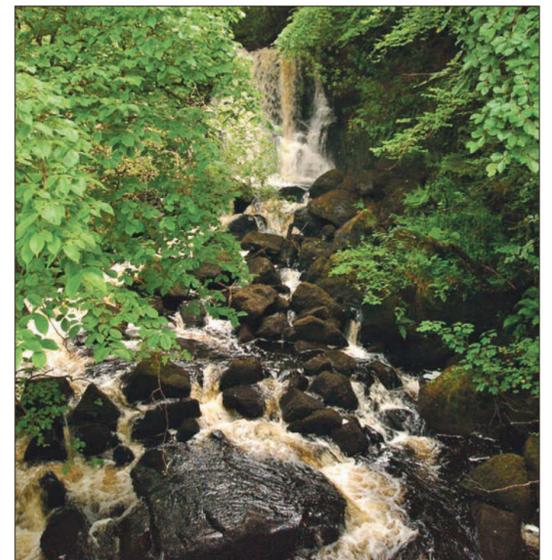
You can also look out for marine wildlife from our car parks at Fishnish and Garmony. These are exceptionally good places to sit and watch the sea or have a stroll along the coast. The shore

trail at Ardmore has more wildlife viewing opportunities to the north.

If scanning the sea is not your thing, have a look upwards. You've got a really good chance of seeing both the huge white-tailed eagles and the majestic golden eagles here, but there are also plenty of other birds to look out for. Have a look around and see if you can spot hen harriers, crossbills and black-throated divers.

There are many sites to explore on Mull and it's a great place to discover not only what the forests have to offer but also the dramatic scenery of the beautiful Argyll coastline.

**Helen Watt,
Communities, Recreation and
Tourism Manager,
Forestry Commission
Scotland.**



Why not visit the Aros Burn waterfall.

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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

Caleigh 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

Ruaridh 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.

Arena

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

Ballet West showcases end of season

A SHOWCASE by students from Ballet West is taking place in the Corran Halls, Oban, on May 26 and 27 from 7.30pm. The showcase marks a transition for third-year students as this is their last performance as a student of Ballet West and forms part of their assessment for the degree course.

Gillian Barton, founder of Ballet West, said: 'I hope everyone will enjoy the wide range of styles which exemplifies the variety of staff we have at the school. 'I'm sure you will join me in wishing the third-year students all the best for their future, whether that be as a dancer, choreographer or teacher.'

For one of the parts of the showcase, choreographer Martin Fenton has been working with a hand selected company of dancers from all three year groups to produce a number of pieces of contemporary dance. Martin said: 'As soon as I hear a piece of music that speaks to me I immerse myself in it and start to

develop the concept through visualisation of shapes, colours and numbers. 'Once I have some ideas, I take these into the studio to workshop with the students. I enjoy stimulating the students to think about what they might do and then working with them to build, change and develop their ideas.'

Aside from working on pieces for productions, Martin trains the students for their world of work, ranging from workshop style to the ability to learn speed choreography. As a performer himself, Martin seems well placed to bring that knowledge of professional expectations to the student

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



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

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

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

New children's tale of Mull sea unicorn launches in Tobermory

A NEW children's book, where the story begins in Benderloch, moves through Oban and on to Mull and Iona, launches in Tobermory on Monday May 29.

Written by Jennifer T Doherty and illustrated by Gillian Stewart, who has family links to Mull, *The Sea Unicorn of Mull* comes from Scottish publisher Serafina Press.

Books from the

press have covered the Borders, Fife and East Lothian, but Jennifer Doherty wanted the next book to be set on the west coast.

'I have visited Oban, Mull and Iona many times over the last couple of years with an ever-increasing fondness for it. After many years of living in the Borders, I have moved to Glasgow and I love being closer to Oban

and Mull,' she said. The beauty and sense of magic here made it the obvious setting for a story and I hope children - local and visiting - will enjoy the tale of the sea

unicorn's search for his heart.' The launch event will be at Mull Tackle and Books, Tobermory, on Monday May 29, from 11am to 1pm. The book

will be stocked there and will also be available at Waterstones in Oban and on CalMac ferries. www.serafinapress.co.uk



Author Jennifer T Doherty.



Illustrator Gillian Stewart.

Book Launch - **The Sea Unicorn of Mull**

By Jennifer T. Doherty, illustrated by Gillian Stewart.
Mull Tackle and Books, Tobermory
May 29th, 11am-1pm
Book signing, children's activities, refreshments

Book also available soon from Waterstones Oban and on Calmac Ferries



A' cur 's a' Buain

Listings for Thursday 25 May - Thursday 01 June 2017

- DIARDAIN 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 **ÙR/NEW: Cearcall** - Look back through 80's programme, Cearcall - Ep10
21.00 **An Dùbhlán** - Sanjeev Kohli Does Gaelic (rpt)
22.00 **Rapal TBH** (rpt)
22.30 **ÙR/NEW: Dhan Uisge** - River Doucharly
22.35 **Butch Cassidy agus an Sundance Kid** (rpt)

- DIHAOINE 26 CÈITEAN**
FRIDAY 26 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: Na h-Eileanan** (rpt)
21.00 **Skipinnish** (rpt)
22.00 **Tannadice '87** (rpt)
23.00 **Corp & Anam** - Irish Drama (rpt)
23.50 **Dhan Uisge** - River Doucharly (rpt)
- DISATHAIRNE 27 CÈITEAN**
SATURDAY 27 MAY
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's Programming
19.00 **Machair** (rpt)
19.30 **Na Caibidealan Dearga** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)
20.00 **An Ataireachd Bhuan** - Navy Stories (rpt)

- 20.30 **North Coast 500** - Le Anne London - S1, Ep2 (rpt)
21.00 **Opry an Iúir** (rpt)
21.50 **Dhan Uisge** - River Doucharly (rpt)
22.00 **Jimmy Johnstone** (rpt)
23.30 **Corp & Anam** - Irish Drama (rpt)
24.20 **Belladrum 2014** - The Vatersay Boys (rpt)
- DIDÒMHNAICH 28 CÈITEAN**
SUNDAY 28 MAY
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's Programming
18.30 **Seachd Là** - News Review
19.30 **Siubhal nan Salm** (rpt)
19.55 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
20.00 **Fuine** - Classics (rpt)
20.30 **Cearcall** - Look back through 80's programme, Cearcall - Ep10 (rpt)
21.00 **Farpaisean Chon-chaorach** (rpt)
22.00 **Opry an Iúir** (rpt)
22.50 **Sgeul Seblaidh** (rpt)
23.05 **Butch Cassidy agus an Sundance Kid** (rpt)

- DILUAIN 29 CÈITEAN**
MONDAY 29 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
20.15 **Sgeul Seblaidh** (rpt)
20.30 **An Lot** - The Croft (rpt)
21.00 **Trusadh - Cha Tig an Aois Leatha Fhèin** - Late Life Care (rpt)
22.00 **Hòro Gheallaidh** (rpt)
22.30 **Skipinnish** (rpt)
23.30 **Fonn mo Bheatha** (rpt)

- DIMÀIRT 30 CÈITEAN**
TUESDAY 30 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 **ÙR/NEW: North Coast 500** - Le Anne London - S1, Ep3
21.00 **Farpaisean chon-chaorach** (rpt)
22.00 **Trusadh - Cha Tig an Aois Leatha Fhèin** - Late Life Care (rpt)
23.00 **An Ataireachd Bhuan** - Navy Stories (rpt)
23.30 **Siubhal nan Salm** (rpt)

- DICIADAIN 31 CÈITEAN**
WEDNESDAY 31 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 **ÙR/NEW: An Taghadh 2017**
21.30 **ÙR/NEW: Fuine** - Puddings
22.00 **Fonn Fonn Fonn** - Music Quiz (rpt)
22.30 **Hòro Gheallaidh** (rpt)
23.00 **An Dùbhlán** - Sanjeev Kohli Does Gaelic (rpt)

- DIARDAIN 01 ÒGMHIOS**
THURSDAY 01 JUNE
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 **ÙR/NEW: Cearcall** - Look back through 80's programme, Cearcall - Ep11
21.00 **Siubhal le Shepherd** - Robbie Shepherd in language, music and dance (rpt)
22.00 **ÙR/NEW: Belladrum 2016 - Madness**
22.30 **ÙR/NEW: Dhan Uisge** - River Doucharly
22.40 **Henry Ford** (rpt)
23.35 **Ceòl aig a' Chaisteal** (rpt)



body in a safe, learning environment. He explained that in the world of dance, competition is high and great technical ability will not necessarily guarantee success. He seeks to draw out of students their individuality and an awareness of how to bring this

to future professional auditions. As part of a wider showcase, year one will perform to Sea Creatures by Soak, year two will perform to Limit to Your Love by James Blake and year three will perform to Reverse Faults by Sampha.

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Friday 26 May – Thursday 1 June

A DOG'S PURPOSE | PG | 120 MIN

Fri: 16:00, Sat: 13:45, Sun: 12:00, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 16:00
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.

ALIEN: COVENANT | 15 | 142 MIN

Fri: 21:30, Sat: 21:00, Sun: 19:00, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 21:00
Bound for a remote planet on the far side of the galaxy, the crew of the colony ship Covenant discover what they think is an uncharted paradise, but is actually a dark, dangerous world, whose sole inhabitant is the synthetic David, survivor of the doomed Prometheus expedition.

KIDS CLUB: SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE | U | 120 MIN

Sat: 11:30
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!

MINDHORN | 15 | 119 MIN

Fri: 21:00, Sat: 18:15, Sun: 16:45
A former secret agent with a bionic eye lands a private detective job on the Isle of Man.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 5: SALAZAR'S REVENGE | 12A | 149 MIN

Fri: 16:00, 18:15, Sat: 12:00, 18:00, 20:30, Sun: 12:00, 18:00, Mon: 18:15, 19:30, Tue: 16:30, 18:15, Wed: 18:15, 19:30, Thu: 16:30, 18:15
3D: Fri: 18:45, Sat, Sun: 15:00, Mon 16:30, Tue: 19:30, Wed: 16:30, Thu: 19:30
Parent & Baby Screening: Tue: 11:30

Johnny Depp returns to the big screen as the iconic, swash-buckling 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.

SILVER SCREEN - WHISKY GALORE! | PG | 118 MIN

Sun: 14:30
During World War II, the tiny Scottish island of Todday runs out of whisky. When the freighter S.S. Cabinet Minister runs aground nearby during a heavy fog, the islanders are delighted to learn that its cargo consists of 50,000 cases of whisky. 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.

THE BOSS BABY | U | 120 MIN

Sat: 16:00
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.

Renowned choir brings its music tour to Argyll

GLASGOW Phoenix Choir (GPC) is a mixed-voice choir of 120-plus singers which performs up to 40 shows a year in major concert halls, 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 increasing 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, often featuring delightful solo performances by choir members. Its concerts in Argyll this month support a number of charities and the intention is to return to a number of the venues in future to add to its praised series of post-card CD recordings which raise much needed funds for 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. Everyone welcome. The organisers thank Co-op Funeralcare which sponsors the choir and makes all its appearances possible.

card CD recordings which raise much needed funds for 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. Everyone welcome. The organisers thank Co-op Funeralcare which sponsors the choir and makes all its appearances possible.



THE GLASGOW PHOENIX CHOIR

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

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MONDAY: 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 09:00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11:00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 13:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drivetime, 18:00 Drivetime, 19:00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20:00 John McLuckie's Show, 21:00 David Cullen Show, 23:00 station close, midnight Clyde 2

TUESDAY: 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 10:00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13:00 Macky on FM, 15:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 19:00 Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers, 20:00 Elaine Lamb, 22:00 Northern Soul with Gordon Cove, midnight Clyde 2.

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

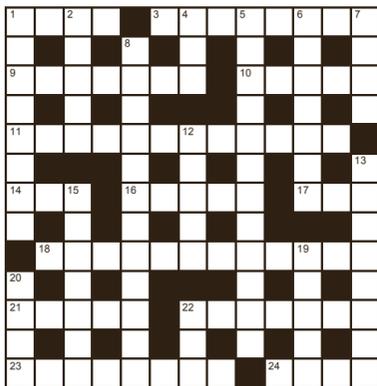
THURSDAY: 08:00 Breakfast with Laura, 10:00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13:00 Elaine's Time Capsule, 15:00 Gordon Covey, 17:00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19:00 Christine's Collection, 21:00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22:00 Margo till midnight, midnight Clyde 2.

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

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

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

THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Lovely (4)
- 3 Berate (8)
- 9 Sweet treat (7)
- 10 Take for a while (5)
- 11 After bath covering (6,6)
- 14 That is to say shortly (3)
- 16 After life (5)
- 17 Small green vegetable (3)
- 18 Used to de-fluff attire (12)
- 21 Twilled cotton (5)
- 22 Open (7)
- 23 Element incapable of forming positive ions in water (8)
- 24 Weaponry (4)

Down

- 1 Down (8)
- 2 Desert beast (5)
- 4 Mountain (3)
- 5 Uncalled for comment or punch (5,3,4)
- 6 Shuffle (5-2)
- 7 Unceasingly (4)
- 8 Hit after bouncing (6,6)
- 12 Chatter (5)
- 13 Used in petrol (8)
- 15 An absolutely huge amount (7)
- 19 Unqualified (5)
- 20 Symbol (4)
- 22 Stars and Stripes country (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION





Local young traditional musicians set for Oban Live debut

An Oban High School pupil who became an internet sensation following his piping performance on board a flight to New York is one of two local rising stars announced as special guest artists to open Oban Live, Argyll's biggest live music event.

While en route to take part in New York's Tartan Week with his school's pipe band, talented 13-year-old Gregor MacDonald performed a couple of solo piping tunes to flight passengers. A recording of the event was later posted by the school on social media and the video was a hit, achieving over 150,000 hits number of views to date.

Gregor will take to the stage for a solo piping performance which will open Oban Live on Friday June 2. He will also return on the second day of Oban Live, Saturday June 3, alongside his band mates in Oban High School's Novice Juvenile A Pipe Band to play with headliners and Celtic rock band Skerryvore.

Gregor said: 'I knew I would be playing with Oban High School Pipe Band, but to be asked to play solo is quite a privilege. I am looking forward to it. I've never played at anything like Oban Live before so it will be a great experience. I've still not decided what I'm playing yet but I am practicing a bit more than usual in preparation for the event. My family and friends will all be coming to watch. It's a great local event and we have all been to it in the past.'

The talented 23-year-old singer, Kim Carnie, will open the event on Saturday June 3. BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year 2017 finalist, Kim is a Gaelic singer and TV presenter (BBC ALBA) from Oban. She has performed at festivals and prestigious events across the UK, including Orkney Folk Festival, Hebridean Celtic Festival, Celtic Connections and Cambridge Folk Festival. Kim is a current member of 'Air Falbh Leis na h-Eòin/Away with the Birds', a vocal piece exploring the relationship between Gaelic and bird song.

Kim will be joined by Euan Burton on stage, an award-winning composer, bassist, producer and one of the leading musicians to emerge from Scotland in the past decade. Signed to Whirlwind Recordings, he has released two internationally acclaimed albums with them: *Occurrences* (2012) and *Too Much Love* (2014). Performing constantly with the UK's foremost musicians, he's played with an endless list of acclaimed musicians such as Julian Arguelles, Martin Kershaw, Kit Downes and Tom Gibbs. Currently, Kim and Euan are working on Kim's debut EP, alongside Megan Henderson and Innes White, to be released later this summer.

With a growing number of cultural gigs under her belt already, Kim has graced many stages with her stunning Gaelic talents, including Orkney Folk Festival, Celtic Connections and Cambridge Folk Festival.

Daniel Gillespie, managing director of Oban Live, said: 'We are excited that two young rising stars, who both hail from Oban, will be our special guest artists to open each day of Oban Live this year. With Gregor at the beginning of his music journey and Kim who is thriving on the Gaelic scene, both artists are a true reflection of how influential Oban's traditional music culture is for young aspiring musicians. We can't wait to see them on the Oban Live stage this year.'

Don't miss Gregor, Friday June 2, at 4.30pm and Kim, Saturday June 3, also at 4.30pm. Tickets are available at www.obanlive.com.



Hello and welcome to Oban Live's Extra feature in partnership with *The Oban Times*. Visitors and artists from all over the world will soon descend on Oban for what has become Argyll's biggest live music event. We know that the Oban community will again be amazing hosts this year. Without the support of the local community, our sponsors and all our attendees, this event would not be possible. Oban is undeniably one of the most inspirational towns in the West Coast for music culture

and we are thrilled to add many talented local artists to our line-up this year. Get up to Mossfield early this year so you don't miss the incredible talents of Oban's artists, on stage each day from 4.30pm - please check the Oban Live website for the full schedule. Enjoy a unique collaboration of Ceol an Aire performing alongside the Argyll Ceilidh Trail. Experience Scottish hip-hop as the winners of Oban Unsigned - K9 Kev & Rory O'B - take to the stage. Also from Oban

are our special guests Gaelic singer Kim Carnie and internet piping sensation, 13-year-old Gregor MacDonald. Later on the Saturday night, we are excited that Oban High School Pipe Band will join Skerryvore on stage for a special Oban Live collaboration. Doors open at 4pm each day. Plus, we've got you covered with fantastic food vendors and an impressive drinks list. Can't wait to see you all there.

SKERRYVORE

The return of Oban Live will be music to the ears of the 8,000 revellers expected at this year's event. But it seems the artists are also looking forward to performing in the 'Wee Bay' just as much as the audience. So we put three important questions to each of them: What do you plan to perform at Oban Live this year? What are you most looking forward to? What is the best thing about Oban? This is what they had to say.

Hue and Cry

What do you plan to perform?

We have our full band out, so we will be doing a combination of our classic 80s and 90s hits, as well as a selection of songs from the past 30 years of albums that we've been constantly making - as well as a few well-chosen covers from other 80s and 90s artists too. It's a set for everyone!



What are you most looking forward to?

We always enjoy meeting up with our musical peers - and there's some great young Scottish acts on this bill like Admiral Fallow and Skerryvore. We'll be enjoying listening to them.

Best thing about Oban?

I remember once doing a lot of winching in the alcoves of McCaig's Tower ... no more details on that!

Toploader

What do you plan to perform?

We'll perform tracks from our fourth album which was released in May, *Seeing Stars* as well as some old favourites.



What are you most looking forward to?

The gig on T'ree with Skerryvore in 2012 is one of the enduring memories of my career and I hope we might be able to recreate it at Oban Live.

Manran

What do you plan to perform?

Because we have just launched our new album, *An Dà Là - The Two Days*, we will be performing mostly new material from that album with a few older classics thrown in for good measure.



What are you most looking forward to?

We are delighted to be coming to Oban Live this year. It's been a massive year for Oban Live last year and we're sure Oban Live this year is going to be even bigger. Looking forward to seeing you all in June.

Best thing about Oban?

The best thing about Oban for me are the people. They never fail to disappoint if there's craic to be had.

Skerryvore

What do you plan to perform?

With new member Scott Wood joining the band, we will be performing some new sets along with some of the old favourites. We also have some surprise guests.



What are you most looking forward to?

The atmosphere last year was incredible and hopefully we will get some sunshine again. Also be great to see all the other acts perform.

Best thing about Oban?

The seafood is amazing! Great places to eat out and drink.

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EXTRA

June 2
June 3
2017



Tide Lines

What do you plan to perform?
Our gig at Oban Live is the official launch of our debut album, *Dreams We Never Lost*, so we'll be performing material from the album. Brand new songs, pipe sets, Gaelic songs, and also plenty of well-known songs thrown in that people can hopefully sing along to.



What are you most looking forward to?
We're greatly looking forward to the craic in Oban both before and after the gig - and the chance to hear lots of great bands in a brilliant location. We're also looking forward to getting onstage again in front of an Oban crowd.

Best thing about Oban?
You always get a good crowd in Oban and people are always up for it. There's a big traditional music fan base in Oban so it's a really positive place to play music so I'd say that's my favourite thing about Oban.

Trail West

What are you most looking forward to?
We played at Skerryvore Decade event two years ago and we had great craic. So we are looking forward to sharing the craic with you again and few tunes too.



Roddy Hart and the Lonesome Fire

What do you plan to perform?
A mixture of material from our past two records, *Roddy Hart & The Lonesome Fire* and *Swithering*. Plus some Barry Manilow covers. Maybe.



What are you most looking forward to?
Our friends Admiral Fallow are playing and they always offer up a great show - usually with gratuitous amounts of nudity thrown in.

Best thing about Oban?
The people! Especially when they turn up to hear us play.

We Banjo 3



What do you plan to perform?
A wild fun set of Irish and Americana, dancing and singing. Just a party from start to finish.

What are you most looking forward to?
The people, we love Scotland, the audiences are amazing - very like the Irish. Wild!

Best thing about Oban?
We love the whisky! We might be unofficial worldwide ambassadors for Oban 14.

Ceol an Aire & Argyll Ceilidh Trail

What are you most looking forward to?
Having seen how incredible last year's Oban Live was, it is a great privilege to have been invited to open Oban Live 2017 with members of Ceol an Aire and the Argyll Ceilidh Trail. Ceol an Aire was formed following the success of the first Argyll Ceilidh Trail so it is exciting to now be forming a collaboration with the latest line-up seven years on.



K9 Kev & Rory O'B

What do you plan to perform?
We plan to play a mix of material. Some of the songs are old and people may remember them from a few years back and some are off our new EP, *Vocal Heroes*. We have a full live band with some special guests joining us on stage as well but I don't want to give too much away. We think people are gonna love it though.



What are you most looking forward to?
The atmosphere and the opportunity to play in front of a crowd that big in our home town. There's a few bands on there I've never seen live before so will be great to check them out too.

Best thing about Oban?
I think it's difficult to pin point the best thing but I would say just the fact that it feels like home.

CHEERS!

Here are just some of the top drinks that will be served at Oban Live this year, with thanks to the event's drinks partners and sponsors:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Strongbow Original | Kraken Rum |
| Strongbow | Bushmills Malt |
| Dark Fruit | Moet & Chandon NV |
| Foster's lager | Moet Imperial Ice |
| Caledonian | VK Venom cocktail |
| Coast-to-Coast | Sourz |
| Pale Ale | Coca -cola |
| (All on tap) | Plus so many other drinks available. |
| Jose Cuervo Tequila | |
| Frozen Strawberry Margaritas (with Jose Cuervo tequila) | Please drink responsibly folks! |

WIN TICKETS TO OBANLIVE 2 PAIRS UP FOR GRABS!

As the event's media partner, The Oban Times has teamed up with Argyll's biggest live music event Oban Live to offer two lucky readers a pair of weekend tickets to the two-day open-air concert, June 2 and 3.

The event at Mossfield Stadium in Oban celebrates the West Coast's spirit and culture and welcomes people from all over the world. From traditional Scottish music stars to legendary household names, the 2017 line-up includes Skerryvore, Skipinnish, Manran, Tide Lines as well as Hue And Cry, Toploader and more. Tickets on sale now. Visit obanlive.com.

To enter, simply answer this easy question, complete the form below and post it to The Oban Times, Oban Live 2017 competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be received by Tuesday May 30, 2017. Under-18s must be accompanied by an adult.

At which venue will Oban Live take place this year?

a) Mossfield Stadium b) Corran Halls c) Argyllshire Gathering

Answer 

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Writers to pitch for ultimate prize



A PUBLISHERS' pitch event for emerging writers in Scotland.

XpoNorth, which runs the event, is inviting writers from all over the Highlands to take part in the event.

Held in Inverness on Wednesday June 7 as part of leading creative industries conference and showcase XpoNorth, the event offers 18 writers the chance to pitch their work, Dragon's Den-style, to a panel of leading UK agents and publishers.

The panel includes Jenny Brown Associates, Canongate, Birlinn, Sandstone Press and Sceptre/Hodder Stoughton.

This is the second year that XpoNorth's writing and publishing network has held its all-comers pitching event. A call was put out in January for writers to submit work for consideration.

Last year, one of the pitchers, Iain Hector Ross, had his book *The Whisky Dictionary* snapped up by Sandstone Press. It will be published by the Dingwall-based publisher in the autumn.

This year, from 106 submissions, 18 writers have been selected.

Based on the principle of ensuring the best work across genres is presented to the panel, this year's event has three pitch

sessions, two for fiction and one non-fiction.

This year, the first two panel sessions will be prefaced by a short, stand-alone introduction and trends session in which the panel will discuss the work of their agency/publishing house and give insights into current commercial trends in publishing.

During each panel session, the pitching writers will each have ten minutes to introduce and present their work - first five minutes - and five minutes to answer the panel's questions.

The sessions are open for any XpoNorth delegate to attend and time limits for writers will be strictly enforced.

Leading literary agent Jenny Brown, who will be on the pitching panel, said: 'Only in its second year, XpoNorth's pitch event is already a red letter date in the literary calendar.'

Peter Urpeth, director of XpoNorth's writing and publishing network, said: 'We're looking forward to hearing a range of pitches in Inverness from some seriously talented new writers.'

'And with expert advice from publishers and insider knowledge into current publishing trends, I'd also recommend attendance for anyone interested in writing and getting published.'

Storas: a journey in music and song

MEMBERS of Oban Gaelic Choir are rehearsing for a performance that promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear Argyll songs, sung by Argyll artists, in the

Corran Halls. Storas will be a celebration of music and song celebrating the riches of Argyll bards.

Accompanied by some of Scotland's finest musicians, Oban Gaelic

Choir, conducted by musician and composer Sileas Sinclair, will take the audience on a musical journey not to be missed.

The event will take place on Thursday

June 8 at 7.30pm in the Corran Halls, Oban.

Guest artists will include guitarist Finlay Wells, piper Lorne MacDougall, fiddler Archie MaAllister and piper Angus MacColl.



25 years of Oban Music Society

FOR 25 years, Oban Music Society has been bringing classical chamber music to Oban, enabling the resident population and visitors to enjoy live performances of real quality from local and international players.

The society is celebrating this anniversary with the installation of a replacement Steinway grand piano which will make full use of the excellent acoustics in St John's Cathedral. Concerts are held in the church once a month on Sunday afternoons between October and March.

The new instrument will be showcased in a special performance on September 9 with a piano recital by Peter Evans.

Peter is based in Scotland but has an international career as a performer, conductor and teacher. He has made more than 80 broadcasts for the BBC and many recordings and this will be a wonderful opportunity to hear the new piano put through its paces.

While this season has a full and varied programme of instrumentalists and styles, we want to make the most of our new acquisition, so the new piano will be on show again in November when Sasa Donaldson will play Mozart, Bach and Chopin.

In April, the society welcomes Clare Hammond, the young pianist described by the Daily Telegraph as a pianist of 'amazing power and panache'.

She also played the piano in the film *The Lady in the Van*, in the part of the younger version of Miss Shepherd, otherwise played by Maggie Smith.

Later in the season, in response to the popularity of previous jazz performances, the society will welcome the Colin Steel Jazz Quintet.

In this anniversary year, the annual Mendelssohn on Mull Festival has appointed the talented Doric String Quartet, acclaimed as possibly the UK's leading young chamber group, as artistic directors of the festival for the next four years.

This unique festival, which our society supports, is expanding its role in bringing musical opportunities to young local people.

The Doric Quartet will be paying a preliminary visit to the area in which they will give a concert at the Cathedral on Sunday October 1.

But before that, Oban Music Society will host this year's Mendelssohn on Mull annual concert in Oban at the Cathedral on Sunday July 2.

Details of concert programmes and dates are available on the society's website at www.obanmusicsociety.org along with membership details.

All concerts start at 3pm at St John's Cathedral, George Street, Oban, unless otherwise stated and tickets are available at the door, with special prices for members. Students and children have free admission.

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25g plain flour
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190ml double cream
Salt, pepper and grated nutmeg to taste

Method

1. Pre-heat the oven to 200°C
2. Butter four large ramekins well with some of the butter
3. Put the wild garlic in a pan with the milk, bring to boil and put to one side to rest
4. Mix the remaining butter with the flour until smooth, then add the milk and wild garlic and cook

until a thick, smooth consistency is achieved. Stir constantly. Cool

5. Whisk in the salt, pepper, nutmeg and Mull Cheddar, followed by the egg yolks

6. Beat the egg whites in a clean bowl until they form stiff peaks and fold into the cheese mixture

7. Spoon into the ramekins and arrange in a deep baking tin with boiling water halfway up the side of the ramekins

8. Cook in the pre-heated oven for 15 minutes. Allow to cool for 15 minutes and then turn out the ramekins.

9. Arrange in a shallow oven-proof dish buttered and sprinkled with half of the grated Parmesan cheese.

10. For the second baking, pour the seasoned cream over the soufflés, sprinkle with the remaining Parmesan and bake for 15 minutes until well risen. Serve hot to your friends and family.

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Scotland's Gardens Scheme – the magic of Maolachy

As you wind your way along the enchanting paths in Maolachy Garden, you would be forgiven for believing in faeries. There is magic at work around every corner.

As you approach the traditional stone farmhouse and courtyard, near Lochavich, the garden is obscured from view. You have no idea what awaits you.

In the early 1970s, Georgina and Tony Dalton began digging paths and planting the wild garden through 6ft high bracken and couch grass. Now the ground is carpeted with bugle, campion and many other wild flowers. They dug steps and paths by hand following the contours of the land and tumbling burn that flows through it.

The '25 Steps' were built by willing friends. No lunch till the task was completed. Family skills have been passed on to surprising places. Past dazzling rhodies and fragrant azaleas, pathways carry you over a peat bog on a raft crafted from the branches and shavings of a fallen beech tree. Intriguingly,

none have an end - except one...

Maolachy's garden is created in a wee glen, over four miles from the nearest village. It feels quite remote. 'Not everyone would choose to live here. They might not even survive.' But it's clear Georgina is more than surviving. 'I walk in my back door and I feel loved and safe.' The wildlife feels at home too with log pile houses for insects, warm stone heaps for slow worms, damp clumps for toads and grey-headed wagtails chattering in a nearby nest.

'My gardening life began to feed the family,' said Georgina. 'There is nothing more satisfying than growing edibles. The taste is so special.' 'I mumble agreement as my teeth sink into her home-made bread and blackcurrant jam. She laughs: 'I once fed 11 people on 50 pence. And the 50 pence was for cheese.'

A polytunnel now provides warmth for tender vegetables such as sweetcorn and runner beans, while outside there is good ground for tatties, courgettes

and fruit bushes. Georgina's creative energy and resourcefulness touches everything in this garden. Into its fifth decade, with valuable gardening help from Christopher, she still has big plans. 'Gardens should be welcoming, warm and peaceful and contain some things you're not expecting.'

Asked which is her favourite plant, she pauses. Yes, that's it. A white Ranunculus gifted in a bag of plants by a holidaymaker. Now planted by the pond, it is bearing hundreds of flowers, each one a ball of tightly packed, luminous petals. Together they seem to glow like lanterns.

From its beginnings as a provider of food for the family, Maolachy's Garden has diversified in size and nature with plants that have been purchased, gathered, divided, propagated, healed, donated and found. Georgina knows a thing or two about growing in Argyll, although she would never say that. 'I'm always learning,' she said.

How do you get a Monkey Puzzle in a Skoda? You can ask her your-

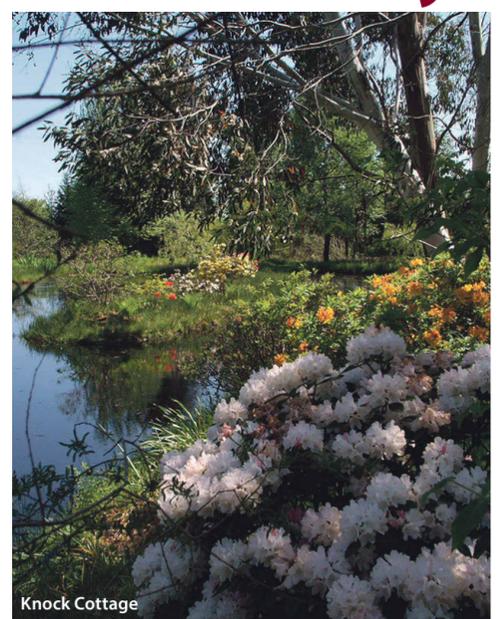
self. Come to **Maolachy's Garden, Lochavich**, and learn more about this wonderful garden. **Open Sat/Sun May 27/28 1pm to 6pm.** Proceeds to Hope Kitchen, Oban. Ignore Satnav. A816 to Kilmelford. Turn uphill to Lochavich after shop. Wind your way for four miles. Look for the yellow signs to Maolachy past the forestry track.

Sat/Sun June 3/4 1.30 to 5pm Knock Cottage, Lochgair, PA31 8RZ.

Specimen rhodies and shrubs,



Maolachy



Knock Cottage

Glasgow Letter

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



Donald Black prepares to launch album

I WAS saddened to read a Facebook post from the Glasgow Islay Association last week in which they expressed concern about the association's ability to continue because of a lack of committee members to assist in its general running.

I have written in this column over the past couple of years of the great success of the Glasgow Islay Association after several new, young committee members became heavily involved in its running, but life moves on and, unfortunately, some are no longer able to commit.

An excerpt from the Facebook post reads: 'Unless we gain some new committee members willing to attend meetings (7-9pm on the first Tuesday of each month), the Glasgow Islay Association will

have to be wound up after 155 years.'

The association's annual general meeting is to be held on Thursday June 1 at 7pm and this now looks to be an incredibly important AGM for the association. Let us hope there is a big attendance at this meeting so that support for the wonderful island association continues into the future.

If anyone is unable to attend the AGM but is willing to assist the association, they are asked to contact either Jannette MacArthur (jmacarthur47@gmail.com) or Katherine McNaughton (katislay26@hotmail.co.uk).

Donald Black puts on superb concert

ON A BRIGHTER note, Donald Black's album launch last Thursday night fully lived up to expectations.

Donald's playing was on top form and his guest musicians from

the album (Lisa Moyes, Martin Pottinger, Neil MacGillivray and Andrew Macpherson) added a great deal of variation to the sound of Donald's band - made up of Màrtainn Skene on piano and accordion and Donnie MacKenzie on guitar.

Slow airs such as Broch na Caillich Bhain (backed only by Màrtainn's cello playing on top of a drone) and Kilberry Bay (similarly backed by a keyboard pad) really showed off the tremendous vibrato sound that Donald gets from the mouth organ.

In contrast, the more lively sets had a great sense of excitement to them - especially when Donald played five parts to a four-part march and

three parts to a four-part reel. As Donald said himself, this was much to the consternation of Màrtainn on the keyboard.

Such sets had the audience clapping their hands and stamping their feet and the atmosphere was maintained throughout a very enjoyable evening.

What's on

Thursday May 25: Uist and Barra Association annual general meeting in Lourdes Secondary School.

Thursday June 1: Glasgow Islay Association annual general meeting in Partick Burgh Halls at 7pm.

Wednesday June 7: The Glasgow Skye Association annual gen-

eral meeting in Partick Burgh Hall.

Wednesday June 7: The Mull and Iona Association AGM in An Léanag, 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 26: Eriskay Lilt.

Saturday May 27: Dodgy Ground.

Sunday May 28: Nicky McMichan.

Islay Inn.

Friday May 26: Gunna Sound.

Saturday May 27: Deep River.

Sunday May 28: Mooki.



Donald Black in concert.



WIN
A family trip* on Paddle Steamer Waverley



The world famous Paddle Steamer Waverley will sail from Oban for just 3 days! On Saturday June 3 sail from Oban North Pier and enjoy the breathtaking 4 Lochs & Corryreckan Whirlpool. There is also the spectacular 'Castles & Ceilidh' evening cruise on June 3 featuring a live Ceilidh band, enjoy a great night out amidst spectacular scenery. On Sunday June 4 steam to Iona and Iona Abbey and on Monday June 5th you can visit Tobermory or cruise to Tiree.

2017 marks the 70th year since Waverley's maiden voyage. Named after Sir Walter Scott's first novel, the ship was built for the London & North Eastern Railway to replace the paddle steamer, HMS Waverley, which was sunk on May 29th, 1940 whilst evacuating troops from Dunkirk. Launched on October 2, 1946 from the former A&J Inglis yard in Glasgow, she was later towed to Greenock where her triple expansion engines were fitted by Rankin & Blackmore. These have now become one of the ship's major attractions!

The Oban Times has teamed up with Waverley to offer two lucky readers a family trip (*for two adults and two children) aboard Paddle Steamer Waverley. The prize must be used by June 5.

To enter, simply answer this easy question, complete the form below and post it to The Oban Times, Waverley Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be received by Friday June 2, 2017.

Q. In what year was the Paddle Steamer Waverley's maiden voyage?

Answer

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

Terms and conditions: Over 18s only. Winners with the correct answer will be selected at random after the closing date. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. The competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Digital subscribers can enter by post by sending us a letter with your answer, contact details and email address, along with a note to explain that you are a digital subscriber. The closing date for entries is midnight, Friday June 2, 2017. Prize must be used by Friday June 5, 2017. Sailings are subject to availability.

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

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Saturday 3rd June 2017 - Senior
Oban High School
All competitions commence 9.00am
Programmes available from Music Shop, Corran Halls and Connel Village Store

Argyll Animal Aid SC013211
Saturday 27th May - 11 to 3 pm
Garden Open Day
Druimneil House, Port Appin PA38 4DQ
Teas, Coffee & Home Baking. Plants for sale
Finn Falconry all day viewing with a display
Bouncy Castle for Children £1
Music by Sutherlands Groove
Meet a Rescue Dog. Local young pipers
Admission (inc Teas) Adults £5.00 Children Free

New innovative outdoor laundrette for Oban area

DO YOU know that you should wash your duvet and pillows at least every six months? The reality is we're all busy and visiting a dry cleaner or laundrette is not always convenient.

A solution has finally arrived in the form of a new and innovative outdoor self-service laundrette. The Revolution outdoor laundrette combines design and performance to provide users with an eco-friendly and economic washing experience. KIS Wash Laundry Solutions, a division of Photo-Me International plc, has installed more than 1,500

units in continental Europe.

The Revolution is ideal for washing regular loads but also for heavy ones such as duvets, throws and pillows. This outdoor self-service laundrette is equipped with 8kg and 18kg washing machines, built-in hypoallergenic washing liquid pump and a vented dryer. Not only is this machine available 24/7 but it's also very economic: £4 for an 8kgs wash, £8 for an 18kg wash and from only £2 for drying.

The customer only has to bring the washing, no need to think about

detergent. The highly concentrated washing liquid is free of phosphate and colouring agents and meets the EU ECOCERT and ECOCERT standards. It is hypoallergenic, ideal for sensitive skin and has a pleasant neutral fragrance.

This is a convenient service being rolled out across the UK for either domestic use or local businesses that require professional washing facilities on a regular basis. You can now wash and dry your laundry at Esso Oban Halfway Filling Station, Dunbeg, Oban, PA37 1PX.

24/7 LAUNDERETTE

SELF SERVICE WASH & DRY

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FROM £4*

to wash your clothes while shopping!

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HALFWAY FILLING STN,
DUNBEG, OBAN,
PA37 1PX

KISwash

Laundry Solutions

KIS WASH LAUNDRY SOLUTIONS
Tel: +44 (0) 1372 453 399
@: marketing@photo-me.co.uk
W: www.kiswash.co.uk

eilean eisdeal present

Tunna Tunes

Saturday 27th May

at Easdale Island Community Hall.

Doors and bar open 7.30pm. Tickets £12/£10
Mischievous fiddle rock shenanigans from 4-piece Perthshire band.
Tunna bridge the gap between Scottish tunes, Funk, Rock, Calypso, Swing, Jazz, Samba, Bossa Nova and just about everything else.

On Sunday 28th May we present a matinee performance of Mike Maran's A Funny Valentine - the story and music of Chet Baker.
Doors open 2.15pm. Tickets £10/£8

RUM National Nature Reserve

SPORTING LEASE OPPORTUNITY

To let by Scottish Natural Heritage - a unique opportunity to manage the annual cull of around 60 stags for 5 years, over approximately 9,000 hectares on Rum National Nature Reserve.

To be let from 2018 to 2022. Interested parties are invited to submit an expression of interest in writing to the Project Manager, Lizzie Richards via email: Lizzie.richards@snh.gov.uk or post to SNH, Dingwall Business Park, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB, by 31st May 2017.

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.



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Book online at waverleyexcursions.co.uk
call 0845 130 4647 or book at Oban Information Centre

Sailing from OBAN North Pier

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

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

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

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

Sailing from TOBERMORY

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

FARMING NEWS

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Scientists close in on potato blight cause and release app

THE PATHOGEN responsible for the devastating crop disease potato late blight manipulates the plant's growth and development to boost its infection process, a study has discovered.

Late blight played a major role in the historical Irish potato famine and is still a huge problem for farmers today, causing massive crop losses and proving difficult to manage by chemical control and traditional breeding methods.

The fungal-like pathogen, *Phytophthora infestans*, secretes a protein called AVR2 into the plant. This targets the plant's mechanisms responsible for normal growth and development. This protein, or 'effector', can have an impact on the plant's growth and immune response, allowing infection to spread.

Dr Eleanor Gilroy, a molecular plant pathologist and co-author of the study by the James Hutton Institute, said: 'There are

communication signals between growth and immunity systems in plants, allowing the plant to direct resources where they are needed most.

'The late blight pathogen has evolved to exploit this communication link, tipping the balance in favour of growth so that disease can progress while the plant's defences are low.

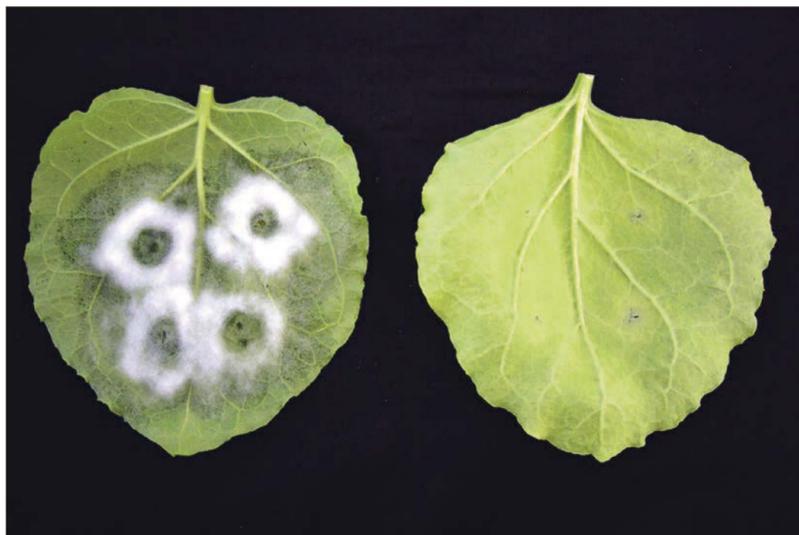
'This discovery reveals a novel strategy the pathogen uses to suppress the plant's immune system, highlighting a vulnerability in our crops that we could potentially target in the future to help protect them from disease.'

The role of effectors like AVR2 is not yet fully understood by scientists. Pathogens secrete them into plants during infection and the interaction between effectors and plants may open further avenues to research crop pests and diseases responsible for enormous global food crop losses each year.

The institute has also just published a blight map revealing the evolution of the potato disease in Europe, and launched Buntata, a free Android app to help potato growers identify plant pests and diseases in the field.

Named after the Gaelic word for potato, Buntata is flexible enough to be used without mobile coverage. Through downloadable datasets, the app helps identify potato pests and diseases easily and suggests further resources for growers to consult if they want to confirm the diagnosis.

Professor Lesley Torrance of the Buntata development team said: 'There is no need to have prior knowledge of the pest, disease or other disorder as the app is designed to allow the farmer to match the symptoms of their potato plant or pest to symptoms in the database and it is mobile enough to be deployed in the field.'



Blight leaves.

Forestry bill to 'catch up 50 years'

THE SCOTTISH Parliament will consider forestry legislation for the first time in its history after the introduction of a Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Bill.

The Scottish Government hopes Scotland's £1 billion forestry sector, which supports 25,000 jobs, will 'benefit from the bill's modern approach to forestry development, support and regulation'.

The bill aims to deliver 'improved accountability' and a 'more effective use of Scotland's publicly-owned land'. Separate to the bill, ministers will also create a new executive agency Forestry and Land Scotland and a dedicated forestry division within government.

Carol Evans, Woodland Trust Scotland director, said: 'This forestry bill is an opportunity for the official definition of forestry to catch up with 50 years of improved practice on the ground. Modern forestry is no longer just about timber supply but about sustainable forest management, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, community engagement and tourism.'

Rural economy secretary Fergus Ewing said: 'Scotland's forests and woodlands are among our most valuable rural assets. We will continue to work to ensure forestry plays a leading role in Scottish communities for generations.'

Vets want complete ban on docking dogs' tails

THE BAN on docking dogs' tails should not exempt working dogs, vets will urge MSPs this month.

The practice of removing part or all of a dog's tail by surgical excision or constricting its blood supply was banned in 2007 except for veterinary treatment, where the tail is injured or diseased.

Exemptions existed in other parts of the UK and last year Holyrood held a consultation

asking if vets can also dock the tails of working spaniel and hunt point retriever puppies by up to a third of their length to reduce the risk of more serious injury later in life.

Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham announced legislation would be changed to permit the shortening of the tails of spaniel and hunt point retriever puppies, where a vet believes they are likely to be for use as a working dog and risk

serious tail injury in later life. A ban on wild animals in travelling circuses was also announced.

However the British Veterinary Association's Scottish branch (BVAS), while welcoming the Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Scotland) Bill, called the government's legislation 'a mixed bag'.

President Grace Webster said: 'Until recently Scotland also led the way on dog welfare with a complete ban on tail docking so

we are extremely disappointed at the decision to reverse this stance.

'We have considered all the evidence and remain convinced that tail docking in dogs, even specific breeds, is detrimental to their welfare.'

'This is a retrograde step for animal welfare in Scotland, amidst an otherwise progressive package of animal welfare measures.'

At the end of May, the BVAS

will be giving evidence to the Environment Committee in the Scottish Parliament ahead of a vote on whether or not to approve the change in law relating to tail docking.

The government's legislation also includes the introduction of controls to restrict the use of electronic training collars and a commitment to update regulations to combat the irresponsible breeding and sale of dogs, cats and rabbits.

Around the markets

CALEDONIAN MARTS LTD, Stirling, on Monday May 22, 204 breeding cattle sold. An excellent entry of cattle forward both for numbers and quality sold to one of the largest ringside of buyers ever to be seen at this centre which resulted in all classes easily sold.

Heifers with calves averaged £3117 (a record), cows with calves averaged £1212, bulling heifers averaged £1191 (a record), cows in-calf averaged £716. The judge was R Semple, Netherton, Dalrymple.

Champion Heifer with calf came from Craig Malone, Pitcairn, Cardenden which made £5000 purchased by James Mather on behalf of Haasside Farms, Lockerbie. Reserve Champion also came from Craig Malone selling at £3800 to the judge R Semple, Netherton, Dalrymple.

3rd prize Heifer from John McAlister, West Thomaston, Banknock made £5000 to Brian Harper, Greenwells, Falkirk.

Leading prices outwith prize list: Heifers with Calves -

£5100 Pitcairn
£4800 West Thomaston
£4600 Learielaw
£4100 West Thomaston
£4000 Learielaw
£3300 West Thomaston
£3100 & £3000 Pitcairn & West Thomaston

Cows with Calves
£1900 Flemington
£1700 & £1650 (three times)

Hawkhill, Auchenblae
£1550 (twice) Hawkhill
£1400 Taylorton, Over Hillhouse & Hawkhill

£1280 Blaircressnock
Bulling Heifers
Lim - £2200, £1800 & £1600 Seg-gardean
Sim - £1350 & 1300 Over Hillhouse
Lim - £1300 Glenside (Stranraer)
High x Sim - £1300 Ashmore & Strone Estates
AAX - £1200 Glenside

DINGWALL & HIGHLAND MARTS LTD, May 17, sold 103 pedigree and commercial Luining cattle at their ninth annual spring breeding sale sponsored by W & A Geddes and Harbro Ltd.

Pedigree bulling heifers (74) averaged £1,519.52 and sold to 1,995gns (£1,900), twice for 25 month old heifers from Mr F Scott Renwick, Inverbroom Farm, Ullapool, to A & C Matheson, Upper Bogrow, Tain.

Pedigree yearling heifers (11) averaged £910.64 and sold to 1,050gns (£1,102.50) for a 14 month old heifer from Welbeck Estates, Welbeck, to Messrs Todholes, Northumberland.

Sim/Luining heifers (6) averaged £1,277.50 and sold to 1,470gns (£1,400) from Messrs A. L. & A. C. McCall, Culmally Farm, to Messrs A. S. Budge, Milton Farm, Thurso.

Breeding cattle (9) sold to 1575gns (£1,500) for a Luining cow with a heif-

er calf at foot from Messrs R. M & M. J. McCall, Inverbroom Farm, Brora, to Firm of Ernest Crawford, Blarghoun Farm, Argyll.

Bulls (3) sold to 5,775gns (£5,500) for a 24 month old from Messrs C. C. Macarthur & Co, Nunnerie Farm, Biggar, to Messrs Ben Challum Ltd., Woodburn, Crieff.

Other leading prices: Pedigree bulling heifers: Inverbroom, 1,850gns, 1,800gns; Ard-larach, Oban, (eight times), Monzie Farm, Perth-Shire, (twice), 1,700gns; Ard-larach, (twice), Inverbroom Farm, (thrice), 1,650gns; Inverbroom, (twice), Monzie Farm, (four times), Inverbroom Farm, (twice), 1,600gns; Welbeck Estates, (twice), 1,550gns; Fearn Farm, Tain, (twice), 1,520gns.

Pedigree yearling heifers: Welbeck Estates, (four times), Inverbroom, (twice), 1,000gns.

Sim/Luining heifers: Culmally Farm, (twice), 1,400gns; Tillyrie, Kinross, (twice), 1,150gns, 1,100gns.

Breeding cattle: Inverbroom Farm, (twice), for a cow with heifer calf at foot, 1,700gns, and 1,620gns for a cow with male calf at foot; Inverbroom, 1,500gns for a heifer in calf.

Bulls: Culmally Farm, 3,600gns. Some 244 adult head of breeding cattle including sale of Highland cattle also sold at Dingwall.

Highland bullocks (8) sold to £730 gross, (twice), from Morrision House, Fraserburgh. Highland heifers (34) sold to £950

gross for a pen from 8 Corntown, Conon Bridge. Highland bulls (2) sold to £520 gross from Hillend, Aulderm.

Commercial bulling heifers (49) sold to £1,220 gross for a pair of Beef Shorthorns from Achvarasdal Farm, By Thurso.

In calf cows (7) sold to £1,120 gross for a Shorthorn from 29/30 Borve, Skeabost.

In calf heifers (8) sold to £1,400 gross, (thrice), for a Luining cross from Brauch Mills Farm, Kiltarlity.

Cow with male calf (47) sold to £1,025 gross for a Limousin cow with a Shorthorn cross calf from Migdale, Bonar Bridge.

Cow with female calf (46) sold to £2,400 gross for a Limousin cow with a Shorthorn calf from Migdale.

Heifer with male calf (10) sold to £1,150 gross for Simmental cross cow with a Limousin calf from 4 & 5 Totescore, Portree.

Heifer with female calf (14) sold to £1,100 gross for Aberdeen Angus cross cow with a Limousin calf from The Arr, Lethen.

Bulls (19) sold to £3,800 gross for a Limousin from Clury Farm, Dulinain Bridge.

Other leading prices: Highland bullocks: Shewglie, Glenurquhart & Kilmartin Hall, Invergordon, (twice), £510. Highland heifers: 8 Corntown, (twice), £850, Morrision House, (twice), £800, 4 Bualnaluib,

Achnasheen, £750, Morrision House, (five times), £700.

Bulling heifers: Sho - Craigroy, Edderton, & Achvarasdal Farm, £1,200; LuiX - 4 Bualnaluib, £1,150; SimX - Craigview, Arisaig, £1,140; AAX - 4 Bualnaluib, £1,050; LimX - Westfield, Thurso, £950.

In calf cows: ShoX - 29/30 Borve, £1,100; SimX - Muirton Mains, Muir of Ord, £920.

In calf heifers: LimX - Rovie Lodge, Rogart, £980, Muirton Mains, £950. Cow with male calf: SimX - Blackpark, Nairn, £2,000; LimX - Muirton Mains, £1,900; BRB - Muirton Mains, £1,700, Blackpark, £1,680; AAX - Migdale, £1,650; ShoX - Blackpark, (twice), £1,600; SalX - Coilach, Muir of Ord, (twice), £1,480.

Cow with heifer calf: LimX - Migdale, £2,220, £2,050; SimX - Blackpark, £2,000; BRB - Cranford, Gollanfield, £1,700; AAX - Inkstack, Thurso, £1,520.

Bulls: Lim - Easter Aberchelder, Gorthleck, £3,000; SimX - Mains of Househill, Nairn, £2,080; Sho - Cragganvally, Beauly, £1,980.

Heifer with male calf: SalX - 4 & 5 Totescore, £2,000; AAX - The Arr, £1,850.

Heifer with female calf: SalX - 4 & 5 Totescore, £1,920; AAX - The Arr, (twice), £1,850; SimX - 4 & 5 Totescore, £1,850.

For full results at www.obantimes.co.uk

Rural loan payments start in Scotland

PAYMENTS from a rural loan scheme designed to help vulnerable farmers and crofters in Scotland have started.

More than 7,400 payments worth more than £45 million have been processed and will be paid this week. Further payments are likely to follow as a total of 11,000 letters have been issued offering eligible businesses the opportunity to benefit from the 2016 National Less Favoured Areas Support Scheme (LFASS).

These loan payments will be automatically deducted from EU payments once LFASS 2016 applications are processed. Further payment runs will be made in the coming weeks.

Rural economy secretary Fergus Ewing said: 'I understand how important these payments are for farmers, crofters and the wider rural economy so I'm delighted to see the money being released to those that require this much-needed financial security.'

'This scheme will pump millions into the rural economy at an important time enabling farmers and crofters to get on with purchases and investments for the crucial summer and autumn months.'

'Farmers and crofters who accept the offer, but have missed the May 5 deadline, will still receive the full payment to which they are entitled, and will receive it as soon as possible. I'd encourage anyone yet to apply for an LFASS loan to do so.'

NFU Scotland vice president Martin Kennedy said: 'This time of year is always the most challenging financially for beef and sheep producers in more disadvantaged areas. There are lots of costs and bills to settle at a time when little or no revenue is coming in and that severely tests the cash flow of even the most prudent farmer or crofter. It's the timing of this LFASS cash injection that makes it of real value, rather than the sums involved.'

'With an IT payment system that is not yet fit for purpose, our call for this LFASS loan scheme was a timely and necessary intervention. It's important to remember those not in this first round of payments will not be overlooked.'

'Further loan scheme letters have been issued in recent weeks and we'll be pressing the Scottish Government to ensure all those eligible and who have opted in get their loan amount as soon as possible.'

Oban Times
farming
newsdesk
01631
568000

Hydro Projects

A private investment company would like to acquire Hydro schemes, in an operational state and hydro projects that have achieved planning permission, and are ready to be built. We will also look at grid constrained projects for future development. Please include as much information as possible, all information will be treated in strict confidence.

Please contact PO BOX 28 Oban Times, Lochavullin Estate, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

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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10:30am Wednesday 31st May 2017
Errol Airfield, Errol, Perth PH2 7TB

Wednesday 31st May 2017

Over 400 Entries. Also All types of Plant, Machinery HGV's, Vans, Trailers, Specialist Utility Vehicles, Contractors Tools & Equipment etc.

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Depute Headteacher
Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pairce (Parkside Primary)
Salary: £44,223 (Subject to job sizing) Hours: 35

Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pairce, which opened in August 2013, is Edinburgh's Gaelic medium primary school. In August '17 we shall have 15 classes, including a 40:40 nursery class, and the leadership team will be increased with the addition of a second DHT.

Applications are invited from fluent Gaelic speakers who can play a key role in leading our school community in the delivery of national priorities, and in achieving our vision for a Gaelic Learning Environment of the highest standard.

'S i Bun-sgoil Taobh na pairce, a chaidh a fosgladh ann an Lùnastal 2013, bun-sgoil FME, Dhùn Èideann. San Lùnastal '17 bidh 15 clasaichean again, a' gabhail a-steach clas sgoil-àraich (40:40), agus theid an sgioba ceannardas a leasaachadh le bhith a' cur ris darna iar-cheannard.

.....bho luchd fileant na Gàidhlig le comas prìomh obair a dhèanamh ann an a bhith a' treòrachadh coimhearsnachd na sgoile le bhith libhreagadh prìomhachasan nàiseanta agus le hith a' coileanadh ar lèirsinn airson 'Arainnachd ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig den ìre as àirde.

Salaries will be in accordance with the Scheme of Salaries and Conditions of Service for Teaching Staff in School Education.

This post is considered Regulated Work with Vulnerable Children and/or Protected Adults, under the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007. Preferred candidates will be required to join the PVG Scheme or undergo a PVG scheme update check prior to a formal offer of employment being made by the City of Edinburgh Council.

Closing date: 5 June 2017.
To find out more and apply please visit www.myjobscotland.gov.uk

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Recirculation Unit - Lochailort Hatchery Technician
Salary - £18,485 to £23,451 plus overtime/alarm payments

Due to the current incumbent moving to another post within the Company, a role now exists for a Hatchery Technician at our Recirculation Unit in Lochailort.

The role is focused upon care of the eggs prior to hatching and also effective fish husbandry of the fry and smolts. Applications would be particularly welcome from candidates who have some experience in freshwater operations; however this is not essential as full training and support would be provided.

The chosen applicant will be part of a large team so must be self-motivated and have good communication skills. Beyond the nature of the role, the post holder would be expected to undertake over-time as required in order to accommodate the business needs of the Unit and, for the same reason, would be part of the site Alarm Rota which would involve staying in the hatchery accommodation. The working pattern is any 5 days from 7.

A driving license is essential.

If you are interested in applying for this vacancy, please submit an application in writing with details of relevant experience, by the closing date of Friday 9th June 2017 to: Gillian Dempster, Human Resources Advisor, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Stob Ban House, Glen Nevis Business Park, Fort William, PH33 6RX.
Email: gillian.dempster@marineharvest.com



Scottish Sea Farms are an internationally recognised farmer of superior quality Scottish salmon. We pride ourselves in providing industry leading and highly personal development paths which build into fulfilling professional careers. If you are committed to developing our industry and are driven to put your strengths to work we would very much like to hear from you.

Modern Apprenticeship - Engineering
Location: Barcaldine, Argyll Salary: £14,000

This is a 4 year programme consisting of a combination of theoretical learning and practical 'hands on' experience. The Modern Apprenticeship is delivered in partnership with Inverness College UHI. The successful candidate will attend college on a block release basis in the first year. Throughout the programme you will build a comprehensive portfolio and will be monitored through continuous assessment. Upon successful completion of the apprenticeship you will be awarded an NC in Engineering Practice, SVQ 2 and SVQ 3. To be successful for this role you will hold Scottish National 4 Grades in English, Maths and a Science.

Marine Husbandry Staff
Location: Sound of Mull & Loch Nevis Salary: £18,275 - £21,500 + W/E Payments & Training Increments

Applicants applying for our experienced husbandry roles should have at least 2 years' practical salmon farming experience. You should be able to demonstrate competence across a wide range of farming disciplines including: fish health monitoring, stock appetite assessment, boat handling skills, feeding system and boat maintenance whilst being proactive in health and safety.

Trainee Husbandry Salary: £17,700-£18,275 + OT Payments

Applications are also invited by candidates looking to begin their career in the Aquaculture Industry. We are also looking for ambitious individuals who are team players, proactive in health and safety and who have high expectations for themselves and of their employer. In return, we will provide you with a Mentor who will guide you through your first months employment and a detailed training plan that will enable you to kick start your fish farming career.

Processing Operative Staff Location: South Shian, Argyll Salary: £17,576

Duties focus on the processing and preparing of our product for despatch to our customers on average five days a week. Full training is provided including, health and safety, hygiene and food safety plus all relevant training on machinery if required.

Applicants should be able to work as part of a team that has high standards with a good work ethic and will be required to work shifts on a rotational basis.

In return Scottish Sea Farms will offer an attractive remuneration package, dependant on experience along with pension scheme, life cover, occupational health support, subsidised gym membership and cycle to work scheme.

To find out more please contact Angela Hand, Recruitment & HR Coordinator on 01786 445521 or email angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com for an application pack.
Closing Date: Friday 2nd June 2017

Administration Assistant, Lochgilhead
Fixed term to April 2019
Salary £16,574 - £19,498 per annum 35 hours per week

For more information regarding this post please go to the recruitment section of our website at www.acha.co.uk or contact Lachlan Wood on 01546 605832 or email lachlan.wood@acha.co.uk

If you cannot access the website please contact the recruitment team:
01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk
Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 9th June 2017
Interviews will be held in Lochgilhead on 26th June 2017

Flow Measurement Engineer

SOLV® is an oil and gas flow measurement and allocation engineering consultancy based in Fort William. We specialise in fiscal, allocation and process flow measurement.

We are seeking applications for the position of Flow Measurement Engineer. The ideal candidate will be qualified to Degree level or equivalent and have 5+ years experience in the oil and gas industry.

We offer a technically challenging and team-based work environment. With our offices located in the Outdoor Capital of the UK, we are ideally suited to candidates who enjoy outdoor activities. We operate a flexi-time contract to benefit this.

Please send a copy of your CV and a covering letter to martin.basil@solv.net

Applications Close: 9th June 2017

 email: martin.basil@solv.net
website: www.solv.net
phone: 01397 773190



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Project Archivist (x2) (Temporary)
£27,976 - £31,516
Lochgilhead/Inveraray Ref: CMC00623
01546 604334
Closing date: Friday 9 June 2017.
To apply visit our website



www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Social Worker (Part-time)
£32,447 - £35,494
Lochgilhead Ref: HAW00971
01546 604334
Closing date: Friday 9 June 2017.
To apply visit our website



www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Assistant Community Support Worker
Waking Nights (Part-Time, Temporary)
£16,369 - £17,866
Campbeltown Ref: HAW01127
01546 604334
Closing date: Friday 2 June 2017.
To apply visit our website



www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Belford Hospital, Fort William

Facilities Division, Estates Department
Maintenance Craftsperson Electrician – Band 4
£20,302 - £22,910 plus recruitment and retention premium (RRP) of £3,443.76 per annum Ref: IM9_17_24b

Full-Time, Permanent

A vacancy has arisen for a Maintenance Craftsperson Electrician within the Estates Department of NHS Highland based at Belford Hospital, Fort William. The successful applicant will be required to carry out maintenance and repair of building services, plant and equipment within the Lochaber area and across the wider NHS Highland area. A current driving licence is essential.

Applicants must have served a recognised electrical apprenticeship and have appropriate experience maintaining and repairing equipment and systems such as electrical distribution equipment, lighting, small power, generator, fire alarm systems, heating services, boiler plant, pumps and machinery, preferably within a health care environment however relevant experience in other industries is also considered applicable.

Applicants must be able to work as part of a team, without supervision, often on remote sites. After suitable familiarisation and training, availability for, and participation in, the on-call rota will also be a requirement.

The post is eligible for a Recruitment & Retention Premium (RRP) of approx £3k, on call allowance and enhanced rates for call outs in addition to the basic salary. A condensed 4 day working week is also available.

A flexible approach to work is essential as variations to the standard working week may be necessary, providing cover in order to ensure the level of service required.

Informal enquiries to: Allan Ross, Maintenance Supervisor, Tel: 01397 702481

Application Forms and Job Descriptions can be downloaded via our website www.nshighland.scot.nhs.uk or are available from, and to be returned to the Employment Services Section, John Dewar Building, Inverness Business & Retail Park, Highlander Way, Inverness IV2 7GE or by emailing your name and address to nshighland.recruitment@nhs.net.

Please quote reference: IM9_17_24b
Closing date for completed applications: 8 June 2017.



www.nshighland.scot.nhs.uk

We are a rapidly developing multi-site business and market leading UK company within the timber industry, employing over 1200 people and with a Group turnover in excess of £300m. With ten profit centres across the UK and one in Latvia, We are BSW.

We have a fantastic opportunity available for a Mechanical Engineer to assist in producing high quality timber products, tailored to customer requirements.

Mechanical Engineer • 44 hours p.w, 24/7 Shift Pattern
£Competitive + Excellent Benefits • Based Fort William Sawmill

Working alongside a team of engineers, under the leadership of our Engineering Manager, you'll be a key member of our busy maintenance team, directly responsible for providing a prompt and responsive breakdown, fault diagnosis and repair service, as well as undertaking routine mechanical maintenance across a range of plant and machinery. From a mechanical discipline and with a background in a related manufacturing/production environment, you will ideally have experience of fault finding and general mechanical fitting. Skills in hydraulics and pneumatics would also be advantageous. Alongside this, you must have excellent communication skills and the ability to interact at all levels, plus a good standard of literacy and numeracy.

In return, you can look forward to developing a career with one of the industry's leading employers. As well as the competitive salary, this position includes other benefits such as a bonus and employer's contribution pension scheme.

To apply, please send your CV and covering letter, specifying Mechanical Engineer - Fort William to: recruitment@bsw.co.uk
Closing date for applications: Friday 9th June 2017.

We are BSW.
Five generations of investment, ensuring the future is safe for the sixth.



Local newspapers and their websites are the number one choice for local jobs.



Building a stronger SCTS which fully matches the expectations of 21st century Scotland

Help us support justice



Campbeltown Sheriff and Justice of the Peace Court
Administration Officer

Contract type & number of hours: Permanent Part-time (1 full week (37 hrs) in every 4 weeks to cover court sitting. Additional hours may be offered on an ad hoc basis for holiday cover and training)

From £17,684 pro rata

Outline of job role and purpose

Working within a small team you will undertake a number of general administrative duties and interact with all court users in a professional and polite manner.

Candidate Profile
Outline of candidate profile

You as one of the successful candidates must be focused on providing a high quality service to all court users. You should have a flexible approach to work and be prepared to work in a team environment and be willing to develop and acquire new skills as your job demands. The ability to get on with others is an essential quality.

We offer an interesting work environment, 25 days holiday entitlement (pro rata), 11.5 days Public and Privilege holidays (pro rata) and a civil service pension. Training is provided and there are a variety of opportunities for career progression in the service.

If you are interested in this challenging and rewarding opportunity, you may apply online at www.scotcourts.gov.uk/recruitment. For further information on the post please contact Louise Taylor, Sheriff Clerk Depute, Campbeltown - taylor@scotcourts.gov.uk, 01586 552503.

There are no formal qualifications for this post.

The closing date for the post is 2 June 2017.
Interviews will be held on the 15 June 2017.

We are committed to promoting a culture where equality and diversity is integral to our service.

www.scotcourts.gov.uk

RECRUITMENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH HIJOBS

Visit hijobs.net ✓ FIND A JOB ✓ SIGN UP FOR JOB ALERTS ✓ GET CAREER ADVICE ✓ ADVERTISE A JOB



Modern Apprentices Fixed term 4 years

Salary £10,886 - £12,807 per annum, 35 hours per week

Argyll Community Housing Association has exciting Modern Apprenticeship roles available in the following areas;

- **Housing** - within our Housing and Neighbourhood Services Team which can be based in any of our offices throughout Argyll
- **Construction Technical** - within our Regeneration Team, based in Lochgilphead

Our knowledge, your opportunity

Demand for all kinds of homes keeps rising, which makes housing a sector with a fantastic future.

If you're looking for a new career or an alternative to full-time Higher Education, we have the answer. Our four-year **Modern Apprenticeship** gives you everything you need to build a rewarding career - including accredited qualifications, on-the-job professional experience and valuable skills.

We'll provide the expertise - and you'll provide the talent to build on it.

Our programme, your stepping stone

A university education isn't for everyone - some people want to get out there and earn while they learn. We pay for all your training and we pay you for your work.

You'll become a full-time employee, spending at least 10% of your time working towards your apprenticeship accreditation, and the rest with your team, doing a real job and gaining practical experience in your chosen field.

Your abilities, our expectations

Plenty of ambition, bags of initiative and an eagerness to learn - that's what we'll be looking for in you, plus a willingness to take on the challenges coming your way. Most important will be your proactive attitude. We can teach you all you need to know about the role but your own enthusiasm and commitment will determine how fast you progress and how far you go.

Your route is up to you, so explore your options with us, and you'll discover how you can build your future.

Your application, our closing dates

Applications close at 12 noon on 2 June 2017

Find out more in the recruitment section of our website and apply online at www.acha.co.uk



ACHA Repairs Assistant **Helensburgh**
Salary £19,717 - £23,197 **17.5 hours per week**
Fixed term to 31 May 2018

For more information please contact Nick Bancks 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 **37.5 hours per week**
Permanent

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 **35 hours per week**
Fixed term post 6 months

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 **37.5 hours per week**
Permanent

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

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.

RECRUITMENT HIJOBS RECRUITMENT

Company Accountant

Steinsvik UK Limited
Unit 36A, Ben Nevis Estate,
Fort William PH33 6PR



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.

Steinsvik UK Limited is a subsidiary of the Steinsvik group, the headquarters of which are based in Norway with departments worldwide. Steinsvik has specialised in delivering products and solutions to aquaculture, maritime industries and the oil and gas industry with more than 25 years of experience in developing innovative and robust solutions that will withstand the rigors of time.

A job description and person specification are available and applications attaching a CV can be made by email to Mr A Newiss, R A Clement Associates (Acting on behalf of the UK Manager) at : an@raclement.co.uk



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 ballrach 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 fhàotainn dhan tagraiche shoirbheachail airson dreuchdan maireannach. Ceann-latha: 29 den Chèitean 2017.

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



Trainee Accountant or Experienced Bookkeeper required

Do you want to be part of a team with an excellent reputation? Are you keen to continue to develop your skills?

Can you deliver a high standard of work to our clients?

If so, please contact us including your CV, by 8th June to:-

Duncan Grout, Managing Partner.
dg@raclement.co.uk
www.raclement.co.uk



Care Assistants

£8.25-£9.00 per hour

Staff Nurses

£14.50-£16.00 per hour. Day and night, full time and part time hours available.

Please contact the Jennifer Foote Home Manager for application form or further information. Tel: 01631 720278 or email lynnoflorne@mckenziecare.com

YOUR LOCAL PAPER

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Regional Press closer to home

West of Scotland Area Services - Oban Saturday Club

Autism Support Workers
Permanent Part Time
Casual Opportunities also available
£8.25 per Hour Plus Excellent Benefits Package
Reference: SA/467

In this role, you will be an integral member of the support team contributing to and ensuring a high quality of care and support for individuals on the Autism Spectrum and/ or with complex needs within our Oban- West of Scotland Service. Hours will include supporting in a Saturday Club for children and providing an outreach service to young adults which will include daytime, evenings and weekends.

To download an application form or for more information please visit our website www.scottishautism.org

If you think you have the skills and experience to match our demanding requirements then please visit our website <http://www.scottishautism.org/about-us/work-us/current-vacancies> to view the vacancy details, download an application form or apply online with your CV.

Closing Date - 24.05.17
Registered charity number is 5C009068

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@mkmacleod.co.uk

Stalker/ Gamekeeper
30 years experience, looking for immediate permanent start on Highland Estate.
Telephone or email 07704557108 or roehunter@hotmail.co.uk

Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

H&M Machine Operator
Torlundy
£23,023 - £24,388 plus benefits

To apply, please visit our website www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk
HRSotland@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Please quote ref 1541852.
Closing date: 9 June 2017.
No recruitment agencies please.
We are committed to providing equal opportunities for all sectors of our diverse community.

www.forestry.gov.uk/vacancies

PUBLIC NOTICES

If you would like to advertise in the Oban Times Public Notice section, please call 01631 568000



Tarbert Harbour
THE HEART OF THE HERITAGE VILLAGE

NEW TOILET/SHOWER/ LAUNDRY FACILITIES BUILDING WORKS

Tarbert Harbour will shortly issue tenders for the construction of a new toilet/shower/laundry facility at Tarbert Harbour. The proposed building has a floor area of 200 sq m and is single storey with a pitched roof. The works are due to start in August 2017 for completion in May 2018.

Expressions of interest are invited from reputable experienced contractors wishing to be included in the tender list.

Expressions of interest must be received by noon on Friday 9th June 2017. Tarbert Harbour's decision as to the applicants included in the tender list shall be final.

Expressions of interest should be sent in writing to: The Harbour Master, Harbour Office, Garval Road, Tarbert, PA29 6TR

Lomond & Argyll Advocacy Service ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday June 1st May 2017
New members welcome
For further details contact: (01389) 726543



Breedon

Blast date: Friday 26th May 2017
Blast time: 12:00hrs – 14:00hrs
Banavie Quarry

Argyll and Bute Council
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (PART OF CORE PATH C175 (c) AT DALAVICH) TEMPORARY STOPPING UP AND DIVERSION ORDER 2017

Argyll and Bute Council hereby gives notice that it has made an Order under Section 208 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to be known as "The Argyll and Bute Council (Part of Core Path C175 (c) at Dalavich) Temporary Stopping Up and Diversion Order 2017" (hereinafter referred to as "the Order") authorising the temporary stopping up of part of Core Path reference C175 (c) at Dalavich and its diversion along the closely adjacent alternative route as shown by the Plan forming Schedule Part 1 annexed and subscribed as relative to the Order. The Order is about to be submitted to the Scottish Ministers for confirmation or to be confirmed as an unopposed Order. The Core Path will be temporarily stopped up and diverted along the said alternative route all as more particularly referred to in the Schedule Part 2 annexed and subscribed as relative to the Order. The temporary stopping up and diversion of the Core Path is necessary to enable the development comprising generally the installation of a community hydro scheme permitted under Planning Permission reference 14/01882/PP granted under Part III of the said Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to be carried out in accordance with the said planning permission.

A copy of the Order and relevant Plan contained in the Schedule Part 1 showing the footpath to be temporarily stopped up and the alternative route along which it will be diverted and other information contained in the Schedule Part 2 may be inspected at the offices of Argyll and Bute Council, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW, by any person, free of charge, within normal office hours during a period of twenty eight days following the appearance of this advertisement.

Within that period, any person, by written notice to the undersigned (quoting reference CGR/DK/03), may make representations or objections with respect to the Order. Any such representation or objection should state the name and address of the person making the representation or objection, the matter to which it relates and the grounds upon which it is made.

CHARLES REPPKE
Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT
16 May 2017

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



Public Information Event
Floating Tidal Energy Platform Test (Connel)
Wed 31st May
1 – 2pm and 7 – 8pm at Connel Village Hall

Sustainable Marine Energy will present information relating to this proposed short-term floating tidal energy platform test, allowing discussion so that stakeholders in the community can respond.

All welcome



Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

R S MacColl
2 Kinlochlaich, Lismore & Appin
77810
0.091 ha
Reason – Cycle Path

W Lawson
Alister Annie's Croft, Colonsay
77816
0.092 ha
Reason – New dwellinghouse
Condition – Fencing

W MacLachlan & L MacLachlan
Pt of 39 North Ballachulish
75577
0.04 ha
Reason – Existing Croft House Site & Garden
Ground
Condition - Fencing

Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Spotlight Musical Theatre Group
Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 15th June 2017 in Oban Guide Hall at 7.30 pm.
All members welcome.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Argyll and Bute Council
DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (OBAN LIVE EVENT) (TEMPORARY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT) ORDER 2017

On Monday 22 May 2017, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 62 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, which will make it unlawful for a temporary period for any person to wait, drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle, on any of the roads in a manner contravening the Schedules to the Order.

The restrictions imposed by this Order, which are desirable because of considerations of public safety and convenience during the Oban Live Concert will be in operation when indicated by signs at the times detailed in the schedule below between the 2nd and 4th June 2017.

SCHEDULE 1 – PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC (Affected residents will receive passes for access)

1 Glencruitten Road between Soroba Road and Mossfield Avenue	a. 2315 hours 02 June to 0015 hours 03 June b. 2315 hours 03 June to 0015 hours 04 June
2 Mossfield Avenue between Glencruitten Road and Mossfield Drive	a. 1200 hours 02 June to 0130 hours 03 June b. 1200 hours 03 June to 0130 hours 04 June

SCHEDULE 2 – NO WAITING AT ANY TIME/NO LOADING AT ANY TIME 0001 HOURS 02 JUNE TO 0130 HOURS 04 JUNE

1 Mossfield Avenue	On both sides between Glencruitten Road and Mossfield Drive
2 Mossfield Avenue	On the north east side between Mossfield Drive and Glencruitten Drive
3 Glencruitten Road	On both sides between Soroba Road and the access road to the Golf Club
4 Miller Road	On the northwest side between Soroba Road and Quarry Road
5 Quarry Road	On the west side between Miller Road and Glencruitten Road
6 Soroba Road	On the east side between the Garage Entrance and Soroba Lane

SCHEDULE 3 – PROHIBITION OF ENTRY

Mossfield Drive to Glencruitten Road	a. 1200 hours 02 June to 0130 hours 03 June b. 1200 hours 03 June to 0130 hours 04 June
--------------------------------------	--

Alternative routes will be via adjacent streets and will be signed in an appropriate manner.

If a vehicle is parked without complying with the provisions of this order, then a contravention will have occurred. A penalty charge notice may then be issued by a parking attendant and a penalty charge will be payable.

A copy of the Order may be inspected at Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead or online at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Jim Smith, Head of Roads & Amenity Services, 1A Manse Brae, LOCHGILPHEAD, PA31 8RD

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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
SC01297

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 INCREASE TO MOORING AREA AND INSTALLATION OF 4 ADDITIONAL CAGES, ARDGADDEN, 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 installation of 4 additional cages and increase to mooring area to an existing marine farm at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates	Cost £2,000
Ardgadden,	55° 58.78' N	005° 21.27' W	
Loch Fyne	55° 58.77' N	005° 21.12' W	
	55° 58.84' N	005° 21.08' W	
	55° 58.83' N	005° 20.95' W	
	55° 58.74' N	005° 21.00' W	
	55° 58.73' N	005° 20.85' W	
	55° 58.48' N	005° 20.98' W	
	55° 58.41' N	005° 21.15' W	
	55° 58.43' N	005° 21.28' W	
	55° 58.53' N	005° 21.39' 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. 05617
Scottish Salmon Company

69%
of the business community read the regional press



First Registration of a Croft

Mrs J.E. Smith has registered their croft Lochdonhead, Pennygown & Torosay 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 16 Feb 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4044

First Registration of a Croft

Mrs M Black has registered their croft Seaview, Gribun, Kilfinichen & Kilvekeon 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 12 Feb 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4037

Amended Registration of a Croft

Mrs Anne Catherine M E McLaren has amended the registration boundaries of the croft 19 and 20 North Ballachulish 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 18th February 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2678.

First Registration of a Croft

William Lawson, has registered their croft Alistair 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.

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
17/02035/FUL	Lochaber Mountain Rescue Centre, Glen Nevis Business Park, Fort William	Extension to existing building
17/02108/FUL	Land 315M NW of 2 Blaich, Fort William	Proposed road access for timber extraction and management
17/02120/FUL	Land 160M North of Glen Rowan Farm, Morar	Installation of a camping pod, septic tank and soakaway, formation of access
17/02206/LBC	Strontian Hotel, Strontian, Acharacle	Replacement windows
17/02243/FUL	HIS Unit 2, Ben Nevis Drive, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William	Glazing of covered display area frontage
17/02281/FUL	The Farmhouse, Moy, Tulloch, Roy Bridge	Installation of private electricity distribution cable
17/02285/FUL	Land to South of Ardnamurchan High School, Strontian	Proposed primary school
17/02319/PIP	Land 110M NE of Nadurra, Gairloch, Spean Bridge	Erection of house, installation of access, drainage and levelling of the site
17/02340/FUL	Crannoch, Nevis Bridge Glen Nevis, Fort William	Erection of 2no dwelling houses
17/02352/PIP	Land 130M SW of Meall Mo Chridhe, Kilchoan	Erection of house
17/02353/PIP	Land 85M SW of Meall Mo Chridhe, Kilchoan	Erection of house
17/02354/PIP	Land 65M SE of Meall Mo Chridhe, Kilchoan, Acharacle	Erection of house

Time period for comments is 14 days, 17/02206/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
17/01079/PP	Change of use of land for siting of a mobile snack van (retrospective)	Car Park Scarinish Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute	Tiree Area Office
17/00986/PP	Use of land for siting of catering van for the sale of local seafood, meat and home baking.	Bank Car Park Scarnish Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6UH	Tiree Area Office
17/01181/PP	Installation of pre-fabricated modular biomass unit containing 2no. biomass boilers with an incorporated fuel store, and 3no. LPG gas boilers.	Boiler House Fladda Road Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
17/01206/PP	Installation of external wall insulation with white render on front elevation (retrospective)	89 Main Street Bowmore Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA43 7JH	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay
17/00548/PP	Erection of timber shed	Dervaig Village Hall Dervaig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dervaig
17/01267/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached storage shed, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Land South West Of East Kames Kilmelford Oban Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
17/01200/PP	Erection of boiler house and chimney with associated infrastructure	Ardbeg Distillery Ardbeg Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7EA	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
17/01205/PP	Erection of retail unit, visitor centre and 3 self-catering units, including realignment of escape stairs to Taigh Solais and MacGochans	Land Adjacent To Taigh Solais Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Tobermory Area Office

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 18
Planning Application Reference Number: 16/02911/MIN
Proposed development at Glasdrum, Fasnacloch, Appin, Argyll and Bute, PA38 4BJ

Notice is hereby given that additional information in relation to an environmental statement has been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council by A & L McCrae Ltd relating to the planning application in respect of the development of a quarry allowing for the extraction and processing of sand and gravel and the final restoration of the land, notified to Argyll and Bute Council.

A copy of the additional information together with the environmental statement and the associated planning application may be inspected during office hours in the register of planning applications kept by the Planning Authority, at 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD; and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and going through the 'Online planning and Building Standards Application Information' system during the period of 28 days beginning with the date of this notice.

Copies of the environmental statement may be purchased from Dalgleish Associates Ltd, Sinclair Street, Dunblane, FK15 0AH at a cost of £200.00 for a hard copy, £20.00 for a CD and £20.00 for a hard copy of the Environmental Statement non-technical summary.

Any person who wishes to make representations to Argyll and Bute Council about the environmental statement should make them in writing within the period to Planning Services, Development and Infrastructure, Argyll and Bute Council, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD.

David Love, Area Team Leader
11 May 2017

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment/planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

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Cottages.com opens dedicated office in Arran

Cottages.com is proud to announce the launch of its dedicated new office in Arran. Demand for quality holiday homes in the region is on the rise and there is a huge opportunity for property owners, in particular those in beautiful areas such as Arran, Oban, Lochaber and the greater Argyllshire area, to benefit from a successful holiday let. Many of the properties with cottages.com are achieving 48 bookings per year, offering owners a significant return on their investment. With the addition of this new cottages.com

office in Arran, as well as the dedicated team of property experts across the region, there is no better time to be a property owner in the west of Scotland. But what should you consider if you are thinking of starting a holiday let with cottages.com? Location is, of course, important, but you don't have to be in a 'hotspot' to achieve great bookings. The benefits of partnering with a reputable holiday letting agency is in the strength of its marketing spend and national presence. Cottages.com has a multi-

million-pound budget to ensure your property is seen by holidaymakers and maximising its booking potential. Whether buying a new property or renovating an existing one, it is important to seek expert advice as early as possible to ensure that you hit your target market. Cottages.com's portfolio includes well-known brands like Scottish Country Cottages, and has provided specialist advice to holiday home owners in the local area for more than three decades, acquiring an extensive knowledge of the region

and insight into booking trends. Arran's new team of property experts are impeccably placed to advise you on how to maximise your occupancy to ensure you get the best possible financial return. Cottages.com and Scottish Country Cottages can assess your property to VisitScotland standards and work in partnership with owners from initial planning and beyond. For more information and advice if you are considering starting a holiday let, simply visit www.cottages.com/let-your-property.

THE IMPACT OF LBTT IN SCOTLAND TWO YEARS ON



In April 2015, the Land Business Transaction Tax replaced UK Stamp Duty in Scotland, and the Scottish government claimed that nine out of 10 taxpayers would be better or no worse off under the new system. The Scottish government was asked about the overall effect of the change and how it is being assessed two years on. Liam Kerr MSP, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party asked the Scottish Parliament, 'What has the impact of the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax been in Scotland?' MSP Derek Mackay from the Scottish National Party and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution responded: 'The Scottish Government's priority is, and remains, to help first-time buyers

enter the property market and to assist people as they progress through the property market. LBTT will ensure everyone buying a property under £325,000 pays no tax or less tax than under Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT). 93% who bought a house for £40,000 or more either paid less tax compared to UK SDLT or paid no tax at all in the first 19 months of LBTT. The Scottish Parliament's recent inquiry into the first year of LBTT concluded that the transition to LBTT went well and that its first year has been operationally successful. It is too early to draw any definitive conclusions on the impact of the rates and bands from the available outturn data but recommends that the Scottish Fiscal Commission (SFC) should continue to monitor the data on an ongoing basis.' The Scottish Government reported a shortfall of £100m below their LBTT predictions for 2016/17. Analysis of the Revenue Scotland figures by the Scottish Property Federation (SPF) highlighted that returns for February were £31.9 million, down from £34.2m the previous month.

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PROPERTIES FOR SALE & TO LET West

THE KNOLL, OBAN



- Detached Victorian Villa
- 3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Elevated situation above Oban Bay
- Large decking with views across Oban Bay
- Extensively renovated throughout
- EPC Rating - D

OIEO £340,000

A beautiful detached Victorian villa with stunning views across Oban Bay. The property retains many of its original features and has been renovated to a high standard by the current owner. On the ground floor, the generous reception rooms to the front are bright spaces, bathed in natural light owing to the large sash windows and high ceilings. The bay window in the lounge is a delightful place to sit and enjoy the views towards Oban Bay and the islands of Kerrera and Mull.

LONGSDALE TERRACE, OBAN



- Two bedroom flat
- Deposit & References Required.
- Landlord Reg No. 163016/130/24420
- EPC Rating: D68
- Council Tax Band B
- AVAILABLE END MAY

£525 PCM

A first floor two bedroom flat on Longsdale Terrace, Oban. The part-furnished accommodation comprises of Lounge (with access to a private balcony), Kitchen (inc. all white goods), 2 double bedrooms (with large amounts of storage), family bathroom, hall cupboard. Outside there is a large stairwell storage cupboard and a shared drying green to the rear. Electric storage heating & double glazing throughout. Parking is on street closely.

DUNOLLIE ROAD, OBAN



- Delightful detached bungalow
- 3 bedrooms / 1 bathroom
- Convenient location
- Garden to front and rear
- Excellent Family Home
- EPC Rating - D61

OIRO £195,000

A unique opportunity to purchase a sizable family home within in easy walking distance of Oban's local amenities. The property comprises a cosy lounge with wood burning stove and patio doors out onto a large covered to the front of the house, ideal for sitting and enjoying the view or even drying washing on those showery days! Adjacent to the lounge is a bright and generous dining room, perfect for family meals and entertaining guests.

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.

WEST ARDHU, DERVAIG



- Planning permission in principle
- Plot 1 - 0.40 Acre
- Plot 2 - 0.42 Acre
- Close to Dervaig village
- Option to purchase additional ground

OIRO £45,000 each

Two secluded woodland plots close to the village of Dervaig on the Isle of Mull. The plots are marketed at £45,000 each. The plots offer an excellent opportunity to build a house in a secluded woodland setting. The plots are marketed with planning permission in principle for a single 1 & 3/4 storey dwelling house. The plots will utilise a private water supply (survey required) and require installation of private drainage.

SHUNA TERRACE, OBAN



- Electric storage heating and double glazed windows throughout.
- Available Mid June.
- EPC Rating: F25
- Close to Dervaig village
- Landlord Reg: 438602/130/27551

£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.

LAND NORTH WEST OF CRAIGSPIUR LANE, TOBERMORY



- 0.25 Acre Plot
- Stunning View towards the Sound of Mull
- Elevated site above Tobermory
- Planning Permission for a 1.5 storey architect designed house

OIEO £65,000

This elevated site enjoys views across Tobermory towards the Sound of Mull and the Ardnamurchan peninsula. The 0.25acre site currently has detailed planning permission for a 1.5 storey architect designed house with large expanses of glazing to allow maximum enjoyment of the far reaching views. The site has connections for services nearby and access completed ready for sale.

BELLVUE APARTMENTS, OBAN



- Private parking
- White goods included
- Sea views
- Landlord Reg. Numbers: 43871/130/10230 & 14397/4/130/10390
- AVAILABLE END OF MAY
- EPC Rating - D63

£500 PCM

Ground floor one bedroom flat, newly renovated with modern decor located in Oban town centre. The accommodation comprises of a large open plan sitting room and brand new kitchen with picturesque sea views. 1 spacious double bedroom with a separate newly fitted bathroom and electric shower. Private parking, drying area and external bike rack available. Electricity and Broadband excluded in Rental Amount. Council Tax B. Electric heating throughout. References and Deposit (1 Months Rent) required.

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BIRTHS

CAMPBELL - BOYLE - Born to Jennifer Campbell and Stuart Boyle on May 18, 2017 at Larbert Hospital, twin boys, Jack Campbell Boyle and Callan James Boyle. All doing well. Proud grandparents Iain and Janet Campbell and Jim and Audrey Boyle, Bearsden.

DEATHS

ANDERSON - Mary née McInnes of 9a Glencruitten Drive, Oban passed away peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on Sunday, May 21, 2017, beloved wife of the late George (Snooky). A dearly loved mother to James, Janet and the late Marion, mother-in-law of Colin and the late Catherine. A devoted and loved grannie to Lisa, Aileen, Gail, Niki, Pamela, Laura and Colin. A great "big" grannie to Ruari. Mary will be sorely missed by all her family and friends. There will be a private service at Mary's request and the family wish to express their gratitude to all family, friends and neighbours who have provided support and friendship over the years.

BEVIS - Anna Patricia (née Putnam) of Braefoot Farm, Seil Island, died peacefully in Lorn and Islands Hospital, aged 85 on May 20, 2017. Her funeral will take place on May 29 at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban at 10 a.m. with burial at Kilbrandon Cemetery. Family flowers, donations to RNLI and British Legion.

CAMPBELL - Peacefully at home at Strongorm, Balvicar on Sunday May 21, 2017, Betty Campbell (née Climie), aged 92. Wife of the late Iain and much loved mother, granny and great granny.

CARTER - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on May 20, 2017, Murdo Joseph Carter, beloved husband to Chrissie, dearly loved father to Alec and father-in-law to Audrey, much loved grampa to Simone and Graeme, and dear brother to Flora. Funeral will take place from St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban on Friday May 26 at 10.00 a.m., thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Mary's Meals.

JENKINS - On May 22, 2017, at Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, James (Jim), in his 93rd year, after a short illness, dearly beloved husband of the late Ena, much loved father of Olive, Yvonne, Ronald and the late James, adored grandfather and great grandfather, and a dear father-in-law, brother and uncle. Funeral service will be held at Ardrishaig Parish Church, on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at 11.00 a.m., thereafter to Achtnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired, to Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital.

KAY - George died peacefully at The Freeman, Newcastle upon Tyne on May 18, 2017, aged 74. Deeply loved husband of Pip, dearly loved father of Douglas, David, Russell and Roland, beloved grandfather of Naomi, Nicole, Andrew, Peter, Jessica, Angus, Maliah, Sebastian and Tobyn, brother of the late Michael Kay, Onich and uncle of Michelle and Jacqueline. Donations to DREAME Fund. www.justgiving.com/DREAME-fund

MACCOLL - Suddenly passed away on May 12, 2017 at home in Dorest, Duncan Neil in his 47th year beloved son of Maude and the late Neil MacColl, Salen, Mull. Memorial service to be arranged.

MACDONALD - Peacefully, surrounded by her family on May 21, 2017, aged 76, Ishbel, beloved wife of the late Sidney MacDonald, dearly loved mother of Marie and David and mother-in-law of Hamish and Linda, much loved granny of Jamie, Craig, David, Rory, Becky and Lorne and great granny to Liberty. Funeral will take place from St. Munda's Church, Ballachulish on Tuesday May 30 at 11.00 am. Thereafter to Duror Cemetery. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Lynn of Lorne Care Home Resident's Comfort Fund.

McVEAN - Peacefully, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on Sunday, May 14, 2017, Donald Neil, aged 91 years, much loved cousin to all the McMillan family and a well respected friend. Cremation Service will take place at Cardross Crematorium, Cardross, on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at 12.15 p.m. to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Casual clothes to be worn at request of the family. No flowers please.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AFFLECK - Margaret, née Hutchison. Passed away peacefully at Hairmyres Hospital, East Kilbride on Thursday May 11, 2017, Margaret aged 94yrs, beloved wife of the late Hamish, loving mum, gran and great-gran to all her family. Funeral Service took place at South Lanarkshire Crematorium, Blantyre on Thursday May 18 at 2pm.

MEMORIAMS

CAMERON - In loving memory of Allan who passed away May 26, 2016. Forever loved and remembered.

- Partner Elma, brother Ian and Mary and Cameron family, home and away.

CAMPBELL - Malcolm, Lochindaal, Tomonie - In memory of a special husband, dad and grandpa who passed away May 25, 2016.

A year or a day You're missed in every way. Always in our thoughts.

- The Campbell Clan xx
CAMPBELL - Remembering our treasured mum Joey Millar, who passed away on May 29, 1987. Memories most precious - Love Avril and John.

CHILDS - Cherished memories of our dear father and papa Laurence (Larry), who passed away on May 26, 2002. Precious are the memories We always hold of you. - Love always, your loving family.x

DAVREN - In loving memory of Stan, a much loved husband, father and grandfather, who passed away 26 May 2015. Always in our thoughts. Agnes and family.

DOUGLAS - In memory of my beloved daughter Eilidh MacInnes who passed away August 9, 2014, aged 44. From your loving mum and dad and brother Roddy and family. Though absent you are always near Still missed and loved and forever dear.

MORRISON - In loving memory of Mary, much loved mum and granny, who died May 17, 2004. Forever in our hearts. - Tenny, Marie, Ross and families

Obituary – Nellie Moore 1923 - 2017



THE passing of Kyle's grand old lady, Nellie Moore, at her home - 5 Railway Terrace - on April 29 saddened her many friends in the community.

She was 94 years old and had only been ill for a few weeks. She walked to the shops recently.

Nellie was born Helen Barclay in Rosemarkie in the Black Isle on January 15, 1923. She was one of a family of seven - Barbara, Bobby, Jackie, Bessie, Billy and Josie.

Her mother was from Rosemarkie and her father was from Fife where he was a coal miner before becoming a postman and moving to Lochalsh.

The family stayed in Duirinish, Drumbaie and Erbusaig before settling in Kyle.

Nellie walked to school at Erbusaig before moving to Kyle school. She left school at 14 and started work as a maid at the home of local fishmonger Donald Stewart, paid three shillings a week.

At the age of 16, she started her training as a telephone operator in Ivy Cottage, Kyle, before a new exchange was built which had five switchboards and shifts covering 24/7.

Kyle was a very busy place during the war, with lots of armed forces personnel stationed there. There were dances every week and Nellie's love of dancing started then.

She could tell many tales about her operator days and it was over the telephone that she chatted up her future husband, Bill Moore, an RAF serviceman from

Shropshire, who was stationed in Benbecula. Nellie said night shifts were always quiet and a bit boring, so you needed to have someone to talk to. They married in 1947. Nellie was aged 24 and, eight years later, with their two children, Shirley and Simpson, they moved to Shropshire.

A few years later, however, unable to settle in England, Nellie and Bill separated and she moved back to Kyle, moving in with her parents at Kyle Terrace.

Shortly afterwards Nellie's father died and she remained there looking after her mother until she died in 1984 aged 93. Nellie then moved to Railway Terrace.

In 1955, Nellie became manager of The Refresh, a bar and teashop at Kyle Railway Station. Many people will remember that feisty lady in heels, red lipstick and always smartly dressed, who stood no nonsense from any rowdy customers. She retired in 1992 but enjoyed doing bed and breakfast for several years. In her leisure time, Nellie played badminton and also acted in the local drama club. She would also sing at ceilidhs.

Along with her mother she was a great supporter of Kyle Football Club, as her three brothers were mainstays of the team.

She also loved knitting and kept many scrapbooks of all the events in Kyle over many years.

She took a keen interest in the community and was very honoured when asked to open the Kyle gala. When being driven

there in a limousine, one little boy was heard to ask: 'Is that the Queen Mother?'

Nellie loved dancing and enjoyed a surprise 80th birthday party in Kyle Hall and a 90th birthday party in the Lochalsh hotel. Afterwards she would compose a poem reflecting the events of the occasion. She also loved crosswords and Sudoku.

Nellie had a happy life but she was dealt two sad blows when her son-in-law, Geordie, died in 1985 and in 2008 her beloved son Simpson died at the age of 57.

She adored her grandchildren - Laura, Cheryl and Simmy - and also her great-grandchildren - Jodie, Jenna and Rowan. She was never happier than visiting her daughter Shirley in Dingwall and shopping there.

Nellie was loved by young and old, and Kyle will not be quite the same place without her. In her last interview at the age of 87, the headline summed up Nellie's character well when it said she was 'The epitome of youth'.

A very large crowd attended the funeral in Kyle Church of Scotland conducted by Reverend John Murdo MacDonald.

Nellie's granddaughter Laura read a poem about her granny and £1,000 was raised for Marie Curie. Burial was at Kirkton Churchyard. The cortege was led by piper Scott MacLean who also played at the graveside.

Sympathy is expressed to daughter Shirley, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Charlie M Macrae

The Oban Times

& West Highland Times
THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



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Thought for the week

'Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord.' Lamentations 3:40

If possible, make a U-turn!

I have recently returned from being on holiday in the south of England, a part of the country that is unfamiliar to me.

Every day I found myself having to rely on my satnav to prevent me from getting lost and bring me to my destination. But even then I still managed to take a few wrong turnings and received the instruction from the satnav: 'If possible, make a U-turn'. Needless to say, it was not always possible and the satnav simply had to recalculate the route.

As we travel on the journey of life, we all make wrong turnings which lead to sin, which is why the Bible calls us to repent and return to God.

To repent simply means to acknowledge and confess

our sin and change direction in life so that we no longer live for sin but for God. God will forgive our sins and welcome those who return to him through faith in Jesus Christ his Son. Jesus said: 'I am the way, the truth and the life; no-one can come to the Father except through me' (John 14:6).

With God it is always possible to make a U-turn. He has made it possible by the good news of Jesus Christ whom he sent to be the saviour of the world.

Have you got lost on the journey of life? Then make a U-turn and return to the Lord.

Jesus said: 'Whoever comes to me will not be turned away.' (John 6:37)

Rev George Cringles

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Marshall Cup Friday night final for Saints

'There will be no complacency on our part and Easthall will be given the respect they deserve'

Oban Saints travel to Glasgow's east end this Friday evening, May 26, to face Easthall Star in the final of the Scottish Amateur Football League Jimmy Marshall Trophy.

The Premier Division One basement boys clinched their



The Jimmy Marshall Cup.

place in the Fullarton Park, Tollcross, final with an emphatic 5-0 win over current Argyll and Bute Cup holders Dunoon just along the road at Stepford Football Centre last Saturday afternoon.

Easthall Star's run to the final has provided a welcome distraction for their young team which has recorded just one league win in a difficult season which sees them relegated for the first time in the club's 26 year history.

After a first round bye, Star kicked off their Jimmy Marshall Trophy campaign with a second round comfortable 3-1 home win against Premier Division 2A team Castlemilk.

It was Premier Division 2A opposition again in round three where Star returned home victorious from a potentially tricky trip to Greenock after an emphatic 7-2 rout of Broomhill.

Star's name came out of the hat first for the quarter finals with Premier Division 2A yet again providing the opposition. A battling 3-1 win over Hou-

ston secured a home semi-final against Dunoon with whom Star had shared eight league goals five weeks earlier.

Despite the final 5-0 score, the semi-final would also prove to be a close affair with a red card for Dunoon and a man of the match performance from the Star goalkeeper being major factors in the home side's victory.

Saints journey to the Scottish Amateur Football League Jimmy Marshall Trophy Final also started at the second round stage where they travelled to Port Glasgow to face old acquaintances Port Glasgow OBU which resulted in a comfortable 6-0 win thanks to a hat-trick from Craig MacEwan, a brace from Paul Carmichael and Donald Campbell getting on the scoresheet.

Eventual Premier Division 2B champions Arkleston Barrhead proved a tougher nut to crack in the third round with the Oban side eventually winning 3-1 with goals from Craig MacEwan (2) and Donald Campbell. The quarter-final brought

Saints solitary home tie in this season's competition with Port Glasgow, also of Premier Division 2B, providing the opposition. Saints won 4-1 with goals from Craig MacEwan, Dene Cassells, Donald Campbell and Fraser MacFarlane.

In a break with tradition, this season's Jimmy Marshall Trophy semi-finals were not played at neutral venues but rather were subject to a draw which gave Hillington home advantage. The Oban side marched into the final thanks to another hat-trick from Craig MacEwan and an own goal in a 4-1 win.

The only previous meeting between Saints and Friday's opponents also came in the Jimmy Marshall Trophy in a first round tie at Stepford Football Centre on St Valentine's Day 2015. The Oban side eventually won 4-1 but were made to fight all the way for the hard-fought win.

Friday's final at the home of three time Scottish Junior Cup winners Vale of Clyde must be played to a finish on the night with penalty kicks to decide the



Goldenhill keeper Ross Clark saves from Paul Carmichael, but the Saints' striker went on to net a double in a 3-2 win for Saints. Reports and photographs: Derek Black.

winners if the sides cannot be separated after 90 minutes. Referee in charge is Jimmy Litster from Lochgilphead.

Saints manager Alex Craik is looking forward to the game and should have a full squad to choose from. He said: 'As the premier division team, we are obviously being made favourites to retain the trophy we won last year, but we won't be taking anything for granted.'

'We've been favourites before in two cup finals and lost both of them so there will be no complacency on our part and Easthall will be given the respect they deserve.'

Goldenhill 2 Oban Saints 3

Last Wednesday evening, Saints travelled to the Donald Dewar Centre, Drumchapel, to take on Goldenhill in a league match and the squad returned home with a hard-fought 3-2 win under their belts.

Scott Maitland opened the

scoring on the half hour mark to give Saints a deserved 1-0 lead at the break.

Damon Gray equalised with a superb strike before Paul Carmichael put the visitors ahead again with a well-taken goal in the 67th minute.

The home side equalised again through Gray, but Paul Carmichael netted the winner with 14 minutes remaining when he turned his marker before curling a great shot past the helpless Goldenhill keeper.

Saints had to play the last 12 minutes with 10 men after Dene Cassells received his second yellow card of the match.

East Kilbride 4 Oban Saints 1

The Oban side played their third game in eight days when they travelled to take on East Kilbride last Saturday.

With several players unavailable, Saints struggled to cope with a slick-moving home side and found themselves 2-0 down

Football

early in the game. Willie Gemmel lost possession at the edge of his own box allowing David Hepburn to slot the ball home for the first goal.

The Saints players were claiming for a foul on goalkeeper Thomas McCulloch for the second goal, but the referee waved away the protests and allowed Stuart McMillan's goal to stand.

Manager Alex Craik changed the formation which brought the visitors back into the game and Craig MacEwan reduced the deficit with a superb curling shot to make the half time score 2-1.

Saints were playing good football in the second half but wayward finishing and poor defending cost them dear with East Kilbride scoring two more goals in the second half to make the final score 4-1 - a game to forget for the visitors.

Saints 17s defeat Saints 16s in League Cup final

LAST Sunday at Mossfield Stadium two Oban Saints youth team games took place.

The first saw Saints Under 15s reach the Dunbartonshire Development Football League Cup final with a comprehensive 7-3 win over Dumbarnton United Blacks thanks to goals from Lennon Campbell (3), Aaron McKay (3) and Jordan Norman.

The final, against either Dumbarnton United Yellows or Drumchapel, will be played at Millburn Park, Vale of Leven, on Saturday May 27.

The second match involved two Oban Saints teams with

the older Under 17s coming out on top by the odd goal in three against the Under 16s.

Before the game, the teams and officials were piped onto the park by Stuart Campbell.

The Under 17s took the lead in the first half through a Lewis Buchanan free kick but Cameron Kerr equalised with five minutes of the game remaining.

However, a mix-up in the Under 16s defence in time added on by the referee allowed Kenny MacDonald a tap-in from close range much to the delight of his teammates

Youth football

to make the final score 2-1. Oban Saints Youths chairman Robbie Johnstone thanked the match officials Tony McCann, John Scott, Tim Woodcock and James Gallagher before calling on former youth chairmen Iain Alexander and Alan MacLeod to hand over the trophies, firstly to the Under 16s who received the DFDL Under 16 league championship trophy they won a few weeks ago and then to the Under 17s for their narrow win in the final.



Oban Saints Under 17s with their coaches after winning the DFDL League Cup. Photographs: Kenny Gray.



Saints Under 16s were presented with the DFDL Under 16 league championship trophy.



Jordan Norman outjumps the Dumbarton defence to score with a header during the Under 15 League Cup semi final win over Dumbarton United Blacks.

Oban Lorne entertain Hillfoots touring side

OBAN Lorne's senior rugby team entertained a touring Hillfoots side on Friday evening in preparation for Saturday's annual Mull 7s tournament.

The Oban side fielded a mixture of 1st XV and 2nd XV players and won the game comfortably with some of the best rugby played by the team all season.

Pleasing for the home support was the large number of young

players in the team who have recently progressed into senior rugby from Oban High School. They included Rufus Stones, Alex Houston, Stephen Povey and Jack Strachan. Ten of the 15 Oban players present are all products of Oban High School's rugby setup.

After the match, both sides enjoyed the social side of the game with the large Hillfoots following enjoying the use of

the Glencruitten clubhouse. This game was the last 15-a-side fixture of the season for an Oban Lorne team. Plans for next season will be announced after the Oban Lorne AGM on Tuesday May 30 at 6pm in the clubhouse.

Oban High School U14/15 28 Jedburgh 19
Oban U14/15s played host to Borders touring team Jedburgh

Rugby

Grammar School on Saturday at Glencruitten. The Oban boys won 28-19 in a highly entertaining and competitive game.

Jordan Norman opened the scoring with a long-range try before Jedburgh responded with a try. Oban then produced their best period of rugby before half time and were rewarded with tries by Archie Spencer and Lewis Budge to give the boys a 21-5 half-time lead.

The game became edgy for the home team when Jedburgh scored twice to bring the score back to 21-19. With only a few minutes left Oban were starting to hang on, but Angus Neil scored another try to seal the game with a well-deserved 28-19 victory.

This was an excellent result against strong opposition.

This side will form the U16 team for next season's campaign in the West Leagues.



Oban Lorne and Hillfoots players have a celebratory drink after the game.

Two wins out of two for Oban

OBAN Cricket Club made it two wins out of two at the start of the new season when they defeated Carradale at Taynuilt last Sunday.

In a match reduced to 20 overs per side following earlier rain, Oban batted first with Jahed Khan and Daniel Booker getting the home side off to a good start. Booker made 16 and Khan 23 and Tristan Carre

continued his good start to the season by hitting 38. Mark Parry added more runs at the end of the innings, finishing 28 not out as Oban posted 127 for 5 from their 20 overs.

In reply, Carradale started slowly and soon fell well behind the required run rate.

Oban's bowlers gave little away with the pick of the bowling coming from Jack Whiteley

Cricket

and Neill Belshaw, who bowled eight overs between them for 21 runs. Carradale eventually finished their 20 overs on 64 for six, leaving Oban winners by 63 runs.

Oban's next fixture is a tough home game against Glasgow Accies on Sunday June 4.



Oban bowler Jahed Khan in action.



Dalmally

THE 2017 opens season at Dalmally Golf Club got off to a great start with the 14th seniors open on played on Wednesday May 17.

Forty-eight players were welcomed to the course, which was in very good condition despite heavy rain the preceding two days.

Home players did well but visitors from 11 courses, from as far afield as Callander, Hilton Park and Machrihanish, notched up some impressive scores.

Gents: 1 Ewan Groat (Dalmally) 38pts; 2 Jim Carruthers (Kyles of Bute) 37pts (bh); 3 John Nicholson (Dumbarton) 37pts.

Ladies: 1 Janet Buchanan (Dalmally) 34pts; 2 June Sutherland (Dalmally) 32pts; 3 Lily McKay (Dalmally) 31pts.

Category B: Allan McHenry (Killin) 29pts; Wilma Frew (Glencruitten) 30pts.

Nearest the pin: Jim Livingstone (Dalmally) 1.93; Gina Coleman (Dumbarton) 5.5.

Best inward half: Kenny Crawford (Lochgilthead) 20pts; Ann Colthart (Dalmally) 17pts.

Magic twos: Jeremy Church (Taynuilt); Kenny Crawford (Lochgilthead) – twice.

Taynuilt

RESULTS of the three-person open stableford played on Sunday May 14.

Gents: 1 Kenny MacGregor, David Laurie and Ashley Dowell, 111 points; 2 Andrew Diggory, David Howie and Alan Wilson, 105 points.

Ladies: 1 Sally Thompson, Mary Phillips and Donna Campbell, 96 points; 2 Carol MacLarty, Moira MacVicar and Sandra Elliott, 77 points.

Longest drive: ladies – Carol Church; gents – Andrew Diggory. Nearest the pin: ladies – Moira MacVicar; gents – Allan Stewart.

Thanks to Brander Lodge for sponsoring the event.

Inverlorn Plate, second round, played on Sunday May 21.

1 Mark Grant 40pts (14); 2 Mark Hendricksen 40pts (08); 3 David Laurie 38pts (27); 4 James McLean 38pts (20).

Inverlorn Plate overall result - 1 Mark Hendricksen 36+40=76pts; 2 David Howie



Winners at the recent three-person open stableford at Taynuilt Golf Club.

MacIntyre relishing matchplay chance at Spanish challenge

OBAN'S Robert MacIntyre, runner-up in last year's Amateur Championship, hopes to use his matchplay pedigree when he gains more Challenge Tour experience at a new-look event in Spain this week.

Thanks to Scottish Golf's work with Bounce Sports Management, left-hander MacIntyre has secured an invitation to the inaugural Andalucía Costa del Sol Matchplay 9 – an innovative event which sees matchplay return to the Challenge Tour for the first time in 18 years.

The exciting new tournament features 36 holes of strokeplay followed by a series of nine-hole matchplay battles during the weekend at the La Cala Golf Hotel and Spa.

Bounce, Scottish Golf, Aberdeen Asset Management and SSE Scottish Hydro recently announced their new two-year partnership to help young players develop their careers, both through financial and management support, with rookie pros Grant Forrest and Ewen

Ferguson the first recipients of the support in 2017.

Under the new partnership, leading amateurs will also again benefit from pro opportunities this season with Bounce managing the players' itinerary and preparation, working closely with Scottish Golf's performance team who oversee the players for events on the amateur calendar.

Glencruitten's MacIntyre, who was among those to benefit from pro starts last year, will now tee up with the likes of Forrest, Ferguson and 2014 amateur champion Bradley Neil in Andalucía this week.

'I can't wait to get going, as the course is designed for this kind of format which is great to see,' said MacIntyre, also a European amateur team winner with Scotland last summer.

'I feel like my game is in a good place at the moment, which was the same at the British (amateur) last year, so everything is in place for me to go out there and enjoy myself while trying to play good golf.'

Getting the chance to play in these Challenge Tour events is great, as it lets you know what stage you're at in the build-up to where you want to be. Last year, I missed both cuts by one shot so I'm hoping to put that behind me and get things moving in the right direction.'

MacIntyre continues to ride high in the World Amateur Golf rankings at seventh spot, a place ahead of Drumoig's Connor Syme, but isn't thinking ahead too far.

The 20-year-old, who also won the Scottish Amateur at Muirfield in 2015, added: 'I always see each day as a school day, as after every day of life you should learn something which makes you better the next day. You can't sit still in this game, or you're going to be passed by.'

'I feel the chance to play at a better level is always going to help and I think, for Grant and Ewen, they both will feel a bit more relaxed in their first full season as professionals due to knowing what to do and what not to do on and off the course.'

“ I feel like my game is in a good place at the moment

Robert MacIntyre



Countdown on for Scottish Series

THE countdown is on for the start of the Silvers Marine Scottish Series regatta which starts on Friday May 26. Based at Tarbert, Loch Fyne, this is the 43rd event and is organised by Clyde Cruising Club (CCC).

The four-day race format continues until Monday May 29 with the series prize-giving after the final day's sailing. David Denholm, event chairman, said: 'All seems set fair for a spectacular event and that goes for the weather too. Initial indications are for fine conditions and a light breeze and the wind gradually filling over the weekend. This should provide great sailing and a wonderful spectacle over the bank holiday weekend.'

The regatta provides 'something for everyone' – a combination of mainly passage racing for the white sail fleet and highly competitive racing for the One Design, IRC and CYCA fleets.

The white sail fleet (racing without spinnakers) start in Largs and race to Tarbert on Friday. On Saturday there are two options, including one with a lunch stop at the Oyster-catcher in Otterferry. Sunday sees all the fleet, other than the One Designs, competing in the Insh Race round Inchmarnock, if conditions permit. Further racing on Monday finishes the series.

The One Design racing sees Sigma 33s, Sonatas and Hunter 707s in action. The Sigma 33 and Sonata classes have been the racing 'workhorses' of Clyde for more than two decades and this year there is an excellent entry of 11 Sigmas and nine Sonatas.

The Hunter 707s saw ex-

remely competitive racing in 2016 and also produced the overall series champion in Dara O'Malley's Sea Word. A highly competitive fleet of 11 will be on the start line this class, with Scottish Olympian Luke Patience looking for success.

The CYCA handicap classes boast an equally strong field for the 2017 event with a total of 23 entries in two classes.

IRC racing is always attractive to the more competitive yachts. In IRC class one, the title sponsor owned Eala of Rhu has unfinished business with Aurora, both vying for a class win so some close racing is anticipated between the two.

The Silvers Marine team will be looking for a class and possible series win to round off their sponsorship term. What

was better known as class two will race as the RC35 class. This new initiative for boats in this handicap range has put new energy into the Clyde racing scene as results from the recent Kip regatta have shown.

Challenge

A large class three of 41 boats will fight it out over four days not only for a class win but for the Spinlock IRC Scottish Championships – a significant challenge which should elect a worthy winner.

This year the Scottish Series charity is the Clyde Cruising Club's Seamanship and Pilotage Trust, which will benefit from the eve-of-regatta ice-breaker events.

The trust supports education, safety, training,

Yachting

promoting facilities for the less able and preserving the heritage across all maritime and seamanship aspects – a great cause with the ability to transform lives and promote sailing and seamanship.

David Denholm said: 'The CCC, Silvers Marine and our other sponsors are looking forward to welcoming all entrants to what is shaping up to be a terrific event – what Event Scotland would term the perfect stage.'

Entries remain open till racing starts and for those who can't compete, the journey to Tarbert will be well worthwhile to view the colourful spectacle both on and off the water.



Pictured are some of the winners from the Dalmally seniors open. Left to right Gina Coleman (Dumbarton), Janet Buchanan (Dalmally), June Sutherland (Dalmally), Jim Livingstone (Dalmally), Lily McKay (Dalmally) and Wilma Frew (Glencruitten).

38+36=74pts; 3 Alex Needham 34+37=71pts.

Islay

RESULT: Letters Trophy played Sunday May 21 – 1 C Holyoake 77 net 72; 2 N MacDonald net 75; 3 J Ferguson 93 net 81.

Glencruitten

STEVEN Murphy won the Terry Ng Trophy with scores of 60, 65 = 125 at Glencruitten last Saturday. The runner up was James Muir with a score of 62, 65 = 127, followed by Colin Campbell with a score of 63, 65 = 128.

In the ladies section first round leaders in the Championship were Christine Cameron with a score of 83 - 23 = 60, followed by Mary Plunkett with a score of 93 - 26 = 67 and Ann Carss with the same score of 93 - 26 = 67.

On Saturday the second round of the Captain of Dunstaffnage and Isis Cup and the monthly medal take place.



Spinnakers billow in the wind during last year's Silvers Marine Scottish Series. Photo: Marc Turner

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No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
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SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Camannachd Cup ties this weekend

KILMALLIE will play Newtonmore in the MacTavish Cup Final and Fort William reached the Tulloch Homes Camannachd Cup second round.

Tulloch Homes Camannachd Cup - first round replay

Oban Celtic 0 Fort William 2
Fort William secured the final place in the Tulloch Homes Camannachd Cup second round with a 2-0 replay victory over Oban Celtic at Mossfield.

This was Oban Celtic's first home match since the middle of March after six games on the road. Indeed, it was only their third match on home turf all season.

Boss Kenny Wotherspoon had players back from the previous week but was without full back John Hill following his red card when the sides drew the original game 3-3 at An Aird.

Fort William management duo Victor Smith and Adam Robertson were missing Lewis Clark, who was also sent off in that match, but Bryan Simpson and Alexander MacMillan returned. Fort William took the lead following a corner on 13 minutes when winger Alexander MacMillan scored from a tight angle.

Bryan Simpson made it 2-0 on 54 minutes with a snap-shot on the turn from just outside the 'D' after Fort William had worked the ball up the left wing.

Had it not been for some fine saves from Oban Celtic stand-in goalie Jack Hill, the winning margin could have been bigger.

Fort William will now have home advantage against Tulloch Homes Camannachd Cup holders Newtonmore in their second round tie this Saturday.

Oban Celtic manager Kenny Wotherspoon was in no mood for excuses after the game. 'Fort were stronger this week but so were we,' he said. 'Take nothing away from Fort William as they played well but that was a below par Oban Celtic performance.'

'I've been managing the club for just over a year now and that was one of flattest performances I've seen from our boys. Win, lose or draw, we are in it together but that was unacceptable and there are no excuses. I expect a massive difference this week when we travel to Bught Park to take on Inverness.'

'It will be a tough game as Inverness have more league points than us. I'll have the boys fired up as usual but it's whether or not they can carry the momentum on to the park.'

MacTavish Cup - semi final

Kinlochshiel 2 Kilmallie 3
Kilmallie will play Newtonmore in the MacTavish Cup Final following their shock 3-2 win over Kinlochshiel in their 3pm throw-up at a wet Kirkton.

Constant rain overnight left some surface water but the game

was never in doubt. Kinlochshiel wing centre Gordie MacDonald was ruled out after injuring his knee in the team's last match, a win over Newtonmore a fortnight earlier.

Kilmallie's Aaron Sandison remained suspended but Martin Stewart returned after serving his ban. New signing Daniel Stewart was cup-tied. Innes Blackhall missed out with a wrist injury.

Kinlochshiel played down the slope in the first half, attacking from the throw-up, and Kilmallie keeper Shane Gillies had a couple of good early saves.

A high Donald Nixon ball from midfield into the goal area came off the post and it seemed only a matter of time before 'Shiel would take the lead.

Kilmallie shocked the home support however when they went in front after four minutes with their first attack of the game. Duncan Rodger collected a ball forward and made just enough space to thump a shot high into the net.

'Shiel had more pressure but Kilmallie continued to create the better chances. Duncan Rodger got past Paul MacRae but shot wide and the Kilmallie front man then had an effort saved with his feet by Scott Kennedy as the first half drew to a close.

Jordan Fraser sent the ball just the wrong side of the post following a free-hit during four minutes of first half stoppage time.

A looping Donald Nixon shy from the left dropped just past Shane Gillies' left-hand post with the keeper stretching to cover his goal.

At the other end, a shot from youngster Callum MacDougall on 56 minutes rose just over the bar after good work from Mark Graham.

Kilmallie had another chance when Steven Stewart initially won the ball in defence and played it forward to Duncan Rodger who got away from his marker and ran in on goal. But Scott Kennedy raced off his line and blocked the effort and clear the danger.

Shane Gillies made a good save to deny Keith MacRae at the back post following another good Donald Nixon shy from the left.

A Jordan Fraser shot whistled over the bar before Kinlochshiel drew level on 66 minutes. Finlay MacRae lofted the ball forward from the middle of the park and it dropped just under the bar despite the keeper's efforts to keep the ball out.

Duncan Rodger played a one-two with Michael Rodger before shooting goalwards, but Scott Kennedy stretched to his right to make an outstanding save with his foot.

Keith MacRae shot wide as the tie moved into the final 15 minutes.

Steven Stewart was booked before Ryan Stewart replaced Mark Graham at wing forward. Kilmallie got themselves back in front on 83 minutes when a long ball forward found Michael Rodger who showed great composure as he controlled the

ball and took a touch to the left, taking it round keeper Kennedy, before slotting it into the net to the delight of the travelling support.

There was more to come as Callum MacDougall created a chance for himself with a surging run down the inside left channel. MacDougall's first attempt was blocked, but the rebound fell kindly for the youngster and he lashed a great strike into the net to make it 3-1 with just three minutes remaining.

Kinlochshiel needed a goal and they pulled one back on 90 minutes when Finlay MacRae pushed forward to get on the end of a cross from the right. Shane Gillies blocked MacRae's initial effort, but the full centre forced the rebound home to make it 3-2.

Kinlochshiel went for the goal that would take the tie into extra-time and man of the match Steven Stewart got his body in the way twice in quick succession to block shots on goal.

The Kilmallie delight was evident when referee John Angus Gillies blew for time and this magnificent and deserved win means the 2017 MacTavish Cup Final will be between Kilmallie and Newtonmore at The Bught Park, Inverness on Saturday June 10.

Speaking immediately after the final whistle, a delighted Kilmallie boss Mark MacPherson said: 'I have so much faith in these boys. They have done me proud for the last three years. They have worked hard this season and played well in games, although our league position doesn't show it. Our discipline has let us down at times but you saw today what we could do against a very good team. All the players played their part today but Stevie Stewart was outstanding. He's come into the defence and allowed us to move Martin Stewart up the park and he was phenomenal throughout the game. We won the National and the Balliemore last year but to reach the MacTavish Final is fantastic. Newtonmore are a great side but we won't just make up the numbers. We are going to the Bught Park to win it.'

Balliemore Cup - second round

Inveraray 3 Bute 0

Inveraray took the spoils with a convincing 3-0 win over Bute in this Balliemore Cup second round tie at The Winterton.

Inveraray were unchanged from the previous week's Celtic Society Cup semi-final defeat to Oban Camannachd.

Bute travelled with a youthful side.

The yellow and blacks made the stronger start but struggled to get into a rhythm. The game was very stop-start with referee Robert Baxter having to frequently stop the game because of fouls and a lack of discipline.

Lewis Montgomery scored the only goal of the first half on 17 minutes, taking advantage of sloppy defending.

As the first half went on, Inveraray made two changes with Hamish MacLennan coming off with a foot injury and Douglas Dando coming off with a suspected pulled hamstring. Young Ruairaidh Graham was introduced in place of MacLennan on the wing with Ally McDonald stepping in at full back for Dando.

Despite the fresh legs, Inveraray couldn't find a second goal and they had to settle for a 1-0 advantage at half time.

The pattern of play continued into the second half with Inveraray looking the better side but still struggling to maintain any real pressure on the Bute goal.

However, with the Inveraray centre line urging the team forward, Fraser Watt made it 2-0 on

63 minutes. The game was tousy at times and threatened to boil over on a couple of occasions but Inveraray's experience saw them through and captain Lewis MacNicol made it 3-0 on 69 minutes with a low, driven shot.

Veteran Garry MacPherson had another fantastic game in the middle of the park for Inveraray who march on to the Balliemore Cup quarter-finals where they will play Oban Celtic.

Inveraray hope both Douglas Dando and Hamish MacLennan are able to recover from their injuries ahead of this weekend's Tulloch Homes Camannachd Cup tie with Caberfeidh at The Winterton.

The club also confirmed that Grant Griffin has retired from shinty to concentrate on work and family life. Griffin has been a great ambassador of the club for many years and everyone in Inveraray was saddened to hear of his retirement but wished him well for the future.

Balliemore Cup - quarter finals

Caberfeidh 6 Inverness 0

Caberfeidh and Inverness met for the second successive Saturday, this time at Castle Leod, with Caberfeidh winning again.

Kevin Bartlett netted on 20 and 26 minutes to make it 2-0 at the break.

Craig Morrison made it 3-0 on 49 minutes and Kevin Bartlett completed his hat-trick on 54 minutes.

Craig Morrison got his second on 65 minutes and when referee Evan MacRae awarded Caberfeidh a penalty 10 minutes from time, Craig Morrison stepped up to claim his hat-trick.

Taynuilt 1 Beaulieu 5

Beaulieu beat Taynuilt 5-1 in their tie at Taynuilt Sports Field.



Malcolm Clark of Oban Camannachd shields the ball from Kyles Athletic's Ross Macrae during the Marine Harvest Premiership match at Tighnabruaich which ended in a 1-1 draw.

Photograph: Paul Paterson.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kyles Athletic 1 Oban Camannachd 1

Kyles Athletic had to work hard to extend their lead at the top of the Marine Harvest Premiership, but they also dropped their first point of the season as they drew 1-1 with Oban Camannachd in their noon throw-up at Tighnabruaich.

Callum Miller was missing for Kyles so Donald Irvine was switched to full back.

Scott McKillop returned from injury for Camannachd.

Kyles took the lead after eight minutes when Roddy MacDonald netted to continue his top flight scoring streak.

Oban Camannachd were playing well though and had a number of shots on goal, forcing good saves from Kyles Athletic custodian John Whyte.

Oban Camannachd manager Iain Hay was forced to make early changes at the back as Gary McKerracher suffered a painful blow and Willie Neilson went over his ankle so Scott McKillop and Daniel Cameron went back into defence.

Daniel MacVicar drew Oban Camannachd level on 53 minutes and the visitors went on to push hard for a winner.

Oban Camannachd had two goals disallowed in the game; one for offside and the other when Matt Rippon was adjudged to have kicked the ball. The visitors disputed both decisions.

They survived a scare when referee Lachie Wood awarded Kyles a penalty after consulting his goal judge. Oban Camannachd keeper Gavin Stobbart was penalised for a kick but he touched Robbie MacLeod's spot-hit onto the bar and the visiting defence cleared the danger.

Oban Camannachd will hope to take this form into this Saturday's Tulloch Homes Camannachd Cup second round tie against Kinlochshiel at Kirkton.

Newtonmore 2 Kingussie 0

The first Badenoch derby of the season took place at The Eilan where Newtonmore beat Kingussie 2-0.

The wet weather in the Badenoch area left water lying on the pitch and Newtonmore mobilised an army of volunteers on Saturday morning to help clear the pitch. With the rain forecast

to continue, The Dell was put on stand-by in case a venue switch proved necessary but the match went ahead as scheduled.

Jamie Robinson was still out for Newtonmore who made just one change from the previous week as Andy MacKintosh replaced Kenny Ross with Michael Russell going to full centre.

Martin Dallas and James Falconer remained on the Kingussie injury list and Chris Hollingsong started in preference to Savio Genini.

Glen MacKintosh gave Newtonmore the lead on 15 minutes. The home side had a first half goal ruled out for offside whilst Fraser MacKintosh missed a good chance from inside the 'D'.

The closest Kingussie came during the first 45 minutes was a Rory MacGregor shot from distance which was chipped down by Newtonmore goalie Norman Campbell.

Glen MacKintosh sealed victory with his second goal on 59 minutes.

Kingussie took Lee Bain off the bench for the final 25 minutes but Newtonmore remained in control and deserved the win.

Newtonmore, with Rory Kennedy again excellent at full back, are fourth in the table, four points behind leaders Kyles Athletic.

Lovat 2 Glasgow Mid Argyll 0

A Lewis Tawse double gave Lovat a 2-0 win over Glasgow Mid Argyll at Balgate.

Drew Howie, Callum Cruden and Lorne MacKay all returned from suspension for Lovat but Craig Mainland was missing. GMA travelled without Duncan 'Ach' MacRae.

There was an even start to the game but Lovat went in front on 14 minutes when the ball skidded forward from the centre of the park and Lewis Tawse was on hand to tap it into the net.

Lewis Tawse almost got his and Lovat's second on 25 minutes but his effort went just wide of the post.

GMA had plenty possession but were unable to turn it into chances in front of goal.

Lovat defender Daniel Grieve was hit on the leg by team mate Callum Cruden as Cruden cleared his lines.

Grieve played on until the interval when he came off and he later required a hospital visit. Lovat boss Fraser Gallacher shuffled his pack and Thomas



Lochaber's Zander Ferguson and Glenurquhart's Neale Reid in action during their Premiership match at the weekend which Lochaber won 3-2. Photograph: Donald Cameron.



Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

Fraser came on at wing forward, Calum MacAulay went to wing centre where he played well, and Scott MacKenzie went to wing back.

Lewis Tawse went close again a couple of minutes into the second period when his back-hand strike went just the wrong side of the post.

GMA were enjoying a good passage of play when Lovat almost hit them with a sucker-blow. Calum MacAulay went on a mazy-run, playing a one-two with Thomas Fraser, before being flattened by John Don MacKenzie.

Referee Deek Cameron pointed to the spot. Greg Matheson took the penalty but GMA goalie Robert Dunning was a superb save.

Young GMA forward Calum McLay tested Lovat keeper Stuart MacDonald with two quick efforts around the hour mark as the outcome remained in the balance.

It was Lovat who doubled their lead, against the run of play, on 62 minutes.

A Ryan Ferguson shot from distance was saved by Robert Dunning but the ball bounced out of the 'D' and Lewis Tawse took it past a defender before knocking it into the bottom corner of the net to make it 2-0.

GMA never let their heads drop and came close to pulling a goal back when Stuart MacDonald had to leap to keep out a long-range Garry Luke drive, with the Scotland keeper holding his caman in one hand to tip the ball over the bar.

Calum MacAulay was playing well for GMA so Garry Luke was switched to mark him, helping to curb MacAulay's threat.

Lewis Tawse ran forward on 75 minutes, sending a great shot just over the bar.

This was a good contest and whilst Lewis Tawse's goals made the difference, Drew Howie and

Neale Reid made an early substitute appearance, replacing Callum Smith who suffered a knock, and put Glenurquhart in front on 22 minutes.

The home side doubled their lead on 28 minutes but the goal came at a cost.

David MacLennan played the ball out of defence but suffered a muscle injury in the process. Eddie Tembo knocked the ball on to Finlay Ralston and James MacPherson stretched to get on Ralston's ball to score, also picking up an injury as he did so.

Both MacLennan and MacPherson had to come off, replaced by John Barr and Euan Lloyd, meaning Glenurquhart boss Iain MacLeod had used all three substitutes with less than half an hour played.

Lochaber had an earlier penalty claim turned down following a sliding Paul MacKintosh tackle before referee Calum Girvan ruled Shaun Nicolson had been pushed by James Hurwood inside the 'D'.

Brennan MacDonald scored from the spot to half the deficit with 37 minutes played.

The goal lifted Lochaber and they levelled on 62 minutes through a nice goal from Shaun Nicolson.

Glenurquhart would probably have settled for a point at this stage but Lochaber continued to work tirelessly and Kevin Ferguson scored on 78 minutes to put them in front for the first time in the game.

The goal followed a corner with Ferguson taking the ball in the air and crashing it into the net off the under-side of the bar.

Glenurquhart, who were forced to take James MacPherson back on for the latter stages of the game, pushed for a late leveller, with Finlay Ralston going close, but Lochaber saw the game out with a good all-round team performance which secured a morale-boosting win.

Somhairle Thompson became the third player to complete a hat-trick when he scored from the penalty spot on 81 minutes and Calum Stewart got his fourth goal of the game to make it 12-0 with five minutes remaining.

Newtonmore are now a point ahead of Kingussie at the top of the table and have a game in hand.

Aberdeen University 6 Kingussie 2

Aberdeen University maintained their good start to the season with a 6-2 victory over Kingussie's second team at Balmorie.

Ewan Fraser fired the home side into the lead on three minutes but Kevin Thain levelled on 11 minutes.

Alex Duncan on 17 minutes and a second from Ewan Fraser on 28 minutes made it 3-1 and a Stuart Cameron goal on 40 minutes gave the Aberdeen side a 4-1 lead at half time.

Ewan Fraser completed his hat-trick three minutes into the second half and scored for the fourth time on 64 minutes.

Jack Anderson pulled a goal back a minute later but it was Aberdeen's day.

The win makes it three league victories out of three for the third-placed students who have games in hand on the teams above them.

Skye Camanachd 1 Fort William 1

The Skye Camanachd colts and the Fort William colts shared the points following a 1-1 draw at Pàirc nan Laoch, Portree.

Euan Campbell put the visitors ahead on eight minutes but Skye's Connor Gilpin equalised a couple of minutes before the break.

Kinlochshiel P Glenurquhart P

The Glenurquhart second team had reached Cluanie when they learnt of the postponement of their noon throw-up against the Kinlochshiel seconds at Kirktown.

The pitch was also to host the MacTavish Cup semi-final between Kinlochshiel and Kilmallie later in the afternoon and was unable to take two games.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Lochside Rovers 3
Ballachulish 0

A goal blitz either side of the interval means Lochside Rovers stay on top of Marine Harvest South Division 1, beating Ballachulish 3-0 at Ganavan.

It was a fairly even first half in which Lochside keeper Cameron Sutherland made some good saves.

The home side got their noses in front on the stroke of half-time when Keith Burnett finished off a good move.

Another well-worked goal a minute into the second half saw Daniel Sloss make it 2-0 and Lewis Buchanan added a third a minute later.

Lochside could have added to their tally but the win keeps them a point ahead of Aberdeen at the top of the table with a game in hand.

Lochside Rovers manager Gareth Evans has been on holiday for the last three weeks so Brian MacCallum, Iain MacMillan and Steven Sloss have looked after the side.

Evans was full of praise for their efforts.

'Brian, Scally and Steven have done well, so much so that I could be out of a job,' said Evans. 'That's five clean sheets in a row for the team and we've only conceded four goals all season.'

Steven Sloss gives us great experience at full back whilst keeper Cameron Sutherland does well when called upon. That strong defence gives us a solid base to build on.'

John MacKenzie completed his hat-trick three minutes later.

John MacKenzie completed his hat-trick on 73 minutes and Craig MacLeod got his second to make it 10-0 on 76 minutes.

Aberdour 4
Glenorchy 1

Aberdour stay second after they defeated Glenorchy 4-1 at Silversands.



Oban Celtic received a new strip from Clark Thomson Insurance Brokers. The team is pictured with Oban branch manager Graeme Bass.

Glenorchy's Kieran Gallagher served a one-match ban following his sending off against Taynuilt the previous weekend.

The rain made for a greasy surface which made it difficult for both sets of players.

Good goalkeeping kept Aberdour at bay until 40 minutes when Roddy MacColl turned his marker to score.

The visitors levelled 60 seconds before the interval when John Sartain floated a high ball from distance in on the goal. The ball deceived the keeper and ended up in the net to make it 1-1 at the interval.

It stayed level until 15 minutes from time when Angus Thorburn put Aberdour back in front following good link-up play.

Roddy MacColl got his second following a shy 10 minutes from time and MacColl completed his hat-trick with a couple of minutes remaining following unselfish play from David MacKenzie.

Kilmory 2 Col Glen 0

Two quick-fire goals early in the second half gave Kilmory a 2-0 victory over Col Glen in their 2pm throw-up at MacRae Park.

After a goalless first half, Hal Jones gave Kilmory the advantage in 55 minutes.

Andy Cunningham made it 2-0 three minutes later.

This was Kilmory's first league of the season but they have only played three league fixtures, fewer than any other side in the division, except Bute.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Lochcarron 1
Glengarry 7

Table toppers Glengarry overcame Lochcarron 7-1 at Battery Park.

The fixture was reversed from Craigard and the first half was fairly even.

Andrew Gilchrist gave Glengarry a 32 minute lead but Liam Arnott levelled three minutes later.

Raymond Robertson scored on 41 minutes to put Glengarry back in front and they held the lead into the break.

Raymond Robertson got his second three minutes into the second half and former Lochcarron player Nick Dalgety racked up a Glengarry hat-trick with goals on 56, 62 and 75 minutes to make it 6-1.

Raymond Robertson completed his hat-trick a couple of minutes from time to round off the 6-2 win.

Strathspey Camanachd 3 Boleskine 1

Strathspey Camanachd earned a hard fought 3-1 victory over Boleskine in their 1.30pm throw-up at Grantown Grammar School which was played in terrible weather conditions.

Donald Colville gave the home side a second minute lead.

Neil Hope levelled on 36 minutes and it stayed that way until the break. Donald Colville got his second to put the home side back in front three minutes after the re-start.

Stuart Sloss sealed the win when he made it 3-1 on 54 minutes.

Boleskine's Peter Tinney was sent off by referee Neil MacDonald.

Kilmallie 4 Strathglass 1

The Kilmallie seconds beat the Strathglass seconds 4-1 at Canal Parks.

Kilmallie grabbed an early grip on the game as goals from Ross MacKenzie on two minutes and Andrew Gibbs on nine minutes gave them a two goal cushion.

Andrew Gibb made it 3-0 with his second on 14 minutes and Ross MacKenzie scored again on 36 minutes to make it 4-0 at the break.

Kilmallie were unable to add to their tally in a second half where Eoghan Stewart's late counter on 80 minutes was the pick of the goals as the former Lewis man burst forward from full centre to score.

However, Kilmallie ran out 4-1 winners and climb to fifth place in the division.

Lewis Camanachd W/O v Lovat

Lewis Camanachd were given a walk-over as the Lovat reserves were unable to raise a team for their game at Shawbost.

Lewis Camanachd took the points, but the Lovat seconds will lose a point.

Lochaber W/O v Inverness

The Inverness second team were unable to raise a side for their match against the Lochaber second team at Spean Bridge.

Lochaber were awarded the points, whilst the Inverness side will be docked a point.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Bute 0
Inveraray 0

The Inveraray second team stay top of the division after they drew 0-0 with the Bute second team at The Meadows.

Scottish Sea Farms donate new strip for Lorn Ladies

LORN Ladies Shinty have been kitted out with new strips this season courtesy of Scottish Sea Farms and The Heart of the Community Fund.

A total of £1,000 was donated to the team and the players are delighted with their fresh new look.

Ann-Marie Ferguson, spokesperson for the shinty team, said: 'From all of us at Lorn Ladies, we would like to thank Scottish Sea Farms for sponsoring us,

Connor Howe makes Oban switch

Oban Celtic have signed forward Connor Howe from Oban Camanachd.

Howe hasn't featured for Oban Camanachd in recent weeks, however, he scored four premiership goals for the Mossfield side earlier in the season.

He becomes the second promising youngster to join Kenny Witherspoon's squad from their Oban rivals with Ross MacMillan making the same switch ahead of the start of the season.

WCA round-up

The ladies shinty focus was on Marine Harvest National Division 1 with most matches played on Sunday May 20.

Lochaber 4 Glasgow Mid Argyll 1

Title hopefuls Lochaber beat Glasgow Mid Argyll 4-1 in their 2pm throw-up at Spean Bridge.

Kirsty Delaney scored all four Lochaber goals, with Katie Drain replying for GMA.

Skye Camanachd 5 Aberdour 3

Skye Camanachd defeated Aberdour 5-3 in their noon throw-up at Pàirc nan Laoch, Portree, on Saturday May 20.

Caitlin MacLean scored a hat-trick whilst Lorna MacRae and Abby MacLean got the other Skye goals. Annie Paterson, Niamh Donnelly and Katie Booth were on target for Aberdour.

Badenoch 10 Lovat 0

Badenoch beat Lovat 10-0 in their noon throw-up at The Dell. Rhona McIntyre and Kirsty Deans both grabbed hat-tricks, Megan Ralph scored twice whilst Klaudia Ordys and Zoe Reid got the others.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Kilmory 2 v 0 Col Glen
Aberdour 4 v 1 Glenorchy
Lochside 3 v 0 Ballachulish

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Strathspey 3 v 1 Boleskine
Lochcarron 1 v 7 Glengarry
Kilmallie 4 v 1 Strathglass
Lewis P v P Lovat

Lovats unable to field a team
Lochaber P v P Inverness
Inverness unable to field a team

Marine Harvest South Division Two
Bute 0 v 0 Inveraray

Camanachd Cup first round replay
Oban Celtic 0 v 2 Fort William

MacTavish Cup semi final
Kinlochshiel 2 v 3 Kilmallie

Balliemore Cup
Taynuilt 1 v 5 Beaulieu
Caberfeidh 6 v 0 Inverness
Inveraray 3 v 0 Bute

Bullough Cup
Kilmory v SCOTS Camanachd
SCOTS unable to field a team.
Walkover to Kilmory

Strachur v Glasgow Mid Argyll
GMA unable to field a team.
Walkover to Strachur
Oban Lorn v Dunoon
Dunoon unable to field a team
Walkover to Oban Lorn
Kyles Athletic 7 v 0 English SA



Inveraray's Lewis MacNicol and Bute's Colin Lawrence in a chase for the ball during the Balliemore Cup match at the Winterton. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

Daniel Grieve, in the first half, were both excellent in defence.

Danny Kelly and Jamie MacFadyen had a good tussle in the middle of the park.

GMA showed good stick-work but lacked a cutting edge in attack. Ryan Harrison played well in defence for GMA, whilst John Don MacKenzie had a fine match marking Lovat danger-man Lorne MacKay. Stuart Reid also had a good game.

Glenurquhart 2 Lochaber 3

Lochaber came from two goals down to beat Glenurquhart 3-2 at Blairbeg.

Whilst John Barr's hand injury is not as serious as first thought, he wasn't able to start this game but took a place on the bench along with Neale Reid, who was also carrying an injury, and Euan Lloyd.

David MacLennan was free of suspension and formed a make-shift defence with Paul MacKintosh at full back and James Hurwood and Bradley Dickson. Callum Smith was back from injury as was Stuart MacKintosh who returned in goal for his first game of the season but Fraser Heath, Connor Golabek, Andrew Corrigan, Lachie Smith and Daniel MacKintosh were all unavailable.

Lochaber's John Sweeney was sidelined with a broken hand whilst Danny Delaney is recovering after eye surgery and Pat Toal was out through illness.

Marine Harvest National Division

There were no scheduled fixtures in this division.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Beaulieu 0
Newtonmore 12

The Newtonmore second team returned to the top of Marine Harvest North Division 1 when they swept aside the Beaulieu second team 12-0 at Braeview Park.

Craig MacLeod gave a sign of what was to come when he netted in the opening minute.

John MacKenzie made it 2-0 on 11 minutes and Somhairle Thompson added a third on 20 minutes.

Calum Stewart made it 4-0 on 29 minutes and John MacKenzie got his second a minute later to complete a satisfactory first half for the visitors.

Calum Stewart got his second on 56 minutes to make it 6-0 and a goal storm followed in the final third of the contest.

Somhairle Thompson got his second on 66 minutes, whilst Calum Stewart completed his hat-trick three minutes later.

John MacKenzie completed his hat-trick on 73 minutes and Craig MacLeod got his second to make it 10-0 on 76 minutes.



Lorn Ladies wearing their new strips.

Green Machine holds club dinner and awards night

OBAN Lorne RFC held its annual club dinner on Saturday May 13 in the clubhouse.

A packed audience of 1st XV, Argyll and Bute and Oban Ladies players along with past players, supporters, sponsors and friends of the club were kept well entertained throughout the evening.

Speaking at this year's dinner were club captains Craig Wright, 1st XV, Roddy Morrison, Argyll & Bute, and Camilla Lesley, Oban Lorne Ladies.

The captains were joined by local councillor Roddy McCuish who handed over a silver plate to former Oban Lorne president Dee Bradbury for her hard work over the years for the club and also to recognise her recent

achievement of being elected vice president of the Scottish Rugby Union.

Oban Lorne interim president Murray Hamilton also announced the club committee has agreed to make Dee an honorary president of Oban Lorne RFC.

Award winners on the night were as follows; (Oban Lorne 1st XV, Argyll & Bute RFC, Oban Lorne Ladies) - Best trainer - Calum MacLachlan, Steven Parr and Ellie MacNiven; Best newcomer - Malcolm Kavanagh, Alex Houston and Georgia Mitchell; Most Improved - Vladi Mihov, Kyle Graham and Nicole Taylor; Most Points - Finlay Carmichael, Steven Parr and Lucy Stewart; Player of the Year

Rugby

- Vladi Mihov, Alex Maslokovics and Kirsty Sinclair; Players Player - Finlay Carmichael, Steven Parr and Ailsa MacLachlan; Young Player - Jack Strachan, Kyle Graham and Lucy Stewart; Club Person of the year - Tommy Sutherland and Ellie MacNiven. The club thanks Roddy McCuish and Argyll and Bute Council for their input and the Regent Hotel which catered for the event.

Club members are reminded of the upcoming annual general meeting on Tuesday May 30 at 6pm in the clubhouse.



Former Oban Lorne club president Dee Bradbury is presented with a plate by councillor Roddy McCuish in recognition of her work over the years and on her recent election as vice president of the Scottish Rugby Union. Also pictured are club captains Roddy Morrison, Craig Wright, Camilla Lesley and interim club president Murray Hamilton. Photographs: Stephen Lawson.



Oban Lorne 1st XV player of the year Vladi Mihov with Dee Bradbury and captain Craig Wright.



Kirsty Sinclair, Lorne Ladies player of the year, with Dee Bradbury and captain Camilla Lesley.



Dee Bradbury and captain Roddy Morrison with Stephen Parr who was voted Argyll and Bute RFC players' player of the year.

Broken drive shaft ko's Mull driver

MULL rally driver Alasdair Currie dominated round three of the Fiesta ST Trophy and the N3 class with Steven Brown at the Plains Rally, Welshpool, last weekend until a broken drive shaft ruined hopes of the duo's first win.

Currie and Brown led the way in the highly competitive championship from the start until the sixth stage, where a broken drive shaft forced the team to retire, just two stages from the end.

Currie proved his ability and has excelled his own expectations already after just three rallies in the car. 'I am delighted with the weekend. I didn't push too hard and made sure I made no mistakes and it paid

Rallying

off. There were just nine Fiesta crews on round three, however, the pace was hot and there was only seconds separating the top three drivers.

Alasdair said: 'The championship title fight is very much still on. I am getting faster every time I drive the car. My rivals have done these events before but to be leading an event considering how little experience I have, is re-assuring.'

'The championship is made up from seven events with the best five scores counting towards your overall position at the end of the year.



Alasdair Currie in action.

'Our budget is very limited but we are determined to do everything we can to compete on the remaining four rounds.'

Round 4 is in a month's time at the D M A C K Carlisle Stages Rally.



John McPhee, No 17, leads the chasing pack at Le Mans. Photograph: Bonnie Lane.

McPhee storms back into the points

AFTER early drama with a multi-rider incident in the original race start at Le Mans, Moto3 at the French GP was restarted with a shortened distance of 16 laps.

British Talent Team rider John McPhee was lining up outside the top 20, but made a storming start and had an impressive first few laps to leap up the timesheets.

After initial leader Romano Fenati crashed out of contention, the race behind Joan Mir was characterised by a quintessentially Moto3 freight train - with McPhee up in that group and fighting

hard to move forward. Battling with those around him, McPhee settled into the lead of an emerging second group, finally crossing the line in 12th place for more valuable World Championship points after gaining more than ten positions despite the shorter 16 lap race distance.

After a test for the Moto2 and Moto3 fields at Le Mans on Monday, McPhee takes on Mugello next with gains made in the standings as a number of key rivals failed to score in France.

John said: 'It was always going to be hard coming from

Moto3

25th on the grid and then, with the race shortened, it gave me less time to come through the pack. I decided to go with the hard rear tyre which maybe didn't pay off with less laps on the restart, but overall I was happy with my pace and the step we made.

'I know if I'd qualified slightly closer to the front I would've been in the fight for the podium. I'm looking forward to our next test as it has come right in time before a few back-to-back races.'

Mini squash league

SUNDAY May 14 saw the second round of the Glensanda team league squash competition. The six teams playing provided a great day of squash. Thanks to everyone who took part and made the day another success.

Special thanks to Donald MacLean for sponsoring the balls for the tournament and to Keith

Squash

Oversby and Norma Marshall for refereeing the matches.

Results: The Martin Heath Team beat The Magnificent Six 10 games to 5; Paul's Nickers beat Jackie's Ball Breakers 10 games to 5 and The Hotshots beat Kelly's Hero's 11 games to 4.

LEAGUE TABLE	F	A	Diff	Joker	Pts
Martin Heath Team	43	9	+34	Yes	43
Paul's Nickers	32	21	+11	Yes	32
The Hot Shots	27	15	+12	Yes	27
Norfolk-in-Chance	16	18	-02	Yes	16
The Magnificent Six	12	40	-28	No	12
Jackie's Ball Breakers	9	29	-20	No	9
Kelly's Heroes	8	15	-07	Yes	8

Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

RESULTS: Under 13s 5, Ardencaple 5. Saints goalscorers were Ross Higgins (2), Thomans McCrindle, John MacDonald and William Duncan. Broomhill 2, Under 14s 3. Scoring for Saints were Connor Moore (2) and Ellis Hunter.

League Cup semi-final - Under 15s 7, Dumbarton United 3. On target for Saints were Lennon Campbell (3), Aaron

Youth football

McKay (3) and Jordan Norman. The boys play in the final this weekend against Dumbarton Yellows or Drumchapel.

League Cup final - Saints Under 16s 1, Saints Under 17s 2. Scoring for the Under 17s were Lewis Buchanan and Kenny MacDonald with Cameron Kerr netting for the Under 16s.

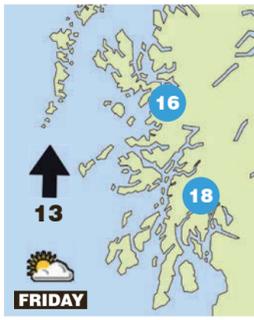
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WEATHER	
Thursday	Sunny intervals Winds light south south easterly Temperatures 13°C to 18°C.
Friday	Sunny Winds moderate southerly Temperatures 13°C to 18°C.
Weekend Outlook	Cloudy on Saturday Light rain on Sunday Winds moderate west north westerly Temperatures 11°C to 17°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	05.06	4.1	11.18	0.5	17.16	3.9	23.43	0.4
Fri	05.49	4.1	12.02	0.3	17.59	4.0	***	**
Sat	00.31	0.4	06.32	4.1	12.47	0.3	18.42	4.0
Sun	01.21	0.4	07.17	3.9	13.33	0.4	19.27	3.9
Mon	02.12	0.6	08.03	3.7	14.21	0.5	20.13	3.7
Tues	03.04	0.8	08.53	3.4	15.12	0.8	21.03	3.5
Wed	04.01	1.1	09.51	3.1	16.05	1.0	22.00	3.3

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

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Laura found in hospital but Eilidh still missing

LOUISE GLEN

lglen@obantimes.co.uk

TRIBUTES from across the world are flooding in for two teenagers and their community who have been caught up in the Manchester Arena bombing.

Laura MacIntyre, 15, and Eilidh MacLeod, 14, were reported missing shortly after the bomb went off at 10.35pm on Monday.

Laura's dad Micheal MacIntyre put out a heartbreaking message on social media looking for support in finding the two young girls. The message was shared more than 30,000 times from various sites. Another, from Eilidh's aunt, was also shared thousands of times. Laura was eventually found after a desperate search.

At the time of going to press, Eilidh had still not been found.

The girls attended Castlebay Community School. A spokesman for the school said: 'We are closely monitoring events around Eilidh and Laura. Our thoughts are with the families of the two girls. We are mindful of the impact on pupils and staff at the school and are providing all necessary support.'

There were 22 people killed in the attack, including children, and 60 people injured.

Prime Minister Theresa May condemned the 'soft target' attack on children, confirming it was one of the worst terrorism attacks on UK soil.

Mrs May visited hospitals in Manchester on Tuesday afternoon.



Tributes are placed in Manchester where, inset, Barra girls Laura MacIntyre, 15, left, and Eilidh MacLeod, 14, were attending the concert as part of Eilidh's birthday treat. It was Laura's first major concert.

Laura and Eilidh were on a 'trip of a lifetime' to see the superstar singer Ariana Grande, with tickets purchased as a special treat for Eilidh's birthday.

It is understood that Laura's mum was on the trip with the girls, and had received a text shortly before the last song – and moments before a suicide bomber detonated what police said was a 'home-made' improvised explosive device.

Witnesses said there were nuts and bolts packed into

the bomb, with many victims suffering shrapnel injuries as a result.

Turmoil in the aftermath of the event meant that it was not discovered that Laura was in hospital until late afternoon on Tuesday. By that time, it is understood the families of both girls had made their way to Manchester.

Laura's injuries are being described as significant and she remains in intensive care at the time of going to press.

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh led a tribute at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday and issued a statement.

It read: 'The whole nation has been shocked by the death and injury in Manchester last night of so many people, adults and children, who had just been enjoying a concert.'

'I know I speak for everyone in expressing my deepest sympathy to all who have been affected by this dreadful event and especially to the families

and friends of those who have died or were injured.

'I want to thank all the members of the emergency services, who have responded with such professionalism and care. And I would like to express my admiration for the way the people of Manchester have responded, with humanity and compassion, to this act of barbarity.'

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon led a minute's silence in Holyrood on Tuesday morning,

before indicating that family liaison officers were working with the families of both Laura and Eilidh.

The Vatican sent a telegram to say Pope Francis was 'deeply saddened' by the attack.

'His Holiness Pope Francis was deeply saddened to learn of the injury and tragic loss of life caused by the barbaric attack in Manchester,' the telegram said.

The so-called Islamic State (IS) has claimed it was behind the attack, but this has not been verified by intelligence officers. The statement was made via IS channels on the messaging app Telegram. The group frequently claims attacks in their aftermath.

Tributes from across the world are helping the community of Barra.

Politician Angus Brendan MacNeil, from Barra, who is well-known to both families, said the care and compassion from all over the world was helping a 'community in dire pain'.

Mr MacNeil continued: 'Everybody is upset and in shock over the horrific events in Manchester. People want to know what is happening, as it is quite unbelievable.'

'It cannot be measured but the way in which Barra people and its friends from throughout the world have sent their prayers and hope for our girls has been comforting and grateful.'

'People must continue to hope and pray for the whole community.'

Man to pay £10,000 to victim

A 68-YEAR-OLD man now living in France has been fined £3,000 and ordered to pay his teenage victim £10,000 compensation after he admitted sexual offences during holidays in Ardnamurchan.

Rupert James Nevill Valpy appeared before Sheriff William Taylor QC on Tuesday at Fort William for sentencing.

He had previously admitted lewd and libidinous practices towards a teenage girl on various occasions between February 22, 2003, and February 22, 2006.

The sheriff said he had read the report on Valpy, including 'a very poignant victim statement'. The offence was described as 'lowest category of offending'.

Valpy was placed on the sex offenders' register for five years, meaning he must report to police anytime he returns to the UK.

Valpy's defence agent, Gerry Sweeney, said: 'He is now concluding his marriage, due in part to the circumstances and his behaviour; divorce is pending.'

Braemar arrives in Fort William

THE cruise ship Braemar arrives in Fort William this morning bringing more than 1,000 visitors to the town. She left Southampton on Sunday May 21 and is set to dock today (May 25) with 929 passengers and 371 crew.

It is the third cruise ship to arrive in the town this year, with the Boudicca set to return for a second time on Saturday (May 27).



Fort girls safe after bomb attack

TWO Fort William girls who were at Manchester Arena when the suicide bomb went off have been speaking to the *Lochaber Times* about the chaos that unfolded in the moments after the attack.

Sisters Sibel, 19, and Sehnaz, 14, Yildiz were at the Ariana Grande concert on Monday night when an explosion erupted after the concert.

The girls arrived back in Scotland on Tuesday.

Speaking from Glasgow, Sibel, who is a student in the city said: 'It's all so surreal right now, and I am just so glad I and my sister are home safe.'

'One minute everyone was having a great time, because it was the end of the concert and everyone was in high spirits, and then all of a sudden the commotion just came out of nowhere – it was just unimaginable.'

The girls were seated near the front of



Sibel, left, and Sehnaz Yildiz.

the stage, close to a set of stairs at an exit. Everyone was starting to leave out the exit and then I just heard a massive explosion. I remember looking out into the crowd and I saw people running and everyone around me just started to scream.

'Sehnaz just looked at me, she was terrified. She was saying, "Sibel, what's

happening? I'm scared". At that point I just grabbed her and started running. But there were just so many people and I started to lose her in the crowd. I was so scared she was going to get lost. But I was adamant I was going to get us out of there.'

Lochaber High School pupil Sehnaz, who is a huge fan of Ariana, was given a pair of tickets to the concert from her parents as a Christmas present.

The girls' dad, Abidin, who runs Abi's Kebabs in Fort William, said he got a call from Sibel to tell him what had happened at around 11pm.

He said: 'She called and was saying, "Dad, there's been an explosion at the concert".'

'I just started to panic and worry about them. I just can't stop thinking what if it was them. I feel shocked and so sorry for other parents of children who lost their lives, and all of those innocent children.'

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SATURDAY 24TH JUNE
 Glenuig's Night with **SHOGUN** & friends
 Glenuig Hall

FRIDAY 30TH JUNE
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Tourism meetings planned in a bid to ease pressure on Skye

ELLIE FORBES
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

HELP for Skye businesses and residents to cope with growing tourism pressures is on the cards.

Next month sees the first of a series of meetings taking place in a bid to gather expertise from across Scotland, as the first step in a process to make it easier for people on the island to cope with growing numbers of visitors.

The meeting will be held in Portree on Friday June 9.

It is hoped that the second

of the series of discussions, which will review the summer's activities, will take place in September.

MSP Kate Forbes said that, as the summer heats up, hotels are already fully booked for the season ahead.

She explained: 'This year is going to be just as busy, if not busier, than last year. The question for all of us is how we capitalise on the surge in tourism, rather than collapse under the pressures on infrastructure and amenities.'

'While Skye is particularly popular, other parts of the

Highlands are also facing challenges too.'

The Skye MSP is set to host the first of two discussions, one before and one after the busiest months of the year.

Ms Forbes has invited representatives from other areas of Scotland who have faced a surge in tourism to the meeting.

She said: 'These representatives will outline how they organised themselves to find solutions to the local challenges and capitalise on the enormous boost to the local economy.'

'The purpose of these two meetings is to see if there are

things we can learn from other places in Scotland and so turn tourism into an opportunity, rather than a challenge.'

'Of course, there is a lot to do and no discussion will prove to be the magic wand to solve all the problems. But if other places can do it, then so can we.'

Last month the *Lochaber Times* reported Minginish Community Hall's ambitious plans to buy and improve the car park at the Fairy Pools.

Richard Powell from the Minginish Community Hall said more than 108,000 people visited the Fairy Pools last year,

but, with just 35 spaces, problems arose.

He told the *Lochaber Times*: 'We end up with 100 or more cars parked along the verges and in passing places.'

He said that the popular tourist spot has been busy since February. The volume of visitors is creating significant problems for residents who stay in the nearby village, Glen Brittle.

Mr Powell predicted a bumper year for tourism in Skye, stating many B&Bs and guest houses are already fully booked for the season.

In what is believed to be a

record-breaking year for tourism on Skye, some residents have said there has been little respite from visitors during the winter months.

Earlier this year SkyeConnect, a new destination management group, was launched on Skye. The group hopes to play a key role in the future of the island's tourism industry.

At its launch, chairwoman Shirley Spears, who owns The Three Chimneys restaurant on the island, said: 'We look forward to working with the Skye community and its partners to create a robust and dynamic organisation for the island.'

Second St Kilda yacht challenge is confirmed

A SECOND St Kilda Challenge yacht race is being planned following excellent feedback from competitors and visitors who enjoyed the first event.

The inaugural event was launched in 2015 by organisers Comann Na Mara and race managers Clyde Cruising Club, with the first regatta taking place the following year.

The regatta and its associated shoreside festival has the support of Holyrood's cross-party marine tourism committee and chairman Stuart McMillan MSP was present at the launch to underline the group's backing.

Last year's event was a welcome economic boost for North Uist, with 30 yachts bringing dozens of crews ashore, while the festivities on land attracted visitors to Lochmaddy.

Accommodation, local services and attractions, as well as food, drink and craft producers, all reported a significant rise in trade.

The 2018 St Kilda Challenge will build on the strong foundations of 2016's event, with the addition of a third fleet.

Indications are there will be a substantial increase in participants for the event from June 14 to 16 next year.

In addition to the racing fleet, which uses the islands of St Kilda as turning marks on a 100-nautical-mile course, there is also a cruise-in-company fleet which leaves the start line at the same time but has the ability to anchor in Village Bay at Hirta on St Kilda to go ashore. 'We have had exceptional encouragement and



Gus MacAulay announced the St Kilda Challenge aboard the tall ship Glenlee in Glasgow.

support from the community, participants and those who were sorry to have missed the first event,' said Comann Na Mara chairman Gus MacAulay. 'I was overwhelmed at the end of the

first event to hear so much positive feedback, so for me and the other organisers there was only one going to be one outcome - another St Kilda Challenge. We are excited about making the event

bigger and better for 2018 and look forward to welcoming many more people to North Uist before sending them on their way to the great adventure of the St Kilda archipelago.'

Western Isles Council says creating a better future will be joint effort

THE newly-elected leader and convener of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar have pledged to work together with colleagues for the benefit of communities across the Outer Hebrides.

Roddie Mackay, who was previously a director at Western Isles Development Trust, became leader of Comhairle nan

Eilean Siar after the election on May 4.

He said: 'I am committed to working on behalf of communities across the Outer Hebrides.'

'As is the norm in the islands, we will not be forming an administration but I, the convener, the chairs of committees and indeed all members, will work on

behalf of all our communities and I believe this system offers a better way of doing so than under the label of a political grouping.'

'I am delighted that both the groups we do have are represented in the leadership of the comhairle with both the SNP and the Uist and Barra inde-

pendent groups having secured vice-chairs of committees.'

Convener Norman A Macdonald said: 'We face major challenges ahead and it is only by the whole comhairle - staff and members - working together along alongside our communities that we can hope to overcome those challenges

and give those communities the future they deserve.'

Mr Mackay added: 'We live in exciting times for the islands, largely thanks to the work of the previous comhairle, and I am determined that we build on those foundations. The Islands Bill is soon to go through parliament, an islands deal is under

advanced stages of discussion and the Crown Estate revenues and management have been devolved to Scotland - although we must continue to work to bring about the further devolution to coastal communities. These are all exciting developments and there is much potential for our communities to benefit.'

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Rebus author confirms book fest date

SKYE Book Festival-goers are in for a special treat this year, as crime writer Ian Rankin has confirmed his attendance.

In the same week he announced his famous detective, John Rebus, is to return to television screens after a 10-year absence, Britain's most successful crime writer, Ian Rankin, brought 'the best news imaginable' to festival organisers.

The Fife-born author said he is 'delighted and honoured' to read from some of his work, and meet with the audience to discuss the origins of his character Rebus.

Festival chairman and Aros

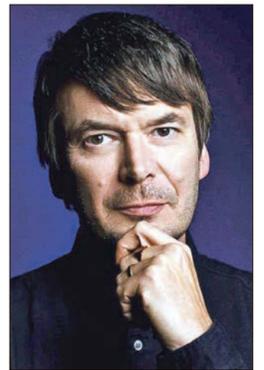
director Donald Macdonald said: 'Skye Book Festival has gone from strength to strength over the six years of its existence but we little imagined that we could attract one of the country's best-known writers when he is at the peak of his success with the work underway for more Rebus on TV. It is fantastic news and will ensure our festival will be busier than ever this year.'

The festival has rapidly carved a niche for itself nationally with past attractions including Val McDermid, Donald S Murray, Sally Magnusson, Peter May, Roger Hutchinson, Lady Claire Macdonald and

the launch of both volumes of the best-selling *Great Book of Skye*. It also features a 'poetry walk' each year as part of the regular programme.

This year's event will run from August 31 to September 2. Organisers of the Skye Book Festival have already confirmed the attendance this year of Graeme Macrae Burnet, whose second novel, *His Bloody Project*, was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2016 and won Saltire fiction book of the year 2016.

Early ticket purchase is advised for the Macrae Burnet and Rankin events, which will be held at Portree's Aros Centre.



Ian Rankin.

Project aims to find out how to improve Stornoway

SUGGESTIONS on how to build a better social and economic future for Stornoway will soon take place.

The Stornoway Masterplan is being developed which aims to produce a clear vision for the physical development of Stornoway.

The blueprint sets out proposals to address the key strategic challenges and opportunities facing the town. This has been identifying small, medium and large level strategies to improve the environment and infrastructure for residents and visitors. The comhairle is seeking

public views and comments on the proposals emerging to date, and what people think would make Stornoway a better place to visit, live, work, study and invest in. More information on the proposals can be found at <http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/consultations/stornowayvision.asp>

Anyone with comments on what could make Stornoway a more vibrant, accessible and connected place should complete the feedback survey at the following link by May 26, 2017. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FP9RSLK>.

Contractors transport firefighters to tackle blaze

A TEAM of contractors working on SSEN's Skye Tee transmission project came to the aid of local fire and rescue operatives this week helping to put out a wildfire in the Invergarry area.

The team of NorPower contractors, who were working on overhead lines in the area, met the firefighters as they arrived at the incident and immediately offered their support to help the crew get to the blaze before it spread.

NorPower managing director Alistair MacLeod said: 'We had been working to construct

a new overhead line on a remote hill located between Invergarry and Fort Augustus and as we finished for the day, we came across a significant blaze which appeared to be out of control.'

'We immediately and safely evacuated the area to the public road, where we met members of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service who were responding to the blaze.'

'Our teams immediately offered assistance and the use of our specialist off-road vehicles to transport the firefighters and their equipment to the blaze.'

Highland hostel's big birthday

A HIGHLAND youth hostel is celebrating a landmark anniversary.

Ratagan Youth Hostel near Skye has been part of SYHA Hostelling Scotland for 85 years and to mark the occasion it is appealing for special memories and cherished moments from visitors who have stayed there.

Gairloch Sands Youth Hostel in Ross-shire has also reached the 85-year milestone.

SYHA has said it wants to hear from people, around the UK and further afield, who have spent time at two of its longest-running youth hostels and have memories, amazing experiences or interesting photographs they would be willing to share with keen hostellers past and present.

Opened on May 14, 1932, Ratagan is a very popular choice with hostellers and has one of the best youth hostel locations in Scotland.

Set on the shore of Loch Duich, the hostel enjoys unrivalled views of the magnificent Five Sisters mountain range.

The SYHA team would be extremely pleased to hear from hostellers by email at marketing@syha.org.uk or by letter to SYHA National Office, 7 Glebe Crescent, Stirling, FK8 2JA.

RNLI rescue capsized kayaker

KYLE of Lochalsh RNLI volunteers rescued a woman after her kayak capsized near Skye bridge.

The crew was called out at 2.45pm last Wednesday May 17, when rough conditions caused the kayak to capsize, leaving the casualty unable to get out of the water.

Kyle lifeboat Spirit of Fred Olsen launched to help rescue the woman a mile west of Skye bridge.

The lifeboat arrived within three minutes, by which time a fishing boat was on scene.

The woman was taken on the lifeboat where the crew assessed her condition and then transferred to the pontoons where an ambulance was waiting.

The lifeboat returned to its station and was refuelled and ready for service again by 3.20pm.

Bus fare rockets by £500 a year

ELLIE FORBES
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A ROY BRIDGE resident has seen his bus fare to Fort William rocket by 82 per cent as he found himself having to buy two tickets to get to and from work.

Steven Bond uses the bus service between Roy Bridge and Fort William every day to get to work but has found himself £31.50 out of pocket each week following recent Highland Council contract changes.

On April 24, the council split the service into two contracts, one consisting of the service which operates via the high school and

a second for other journeys.

Mr Bond said the council's explanation for this is it 'enables a smaller bus to be used for non-school journeys to provide the council with better value for money.'

However, the council awarded the contract including school journeys to Shiel Buses while the other contract remains with Stagecoach, but neither operator will accept each other's tickets, meaning his bus fare has surged by 82 per cent.

Mr Bond told the *Lochaber Times*: 'I previously was able to purchase a seven-day ticket from Stagecoach costing me £17.15,

which had already increased from £16.50 at the beginning of April, which enabled to make unlimited journeys locally.'

'I now have to buy two single tickets to get to and from work costing me £6.30 per day - £31.50 a week - plus extra for any other journeys I need to make.'

Mr Bond says that, while he can understand the Highland Council's rationale for awarding two contracts, he said he 'cannot understand why they did not include mutual ticket acceptance in the contracts when awarding them.'

'It seems to me the council did not consider bus users when

awarding the contracts, as I cannot see any benefit to passengers whatsoever of the new timetables.'

Mr Bond only found out his travel costs would increase by more than £500 a year when he went to get on the bus for work on April 24.

He said he 'dissatisfied at the lack of forward warning of this significant increase in fares by either the council or the bus operators.'

A spokeswoman for Stagecoach North Scotland said: 'When Highland Council contracts changed on April 24, there was no requirement for operators

to accept other bus operators' tickets.'

'We are actively pursuing this matter with the Highland Council as there are not currently any commercially provided multi-operator bus tickets available in Fort William.'

She added: 'We are prepared to discuss the potential for a commercially provided multi-operator ticket to make travel for the local community easier following the contract changes.'

'However, we would require commitment from Shiel Buses and any other interested operators as well as an independent body such as the Highland Council

to facilitate these discussions. Operators are not permitted to discuss fares directly with each other.'

'Unlimited bus travel on Stagecoach services in Fort William starts from just £1.41 per day.'

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'Introducing a multi-operator ticket requires the agreement of operators and a revenue sharing arrangement to be in place. In Lochaber this affects commercial bus services as well as those under contract to the council. We do intend to introduce a scheme but it will take some time to set up the arrangements.'

Torlundy woman broke kitchen window

A TORLUNDY woman must prove she can behave herself for six months and pay compensation for a window damaged when she drunkenly went round to see her ex.

Vanessa Anne Matheson, 23, of Happy Valley, Torlundy, had previously admitted at Fort William Sheriff Court behaving in a threatening manner and damaging the window.

On Tuesday the court heard from procurator fiscal Martine Eastwood that Matheson had gone to an address in Fort William where she knew her former partner was. She banged on the door and shouted that she wanted to talk to him.

'She was intoxicated,' said the fiscal. The man, and the woman he was with, declined to talk to her. Matheson then went to the back of the house and damaged the kitchen window.

But her defence agent said that Matheson, a first-time offender, had only banged on the window in frustration and 'did not expect it to break'.

He added that Matheson and the man had split up but she had received text messages from him and then discovered he was at the property in Fort William and that another woman was there.

Matheson worked for her father, a joiner, who was arranging for the window to be repaired.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald deferred sentence for six months for Matheson to be of good behaviour and to prove that restitution had been made for the window.

£1,000 will see Daisy enjoy safari park treat

MORE than £1,000 has been raised for a Fort William toddler with a rare form of cancer.

Daisy Thomson was diagnosed with an atypical teratoid rhabdoid tumour last March when she was just nine months old.

A whopping £40,000 has been raised for Daisy during the course of her illness by friends, family and Lochaber business.

In December, Daisy was given the all clear but her family was recently given the heartbreaking news that her cancer had returned and sadly, it looks to be terminal.

Close family friend Keira Wright has been busy fundraising for Daisy and held a successful raffle in Sunny's Bar, Fort William, on Sunday May 21. Forty people attended, with £1,108 raised.

Keria told the *Lochaber Times*: 'Her parents, Leah and Garry, have said they are going to take Daisy to Blair Drummond Safari Park as she really likes animals.'



Bar owner Ian Roger left, and organiser of the raffle Keira Wright, right, with Daisy's parents, Garry and Leah Thomson. Picture: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Community councils blast exclusion from A82 road summit

THE *Lochaber Times* has learned that community councils will not have a seat at the table for the A82 summit, writes Ellie Forbes.

Chairman of Ballachulish Community Council and the Association of South Lochaber Community Councils Kevin Smith received a letter from Transport Scotland saying they will not be invited to attend the summit on June 23 but can instead fill out a survey form.

And it was said the summit will be held in Crianlarich and not Fort William as was previously reported.

It is believed the A82 Partnership has been invited to the summit.

Mr Smith said: 'Surely a community representative should be invited, even if it's just to sit and listen.'

'It's the lack of consultation that is so concerning to me.'

'No-one has anything against the A82 Partnership but who elected them? And how are they going to represent all of our communities?'

Iain Jenner, chairman of Nether Lochaber Community Council, told the *Lochaber Times* he was 'furious'.

He said: 'This news flies in the face of the Community Empowerment Act. I am all set to go and doorstep them at the summit on June 23.'

'I can't speak on behalf of any other community councils, but

my community is bisected by the trunk road.'

'It's a defining feature of our community which affects our lives, so to not be able to give an opinion where we live and how any decisions may affect us is disappointing.'

'The transport authority has a history of poor consultation.'

'It comes up with a plan of what it wants to do, has an information day to say what ideas it has rejected, and then tells us what its going to do.'

'It's not a consultation, it's just a tick-box exercise.'

'And the Community Empowerment Act is meant to have changed all that. We are meant to have a say, which is why it's so disappointing.'

'Commercial people will have a say, but the people whose lives will actually be physically changed won't.'

Fort William and Ardnarnach councillor Andrew Baxter said: 'So much for the transport minister wanting a constructive discussion about the A82, when civil servants have dismissed any involvement by community councils.'

'It's a disgrace. It goes against the spirit of the government's new law that requires public bodies to enable communities to take part in decision-making.'

'Decisions about the A82 will affect these communities for decades to come - they must be allowed to have a say.'

£1m expansion to creates nine jobs at Lochaber sand mine

NINE jobs have been created in Lochaber thanks to a £1 million expansion of a sand mine.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has invested £100,000 in the development by Lochaline Quartz Sand Ltd on the Morvern peninsula.

HIE's approval will bring economic and social benefits to this rural part of Lochaber and take the total number employed at the mine to 20.

The investment towards the purchase of plant equipment, machines and the installation of buildings will assist the growth of the business.

The site was brought back into commercial operation five years ago in a joint effort between Italian mining group Minerali Industriali SRL and high-quality glass manufacturer NSG, parent of the Pilkington Group, the main buyer of the company's sand.

Sand being mined at the site is used in the production of glass products, from crystal and ceramics to sanitary ware and photo-voltaic panels.

Product diversification is said to be a major part of the expansion. New processes and markets are set to be developed for the firm's lower grade sand, which has to date been a waste product of the mining operation.

Daniele Trogolo Got, operations director at the mine, said: 'This latest capital investment underlines our commitment to the mine and local area. It should put us in a good position to supply high quality sand to new and emerging markets both in the UK and internationally.'

'The re-opening and refurbishment of the original Lochaline sand mine coupled with this latest venture and a highly committed workforce means we can look forward to the future with confidence.'

Head of business growth at HIE Alison Gainsford added: 'The expansion of the mine and the additional turnover and jobs created are both important economic boosts to this fragile area.'

'The additional wages generated as part of this development will have a significant impact on other community facilities, including the local shop and hotel.'

'It will also help retain the current local population and attract more people and families into the area, which potentially creates demand for new housing. Overall, this preserves the viability of public services such as the local school and has a long-lasting, positive impact on the economic sustainability and resilience of the community of Morvern.'

Lochaber man breached bail conditions

A 24-YEAR-OLD Lochaber man has been told it is up to him to keep himself out of jail.

David Paul O'Hara had previously admitted threatening and abusive behaviour, resisting, obstructing and hindering the police in the execution of their duty, by struggling, and possessing cannabis. He appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court for sentencing but he also appeared from custody for breaching the bail granted for the offences which he committed on May 11.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald was told on Monday that

O'Hara had not told a friend that he had said his friend's home would be his bail address; the friend objected and told the police. O'Hara now has a new address at An Aird.

The sheriff also heard that the same friend had been with O'Hara and had been trying to calm him down when he committed the offences outside his mother's home in Lochaber.

O'Hara had been intoxicated when the trouble occurred and was shouting and swearing abuse outside his mother's home.

He struggled with the police, tried to run away, broke free, ran away again and fell over. He was put in handcuffs,' said procurator fiscal Martine Eastwood. The cannabis was found in the pocket of his jeans.

The matter had previously been adjourned for a report to be prepared on O'Hara, prior to his sentencing.

O'Hara's defence agent, Hamish Melrose, said his client had been living at various addresses around the Fort William area, 'sofa surfing'.

'He is trying to find work. He has two interviews and is

trying to better himself and get his life sorted out.'

'He is adamant he would be willing to co-operate and engage if given the opportunity here.'

Sheriff MacDonald imposed a community payback order of a year's supervision and 110 hours of unpaid work to be completed within the next six months, with a review of the order on August 15.

Sheriff MacDonald pointed out that O'Hara had failed to complete payback orders before. She said: 'It is up to you, Mr O'Hara.'

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Fort woman is first in Scotland to have groundbreaking drug

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A FORT WILLIAM woman with MS has become the first hematopoietic stem cell treatment (HSCT) patient to receive rituximab in Scotland.

Frances O'Connell, from Caol, travelled to Mexico last year for a groundbreaking stem cell surgery which aims to stop MS in its tracks.

But the 47-year-old needs infusions of the rituximab drug, which is used to treat certain autoimmune diseases and types of cancer.

Until now, the drug has not been available for MS patients in Scotland, meaning Frances



Frances O'Connell.

has been making the journey down to Manchester to receive her treatment. However, earlier this month Frances and husband Stewart got word that she would be able to get the drug at a private hospital in Edinburgh.

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times* Frances said: 'I am absolutely delighted for future HSCT MS patients that we have had this great breakthrough in Scotland.'

'We have actually done something about it and now more patients in Scotland can get their infusions here.'

Before venturing to Mexico, Frances had called round all the private hospitals thinking 'surely someone would do it in Scotland'. But with no luck finding any doctor to administer the treatment here, she had to make two trips down to Manchester.

She said: 'That drive to Manchester takes a lot out of me. It would take a lot out of a healthy

person so it really did have adverse effects on me. It took me almost four weeks to recover.'

'But going to Edinburgh was like a day out. Rather than travelling down the day before and then having the long drive coming back, we were able to do it all in one day.'

'It's quite stressful having to do everything for yourself, calling the hospital and sorting appointments and all while I am still trying to recover from my treatment in Mexico. So now I am glad it has been sorted out and I don't have to stress about where I am going to go.'

Speaking about her recovery, Frances said the good days are starting to outnumber the bad.

'It's amazing how positive you become when you see it starting to work in your favour,' said Frances.

'The improvements I have seen at home is in my walking, and the distance I am able to do. Now I can even cycle a short distance, and I am improving every time. I try to push myself further all the time and every time I do manage, it boosts my confidence for the next time, even if it's just a minute.'

'I still get bouts of fatigue because I still have MS and I always will. But I would rather talk about the positive things I am seeing, especially in my energy levels and the fact I have less brain fog.'

Frances has even been thinking about returning to work. 'I am preparing myself to go back to work, which I am so excited about, she said.'

'I don't know if I will manage or how much I will be able to do, but I feel like going back to work and meeting people again is healthy.'

'Going back to doing things that I used to do over a year ago now really does excite me because it's another goal I can aim for.'

'I still have to remind myself that my recovery is a marathon, not a sprint, and I have to take my time. If anything I have discovered that art of being patient.'

WHAT'S ON

ART Lochaber is gearing up to host its annual exhibition. The art work will be on show at Ben Nevis industrial estate from Saturday May 27 to Wednesday June 7, from 10am to 6pm daily. Entry to the exhibition is free.

LOCHABER Schools Pipe Band and friends will be in concert next month. They will be performing at Lochaber High School on Wednesday June 7 at 7pm, with special guests the Lochaber Gaelic Choir. Tickets are £5 for adults and £2 for children, with tea and coffee included. Tickets can be bought from Lochaber High School and band members.

STRAMASH Nursery will be holding its family fun day this weekend. The event is on Saturday May 27 will run from 11am until 3pm. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun any time throughout the day. Car boot and craft tables are available for £10 and if you would like to book email cameron@stramash.org.uk. There will also be a bouncy castle, raffle, beat the goalie, marshmallow toasting, baking stalls and much more.

LOCHABER Craft Fair will be on in the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church today (Thursday May 25). The fair is being held from 10am to 3pm with wooden crafts, chocolate, candles and textiles inspired by the Highlands on show. Head along to support Lochaber's craft producers. Contact Chris for more information on 07900 928515.

NETHER Lochaber will also be hosting a craft fair in the village hall, Onich, on Saturday May 27, from 10am to 4pm. Homemade cakes and jam, knitted crafts and cushions and jewellery will be available, with soups and refreshments also on offer.

LOCHABER Environmental Group has teamed up with Off Beat Bikes to offer a free two-hour workshop on bike maintenance and repair on Tuesday June 13 from 7pm to 9pm at its store on the High Street. This workshop is open to all Lochaber residents, with the aim of giving people the confidence to maintain their bikes properly and use their bikes more. If you would like to book a spot, call the LEG office on 01397 700090 and info@lochaberenviro.org.uk or on Lochaber Environmental Groups eventbrite. Spaces are limited and booking is essential. Take your bike along.

The Kilmallie Community Centre is hosting another community gardens clean-up. The group is calling for gardeners and volunteers to help with the restoration of the site. The clean-up will start at 10am on Saturday June 17. For more information, contact Sarah Kennedy on 07768 805040.

Dress down day raises charity cash for Water Aid

KINLOCHLEVEN High School's eco committee held a fundraising dress down day for Water Aid.

The children raised more than £100 to help provide clean water and sanitation in deprived countries.

Head teacher Rebecca Machin said in September 2015, 193 world leaders agreed to 17 global goals for sustainable development. If these goals were completed, it would mean an end to extreme poverty, inequality and climate change by 2030.

These 17 goals are now built into the Keep Scotland Beautiful eco-schools programme.

'I thought it was a great idea,' said Mrs Machin. 'In Scotland we take clean, readily available water for granted. Yet sanitation has probably done more to improve the quality of life and human life expectancy than any kind of medicine or surgery.'

'By organising something simple like a dress down day, we were able to contribute £116.65 to this wonderful charity. This could pay for 58 water system toolkits or 23 tube wells, a really significant contribution to a global problem. Little things can make a big difference.'



Naomi Hannah (S3) and Katie Higgins (S3) with the charity's cheque.

Ardgour eco shed will feature on television's Amazing Spaces



Annie MacLean with the Wee Tower in Ardgour.

AN INNOVATIVE shed in Ardgour has brought fame to the Lochaber village as it is set to be broadcast on George Clarke's *Amazing Spaces*.

The Wee Tower at Cuil Moss Cottage on Ardgour Estate is one of four finalists in the eco section of the Cuprinol Shed of the Year 2017, and will feature on the programme later in the year.

In the meantime, owners Annie and Ewen MacLean need votes before June 2 to make sure they reach the final.

The couple, who own the Cuil Moss holiday cottage, were called by Channel 4 and asked if

they wanted to enter their shed in the competition.

'We were wanting to add something special on to our holiday cottage. You always see people putting in hot tubs and things, but we wanted to make something unique from what's already here in Ardgour,' said Annie.

'In Ardgour, we have beautiful woodland wildlife and clear Highland dark skies. We designed the tower for people who want to wildlife watch and stargaze. We are bringing people to Ardgour in the best possible way and doing something different to showcase the area in a special way.'

The Wee Tower is the only shed in the Highlands to make it to the finals across all the categories.

Built with only sustainable materials, the off-grid Wee Tower is hidden in the woodland by the cottage and has been in situ for the past year.

Habitats and bird boxes have been added to make it home for lots of wildlife and a solar light woodland path guides the way in the evening.

The tower was built off-site by Echo Living and then lifted into place so as not to disturb the flora and fauna on the woodland floor.

Annie said: 'Eco to me is more than just using thoughtful materials and local crafts. Sustainability is also about bringing people to our fragile rural community and sharing it in the best possible way.'

Competition winners receive £1,000 and Cuprinol vouchers but Annie told the *Lochaber Times* she will be donating the prize money to a worthy community cause.

'If we win, we will donate the £1,000 prize money and vouchers to Ardgour play area at the school, which both my children attend, and which is being developed by community volunteers.'

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View from the Chamber

THE Outdoor Capital of the UK, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce's tourism brand, has just unveiled its new custom-wrapped gondola at Nevis Range Mountain Experience in Fort William.

The branded gondola has been unveiled alongside the launch of the Outdoor Capital of the UK's most recent digital marketing campaign, 'Connect to your Adventure', which utilises the #myoutdoorcapital hashtag.

The hashtag is being promoted on the sides of the gondola to encourage visitors to Nevis Range to share the highlights of their holiday



in Fort William and Lochaber, the Outdoor Capital of the UK, on social media channels using photos and short video.

And by sharing their experiences using the hashtag #myoutdoorcapital they are automatically entered into a competition for a chance to win another stay in the area.

The prize has been put together with member businesses to create an adventure holiday of a lifetime for one lucky winner.

The fortunate person will be staying at Sunnyside Croft campsite in the beautiful village of Arisaig, surrounded by stunning coastline and some of the most spectacular views in the world, an archery lesson with Arisaig Archery and a beautiful meal at the West Highland Hotel in Mallaig.

New council leader vows to work with all parties

ELLIE FORBES
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INDEPENDENT councillor Margaret Davidson has vowed to work with all parties as she was reinstated as leader of the Highland Council last week.

The Aird and Loch Ness councillor served as leader in the previous administration for almost two years. Last Thursday, at the first full meeting of the council since the election, Ms Davidson said it was a 'privilege' to be leader of the local authority.

She said she intends to 'take forward this council in the same inclusive cross-party way that was done last time'.

Councillor Davidson will be joined by Bill Lobban as convener, who used the first meeting to acknowledge challenges facing the new administration.

He said: 'There will be difficult times ahead and I have no doubt that this council, its members and staff will weather the storms ahead and will continue to do our best for the people of the Highlands.'

Liberal Democrat group leader Alasdair Christie has taken on the role of deputy leader, following the agreement of a three-way coalition with his party, the independents and Labour.

SNP councillor Maxine Smith will lead the opposition with

her 22 fellow members, and 10 Conservative councillors.

During the meeting there was a power struggle between the SNP and the Conservatives as group leader Callum Smith went up against his SNP counterpart for leader of the opposition.

A standing order is in place indicating the leader of the opposition should come from the largest party outwith the administration, in this case the SNP.

But newly-elected Conservative councillor Andrew Jarvie called for a suspension to the order to enable Mr Smith to lead the opposition.

A two-thirds majority is required to suspend the order, and with only 11 of the 74 coun-

cillors in favour, the motion was defeated.

Following her nomination, Maxine Smith said: 'As an SNP group we want to work constructively for the good of the Highlands where possible but obviously as the opposition we will scrutinise and challenge where appropriate.'

Earlier this month a coalition of three was agreed. The leaders of the Independent group (28), the Liberal Democrat Group (10) and Labour Group (three) agreed to work together.

Speaking after Thursday's meeting, Caol and Mallaig councillor Ben Thompson said: 'I'm glad that the new leader, Margaret Davidson, and new

convener, Bill Lobban, have made a commitment to giving more control of our budgets back to Lochaber. I'm looking forward to holding them to that.'

The next council meeting will take place on June 1 to discuss how the council will organise its work.

Meanwhile, in the Western Isles, councillor Roddie Mackay has been elected to serve as leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. There were two nominations for the post of leader, Roddie Mackay and Donald Manford, but Mr Mackay was voted in 18 to 13.

Councillor Norman A Macdonald has been re-elected to serve as convener of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

Lochaber fiddler joins national musical tour

EIGHT of Scotland's finest young folk musicians are about to embark on a tour of their home towns and record an album together thanks to the Traditional Music and Song Association of Scotland (TMSA).

The finalists and winner of the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year competition 2016 will start the tour in Helensburgh on Tuesday May 30 before visiting Lismore, Fort William, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Orkney.

The youngsters will then be in the studio in June with an album due for release in July.

Lochaber talent Hannah MacRae, who is studying for a BMus in traditional music at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, is part of the line-up.

For fiddler Hannah, traditional music has been in her family for

generations. She has taken time to establish her own personal style and varies her repertoire by playing with accomplished musicians from different places and backgrounds. Hannah is a strong believer in keeping up tradition – in particular the culture of traditional music and Gaelic – and has been teaching fiddle for the past year.

TMSA convener Fiona Campbell said: 'The annual TMSA young trad tour and album is always a great opportunity to showcase the rising stars of Scotland's traditional music scene. The project allows young musicians, often at the start of their music careers, to hone both their solo and collaborative skills at some amazing venues across the country.'

The group will be at the Nevis Centre on Wednesday June 7.

Fort solicitors put in a grand effort

FORT William solicitors MacPhee and Partners have raised more than £1,000 for Glasgow Children's Hospital on behalf of Kinlochleven woman Kat MacLean.

Kat has been fundraising for the hospital to mark her 10-year anniversary of being in remission following a battle with leukaemia.

Kat stressed that she wouldn't be where she is today if it wasn't for the wonderful doctors and nurses at the hospital and she has been arranging various fundraising events in Fort William recently.

After seeing Kat raise a fantastic amount for the

hospital, MacPhee and Partners decided to help her raise even more for the cause.

The solicitors gathered a team of 12 employees to take part in this year's Colour Me Rad fun run on May 13 at Glasgow Green.

The 5k run fires off in a blaze of colour bombs, colour cannons, colour mortars and multi-toned courses.

The group were hoping to make £250 but blew their target out of the water raising an incredible £1,195.

Donations will be paid to the Glasgow Children's Hospital now that the fundraising page has closed.



The group from MacPhee and Partners before they set off on their fun run.

Shinty player Alison is off and running

LOCHABER Ladies shinty team member Alison MacVicar is recovering from an illness that has blighted her life for six years but says running has helped put her on the right path.

The 20-year-old from Oban has battled anorexia since the age of 14.

At 17, when her anorexia was at its worst, she weighed just 36kg (5.6 stone) and suffered from severe bradycardia, a slow heart rate. Alison reported a resting heart rate of 35 beats per minute whereas most people have a heart rate of between 60 and 100 beats per minute.

Alison has always been a runner and does it to stay fit to compete with Lochaber Ladies.

Now she has signed up to run in the Simplyhealth Great Women's Run, a 10k which takes place in Glasgow on Sunday June 4.

Alison will be running to raise money and awareness for the charity Beat (beating eating disorders).

She said: 'Running comple-



Alison MacVicar.

mented the demands of shinty, and swimming in triathlons helped my physical strength. Shinty has always been my main passion. The girls in the team have really encouraged my recovery as they are all so strong and athletic. They are a huge inspiration for me.'

Running gives Alison a sense of freedom but it wasn't always like that, as she explained: 'Running simultaneously

aggravated my eating disorder and helped towards my recovery. In the depths of anorexia, running became an addiction, a chore and an obsession with no enjoyment.'

While Alison says she's not fully recovered from anorexia, she's about 80 per cent there.

She runs twice a week and loves taking part in the Oban park run. And as her recovery progresses, Alison's times improve. She has a personal best of 20.50 for a 5k and 42.40 for a 10k.

She said: 'Anorexia has haunted three family members and myself for too long and unfortunately snatched too many opportunities.'

'Although I am not fully recovered, I am the healthiest and happiest I have been and that is through the support of Beat, family, friends, exercise, challenging old habits and embarking on a sports degree to take me out of my comfort zone.'

Man is jailed again following breach of supervision order

A FORT WILLIAM man who served three years for assault has been sent back inside for two months for breaching his release order.

Derek Wilson McLean, 53, had been living in Southend-on-Sea in England in contravention of the nine-month supervision order imposed on his release from custody.

He had been jailed in November 2014 for assaulting a man with a poker, causing him serious injury to the danger of life. The man had been an acquaintance and the pair had been drunk at the time.

McLean had previously admitted the breach and appeared before Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald

at Fort William on Monday. 'He has not had his troubles to seek for a number of years,' said his defence agent Steve Kennedy.

McLean, he said, had been 'released onto the street and told to get on with it' at the end of his sentence, without support, accommodation or money. At one stage he had been reduced to begging.

Having to deal with an alcohol problem and in poor quality homeless accommodation, he left Fort William and went to Southend.

'He decided on December 23 last year, for his own good, to leave Fort William. There were people he wanted to get away from and make a new start and

he knew people in Southend and decided to go there,' said Mr Kennedy.

At first homeless, and begging, McLean found accommodation in a shelter run by a charity.

'They are trying to help him get alternative accommodation and to get back on the straight and narrow,' said Mr Kennedy.

Released in May last year, the nine-month order is now over. Sheriff MacDonald, who jailed McLean for two months, said: 'You were convicted of a very serious offence and a supervised release order is imposed for a reason.'

Mr Kennedy said that McLean would return to Southend on his release from custody.

Defibrillator to be installed in phone box

NETHER Lochaber Community Council has secured funds for a community defibrillator.

Following donations from businesses and support from the Clachaig Inn, which raised £2,010.60 for South Lochaber defibrillator projects through its February/Fest raffle, the equipment has been ordered.

The Onich defibrillator will be fitted into a refurbished antique phone box.

In Glencoe, a defibrillator has been fitted outside the ambulance station and in Ballachulish one has been installed at the medical centre.

A community council spokesman said: 'We are delighted our plan to

raise funds to site a defibrillator in Nether Lochaber has been successful. Thanks to incredible generosity, we have exceeded our target meaning we have maintenance money available.

'Courses on how to use the defibrillators will be held soon. Keep watching for posters and Facebook posts.'

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Written by Oliver Emanuel Composed by Gareth Williams Directed by Jemima Levick

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The 306: Day is supported by The Forteviot Charitable Trust, The Thomson Charitable Trust and The Cross Trust. Please note the performance contains some strong language, violence, nudity and is not suitable for children. An age guide of 14+ is suggested. Photograph by Christopher Bowen. Design by Dill Design.

FW

Raasay

PUPILS at Raasay Primary School have been experiencing the world of work.

Normal lessons were put aside to allow pupils to take part in workshops covering a wide range of professions as part of the Developing Young Workforce programme.

Head teacher Wilma Duncan explained: 'We place great emphasis on developing knowledge and experience in our young people both within and outwith the classroom. Vocational experiences, provided by our local community, offer young people the opportunity to gain vital skills and experiences and enhance their understanding of skills development that links the classroom learning to that of the wider world.'

Each pupil had a skills passport which they completed after each workshop to help them reflect on their work.

At the beginning of the week, children identified the skills they thought they had and the areas they would like to develop.

They then took part in workshops representing various career paths including chef, paramedic, personal trainer, computer coding, receptionist, hairdresser, roofer, civil engineer, bricklayer, architect, crofter, silversmith, gardener, housekeeper, yoga tutor, dry stone walling and dental nurse.

Lundavra

LUNDAVRA Primary School pupils got their chemistry right when they got mixed up at a Generation Science workshop.

The Get Fizzy workshop, delivered by the Edinburgh International Science Festival and supported by the Lochaber Smelter, is for pupils new to chemistry who learn about solids, liquids, gases and fizzes and watch how mixtures react.

Nick Thomson, head teacher at Lundavra Primary School, said he was delighted to welcome the science tour to the school. He said: 'For some of our pupils, Get Fizzy is their first introduction to chemistry. It is hands-on and makes science fun and enjoyable.'

Danielle MacTavish from Lochaber Smelter said: 'This is the fourth year we have supported the workshops. Every year we get great feedback from pupils, teachers and parents.'

'We are delighted to be able to provide such a valuable opportunity to children in our community. The team at Generation Science do such a brilliant job of introducing children to science, by making it both fun and educational.'



The children were amazed to see how different chemicals reacted. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.



Lochalsh Pipe Band were successful for the third year in a row.

Lochalsh pipe band defends Scottish title

LOCHALSH youngsters beat off stiff competition to secure a third win at the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships.

The Lochalsh junior pipe band, made up of pupils from Plockton High and Auchtertyre primary schools, travelled to Edinburgh to take part in the competition which they have won the last three years.

The band won the debut section in

2015 and last year the novice juvenile B section which they successfully defended this year.

Twenty bands from all over Scotland took part in the grade, with two Edinburgh schools taking home the second and third place.

The pupils found out the results on the long bus journey home from Edinburgh.

The band will now compete in the

novice juvenile B section at some of the major Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association championships this summer. As well as the competitions, the band have been asked to play at the MacTavish and Camanachd shinty cup finals at Bught Park, Inverness.

Plockton High School head teacher Susan Galloway congratulated the band and thanked parents for their support.

Caol school celebrates 'momentous' year

CAOL Primary School pupils and staff have been celebrating a momentous year when they moved to a new campus.

The school put on a fundraising day to raise money for school transport and to donate to charities.

Head teacher Steven Hamilton told the *Lochaber Times*: 'Caol primary's fundraiser was a celebration of the team work involved in our momentous year moving to our new campus.'

'Pupils took part in team-building activities which challenged them physically, mentally and socially.'

Activities were run by school staff Mrs Cairns, PE teacher, Alan Gray, Eden Court Outreach Worker, and support from Sports Coaching and Leadership S2 pupils from Lochaber High School.

Steven added: 'It was a fantastic day, full of collaboration, fun and laughter helped by lovely weather and positive attitudes all round. Many thanks to our families and community partners for supporting us. We are still counting the money raised so don't have a grand total yet.'



Excited Caol Primary School pupils celebrated a momentous year. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

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Fort William Institute members with their federation trophies.

Fort William SWI takes home coveted shields

MEMBERS of the Lochaber Federation of the Scottish Women's Institute held their annual general meeting and quiz in Fort William recently.

After federation business and the prizegiving, conducted by chairwoman Christine Haynes, was completed, Isobel McGavin, president of Fort William, welcomed everyone to Fort William and the annual quiz.

She introduced quiz master John Weller and his son Ben, who was his able assistant.

Press secretary Martine Young said: 'Both gentlemen conducted a very professional quiz which was enjoyed by the teams representing each institute and the members of audience who also participated unofficially.'

Although the questions were taxing, the scores were close and Fort William pipped Arisaig to the post by one point to win the coveted shield.

The afternoon ended with tea provided and served by the host institute and everyone left agreeing they had had a very enjoyable afternoon.

The following Federation trophies were presented: Shield for the institute with the most competition points gained at federation rallies - Fort William; shield for the member winning the most competition points at federation rallies - June Cairns, Arisaig Institute; The Margaret Adams Quaich art trophy - Martine Young, Fort William Institute, for her collage picture.

Wind band marks milestone with successful spring fling

LOCHABER Community Wind Band staged a successful Spring Fling to mark its 21st birthday.

Forty musicians took part in the concert at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church, Fort William, on Sunday May 14.

The amateur musicians, based in Fort William, put together an excellent programme of music, supported by musicians from across Scotland.

A band spokesperson said: 'It was wonderful to have Charles Hine leading the band for our

weekend celebration. He is an absolute gentleman.'

The Rotary Club of Lochaber supported the event by manning the doors and selling tickets and programmes.

Rotary members Margaret Boyd and Sheana Fraser served tea, coffee and biscuits at the interval, with proceeds going to the rotary club.

The band was founded in 1996 by John G Whyte, who has been the band's conductor and prime motivator since.

RETRO Roamer

The Roamer column was the highlight of a Thursday for many Lochaber readers so he has returned with a look back at the events and people that made it into his columns in the mid 1980s.

Mr MacDonald from Ballachulish on the phone to Mr Cameron in Onich. 'Did you see that big jet that went over at 11 o'clock?' Mr Cameron - 'Aye, I saw it at about a quarter to 12'. Mr MacDonald: 'Heavens, it took a long time reaching Onich!'

Lots of visitors to Riddochs these days. None more intriguing than Lochaber exile Ian MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board, who was shown round last week. Apparently he asked a lot of pertinent questions but wouldn't answer any which were directed at him. Strange that for a local man who wrote he was 'born within sight and very definitely within sound of the British Aluminium Works in Kinlochleven'.

On Tuesday, the 14.05 passenger train for Mallaig set off on the 'Line for All Seasons'. Between Glenfinnan and Lochailort she 'went over the hill, and she blew' - and didn't reappear for five hours. Yes, the train came to a halt out of sight of the A830 and sat there for that length of time. The few passengers on board were eventually provided with a cup of tea and a piece apiece, while the next move was being sorted out. I have a theory this was a ScotRail ploy to undertake market research into bringing back the camping coaches which were so popular on the Mallaig Line in the 1950s.

How about the Kinloch worthy, out and about on his motor bike on a post-Trials jaunt near the Pipeline? Downhill he came, negotiating - with just a few dabs - the twists and turns, rocks, boulders and burns, with great aplomb. Then, almost home, crash! He collided with - wait for it - a three piece suite! Luckily the Kinloch biker landed on the settee.

Are there spooks among the books along at our new library? Apparently everything there has been prone to breakdown. The photocopyier was on the blink and, apparently, the oil-fired central heating should have had kerosene. Then a contractor arrived to mend the 'toilet'. Closer scrutiny of the handwritten worksheet would have revealed the word 'toilet' was actually 'boiler'. The contractor was advised accordingly shortly after he left the premises, having fixed the toilet.

There have been one or two other happenings in and around the library. For example, the librarian arrived after the weekend at the same time as the pavements were being swept and asked if the two bags of rubbish in the doorway alcove could be removed. Said the sweepers: 'They're a bit bulky for us.' Nothing for it, then, but to contact environmental health. As this was being progressed the contents of the two bulky bags - sleeping bags as it turned out - stirred. It was two French hikers having had an overnight kip. Then there were those nice planters and baskets of Alpines ranged outside the new library. Within two days there was one plant left. Talk about shrinking violets.



Even the sign writing in the car park went wrong. F21 Roamer 06

Following the official opening at 'Aird's Crossing', I wonder where the next port of call will be for that group of local worthies - the LADS (Lochaber Alfresco Drinkers Society), for they had made the converted walkway between the library and Templeton's their local HQ. Maybe they'll change their name to WASSAIL - 'Winedrinkers Appreciation Society Sups Alfresco In Lochaber' and relocate to the great outdoors.

A local gentleman, who comes from a long line of Fort William railwaymen, has just received a missive from British Rail, the chairman, no less, in Camberley. It was addressed to him at Wallace Road, Glasgow - yes Glasgow, Fort William. I reckon BR's computer must have gone for a 'Damburton'.

There was a walk-out from a local hotel the other week by a gent who refused to participate in what he described as a 'raffle' for his lunch - get a ticket and sit at such and such a table - had an interesting sequel. For that same man gave it another go. The hotel manager approached him and asked 'What do you think of JM?' He came into the hotel last week, got shirty about the lunch tickets and walked out. He never even paid for his drink. If the said manager reads this he will now know he had had a case of mistaken identity and was, in fact, speaking to the 'culprit' all the time.

Thanks to the Pulp Mill Club's corporate identity dress code, there are to be 'No Jeans Behind The Bar' from now on. Only Daisies, Dawns, Ellens, Fionas, Graces, Mairis, Minnies, Rosemarys and Sandras, presumably.

Older readers will remember The Butler, Orraman extraordinaire, his collection and delivery barrow parked, ready for action, in a corner off Cinema Lane. Tales about The Butler are legion. In the old days, half the town went down to the station to see who was coming off the late train. 'Late' was the operative word one night and two or three locals approached the stationmaster to ask if the train was on time. They got an honest answer: 'I don't know, but I did hear The Butler say it was running about ten minutes late.' Then, in Riddler's shop at the corner of Cameron Square, a couple of female customers caused considerable hilarity. The first, somewhat well-to-do, placed her purchases on the counter and said: 'Could you put my provisions aside, Mr Riddler, and the chauffeur will be along to collect them later.' This was followed by a voice over her shoulder stating: 'Can you put my messages by, Mr Riddler, and the Butler will pick them up.'

Fort William FC's hard-working secretary Angus MacDonald received international correspondence from football fans requesting information about 'The Fort'. Last week Angus had a letter addressed to him in The Village as 'Mr President of Fort William'. Not to be outdone, a missive was received by Lochaber Art Club from a European enthusiast who sent it to 'Art Exhibition, Behind the Church, Main Street, Fort William'.

With all three of us local Hearts supporters having watched Fort beat Ross County on Saturday, we took the opportunity, later, of holding the AGM of the Lochaber branch of the Hearts Supporters Club in a phone box at Claggan. The one with the door.

FW



BIKING enthusiasts of all ages are gearing up for the number one cycling event taking place in Fort William next month.

Held at Nevis Range on June 3 and 4, organisers say the Fort William Mountain Bike World Cup and BUFF® 4X Pro Tour promise to be just as memorable as last year's event.

More than 20,000 people flocked to Fort William for the 2016 spectacle and this year the party is starting even earlier with children from schools being invited to the track the day before the competition starts in a bid to inspire the champions of tomorrow.

Heather Negus, from Nevis Range, told the *Lochaber Times*: 'Friday is schools day at the World Cup and so far we have more than 600 pupils and teachers from some 30 schools visiting.'

'The children all receive complimentary gondola tickets, enjoy wandering around the trade stands in the world cup village, and watch the mountain bike training.'

'During the day there's downhill training, and in the evening, four cross training.'

Danny Hart, who was crowned Downhill World Champion in 2016, helped launch the event last month.

Danny said: 'Last season ended on a real high for me becoming world champion, and I'm looking to repeating that success and keeping the momentum going on the downhill circuit this time round.'

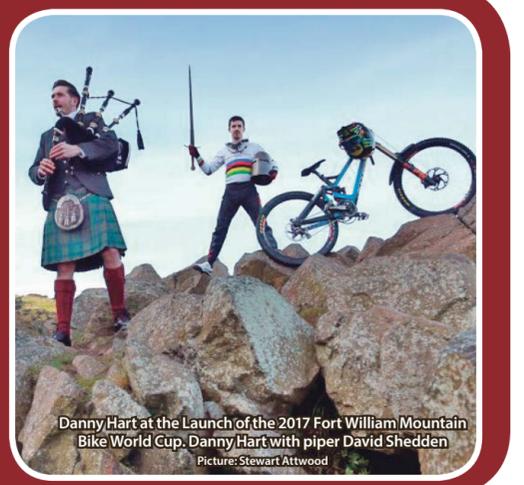
'The Fort William World Cup is a big race for me, and is the one I look forward to most on the calendar as it's a chance to race in front of a home crowd. It's an extra special event with a legendary atmosphere thanks to all of the fans who make the pilgrimage up to the Highlands. I'm looking forward to catching up with family and friends, and hopefully we get a repeat of last year's sunny weather.'

Rare Management, the organisation behind the event which scooped the Best Downhill World Cup award last year from the UCI (Union Cy-

cliste Internationale), has confirmed ticket sales for the 2017 event have already seen an increase compared to the same time last year, with a 15 per cent rise in the number of Early Bird tickets sold in December.

Mike Jardine from Rare Management, said: 'We've got the two world champions, Danny and Rachel, leading the home charge in Fort William this year, so the chance of British winners has never been better. We want the Home of the Brave campaign to reflect the power and prestige of the top British riders and the depth of talent we have. They are the stars who create the excitement of the weekend on the slopes of Aonach Mor, one of the most iconic venues in the world.'

'Since launching tickets for this year's event, we've had an incredible response from fans around the world and it's pleasing to hear that so many are looking to join us again for what will be another unforgettable mountain bike experience for all the family.'



Danny Hart at the launch of the 2017 Fort William Mountain Bike World Cup. Danny Hart with piper David Shedden. Picture: Stewart Attwood

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Jail term for Oban paedophile shows public 'revulsion'

A PAEDOPHILE caught with more than 150,000 indecent images of children at his Oban home has been jailed for 14 months to show 'the revulsion of society'.

Liam Martin, 34, of Dungallan Terrace, admitted in April possessing indecent photographs or pseudo photographs of children, between November 14, 2008, and June 21, 2016.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC had deferred sentence until May 23, telling Martin to expect prison.

Last Tuesday defence agent Simon Collins told Oban Sheriff Court police had recovered 148,000 sexual images in category C, where A is the most serious in the scale, from Martin's computers and memory cards.

'On any reading of the circumstances,' Mr Collins said, 'there were a very large number of still and moving images recovered.

The vast majority were category C. There were still a number of category A and B. From 2008, he downloaded images from a file-sharing site. The difficulty of any file-sharing sites is you get no idea from the title what is therein.

'He did not delete things. He spent time cataloguing, and has not deleted any on his computers. And that is part of his propensity to hoard and OCD [obsessive compulsive disorder].'

Sheriff Anderson asked of the category A images: 'He did not have an interest in them - they just happened to be there?'

Mr Collins replied: 'He did not get any stimulation from the images when he downloaded them. They were not his interest. His predominant interest is in category C images.'

'He probably has seen them when they came down, but he has not gone back to look at

them while they have been on his computer. One would expect them to be deleted, but that is not in Mr Martin's psyche. He does not clear out his computer.'

'Mr Martin accepted that he has a problem. He has attempted to address it - unsuccessfully. He has since 2015 and onwards relapsed into the same behaviour.'

Sheriff Anderson said: 'We are not dealing with any physical contact with a child. He has a great

deal of photographs and moving images of children. There is only one disposal which is appropriate to mark the revulsion of society. I am conscious of the fact there are in excess of 10,000 category A images, some of them involving children as young as two or three. The vast bulk are category C.'

Sheriff Anderson sentenced Martin to 14 months in prison and placed him on the sex offenders' register for 10 years.

New manager for hospice

OBAN Hospice has appointed a manager for the Dove Centre, its new Maggie's-type facility on Stevenson Street which is due to open in the summer.

Peter Darling has been appointed to take over the project. Mr Darling was previously with Argyll Training.

The hospice has recently had feedback from Lorn and Islands Hospital on two patients' rooms and a relatives' room which have been refurbished for patients required for palliative care by Oban Hospice.

A report to the board from hospital managers reads: 'We have two side rooms which were upgraded by Oban Hospice in 2011 and these rooms are in almost constant use for end-of-life care, symptom management, treatment of chronic disease and isolation for precaution.'

'The verbal feedback from patients and their relatives is that the rooms appear bright and airy and the ensuite shower room has been upgraded to a high standard.'

Kirk Road plan to be discussed

AN INFORMATION event will be held in Dunbeg on Argyll and Bute Council's plans to upgrade the village's Kirk Road.

Proposals are in place to improve the road, with work anticipated to start later this year, subject to a successful application for Scottish Government housing infrastructure funding.

It is part of the Dunbeg Corridor Strategic Masterplan, which sets out proposals for sites between Dunbeg and Ganavan.

The information evening will take place in Dunbeg Primary School on Thursday June 1 from 4pm to 7pm.

Hope Kitchen is nominated for national Charity of Year

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN'S Hope Kitchen has been named as a Charity of the Year finalist in the Scottish Charity Awards.

Organised by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), the awards celebrate the life-changing work of charities, community groups and individuals dedicated to making Scotland a better place to live.

Hope Kitchen's elated service manager Lorraine MacCormick said: 'We cannot believe it. They had hundreds of entries and now they're down to the final four. We are delighted and stunned.'

Last year Hope Kitchen secured a Big Lottery grant of £150,000 and, during April, its 'Take in a Tin' campaign led to 800 cans of food and half again in dried food being donated by benefactors.

Service supervisor Beth Campbell said: 'The charity

should be rightfully proud, and it is down to the hard work of volunteers. Without the volunteers, there would not be anything.'

Martin Sime, SCVO's chief executive, said: 'Year after year, Scottish charities and voluntary organisations prove themselves to be beacons for creativity, tenacity and innovation. This year's Scottish Charity Awards finalists demonstrate these qualities in abundance and are shining examples of how people can work together to make Scotland a better place.'

All shortlisted entries will also compete for the People's Choice Award, which will be decided by the public via online voting. The winners will be announced at a ceremony in the Edinburgh International Conference Centre on Thursday June 22.

Pictured left to right are Beth Campbell and Lorraine MacCormick.



Oban High School teacher guilty of sexual assault

AN OBAN High School chemistry teacher has been found guilty of sexual assault after touching a former pupil inappropriately in an Oban shop.

Henry Boyd Sigerson, 41, who is currently suspended, has been placed on the sex offenders' register while he awaits sentencing.

Sigerson appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday (May 22) and pleaded guilty.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court that on March 4 at 10.30pm an 18-year-old woman was walking home through Albany Street car park and along Shore Street, Oban, when she noticed a man walking in the opposite direction.

However, when she crossed the road, Sigerson doubled back and began to walk towards her. The 18-year-old then walked into a shop while Sigerson remained outside.

Mr McGinty revealed that the woman said in her statement to the police that upon choosing her items, she lingered in the shop longer than she would normally have because he was waiting outside. Mr McGinty said: 'After she was in the shop for a period, the man entered. He went to the right and appeared to look at the top shelf magazines. As he did, she went to pay for her items.'

'It's apparent from the CCTV the accused was watching her.'

'As soon as she went to pay for her items the accused came up behind her and deliberately touched her on her bottom.'

The procurator fiscal added: 'She said that she could feel him breathing on the back of her neck.' Mr McGinty said that in her statement, she said she felt panicked and looked at the woman behind the till who gave her a look as if to

say, 'I saw what happened'. The woman then left the shop as soon as possible, but instead of walking her normal route home, she walked back towards the Oban Station Square and phoned to be picked up.

She reported the incident the following day and police officers retrieved the CCTV footage from the shop and Sigerson was identified immediately by one of the officers. He was detained later that day.

Sigerson's solicitor, Kevin McGinness, informed the court that his client is a married man but has recently separated from his wife.

On the day of the incident he had been drinking since the afternoon.

Sentencing has been deferred until June 20 for social work reports and Sigerson has been placed on the sex offenders' register.

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

Man had drugs

OFFICERS searched a house in Miller Road, Oban, on Friday May 19, and recovered a quantity of cannabis. The occupier, a 27-year-old man, has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

Careless driving

THREE cars were involved in a crash at 4pm on Saturday May 20 on the A85 near the Halfway House filling station, Dunbeg. One of the drivers has been charged with careless driving.

Drivers caught

OVER the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, May 20 and 21, at various places on the A85 between Dalnally and Tyndrum, three drivers were stopped and charged with speeding. The three men have been reported to the procurator fiscal.

Work goes on to repair tower lights

ARGYLL and Bute Council has confirmed the lights on McCaig's Tower are not working - but they will be fixed.

The lights were part of a publicly-funded project installed less than three years ago. When

working, the tower lights up in different colours to support charities and organisations.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'We have an electrical design engineer available who will be working

on a number of projects.

'The lighting at McCaig's Tower has been prioritised and we intend having the tower illuminated once again in the near future. We thank the public for their understanding.'

Oban's business is cruising at the moment

IT'S all happening in Oban Bay these days with our new transit marina and boats and ships of all shapes and sizes coming and going, writes Oban ambassador Kay MacDonald.

One of the greatest pleasures of my job is seeing the constant activity in the bay and knowing that it's going to transfer to the town. Whether it's passengers from the ferries, fishing boats tying up or cruise ship passengers coming ashore, it all adds to the buzz.

During the past few years I've noticed that we have more ships dropping off and picking up passengers in the town, which is great. It shows that we have the transport links required and, for many of the passengers, it will mean a stay in the town either before they board for their trip or on their return before they head off

home and, having spoken to quite a few, I know that often they extend their holiday with a few days in Oban.

We're also lucky enough to have smaller companies such as the Majestic Line and Hebridean Cruises based here. Coming and going on a weekly basis, their boats really add character to the bay, as does the beautiful Hebridean Princess another weekly visitor.

Add in the tall ships constantly in and out and you have a photographer's dream.

It's always a pleasure to welcome our cruise ship visitors, no matter how long they're here for. I know that is a concern for some but a lot of work has been done to try to accommodate the local businesses and the cruise operators for whom excursions are a large part of their business.

One of the figures I have heard is that fewer than 50 per cent of passengers chose to go on the excursions, with a few choosing to remain on the ship and the majority coming ashore to explore.

I should also mention that the excursions are usually for a half-day and remain within our area, going to Kilmartin, Inveraray and Glencoe before then returning for the rest of the day in Oban.

I know my hope always is that they will fall in love with our wee town and the welcome they've received from everyone and want to return for a longer stay to get to know us better.

And if the response I've had from the passengers is anything to go by, I'd say it's not far off the mark.

As for the picture, I know a

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Fort William announces new management team

FORT William Football Club has announced the appointment of a new management team. Paul Maclellan, Alastair Macpherson and Ali Smith have taken over management and coaching roles and are looking to add to the team over the next few weeks, including adding an Inverness area-based coach. The appointments follow the departure of Ally Ewen and Kevin Munro who left after the 4-1 North of Scotland Cup final defeat to

Brora Rangers on Saturday. Ally and Kevin are to take up the manager and assistant manager's roles at Lossiemouth. Paul, Alastair and Ali have all played for Fort William and have extensive coaching experience, having more recently been coaching the under-17s at Fort William. Stewart Maclean, director at Fort William Football Club, said: 'We are delighted the under-17s coaching team has stepped

up to take on the responsibility of the senior side. Within hours of their appointment, their commitment and enthusiasm has been in evidence.' Ali Smith said: 'Paul and I are proud to be appointed as co-managers of Fort William Football Club and we are pleased that Alastair has accepted the appointment as goalkeeping coach. 'We have all had a long association with the

club, both as players and youth coaches. We are looking forward to using our collective experience to continue to progress the team performance. 'The hard work has already started as we look to add to our coaching team and playing squad in the build-up to pre-season training starting in mid-June.' Danny Conlon, head of youth development at Fort William, added: 'We are pleased that

Football

Paul and his team have been appointed to the senior team and we wish them every success. 'Within the youth development, we are in a strong position as we have a system of progression in place for our coaching teams and we have already made an appointment to our under-17s.'

South Lochaber seal sudden death victory

South Lochaber Thistle 2
Newshot 2
Challenge Cup final

South Lochaber win 5-4 on penalties
 SOUTH Lochaber Thistle (SLT) won the Challenge Cup final last weekend with a heart-stopping, sudden death penalty shoot out in Glasgow. The final was played at Greenfields, Shettleston United's ground in Glasgow, and the Jags knew opponents Newshot well, having played them five times already this season.

In the opening exchanges, it was the Highlanders who looked the brightest, with the comfortable footballing skills of John Treasurer, Kieron and Stephen Lopez and Dave Forbes making the defensive-minded Newshot

team look leaden footed and sluggish and needing to give away niggling fouls to disrupt the rhythm of SLT.

It was one of these fouls which allowed Forbes to create the opening goal, lofting a free kick to the back post. The Newshot keeper went low to his left and had the ball in his hands, only to spill it into the path of winger Marty Munro who slotted the ball home.

Into the second half, things took a turn for the worse for the Paisley outfit when skipper Danny Mackintosh gathered another pass from Forbes, bursting into the box and - after having had his initial effort saved - shuffled his feet to score the rebound; 2-0 to the Jags.

In response, Newshot made a raft of substitutions and shuf-

fled both their formation and tactics. This paid dividends for them when a rare lapse in concentration allowed the Newshot striker to hit a speculative effort from the edge of the penalty area to reduce the deficit.

The game now entered a period of controversy with a challenge which left goalkeeper Ryan Hunter with a cut face was only given a yellow card and several other challenges going unpunished.

With the clock counting down, the official indicated three minutes additional time. It was as the match entered its sixth minute, however, that Newshot used their favoured tactic of long throws into the box to score a scrappy, looping header that broke Lochaber hearts with the last kick of normal time. 2-2.



South Lochaber Thistle celebrate their Challenge Cup victory.

Controversy continued in added time when Mackintosh again outfoxed the defender, moving the ball away and being scythed down in the box.

The referee's assistant furiously flagged for the foul, but the man in the middle waved it away. The game ended and progressed to a penalty shoot out.

Newshot had won the toss and opted to take the first penalty. Hit strongly, Hunter got a hand to it but it still went in. 1-0. The teams then traded penalties, Mackintosh, Andrew MacLean,

Treasurer and Munro all slotting home and Hunter offered a first glimpse of victory with a cat like leap to keep out Newshot's third effort.

Sadly a missed penalty by Lewis Morrison left the final score 4-4 after the five penalties. In inspirational form, Hunter dived low to his left and kept out the Newshot player's flaccid finish and Darren Duncan stepped up and made no mistake, his clinical finish sending the players, backroom staff and travelling supporters into

ecstasy. Manager Alan Gray said: 'If you'd told me when we started the club last June that we'd be lifting a trophy come the end of the season, I wouldn't have believed you.'

'It's testament to how much time, effort and commitment has been put in by the lads; both on and off the park over the season that we lifted the shield today.'

'I want to thank everyone involved, players, backroom staff and importantly our supporters, who turned out in numbers and

Football

sung and cheered our boys to victory.'

The Kinlochleven-based club, formed less than a year ago by manager Alan Gray, will finish second in the West of Scotland Amateur league, Scotland's oldest amateur league championship, and have won their first silverware. They have the chance to add to this tally with another cup final to be played on Saturday June 10.



New sailors joined existing members for Skye Sailing Club's RYA Push the Boat Out event.

Skye Sailing Club presented with top award

SKYE sailing club has been presented with its club of the year award.

The open invitation for the community to join Skye Sailing Club for a Saturday of sailing taster sessions was declared a resounding success by James Allen, RYA Scotland's Chief Executive Officer, who was at the club to formally present the RYA Scotland Club of the Year award to Commodore Hugh MacDonald and join in the fun on and off the water.

During the evening, James Allen delivered RYA Scotland's big plan for sailing nationally to current members and those from the past who came to reacquaint themselves with the set up after having worked to form the Portree-based facility of more recent years.

Sailing

The light breeze early on could not dampen spirits and every boat at the sailing club was on the water for RYA Push the Boat Out as members welcomed everyone to join them to see Portree from a whole new perspective - a sailing dinghy.

By the time those assembled drifted home, more than 30 had been on the water, many for the first time.

New memberships were taken up and one adult beginners sailing course sold out.

Plans are now under way to schedule in additional course dates and anyone that missed the sailing tasters can email info@skyesailingclub.com and a new date will be arranged for a trial session.

Mikayla secures a downhill win in her home town

FORT William's Mikayla Parton has taken a win in the British Downhill Series.

The downhill event took place at Nevis Range on Sunday May 14, with Mikayla, 19, crowned winner in the senior women's category.

A student at West Highland College, a participant in West Highland Wheelers and staff member at Nevis Range, she also competes in the POC Scottish Enduro Series where she has placed well.

On the Saturday, in which the racers practice the course, Mikayla crashed resulting in some doubts as to whether she would race on Sunday.

Fortunately, she decided to compete and was pleased with her final result.

Mikayla placed third in the seeding run with a time of six minutes and 49 seconds.

In the race run, Mikayla beat her own time by 16 seconds and finished with a time of six minutes and 33 seconds putting her in first place.

Mikayla was overwhelmed with the result and is keen to en-

ter more of the British Downhill Series.

She said: 'I was so happy with my time from the weekend after having an off in both runs. I really didn't know what to expect when I went over the finish line.'

Downhill racing

I'm really keen to do more of the British Downhill Series but it all depends on money and time off work.'



Mikayla Parton was overwhelmed with her results.

Winning lottery numbers

Lotto

WINNING lotto numbers for Caol Regeneration lottery draw on May 18 were 6, 8 and 13. C Garrick won the £100 jackpot so the draw is back to £100 for today (Thursday May 25).

There were no winners in the Caol Community Centre's bingo lotto. The winning numbers were 3, 8 and 10 for the draw on May 21. The jackpot rises to £300 for Sunday's draw.

Fort William Golf Club's winning lotto numbers in last Thursday's draw were 2, 17 and 20. There were no winners so the jackpot is up to £200 for today's lotto.



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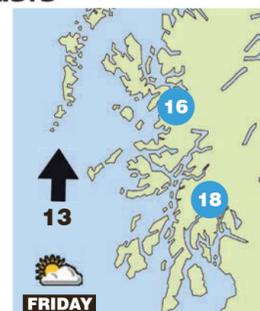
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WEATHER

Thursday Sunny intervals
 Winds light south south easterly
 Temperatures 13°C to 18°C.

Friday Sunny
 Winds moderate southerly
 Temperatures 13°C to 18°C.

Weekend Cloudy on Saturday
 Light rain on Sunday
 Winds moderate west north westerly
 Temperatures 11°C to 17°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 25, 2017** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm			
Thur	05.06 4.1 11.18 0.5 17.16 3.9 23.43 0.4	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	05.49 4.1 12.02 0.3 17.59 4.0 **** **	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	00.31 0.4 06.32 4.1 12.47 0.3 18.42 4.0	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	01.21 0.4 07.17 3.9 13.33 0.4 19.27 3.9	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	02.12 0.6 08.03 3.7 14.21 0.5 20.13 3.7	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	03.04 0.8 08.53 3.4 15.12 0.8 21.03 3.5				
Wed	04.01 1.1 09.51 3.1 16.05 1.0 22.00 3.3				

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate