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Oban skipper feared worst as crew member is detained

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AN OBAN skipper was ready to sell his boat after one of his crew was detained by the UK Border Agency over an 'administrative mix-up'.

Jonathan McAllister, 52, had put his 55ft boat, the Freedom II, on the market after his Latvian employee was picked up at an airport and earmarked for deportation.

Mr McAllister has worked as a fisherman since moving to Oban 35 years ago. He has been a skipper and owner for 32 of those years and, for the past 16, has regularly employed Latvian fishermen. His worry was that if his crewman was deported, the rest of the staff would not want to return.

Arturs Rutkovskis was detained over what Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara called 'an administrative mix-up over £142 of National Insurance contributions - money that has since been paid to HMRC'.

Mr Rutkovskis was finally released after spending six days in Dungavel Detention Centre, costing Jonathan McAllister thousands of pounds in the process.

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Mr McAllister said: 'I have worked all my life for this and for the best part of the past week I thought that was over. It was the worst week of my life, but hopefully we are done.'

'It would have finished my business. My boat was up for sale, but I have since removed the advert. As long as the guys are willing to work, it's not for sale.'

'The way they have treated Arturs is absolutely disgusting. They were told he owes them nothing. They had all the information before noon last Thursday and they ignored it.'

'They are very valuable crew and capable of getting jobs anywhere,' he added. 'Apart from the fact that they are quite happy with me, if you were in their shoes, would you want to risk doing this again?'

Mr McAllister's ordeal quickly gained support from Mr O'Hara. The MP said: 'The west coast fishing industry is under siege by the UK Government.'

'We have been told for years the UK won't grant visas to non-EEA fishermen.'

'So Jonathan McAllister secures legitimate, lawful EU citizens to keep his boat in business and, no sooner has he done that, than we see EU-crew being arrested, detained and threatened with removal. We managed to get Arturs out of detention this time but we're not letting this go.'

'No matter what the West Coast fishing industry does, it's being undermined by the UK Government.'

'At this rate, it's only a matter of time before more West Coast boats go out of business, losing more jobs and employment, and threatening the very survival of the prestigious West Coast fishing brand.'

And Mr O'Hara is not the only person who is not prepared to let it go.

Mr McAllister said: 'The Border Agency has wasted a week. From a fishing point of view, we will be between £7,500 and £10,000 out of pocket. Then I will have lawyer bills coming in.'

Sand soup on the menu for Little Learners



These youngsters from Dunbeg's Little Learners' Nursery had all the ingredients for fun when they celebrated global Outdoors Classroom Day on the beach - making sand soup. They were also joined by playmates from neighbouring Dunbeg Nursery as they swapped indoor learning for the great outdoors, playing with sand and soggy seaweed, and exploring the nearby forest. Making sand soup on Dunbeg beach are Eilish Durchfield, Michelle MacAulay, Ella Goddard, Breagh Wood and Annie Bullock.

'We are not letting it lie. They have done this for no good reason whatsoever. I am fighting the lawyers' bills. I want my money back.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'This is yet another example of the oppressive and negative atmosphere being used by the UK Government to

frighten those from other countries who have a perfect right to be here.'

'It is designed to not only force individuals out but to make others reluctant to come here. That is its sinister and disgraceful purpose, and it damages not just our economy - migration being particularly essential to the

Highlands and Islands - but also our human rights.'

A spokesperson for the Clyde Fishermen's Association added: 'At the moment we have terrible domestic crew shortages on the West Coast of Scotland which is leading to horrific problems for the future of the coastal fishing industry in many areas, particu-

larly for the small to medium family-owned boats. We hold strongly that people deserve opportunities and fair treatment, no matter their nationality. We value hard workers who want to contribute their skills.'

A Home Office spokesperson said: 'We do not routinely comment on individual cases.'

Drunken man goes on island rampage

A DRUNKEN holidaymaker who went on the rampage after arriving on Coll a week early has admitted kicking an islander and causing more than £8,000 of damage to windows and pool cues.

David Masters, 39, of Flat 14, Cawdor Place, Shore Street, Oban, pleaded guilty to assaulting a man by punching him on the head and assaulting another by kicking him on the leg, at An Cridhe, Isle of Coll, on April 19, 2017.

Masters also admitted recklessly damaging property by throwing a stone and breaking a window, and later, at the Isle

of Coll Hotel, when he struck pool cues off the pool table, causing them to break, and throwing an e-cigarette at a window, smashing it.

He pleaded not guilty to challenging a barman to a fight and attempting to pour himself a beer from the bar taps, which were accepted at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday May 21.

Procurator fiscal depute Jason Farrell told the court one of the two men assaulted saw Masters arrive at the island's ferry pier.

He said: 'The accused said he had a booking at the bunkhouse. [The victim] assessed

the accused was drunk at that time.'

'He was aware there was not a room for the accused that evening.'

Masters was found in the bunkhouse and was told 'the booking was for the following week. It was at that point the accused became aggressive and lashed out, punching [him]'

As another man attempted to restrain Masters, attempts were made to move Masters' luggage from the bunkhouse, but 'the accused managed to get a kick at [the islander's] leg. There was no injury.'

'In the car park, the accused

picked up a rock and threw it at the door.'

Masters then headed to the Isle of Coll Hotel, where he was refused alcohol.

Mr Farrell explained the accused took exception to this, refused to leave and broke the pool cues.

Overall, Masters caused £8,250 worth of damage.

The court heard there were no police officers permanently based on Coll, but when they arrived, they found Masters - after a seven-hour search - in the toilets at the ferry terminal.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes deferred sentence for reports.

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TIMESLINE

Daffodil tea raises £12,000 for charity

THE communities of Appin and the wider Lorn area have been praised after a daffodil tea raised in excess of £12,000 for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Held in Appin Village Hall on May 12, the fundraiser incorporated an auction and raffle, which benefited from a plethora of prizes donated by businesses in the area.

More than £7,000 was taken at the event, with proceeds from the auction and raffle expected to bring the total sum to £12,700.

Tribute to Eilidh on sad anniversary

MANCHESTER bombing victim Eilidh MacLeod was remembered at Glasgow Cathedral on Tuesday in a ceremony marking the first anniversary of the terror attack.

Eilidh, from Barra, was one of 22 people killed at the Ariana Grande concert on May 22. Her 15-year-old friend Laura MacIntyre survived the blast but suffered serious leg injuries.

Former Oban High teacher struck off

AN EX-OBAN High School chemistry teacher has been struck off the teachers' register after being convicted of sexually assaulting an 18-year-old woman in a shop.

Boyd Sigerson, 42, was judged as unfit to teach after last year admitting touching the woman's bottom. The court heard that his victim recognised him as teacher at Oban High at the time. Sigerson, of Benderloch, had sentence deferred until June 20.



OT

MSP questions air traffic control plan

JOHN FINNIE MSP has questioned the Scottish Government on Highlands and Islands Airports Limited's (HIAL) proposals to centralise air traffic management.

HIAL, owned by Scottish Ministers, has proposed controversial changes in its air traffic management 2030 strategy.

Mr Finnie said: 'There are a number of serious concerns about the impact HIAL's proposals could have on island communities. One major impact is the likelihood of losing highly skilled jobs throughout our islands.'

'I understand HIAL's need to upgrade its infrastructure, but any centralised system will require a reliable and secure communication system between the mainland and the islands. No such system exists.'

'HIAL's community engagement has been abysmal.'

Help for islands airport passengers

GLASGOW Airport and Loganair are working together to ensure that island community passengers who require special assistance while travelling to the mainland are aware of the support available.

Following a meeting with Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell, it was recognised that some islanders who require assistance may be unaware of what is available. Now leaflets have been produced and the airport has a number of inter-com help stations at departure points. Any passenger can call 0141 842 7700 for help.

Barra local mod date changed

THE DATE of this year's Barra local mod has been changed, organisers have announced.

It has been moved from Saturday September 29 to Saturday September 22 to tie in with the Glasgow holiday weekend.

CalMac crisis continues as MV Clansman goes back into dry dock

Frustration at renewed island ferries' disruption

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WESTERN Isles councillors have expressed their disappointment and frustration over further disruptions to CalMac services to the Outer Hebrides after it was announced that MV Clansman is to return to dry dock for repairs.

Following the announcement by CalMac that the MV Clansman is to undergo further work to its propulsion system for a 12-day period during the first half of June, the comhairle has expressed anger and frustration over the implications for the travelling public at one of the busiest times of the year.

Councillor Uisdean Robertson, chairman of the comhairle's Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said: 'This is particularly frustrating for those involved in the tourism sector which has seen real and sustainable growth over the past several years.'

'The comhairle has played an important role in this and we are disappointed that all the efforts by the businesses and their representative bodies have been undermined by recent events.'

'We appreciate the advance notice given and the improvement in communications undertaken by CalMac and we recognise the situation the operator faces in having to run the services within the constraints of the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service contract and a limited and ageing fleet.'

'We would, however, suggest that these alternative arrangements in terms of routes and timetables are no substitute whatsoever for the availability of additional tonnage or vessels which could be utilised in events such as that associated with the Clansman.'

Following a temporary repair to the vessel's propulsion system, MV Clansman will dock again for a permanent replacement part to be fitted from June 1, returning on June 12.

During this period an amended service will operate on the Mallaig to Armadale route and the Mallaig to Lochboisdale route will be suspended. Customers wishing to travel on the Mallaig to Lochboisdale service will be directed via Oban to Castlebay and Uig to Lochmaddy. Additional sailings have been organised on the Barra to Eriskay route, enabling passengers to travel to South Uist via Oban to Castlebay on the same day. The MV Loch Bhrusda will also be deployed on the Skye route to provide additional sailings for the duration of this maintenance period.

'This is an essential piece of work that we wanted to

schedule in before the summer season fully started and have built a temporary timetable that causes the least disruption whilst maintaining all lifeline services,' said CalMac managing director Robbie Drummond.

'We fully appreciate the impact this will have on the communities affected, which we apologise for. In the circumstances, we have tried to limit the disruption to as few routes as possible and will deliver extra sailings to help manage passenger movements as best we can within the resources we have available.'

A full scheduled timetable will run again from June 13.

Community tells CalMac boss that service is 'unacceptable'

A MEETING was recently held to bring together community representatives in Uist with CalMac managing director Robbie Drummond.

Ferry services to Uist have recently experienced considerable disruption. During the Easter period the MV Hebrides was taken off the Uig triangle to be replaced by the much smaller MV Hebridean Isles, while it was sent south to service Tiree, Coll and Colonsay.

This decision was later reversed. The Mallaig-Lochboisdale route has also been cancelled until the end of May.

Chairman of the meeting Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan said the past few months had not represented CalMac's finest hour. 'In terms of the problems at Easter in particular, I cannot recall a similar level of confusion and service disruption in my time as MSP for the islands,' he said. 'The meeting was a useful opportunity to bring senior CalMac management together directly with community representatives. Communities in Uist made their views abundantly clear that the service they have received in recent months is unacceptable to them.'



The chicks are clearly visible.

Two new eagle chicks for Mull

A COMMUNITY-OWNED forest on Mull has had a double reason to celebrate with the news that its nesting white-tailed eagles have hatched two chicks.

Rangers at the north-west Mull community eagle watch at West Ardu, near Dervaig, have now confirmed the eagles known as Hope and Star are feeding twins.

Eagle ranger Debby Thorne managed to take pictures of the two chicks which are the first images of this year's brood.

Debby said: 'It took a while to confirm that we have two chicks this year as sometimes only one chick's head is visible at a time. One up, one down and then the other way round.'

'It was impossible to be sure until suddenly both heads popped up at once. It was such a thrill to see them both thriving and both adults are now having to work twice as hard to feed and care for them.'



Left to right are Ian Murray, Alasdair Allan MSP, David Campbell and Alex MacLennan.

Firefighters in epic trek

THREE island firefighters are heading off to deliver a refitted fire engine to Moldova.

The Lewis-based firefighters joined colleagues from across Scotland in Edinburgh as part of the Scottish Emergency Rescue Association (SERA) expedition that will see five fire engines and an ambulance taken to the eastern European country.

This is the 10th year that a crew from Lewis has taken part in the initiative, which is carried out in partnership with Blythwood Care.

Transport minister is blasted

AN ISLANDS tourism organisation has slammed the Scottish transport minister for not intervening in the on-going disruption to CalMac ferries.

Outer Hebrides Tourism (OHT) said it had 'disappointingly, not yet heard back from Humza Yousaf, Minister for Transport and the Islands, following our call, last month, for him to intervene on the ferries issue'.

A spokesperson for OHT said: 'We had an acknowledgement from the MSP's office on April 19 that we should expect to receive a response within 20 working days. That deadline expired on Monday May 14.'

'The low priority suggested by such a response window concerned us as much as the critical issue that caused us to write to Mr Yousaf in the first place. We have had no response from him.'

'As a reminder, we continue to wait for his response on our call for him to personally intervene for the urgent reinstatement of the MV Lord of the Isles to its normal schedule on the Mallaig-Lochboisdale route and to engage with us in a meeting in the Outer Hebrides to discuss growing concerns around CalMac's ageing fleet and its inability to commit publicly to on-going service reliability.'

Start hoped for delayed homes scheme

HOUSING chiefs hit by delays hope to make a 'meaningful' start on five new affordable homes on Colonsay this year.

The project at Port Mor was approved 14 months ago but West Highland Housing Association's chief executive Lesley McInnes said more land has to be secured first for the scheme to be a 'success'. A third party involved is now taking professional advice, she said.

Meanwhile, the lack of available housing is driving skilled inhabitants off the island.

If part-time NHS worker Roz Jewell and her handyman husband Chris can't find somewhere else to live by July, Colonsay could lose two key workers sharing seven jobs between them - from district nurse assistant to island plumber.

Since the couple arrived on the island four years ago, they have 'hopped' around temporary places to stay but for the past 14 months have lived in a cottage hoping to make it a

long-term home. However, the owners need the property back by the summer and unless Roz and Chris find a new home they might have to pack up and leave.

She said: 'This has happened to us four times before. July will be our fifth move. It's a lovely spot here and we thought it would be long term.'

'We love living here. It's not always an easy life but it's interesting. It's a beautiful place to live.'

'There's a possibility of a house coming up but nothing is certain. We've still got belongings in storage in Oban. We just want to have a home.'

'About 50 per cent of the island's homes are holiday homes. In winter there are so many stood empty. Some are just occupied for two or three weeks of the year, not even let out at other times.'

'We are definitely not the only ones in this predicament. One man had to leave his job because he had nowhere to go. He'd lived

here all his life but now he's on the mainland. We have friends with a baby living in a caravan just hoping something will come up. There are lots of people in caravans doing the same.'

Self-employed artist Roz is waiting to find out if funding comes available to keep her job with Colonsay Development Association, and she is the council's only homecare worker and is a nursing auxiliary, helping the district nurse. Plumber Chris's other skills include woodwork and construction.

According to VisitColonsay.co.uk, the island with its 125 inhabitants has 'plenty of places to stay', including more than 40 self-catering holiday cottages. Some of the bigger houses can demand more than £3,000 a week in high season.

Ms McInnes said: 'West Highland Housing Association is very keen to build houses on Colonsay. The land at Port Mor is owned by the Colonsay Development Company and it

is keen for us to deliver these much-needed homes. Both the Scottish Government and Argyll and Bute Council have prioritised this development as part of the housing programme for the next three years.'

'For the success of the development, we have always required some additional land and this has involved a third party who is taking professional advice. The project can start relatively quickly once all the issues are addressed and we would want to start as soon as possible so we could get a meaningful site start this year.'

MSP Michael Russell is concerned at the 'very long delay in building the promised houses.'

'I understand that there is a solution in sight and WHHA hopes to be on site and taking this forward shortly. These houses are much needed and I hope they will be the start of a comprehensive approach to breathing new life back into the island,' he said.

ADVERTORIAL

Crown Vets open new Pet Health Centre



Crown Vets are delighted to be expanding their services in Lochaber by opening our new Pet Health Centre in Inverlochy in early June.

We will offer more specialist clinics there, including puppy parties, to aid socialising puppies, and geriatric clinics for our older pets, and a Fit Pets' club for weight management. We also will offer routine veterinary appointments in the morning, and you can make these by calling our normal number 01397 702727.

Most afternoons we will have our health benefit, nurse-led clinics, and we hope to

offer rehabilitation treatments including physio, massage, reiki and acupuncture.

Our excellent nursing team consists of Morag McGee RVN, our head nurse, and Sophie Hardy RVN, and we would like to welcome our new addition Emma Grieve RVN, who will join us in August. Emma is a local girl, from Inverlochy, and we are delighted to have her on board. She has spent the past few years working in Glasgow, specialising in canine rehabilitation. Morag has a keen interest in canine behaviour and Sophie is currently studying feline behaviour and specialist feline nursing care.

We hope to have cat-only veterinary clinics too, to minimise the stress for our feline friends.

And pop in to check out our dog food and exclusive pet retail. We currently have a fantastic dental promotion running and are offering free dental health checks by appointment, with a free dental goody bag, and, until the end of July, special prices for a cat scale and polish of £109 (normally £180), and a dog scale and polish at £149 (normally £220). So it's well worth getting your pet checked. Altogether very exciting times ahead, and we look forward to welcoming you, both in Glen Nevis Place and in Inverlochy.



Tobermory man jailed over child porn images

A MAN living on Mull has been jailed for a year for possessing indecent images of children and sending 'horrifying and obscene' messages.

Earlier in April, Douglas Wright, 38, of 17 Druinfin Gardens, Tobermory, pleaded guilty to two charges of taking or permitting to be taken or making the indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs and of possessing them. He also admitted a third charge of sending a message of 'grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character'.

Wright's sentence was deferred for reports until Tuesday May 22, when his defence agent Murray Macara told Oban Sheriff Court there was a strong case to impose a community payback order on the first-time offender.

Mr Macara said: 'Living in a small community has left him increasingly socially isolated. That might be an explanation why he spent a lot of time on the internet viewing pornography.'

'His interest and use of pornography coincided with the onset of anxiety and depression,' he added. 'Viewing pornography, in his mind, helped him make up for a lack of serotonin - almost a rush of adrenalin to make him less depressed.'

Mr Macara told the court more than 100 images were found, including 51 in the most serious category A, but 'in the grand scheme of things the number of images is at the lower end of the spectrum'.

Of the message, Mr Macara said: 'This conversation, to put it mildly, is grossly obscene and disturbing. The content of this conversation does not represent his beliefs or wishes. It was role-playing, fantasy. He now accepts this [person] was fictitious.'

'He does possess a degree of victim empathy and concern for his own situation,' he said. 'He worked for the local authority. He has lost his job as a result of this conviction. Mr Wright's plan was to move away from Mull. In a small community, as Tobermory is, he feels he has no future.'

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said children are being subjected to cruelty to create such images and anyone who chooses to be part of the audience shares responsibility, adding: 'The court has a duty to take firm action. Any sentence must not only punish you, but also deter others on your path.'

Sheriff Hughes imprisoned Wright for 12 months for the first two charges, and for four months concurrently for writing the messages, which he said 'are the most horrifying and obscene things I have seen in my life'.

He also placed Wright on the sex offenders' register for 10 years, imposed a sexual offences prevention order for six, prohibiting him from using electronic devices without registering them with police.

Oban restoration project needs some handy helpers

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HANDS-ON helpers are needed to restore a community garden's run-down Edwardian greenhouse.

Hope 2 Oban's Green Shoots project at Glencruitten is looking for a team of volunteers to get the work done.

Funding and materials are in place, so all that is needed is people power - fuelled by woodwork and DIY know-how - says Katrina Petit who runs the scheme with husband John.

Green Shoots sprung up four years ago in a walled garden that makes up part of the Glencruitten Estate.

The garden was awash with brambles, a little overgrown in some places and in need of a bit of TLC at first, but volunteers have dug in deep and created a green haven used by lots of different groups in the community - from schools to carers and other people who benefit



Katrina Petit and her husband John run the Green Shoots scheme on Glencruitten Estate.

from spending time there. One regular is former printworker Jim Yeoman who is helping to put up a new polytunnel, funded by Tesco Bags of Help Fund.

'There's no pressure here. It's a good place to come - rain or shine,' he said.

The same funding pot that

paid for the polytunnel will help restore the old greenhouse later this year.

Project organisers hope to get around six committed volunteers signed up to manage the work.

Green Shoots' next official open day is on June 30, but the

garden is now open to all every Wednesday, 10.30am to 3.30pm, until the end of July, so people can have a look around and enjoy some refreshments.

Any day now, the project is expecting to take delivery of some new arrivals - a roomy run and chick coop has been put up, ready and waiting.

There's a medicinal herb garden in the making, a maze of pathways winding past fruit trees and bushes, a culinary herb walkway, raised beds which can be easily managed by people with disabilities, a wildflower corner attracting butterflies and bees, and more polytunnels encouraging vegetables to grow regardless of the West Coast weather.

'People need to know they can just come up and see us. It's really good up here for walking and relaxing. It's a nice environment to be in,' said Ms Petit.

Volunteers are always needed to come and work in the garden, experts or novices.

Veg shoots are sprouting, strawberry plants are looking strong, Cosmos plants are going in and everywhere is a hive of activity. Discussions are in the early stage of merging Green Shoots with New Hope because the two complement each other.

Pick-your-own days, pizza nights, and woodwork workshops are just some of the other activities happening at Green Shoots.

Any donations are ploughed back in to funds to keep the garden growing.

'Cultivating community by growing friendships, gifts and skills, pretty much sums us up,' said Mrs Petit, who puts gluts of courgettes in chocolate cakes to sell for fundraising.

Other funding sources for the home-grown project include the Oban Common Good Fund, Children In Need and the Robertson Trust.

To keep up with Green Shoots go to facebook.com/hope2oban-greenshoots/

POLICE FILES

■ On Friday May 18 police attended an address in Rhuvaal Road, Oban, as part of an on-going inquiry. A 44-year-old man allegedly resisted arrest. He was later reported to the procurator fiscal.

■ On Thursday May 17, police received reports of sheep worrying in the Rhuvaal Road area of Oban. Anyone with information is asked to contact Oban Police Office on 101 and ask for Constable McCall, quoting reference number 2036 of 17/05/18.

■ Some time between May 13 and May 18 in Nelson Road, Oban, a vehicle was badly scratched. Potential witnesses are asked to contact Oban Police Office on 101 and ask for Constable McBeth, quoting reference LB01350518.

■ Between 10pm on May 18 and 11am on May 19 in Rhuvaal Road, Oban someone attempted to break into a shed. Any witnesses are asked to contact Oban Police Office on 101 and ask for Constable Simpson, quoting reference number 2298 of 19/05/18.

■ On May 19 police arrested a 39-year-old male after he collided with a tree in the Benvoullin Gardens, Oban. He was found to be driving under the influence of alcohol. A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Final touches for Oban Am-Am

PREPARATIONS are well ahead for this year's charity golf event on Sunday June 3 run for the Rotary Club of Oban.

The Rotary Club is delighted that the catering for the event will be provided by Glencruitten Golf Club, with bacon rolls early on and a two-course meal throughout the day.

As usual, the greenkeeping team is working hard to bring the course to perfect condition.

The Rotary Club is looking forward to an excellent day with funds being raised for local good causes through the generosity of the players and sponsors who are unstinting in their support.

Campaigners ramp up plans for new skatepark

A CAMPAIGN to create a community skatepark in Oban has been revived, writes Kathie Griffiths.

A new board - made up of people with skills ranging from architecture to sourcing funding, including some who are ex-skateboarders - has now come together to suggest 10 possible sites that tick all the boxes for location, access and safety.

Board member Andy Bruce told *The Oban Times*: 'There is

one site in particular that would be the cherry on top, but we can't say at the moment. There will be lots of red tape but we are keen to get partners on side.'

'We've been hearing from other successful projects in other towns that they do benefit the community.'

When Stafford Street was pedestrianised, youngsters started using it for skateboards and BMX bikes, so signs soon went up outlawing it.

Mr Bruce continued: 'It

became apparent there was a need for this kind of space. Aberdeen, Arbroath, Perth - there are community skateparks all over Scotland, apart from this neck of the woods.'

If there is enough space, the board hopes to include a grassy area for people to sit and watch the youngsters practising.

Mr Bruce continued: 'Oban has no safe green spaces in town so it would be a bonus. There's only a small grassy triangle near Markie Dans and that's next to

the busiest road in town.

'We've had to start from scratch. However, we appreciate all the hard work put in place by previous groups to bring a skatepark to Oban.'

'The next stage is to go through the suggestions for the sites. We will start with our number one choice and if we are knocked back then we'll move onto the next one. Once that's done the fundraising will start in earnest.'

The project could run to hun-

dreds of thousands of pounds and the new board is hoping to get support from business sponsors, such as builders willing to supply materials.

'We are planning to have a stall at the forthcoming Oban Charities Day and we are very keen to hear from anyone and everyone who has an interest in making the skatepark happen,' added Mr Bruce.

For details, search Oban Community Skatepark on Facebook.



More than a 100 people took part in a two-mile walk through Oban on Sunday to raise mental health awareness. The See Me event was organised by Diarmid 'Des' MacMillan, with the aim of ending mental health discrimination. Des said: 'This is a walk to show that Oban will stand up and be counted to fight against the stigma and discrimination attached to mental health.' Afterwards, everyone went back to Oban's Commercial Lodge, where talks were held.



OBAN TOWN MARKET

Large variety of fresh produce on sale plus much more.

Saturday 26th May 11am to 3pm
Station Square, Oban



Tralee Bay chippy is frying for gold



TRALEE Bay chippy near Benderloch has won a Gold Seal Good Food Award. Owners Angela and Paul Bailey, pictured above, have served up the prized accolade just four years after buying the business and moving from Yorkshire where Angela was a paramedic for 25 years and her husband was a globe-trotting sales engineer for an American paper and plastic manufacturer.

The couple had enjoyed lots of holidays at Tralee Bay Holiday Park and eaten many a fish supper from the chippy before it came on the market, so they jumped at the chance of making it theirs.

Angela said: 'I'd had knee problems and realised my days as a frontline paramedic were numbered. We loved our holidays here so when the chip shop came up for sale it was a great opportu-

nity for us. We went on a course with the National Federation of Fish Fryers - and here we are now, with a gold award to our name. We are thrilled,' said Mrs Bailey.

And she added: 'We get lots of holidaymakers but lots of our customers are locals too. We're pretty active on Facebook and get lots of feedback which is great. Getting gold was fantastic, we're obviously doing something right.'

OT

Glencruitten roadworks

MOTORISTS are being warned to expect delays in Oban over the next fortnight.

Resurfacing works on Glencruitten Road and adjacent streets started on Monday.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Resurfacing works will be taking place on Glencruitten Road and adjacent streets for two weeks. 'Traffic controls are in place.'

MP O'Hara quits cultural role

ARGYLL and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara has stood down as the SNP Westminster group's spokesman for culture, media and sport.

The party confirmed that Mr O'Hara had relinquished the role for 'personal reasons'.

Drivers warned of A85 disruptions

MOTORISTS using the A85 to the west of Taynuilt are being warned to expect disruption as BEAR Scotland resurfaces a 600m section of the route.

Works began on Monday and are programmed to take up to five days to complete.

The resurfacing will be carried out between 7am and 7pm each day, with no works taking place on Saturday or Sunday.

The A85 will remain open throughout the improvements, but to ensure the safety of road workers and road users temporary traffic lights and a 10mph convoy system will be in operation.

Small fire at Columba Hotel

THE COLUMBA Hotel in Oban had to be evacuated last Wednesday (May 16) due to a fire on the second floor.

Firefighters from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service arrived on scene at 9.45am to find a fire had taken hold within a cupboard.

A spokesperson said: 'Operations Control mobilised two fire engines to the Columba Hotel, North Pier, Oban.'

'Firefighters located and extinguished the fire before ensuring the area was made safe. There were no casualties and crews thereafter left the scene.'

Do you have a story? Call the newsroom on 01631 568000

Oban midwife Betty MacIntyre honoured with an NHS Oscar

KATHIE GRIFFITHS
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NHS HERO and Oban midwife Betty MacIntyre, who has delivered hundreds of babies over the past 49 years, has been honoured with a health and social care Oscar.

Betty, who has delivered babies in a lifeboat, on a CalMac ferry and in a horsebox during her nearly half a century career, won the Pat Tyrrell Award for Caring Behaviours, presented to her at Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership's (HSCP) Excellence Awards on April 27.

She was also given wider recognition with the Hero Nurse honour at the first NHS Heroes Awards, brought to you by ITV and the Daily Mirror.

The 70-year-old, who also holds the title of Argyll and Bute's longest-serving midwife and delivered each of her three sisters' children, took charge of Oban's first-ever water birth – before Glasgow even offered the option to mums-to-be – and was responsible for introducing midwifery home visits.

'I've had a lovely career; it's been very happy and fulfilling, although there have been sad times too,' she said.

The HSCP Excellence Awards,

now in their second year, recognise staff who have performed over and above expectations, nominated by colleagues and members of the public.

Betty's nominations included this one: 'She sets a standard for how women should be cared for and has never wavered.'

Liz Higgins, lead nurse for Argyll and Bute HSCP, said: 'Health and social care staff across Argyll and Bute are providing a first class service to their communities every day and we feel it is important that they are recognised for their hard work and dedication to our patients and service users.'

She added: 'I was again really delighted by the high standard and the number of nominations we received and by the really positive comments that our staff received from the people nominating them.'

'My colleagues and I had the very difficult decision of going through all the nominations and choosing the winners. I would therefore like to congratulate all the winners on their enthusiasm and commitment to the public across Argyll and Bute who are served by the HSCP.'

Jennifer MacIntyre, a senior charge nurse on Ward A at Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital was named Nurse/Midwife



“ She sets a standard of how women should be cared for. ”

Oban award-winner Betty MacIntyre receives her prize from Paul O'Grady and, below, Betty on stage at the ceremony with Call the Midwife's Jenny Agutter and Victoria Yeates, athlete Denise Lewis and singer Myleene Klass.



of the Year and admin support officer Caroline Walton, also based at Oban, won Admin Secretarial Worker of the Year.

Therapist of the Year went to occupational therapist Ann Evans, who covers Mull and Iona.

Other winners were Richard Gault, a mental health worker in Dunoon who was recognised as Social Care Worker of the Year. Support Worker of the Year went to Leanne Wallace who is a domestic assistant in Cowal.

Chief Officer's Outstanding Contribution to Health Social Care was awarded to Avril Coffield, a health care assistant in Campbeltown. Jane Williams, local area manager in the Isle of Bute was named as Outstanding Individual with Argyll and Bute Radiography staff getting the most outstanding team honour.

The Patient/Service User Choice Award went to Kate Paton, who is a practice nurse in Strachur.

Lions cheque for pipe band



Oban and Lorn Lions Club handed over a £500 cheque to the Oban High School Pipe Band last Thursday night at McCaig's Tower. Throughout the summer, the band regularly hosts practise sessions at the tower, while the Lions raise money through donations and a fundraising stall. Nan Johnstone of Oban High School Pipe Band said: 'The band relies on the public's generosity. We have now got more than 40 pupils competing at the five major competitions this year, and a new band is starting. This means we will have 64 competitors going to competitions that will have to be bussed and kitted out. We keep our costing at a minimum. But the more there are, the harder it is.'

First Wee Vegan Fair success



More than 200 people made their way to the Rockfield Centre on Saturday for Argyll's First Wee Vegan Fair. The huts were buzzing with discussions about veganism, with stall holders providing a wide variety of food – including both vegan cakes and pies. The event was organised by Janine Calder, who runs Catchacarrot Vegan Pop Up Cafe and wanted to showcase veganism and because 'we have never had anything like this in Oban before'. Speaking at the event she said: 'It's going really well. I am thrilled there have been this many people interested in veganism.' On the day people could sample and buy food, merchandise, or take part in talks hosted by Go Vegan Scotland.



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New Mary's Meals manager goes home each night with smile on face

THE NEW manager of a popular Oban charity shop says she goes home every night with a smile on her face, writes David McPhee.

Jennie McMaster took over as manager of Mary's Meals, on Stevenson Street, at the start of this month after Marie Rowan stepped down from the position after nine years.

The former child minder has hit the ground running and is 'chuffed' to be doing her bit to help the Dalmally charity.

Jennie said: 'It's been fantastic and very busy. I am going home knackered at night, but with the biggest, cheesiest smile on my face.'

Jennie, who spent 23 years as a child minder, said Mary's Meals is where she would go to



Liz Campbell, Mary McInnes, Jennie McMaster and Eleanor Sheppard outside the Oban charity shop. 16_T21_Mary'sMeals01

help clothe the children as well as treat them to books and toys.

'It's the only way we could afford to do it,' she said. 'And the children, when they real-

ised they were helping others, it gave them a wee bit of a lift.'

Jennie added: 'The shop is great, it helps the people of Oban and feeds so many chil-

dren around the world.

'The donations that come in are amazing. The volunteers are big characters and hard workers, but more importantly, they are so friendly. I can't praise them enough.'

'The craic in the shop is another reason for smiling. You are never bored.'

'So many people are missing Marie and so are we. But I am really chuffed to be able to do my bit for the shop now.'

Liz Caldwell, Jennie's second in command, said: 'Everyone brings something different. That's what I love. Anyone can come along and volunteer.'

After working as a child minder for 23 years, Jennie spent the last five years running the Purdie's of Oban shop.

Oban welcomes cruise ship Seabourn Quest

KAY MCDONALD
editor@obantimes.co.uk

TODAY we're welcoming the cruise ship Seabourn Quest to Oban and looking forward to directing her passengers to the delights of the town.

I love the reaction when they discover that everything is so close at hand and just requires a wee stroll to the shops and cafes. And it's always lovely to hear what a beautiful town we live in ... but of course we know that.

This weekend offers lots for locals as well, starting with a

performance from the National Theatre of Scotland in the Corran Halls which sounds intriguing – The Strange Undoing of Prudence Heart is tomorrow night (Friday).

On Saturday, the Festival of the Sea begins at the Ocean Explorer Centre in Dunbeg and, if you pop out on Sunday, you can follow that up with a Viking Invasion at Dunstaffnage Castle from noon. It's a great event for a family day out.

If your taste is for something not quite so rowdy on a Sunday, then St John's Cathedral is the place for you at 3pm

where Oban Music Society presents the Esslinger Brass Band from Germany at 3pm.

Oban Phoenix Cinema again has something for everyone at the moment with my particular 'want to sees' being Sherlock Gnome, Deadpool 2 and I Feel Pretty. Have a look at the Oban Town Diary online for more information and don't forget to add your own events – it's a great way to let everyone know what's happening.

The photo last week was of the lovely lamps outside Aulay's Bar and this week it's George Street somewhere.

WHERE IS THIS?



BBC Alba appeal for participants

BBC Alba's DIY le Donnie is looking for members of the public – preferably Gaelic speakers – who could do with some help.

Donnie can help with a variety of jobs, from joinery to plumbing. Filming will take place around Oban throughout the summer and Donnie is willing to consider any jobs, big or small. To be involved, call on 0141 422 6231 or send an email to dyledonnie@bbc.co.uk with a brief description of the job.

Rural growth deal to make comeback

A RURAL growth deal for Argyll public, private and voluntary sector organisations is coming together to back transformational investment in Argyll and Bute from the UK and Scottish Governments.

Argyll and Bute Council is leading a bid for a rural growth deal that would see the area benefit from the kind of support received across Scotland through city deals.

If the overall approach for the deal is agreed at this week's Policy and Resources Committee, members of the public will be invited to get involved in bringing investment to Argyll and Bute through consultation.

'Tourist tax' would hurt Highlands

NEW research conducted by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) reveals that Highland businesses remain opposed to the introduction of a tourism tax by Highland Council.

The survey of Highland businesses, conducted by the FSB with the support of VisitInvernessLochNess, SkyeConnect, Visit Wester Ross, Venture North and Discover Glencoe, has shown the overwhelming majority of businesses oppose the introduction of this tax on visitors.

Oban gets new 'click and collect' farmers' market

KATHIE GRIFFITHS
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

A NEW click and collect way of shopping and supporting small local producers is up and running in Oban.

The town had its first Food Assembly event last week with 30 shopping orders to fill and 10 producers signed up.

Katie Ritchie from the Food From Argyll co-operative and Sally Swinbanks from Tobermory Fish Company are behind the local assembly, which is part of an initiative that started out in Europe.

The list of producers wanting to join is growing weekly, with new ones for this week. Eggs, fish, smoked goods,



Milk from Gigha is one of the local products available through the Oban Food Assembly. 25_46WeeIsleDairy01

meats, woodfired bread, milk from Gigha and vegetables from Mull are just some of the food essentials available online to shoppers.

Katie explained: 'What's available will change every week. The shopping deadline is mid-night on a Tuesday and pick-up will be between 4pm and 6pm every Thursday at the Rockfield Centre. We've chosen that time of day so it hopefully fits in with most people finishing work or picking up from school.'

To shop, people have to go online and join free as members. Out of the money paid for produce, 80 per cent goes to the producer compared to about 20 to 50 per cent usually paid by supermarkets

to makers, added Katie. The remaining 20 per cent goes to the Food Assembly organisation to help cover costs, including venue hire.

Katie continued: 'We've got off to a good start with 30 orders in our first week and our list of producers is growing. We want to sustain it and encourage more and more people to shop this way. It reduces food miles, cuts out unnecessary packaging and supports small local producers.'

Local producers were at the first produce pick-up event last Thursday, giving people the chance to meet them.

To find out more about Oban Food Assembly go to thefoodassembly.com/en/assemblies/9358

Festival visitors turn microplastic detectives

TURN microplastic detective this weekend as part of the Festival of the Sea event.

Visitors to the ocean Explorer Centre at Dunstaffnage on Saturday and Sunday will be able to use different tools to look at microplastics and try to work out how these tiny plastic pieces are coming from land and ending up in the ocean.

The sessions will be run by SAMS PhD students from 11.30am to 4.30pm.

Visitors to the centre will also be able to hear Oban scientists sharing the latest insights on human impacts on the marine ecosystem and artists will also be there exhibiting their creative responses to ocean litter.

Brexit debate

MORE than 20 members of the public turned out to a Brexit debate at the Scottish Association for Marine Science, Dunbeg, on Monday.

A panel of three experts gave a media, think tank and higher education viewpoint.

The event was organised by the Scottish Centre on European Relations in collaboration with the University of the Highlands and Islands and the European Commission's Scotland office.

Chairing the debate was Dr Michele Stanley, interim associate director at SAMS, with experts Mure Dickie, Financial Times Scotland; Anthony Salamone, Scottish Centre on European Relations; and Linda Stewart, director of European and International Development at the University of the Highlands and Islands.

Housing plan withdrawn after demo

A PLAN to build up to 44 more homes on Lonan Drive in Oban has been withdrawn by the applicant.

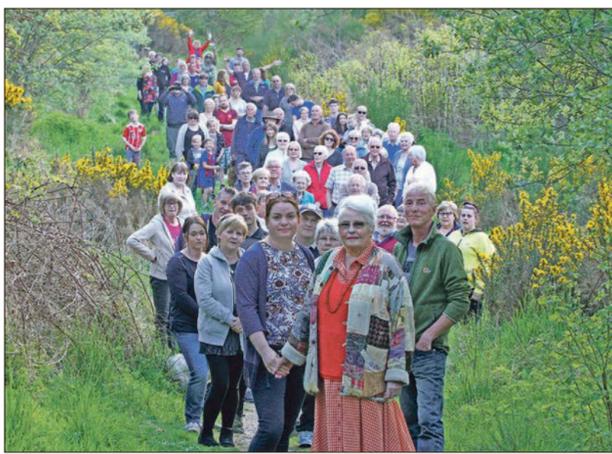
A local hearing scheduled for Monday May 28 at Oban's Corran Halls has now been cancelled, councillors were notified on Tuesday afternoon.

The move comes after around 100 people gathered in the area to protest on Friday last week.

Indicative plans, submitted by applicant TSL Contractors Ltd, showed a mix of 44 flats and semi-detached houses in 12 blocks on land currently used for 'informal recreation'.

Forty-two objections were lodged by local residents and Oban community councillors, who argued it was the 'only green area' within an area of high density housing, with an 'already overloaded' road network and a 'too narrow' entrance.

Argyll and Bute Council's roads department carried out a U-turn on the plan, and recommended the planning application be refused, because the entrance appears to be too narrow 'to construct a road to adoptable standards'.



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*Education Scotland Inspection Report 2015



OT
Strathfillan

A POLICE report at the most recent Strathfillan Community Council revealed 23 calls had been to officers since Monday March 5.

The calls related to: domestic assault, 1; road traffic accident 1; vehicle related, six; possible drink driver, 1; public assistance, 1; mountain rescues, 3 and other, 2.

The road accident involved a motorcyclist who came off his bike but only suffered minor injuries.

The 'serious' mountain rescue, on Sunday April 1, involved a casualty who fell 100 metres through a cornice of snow.

Port Appin

ARGYLL Animal Aid will be hosting a garden open day at Drumnail House on Saturday, May 26.

People can meet a rescue dog or a parrot, as well as being entertained by a falcon display, pipers and music by Sutherlands Groove.

There will also be fundraising stalls, refreshments and homebaking.

Admission, including tea, is £5 for adults. Children go free.

Port Appin

ARROCHAR Hydro Scheme officially opened last Friday.

Sir Malcolm Colquhoun of Luss carried out the opening ceremony on behalf of Arrochar Community Hydro Society.

The event, also attended by Paul Wheelhouse MSP, started at noon at the Turbine House and there was a live screening of proceedings from the Three Villages Hall.

The hall was used again in the evening for a race night to raise money for local young people planning to carry out voluntary work in Africa.

Tyndrum

STAFF from the Real Food Café in Tyndrum met with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon during a visit to the Scottish Parliament last week.

Following recent successes, including Magda Ganea finishing second in Young Fish Fryer of the Year in the National Fish and Chip Awards earlier this year, the Real Food Café is also celebrating two team members, Alex and Cat Dima, completing their SVQ Level 3 in Hospitality Supervision and Leadership.

Stirling MSP Bruce Crawford presented the staff with their certificates at the Scottish Parliament and gave the team a tour of Holyrood, where they met First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

Bruce Crawford said: 'I'm thrilled for these remarkable young people, who are the future of this industry, for having demonstrated what can be achieved through hard work and dedication. The Real Food Café is an excellent local restaurant and offers great opportunities.'

Dunbeg

VIKINGS will descend on Dunbeg on Saturday, May 26, and Sunday, May 27, for an informative event about the role Oban played in that time period.

The two-day event, at Dunstaffnage Castle, will start at noon on Saturday.

A spokesman for event organisers Historic Environment Scotland and the Scottish Association for Marine Science said: 'Travel back to a time when Scotland is almost fully controlled by Vikings and find out more about why Oban was of such importance.'

Tobermory

A FAMILY ceilidh in Tobermory earlier this month raised £453 for the Bus4Us appeal.

The event was organised by Tobermory Parent Council and featured local band Spagada Gliog.

Posting on its social media page, the parent council wrote: 'A big thank-you to those families, staff and members of the public who joined us and to everyone who donated prizes or helped to organise a lovely evening.'

Appin

APPIN Hall Committee has thanked members of the community who helped to raise £1,387 by catering for the Six Days Trial in Fort William.

The money will go towards hall funds.



Karen MacDonald and Jenna Allan from Specsavers Oban.

Oban pair set sights on Tough Mudder success

STAFF from an Oban opticians are gearing up for a Tough Mudder event in aid of mental health charity SAMH.

Karen MacDonald and Jenna Allan from Specsavers Oban will travel to Dumfries and Galloway next month for the endurance challenge at Drumlanrig Castle.

The Specsavers duo will face 20 obstacles across a 10-mile course and hope that by pushing themselves out their comfort zone, they will drum up support for the charity.

SAMH, Scotland's largest mental health charity, provides mental health social care support and services

for the homelessness and those with addiction and employment issues.

Ken Macdonald, store director at Specsavers Oban, said: 'Mental health affects so many of us and is a cause close to our hearts at Specsavers.'

'Taking part in Tough Mudder is no mean feat so we wish the girls the best of luck and hope they raise a fantastic sum for this great cause.'

Friends, family and visitors to the George Street opticians can make a sponsorship pledge or donation to SAMH in store or by visiting www.justgiving.com/fundraising/karenandjennadotoughmudder

Support for horticultural show keeps on growing

A PLANT-BUYING frenzy broke out at Benderloch's Victory Hall this weekend to raise funds for North Connel and District Horticultural Show.

More than 100 people turned out to support the event on Saturday and indulge in afternoon tea.

As well as homebaking and a chance to stock up the garden and greenhouse, experts were on hand to give out top gardening tips.

Money raised from the plant sale will go towards staging this year's 59th show back at the Victory Hall on Saturday August 25.

Categories will include everything from six spikes of Sweet Peas to best pea

pods, long carrots and drop scones to floral art on the theme of an edible kitchen window sill.

An extra new class for this year, and just for fun, is the best wonky vegetable.

Leftover funds go towards helping other green projects at local schools and keeping up the planters near the iron bridge in memory of Donald Morrison, who was one of the horticultural show's founder members.

One of the show's organisers Jane Eccles said: 'We've had a good sale. There's been about 100 people through the doors. Thank you to everyone for making it a success.'



Ruairidh Newiss, 8, and his sister Aimee, 10, at Saturday's plant sale in Benderloch. 16_T21_plantsale02_northconnel



Stocking up at North Connel & District Horticultural Show's plant sale, above left (16_T21_plantsale01_northconnel), and above, Jim Mackie at the annual plant sale at the Victory Hall, Benderloch (16_T21_plantsale03_northconnel).



Players flock to Oban for 43rd annual bridge congress

BRIDGE players from all over Scotland and further afield recently descended on Oban for the town's annual bridge congress.

Now in its 43rd year, more than 100 players, including 20 Oban players, enjoyed a weekend of highly competitive but fun card play from Friday May 11 to Sunday May 13.

While the bridge is serious, the congress is always an occasion to renew old acquaintances, as well as welcoming many players coming to the event for the first time. Players ranged from beginners to Scottish Grand Masters who have played international matches for Scotland.

The congress took over the town's Regent Hotel, with local bars and restaurants reporting a significant rise in their takings over the weekend. The congress, a major event on the Oban visitor calendar, brings an estimated £20,000 into the

local economy. The event has a number of competition formats, including pairs and teams, with players split into different leagues according to ability.

While Sue Pollard heads the local organising team, the congress comes under the auspices of the Scottish Bridge Union and is a nationally recognised event. Always popular with bridge players across the country, it is always fully subscribed well before the closing date for entries.

David Pollard, Jac Suchodolski, David Pender and Allistair Duff won best Oban team.

The Congress Pairs was won by Anne Ritchie and Robert Thomson, and, along with Pat and Les Wilson, they won the team competition.

The club's annual general meeting was held in the Olive Garden Restaurant, Oban, on Wednesday April 18.



Best Oban pair Pam McGuire, left, and Sue Pollard, right, with Nina Graham, Oban club president.

After her year as club president, Carol MacDougall stepped down, making way for Nina Graham to take over the helm for the coming year. Joy Usher and Neil Fraser were re-elected as club secretary and treasurer respectively. David Marshall was elected vice president.

The remainder of the

committee is made up of Margo McIntyre, Morag Telfer, Keiron Green, Pam McGuire, Sue Pollard and Alice Wilson.

Members thanked Catherine MacGregor who stood down from the committee after many years of service.

A regular fixture on the Oban calendar is the annual match against Dunoon

Bridge Club at Inveraray. This year, 32 players from Oban and Dunoon enjoyed a competitive but friendly afternoon of bridge, followed an excellent meal on Sunday April 8. Dunoon won this year.

The club reports the sad death of member Irene Cameron. Irene had not long graduated from the beginners' class and was showing great promise.

Sadly illness prevented that from being realised.

She will be much missed by club members, especially her playing partners.

Recent results
E-Cats Charity Challenge: February 14. This year's chosen charity is the RNLI. With hundreds of players taking part from all over the world, local winners were: 1 David Pender and Allistair Duff 63.89 per cent; 2 equal Jack Suchodolski and David Pender, Wilma Frew and Nina Graham 56.25 per cent.

Easter Pairs: March 14. 1 Joey Duncan and Alison Dunn 63.89 per cent; 2 David Pollard and Jack Suchodolski 57.99 per cent; 3 Margo McIntyre and Sandy Murray 57.29 per cent.

Celtic Pairs: April 9. North-South: 1 Catherine MacGregor and Sue Pollard 61.61 per cent; 2 Carol MacDougall and Romano Capocci 55.95 per cent; 3 Elma Wilson and Willie Smith 52.08. East-West: 1 David Pollard and Jack Suchodolski 70.83; 2 Alison Dunn and Neil Fraser 62.50; 3 Sandy Murray and Margo McIntyre 55.65.

British Spring Pairs: April 11. North-South: 1 David Pollard and Jack Suchodolski 67.26. East-West: 1 Brian Rattray and Gordon Brechin 57.74.

Congratulations to David and Jack who came 11th overall throughout the UK. As ever, there was a strong performance from the visitors from Lochgilhead.

At Random

MARTIN LAING
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Making a difference

I WROTE last week about the mess at the Rockport Hotel and what an eyesore this important town centre site had become.

This week, I want to highlight another important town centre location, but for the opposite reason.

The derelict site of what was once the Argyll Hotel, adjacent to North Pier, has been a deteriorating problem for some time. Indeed, I've written in this space before urging someone to do something about it.

Well, someone has. Or, to be precise, two groups have joined forces to help to make a significant difference to the gap site.

BID4Oban and Oban Live have erected new hoardings to block the mess from view and promote the imminent music festival.

Be in no doubt about the importance of this location. It is in the tourist heart of the town, right beside the North Pier, the tourist information centre, popular and busy restaurants, some of Oban's biggest hotels and is among the first things visitors using the new transit marina see when they approach the pontoons.

BID4Oban chief executive Andy Spence told me: 'The site was on our radar and we saw this as an opportunity to tidy up the area.'

'We put up the new panels and had them painted black and Oban Live put vinyl promotional material onto them. Those will



The new panels promote Oban Live and tidy up the area.

come down after Oban Live but the black panels will stay up and be extended to cover the bit in the middle.'

This is a positive move and is to be welcomed. And there could be further good news soon.

Andy and the good folk on his team are being highly proactive in coming up with win-win initiatives. The latest is to introduce business improvement grants that will encourage entrepreneurs in the town to upgrade their premises. That can only be a good thing.

Following the introduction of new walking tours, which we have reported on in recent weeks, the near future for the local economy

is looking pretty bright. As we approach the tourist season, these are heartening initiatives that will keep Oban bustling.

Pats on the back to BID4Oban and Oban Live.

Excitement mounts

I AM, I must confess, tone deaf and cannot hold a note for love nor money.

That doesn't stop me, however, from really looking forward to the aforementioned Oban Live on Friday and Saturday, June 8 and 9.

It looks like a brilliant line-up again this year, with some firm favourites returning and some

acts I don't know, but am looking forward to seeing and hearing. I'm told there are still tickets available. If you haven't got yours yet, my advice would be to get a wriggle on.

Go Nicola!

MY DAYS of running marathons are long behind me – okay, I've never run one.

But I have done a few 10k runs in my younger days and have a wee idea of how gruelling the training and effort is to accomplish the 26 miles.

So I tip my tile to Nicola McKie, the daughter of a friend of mine, who is running the Edinburgh Marathon this Sunday in aid of the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Nicola is a serving RAF officer based down south, but she regularly returns to visit her family in Oban. Her mum, Mary, works in Chalmers shop in George Street while her dad, Allan, is well known in the hospitality sector having run hotels in the area for many years.

I'd urge anyone with a few coins to spare to drop them into the collection boxes in various town pubs to help Nicola boost this worthwhile cause.

What do you think?

WRITE to me at mlaing@obantimes.co.uk or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB, or call 01631 568021.

Small is...



Life changing

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

07/06/18

'Nevermore, quoth the raven'

MORVERN LINES
IAIN THORNER
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'THE raven that rises early gets the eye of the beast in the bog', is an old Gaelic saying taking us back to the days of superstition, myth and legend, and also reminding us that the species is first and foremost a scavenger without whom the countryside would be littered with carcasses. It also proclaims the raven's intelligence and its long connection with humankind.

R Bosworth Smith, in his book, *Bird Life and Bird Lore* (1905), wrote that its literary history began with Cain, Noah and Elijah, and, later, it became the subject of Edgar Allan Poe's eerie poem, *The Raven*, published in 1845.

Long ago it was held to be a messenger with instructions as well as tidings, to have miraculous powers and to be able to turn itself into human form. In some minds, the funereal blackness of its plumage, its demeanour and ability to mimic human speech, linked it with undertakers, death and dark forces.

There was also a widespread belief in the magic powers of raven relics, such as bones or beaks and of a small stone with a hole in it belonging to the Highland's best known 16th-century clairvoyant.

The story goes that a young Isle of Lewis boy, Coinneach Odhar, found this stone in a raven's nest. When he looked through it, he was struck blind in that eye but had acquired the gift of second sight. He uttered prophecies throughout his life, later moving to Brahan, near Inverness, where he became known as the Brahan Seer.

Apparently, Coinneach Odhar spoke of the day when Scotland would once again have its own parliament. This would only come, he said, when men could walk dry shod from England to France. The opening of the Channel Tunnel in



The raven from a painting by Chris Rose.

1994 was followed a few years later by the opening of the first Scottish Parliament since 1707.

I have seen ravens in the 20,000-year-old Palaeolithic cave-paintings at Lascaux, in the Dordogne, France. They are also to be found among a group of birds in Neolithic paintings (6,000-8,000 years old) in a cave at Tajo Segura in the Cadiz Province of Spain.

Ravens are mentioned in the Old Testament, flying out of the Ark to look for dry ground when the Flood was ebbing. Failing to return, they became known as the 'Corby Messenger' - a name still given to someone coming home late, or not at all.

Despite the lore surrounding ravens, no fewer than 475 of

them were killed by the Glenquoich gamekeepers in the period from Whitsunday 1837 to the same date three years later.

Ravens, apparently, pair for life, repair their old nest in January, lay in February and usually hatch in March, or, according to an old saying, 'nest at Candlemas, egg at Shrovetide, bird at Easter; if the raven have these not, death then is its lot'.

This massacre, and others on record for that period, is unusual and was most likely done by incomers as few Highland folk interfered with ravens on account of them getting a special mention in the Bible.

Many ornithologists rate the raven as one of the finest of all

European birds and associate it with wolves, wild boar, bears and ancient white cattle. As the largest of the crow family, they are striking in appearance with their heavy, sharp beak and dark plumage which, seen up close, has a blue-green sheen to it.

When a raven hails into view you not only see it but hear it; in a hurry its flight is fast and straight and its powerful wing-strokes make a loud beating noise. In the early part of the year ravens put on an aerial display like no other by rolling over and over onto their backs at speed with their wings folded, making a distinctive 'clonk' call as they do so. It has been suggested this is part of a mating ritual but, having watched

them doing it before they begin to pair off, I believe they do it for sheer pleasure, putting the air in stitches for their own delight.

I have already mentioned the raven's intelligence. Nowhere is this more apparent than in their choice of nesting sites. Year after year, without fail, a pair used to produce young on a narrow ledge at the back of a disused quarry in Morvern. The nest, which was always on the same spot, was south-facing but sheltered from the hot sun by an overhang.

As the weeks rolled by and the sun rose higher in the sky, its rays would fall on the nest, exposing the fledglings, who were putting on weight quickly. Almost to the day, the nest



Without ravens there would be deer and other carcasses scattered around the hillsides.

would crash to the ground, but not before the young were old and strong enough to be chivvied by the parent birds to a nearby knoll from which they could take to the air. Truly the right timing in life is everything!

During the deer stalking season ravens will associate a rifle shot with a gralloch (discarded entrails) and fresh food. In some places, they have been known to accompany stalking parties to the hill. Once they find deer they often circle above them making a peculiar call so letting the stalkers know where they are. Of course, after a while the deer realise what is going on and become suspicious.

Some stalkers believe seeing an odd number of ravens on setting out for a day's stalking is bad luck and unlikely to result in a successful outcome, whereas an even number means the opposite. A few years ago I made note of this every day while stalking on Kingairloch and Glensanda and over a season found that it was 98 per cent accurate.

A group of ravens can have three different names depending on the activity of the group - a constable, an unkindness or a conspiracy.

So what for the raven's past - what of their future? Earlier this year Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) granted

a licence to a wildlife group in Perthshire to shoot 300 ravens over a five-year period to boost numbers of declining wading birds, such as golden plover, curlew and lapwing.

Duncan Orr-Ewing, RSPB Scotland's head of species and land management, said he was outraged by the move, claiming that SNH in effect had endorsed a 'transparent' ruse by local sporting estates to kill off ravens because they preyed on grouse eggs and chicks. The link between the increase in the raven population and the decline in wading birds was weak, he said, and called on SNH to withdraw the licence.

Robbie Kernahan, SNH's head of wildlife, defended his decision, saying: 'We are satisfied this will not affect the population of ravens overall.'

But in view of the widespread public condemnation of the proposed cull in the national press and elsewhere, SNH is reconsidering its position.

Less than 300 yards from the raven quarry in Morvern, the only pair of lapwings in the area happily bred alongside their supposed predators. They left last year, not because of the ravens but blanket afforestation. This season, after decades, the ravens too have gone and the glen has lost something special.

Iain Thorner
iain.thorner@btinternet.com



Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop welcomed the news when she visited the Highlands.

Support for Highlands and Islands cultural assets

THE Scottish Government has asked Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) to establish a multi-million-pound Challenge Fund to protect and promote the Highlands and Islands natural and cultural heritage assets.

SNH has been invited to apply for European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) to support the sustainable development of the rich and varied natural and cultural assets in the Highlands and Islands, targeting the more rural parts of the region.

The government said the project will bring sustainable and lasting local economic and social benefits, including increased visitor numbers and spend.

Welcoming SNH's application at Ardreck Castle, as part of a recent visit to Tongue and the

northern Highlands, Culture and Tourism Secretary Fiona Hyslop said: 'Tourism is a crucial element of the Highlands and Islands economy and it contributes to shaping the innovative offerings throughout the region - some of which I had the chance to experience first-hand during this visit.'

'Having visited communities whose local economies are so significantly linked to tourism, it is reassuring to hear that this fund will target those heritage assets in the more remote and rural parts of Scotland, bringing considerable social and economic benefits.'

'The Scottish Government will continue to do all we can to support sustainable growth in tourism, working in partnership with local communities - in Assynt, throughout the High-

lands and Islands and across Scotland.'

Mike Cantlay, chairman of SNH, said: 'A key priority for SNH is to help ensure tourism and other sectors benefit from, and invest in, Scotland's high quality environment, and that's why we're particularly delighted to be considered to lead this new fund.'

'Nature and culture are closely linked in the Highlands and Islands, and in many places they are central to the local economy, maintaining rural populations, jobs and skills.'

'We want to make the most of new opportunities to spread those benefits to more rural communities in the coming years. We look forward to taking the next steps when we meet with stakeholders later this month.'

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Viewpoint



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

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

The Scottish fishing community – as much if not more, perhaps, than any other industry – is facing highly uncertain times as Great Britain negotiates its departure from the European Union.

At such a parlous period in our history, you might be forgiven for thinking the UK government would be pulling out all the stops in order to preserve the viability of such an economically fragile sector.

Not a bit of it, apparently.

As we report today, fisherman Jonathan McAllister was brought to the very precipice of going out of business

this week by what can only be described as ridiculously bureaucratic officialdom being unable to exhibit any sort of common sense.

The locking up of Latvian crewman Arturs Rutkovskis, with the attendant threat of deportation, over a trivial matter, jeopardised Mr McAllister's ability to put to sea.

Indeed, Mr McAllister actually put his boat up for sale, such was his level of despair.

Thankfully, sense prevailed in the end but the government deserves no credit for its actions.



Days gone by – 1914

This week we travel back to the Great War and a photograph of men from Glencoe who served in the army during the First World War. The picture is dated 1914 and, going by their cap badges, the regiment is thought to be the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. This photograph was featured in Glencoe Folk Museum as part of a day of First World War-themed family activities as part of Scotland's annual Festival of Museums last weekend.

MacPhail

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THE FIRST stage of my double bill of short running events is over and I'm very nervous about the next.

I'm writing this on the train back from Manchester, where I joined the Team Eilidh fundraising group to take part in the Great Manchester Run.

Most of us did the 10k event and, given how hot it was, I was very glad I didn't join the one brave soul in the group who tackled the half-marathon.

For a cold water creature like me, who finds it physically draining to even lie down and read a book in the sun, to have to run in the sweltering heat of Manchester last Sunday was not pleasant and I was exhausted just walking to the start line.

However, the combination of good craic in the group beforehand, encouragement from the spectators and envisaging the relief of submerging myself in cold water afterwards kept me going and I managed to finish 4,870th with a time of 57.48.

Having come so close, it was obviously tough just missing out on a podium

place but the 4,867 folk between me and the bronze medal were just lucky on the day!

Mo Farah will not be feeling threatened with these results but I was just happy to get to the finish line without melting.

With more than 30,000 people taking part, this was a massive event and the diversity of runners was huge.

This was the first time I have ever run with more than a few people and what was more surprising than anything else was the lack of correlation between body type and age and speed of other runners. I dare say further up the field into the elite category, the bodies and ages of the leaders would narrow into the categories of young and lightly-built types but back in the mid-range average Joe department, all bets were off.

At the beginning, when running among a large concentrated clump of people when the speeds of runners have to separate them, I had some amazingly gratifying moments of gliding past folk who looked like fitness models.

The elevated feeling was short-lived because, as the runners began to spread out further, I noticed there

were a fair number of the elderly and those who looked rather less than in the peak of condition leaving me for dust.

It's not a nice feeling when running along feeling like you're doing quite well when a pleasantly plump cailleach in her sixties flies past you like a Redbay Rib overtaking a CalMac ferry. Regardless, I just had to swallow my pride and plod on, despite them leaving me in their wake.

The welcome at the finish line was incredible and it felt great to be part of such a thoroughly positive event.

The fundraising for Eilidh's memorial is going well but we still have a fair bit to go to reach the £3,000 target on the Just Giving page.

The downloads of *Wishing Well*, which reached number 24 in UK mainstream charts last week, are still selling in good numbers which will add to the fund and the audience were very generous with donations to the collection buckets at the Usher Hall last week.

The main event for us is the half-marathon this Sunday in Edinburgh and we need to have reached the online target by then, so any donations, large or small, would be most welcome.



Ashleigh Khan: 'Why are people so opposed to new housing? You hear enough people moaning that there isn't enough housing for the population yet are objecting to them being built?'

Duncan Campbell: 'With the traffic congestion in Oban the last thing that is required is to build houses in that area of Oban, common sense, but that is what our councillors lack.'

£700,000 each for Ulva residents

You report (*The Oban Times*, May 17) that the Scottish Land Fund (ie, the taxpayer) has given £4.4 million to purchase the island of Ulva for the local community and I understand that local fundraising activities yielded a contribution of £37,000.

This would seem to represent a gift of around £700,000 to each of the six residents of Ulva.

The local community hopes to raise the island population to around 50. Let us hope that the existing six are happy with those who join them, as that has not always been the case elsewhere.

I do wonder at the merits of attracting more residents to a small island when they might be better located on the island of Mull. No doubt if they are located on Ulva it will not be long before they want the taxpayer to provide them with a bridge.

Meanwhile, I am looking forward to receiving my gift of £700,000 from the taxpayer.

Colin Davidson,
by email.

Walk challenges mental health stigma

Congratulations to Des MacMillan for organising Oban's first walk to challenge the stigma of mental health.

A range of organisations were represented, including Acumen, You Matter Always, Andy Man's Club, Mull Safe and Sound Group, SiMBA, Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis, New Hope and Police Scotland. People of all ages from our local communities walked and talked.

Sadly, which organisation wasn't present? NHS Highland. If mental health is to be placed on an equal footing with physical health then there must be equality of access to NHS provision.

People are dying because they are unable to access appropriate support in a timely manner. Giving out helpline numbers or telling them to speak to their GP is not good enough.

Christine Green,
by email.

Disturbed by noise from roadworks

The contractors working on Kirk Road in Dunbeg have received permission from Argyll and Bute Council to erect their portable site office in the recycling section/car park next to McCullum Court in the village, a sheltered housing complex for elderly and disabled people.

The fact is these site offices come with generators that make mega noise which travels into the McCullum Court residents' flats, as well as disturbing the natural habitat of the wildlife living in the wilderness in and alongside the burn running through the village.

This is unacceptable and these site offices with generators need to be moved to a different location where the generator is not disturbing these vulnerable groups. On Monday, NRS

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



CHAN URRAM FÈIN-MHOLADH a rèir gliocas an t-seanfhaicail agus 's e car den aon ghliocas a tha a' comhairleadhadh gum bu chòir measadh air cothromachd seirbheis a bhith fo smachd neo-eisimeileach.

Ach tuigear gum feum luchd-sgrùdaidh seirbheis sam bith eòlas agus tuigse mhionaideach air dleastanas na h-obrach ma tha iad dol a dhèanamh tomhas ceart air na tha go choleananadh.

Sin a dh'fhàg gum bheil a' mhòr-chuid de bhuidhnean proifeiseanta le siostaman sgrùdaidh taobh a-staigh chriochan na dreuchd àraid aca fhèin, agus anns an fharsaingeachd tha sin ag obrachadh. Gu follaiseach tha e deatamach dha seirbheis phroifeiseanta sam bith gun tèid clùid agus inbhe na h-obrach aca, agus earbsa a' mhòr-shluaigh, a ghleidheadh.

Ach a dh'aindeoin sin cluinnear gearaiane bho àm gu àm mu laigse fèin-mheasaidh agus daoine nach d' fhuair riarachadh a' fàgail air na proifeiseantaich gum bheil fèin-dhion nas cudromaiche dhaibh na tha e ceartas a bhualleadh air neach a thog casaid nan aghaidh.

Group erected its noisily-generated site office in the recycling/car park area.

In the year 2018, it should be made Argyll and Bute Council policy that no contractor or sub-contractor will be awarded any work unless their site offices are 'green' and that means no more generators. It should be made a legal requirement that all site offices and portable staff rooms have to be operated by solar panels and batteries. That way the site offices and portable staff rooms are not burdening the environment with their generators.

Please can I ask the Argyll and Bute Council project manager overseeing the Kirk Road project to get them to move the NRS site office to a more suitable location, such as SAMS or Dunbeg Castle car park.

Kay Lang,
by email.

Lagging behind on superfast broadband

Scotland still woefully lags behind the rest of the UK on fibre broadband and superfast speed coverage.

Large areas of rural Scotland still experience extremely slow broadband, with the digital gap widening between urban and rural Scotland. The SNP government was given funding in 2014 by the UK Government for phase two of the roll-out but is only now using it for procurement.

It is clear that the UK Government has delivered, while the SNP continues to dither on broadband. It is past time that the SNP got on with the job of ensuring access for our rural communities instead of offering excuses.

Scotland lags behind England and Wales on provision of superfast speeds above 24 Mbps. Some 93.7 per cent of premises in Scotland had access to speeds of over 24 Mbps compared to 95.7 per cent in England and 94.6 per cent in Wales.

Six out of the 10 worst constituencies for download speeds are in Scotland. They are Orkney and Shetland, Ross, Skye and Lochaber, Banff and Buchan, Caithness, Skye and Easter Ross, West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine, and Argyll and Bute.

Scotland has already benefited nearly 2.5 times more funding per head for superfast than England. The Culture Secretary announced a further £190 million for full fibre networks, due to a lack of progress from the SNP government.

A quality internet service is an essential part of living in the modern world – not a needless luxury.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.

The 'uncommon' gulls of Ardrishaig

Many thanks to Robert Wakeham, writing in last week's *Argyllshire Advertiser*, for his questions regarding the nesting colony and status of common gulls within the former oil depot, currently the Mid Argyll hub and museum construction site.

Agus tha suidheachaidhean den t-seòrsa sin fìor thar luchd-obrach sheirbheisean de gach seòrsa eadar lagh, poileas, slàinte, foghlam, agus cuideachd a thaobh leithid Chomhairlean aig am bheil dleastanas libhrigidh sheirbheisean. Ach cha ghabh daoine riarachadh fad na h-ùine agus chan eil teagamh nach nochd gearaianean ge b' e dè cho tèarainte 's a bhiodh modhan-obrach agus rianachd nam proifeiseantaich.

Ann an aithisg eadar-amail bhon bhuidheann-sgrùdaidh a stèidhich an Rìghdhaltais air riaghailtean togail agus dìon bho theine, a' leantainn tubaist bhàsmhor Grenfell, thuir Cathraiche na buidhne, Dame Judith Hackitt, gun do chuir cuid de na chual i a thaobh modhan-obrach uamhas oirre. Bha e follaiseach gum robh briathrachas chuid de riaghailtean tuilleadh is toinne agus a' toirt cothrom dhan fheadhainn a bha deònach ire na h-obrach a lùghdachadh gus an tuilleadh prothaid a dhèanamh.

Feumaidh leithid sin de chleachdaidhean stad, thuir Hackitt. Bheir atharrachadh bunaiteach agus maireannach ùine ga stèidheachadh ach 's e ceann-uidhe na cuise gum bi na h-uile a bhios an sàs ann an gnìomhachas togail is sàbhailteachd a' coileanadh

I am happy to address these questions.

Historically, this species was first named in the 1700s and thought by many to come from their association with grazing or 'common land' and, in the more recent past, the name 'uncommon gull' may be more apt.

In the UK, they are essentially restricted as a breeding species to Scotland where numbers continue to decline, with this being reflected in Argyll, principally due to predation by the American mink, as pointed out.

Studies at the Lingerton landfill site have shown that, unlike the larger gull species at the tip, common gulls do not scavenge there, as was perhaps claimed, but use the tidal mud flats of Loch Gilp and surrounding fields to find invertebrates, fish and vegetarian foodstuffs. As with other gull species which are opportunist in diet, junk food and bits of plastic provided by us humans can be consumed inadvertently.

Over many years, the Gleaner oil depot, which has a concrete bund in case of oil spillage, has provided a safe nesting site for around 20 pairs. The suggestion that this colony could easily find an alternative site is perhaps wishful thinking as suitable sites nearby in Mid Argyll are already occupied by other gull species or don't have the required habitat features.

Thankfully, however, this should not prove necessary. Following a productive on-site meeting last week with the Scottish Canals' environmental scientist, the project architect and TLS Contractors, we noted 10 to 15 birds sitting on eggs and unaffected by the work going on around them.

Planned works over the coming weeks should not affect these gulls, oystercatchers or black guillemots from nesting and will also not impede the building work which is scheduled to be completed by next spring.

The Mid Argyll hub project and new canal museum will largely reflect the social and cultural heritage of the Crinan Canal, but should also encompass the important and often decreasing natural history of the Crinan Canal corridor. These breeding birds are also a part of this and should not just be something to 'chase off' to somewhere else.

Excellent viewing and educational opportunities from the new build will make it possible to watch this colony raise their chicks as well as providing a point to look out for other wildlife on the loch.

Nearby, the tidal estuary of Loch Gilp provides us with an often highly under-valued unofficial nature reserve that links Ardrishaig with Lochgilphead, which in winter hosts important numbers of ducks and waders, in summer includes breeding eider ducks and common terns and, during migration, is a vital stopping off point during adverse weather for passage whooper swans, Brent geese and black-tailed godwits, to name a few.

Increasingly, good work is being undertaken by locals and the Phoenix Trust to help clear up some of the increasing amounts of shoreline rubbish.

Keep up the good work!
Jim Dickson,
Argyll Bird Recorder, Cairnbaan.

Ailean Caimbeul

an dleastanasan gu cogaiseach ceart. Is neònach gum bi mòran a dhèanadh argamaidh fhollaiseach an aghaidh lethaid de mholadh ach far am bheil farpais airson cumhannan agus buannachd daonnan cho guineach, tha e gu bhith doirbh a h-uile buidheann agus neach-togail a chumail air an t-slighe seo, agus tha sin a' ciallachadh gum feum measadh agus sgrùdadh a bhith nas cunbhalache agus nas cruaidhe na tha e aig an ìre seo.

Ach tha dleastanas cogais oirnn uile mar a chualas aig a' bhanais Rìghdhal Disathairne seo chaidh, agus comas an saoghal a leasachadh.

In the interim report from the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety, chairwoman Dame Judith Hackitt described herself as 'shocked by some of the practises' she had heard about and said 'cultural and behavioural change' was required so that 'everyone's focus must be on doing the right things because it is their responsibility'. Not a dissimilar message to Bishop Michael Curry's stimulating sermon at Saturday's royal wedding.

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

Social media

There has been immediate and concerted opposition to plans to build up to 44 new homes in Loman Drive in Oban. The campaign against the development saw around 100 people gather for a 'rally in the valley' last Friday. **Allan Strang Jr:** 'Nicely kept trees aye. Folk need homes to live in let's build homes. Plenty more green space around us to explore. Is it

possibly the case that it's housing association homes and folk thinking they're far superior to housing association tenants? Was the land beneath spam valley not green before houses got built there either?' **Nikki Warham:** 'There is no question here! Homes are needed! I understand the desire to have "green space" but people need a roof over their heads and a place to call home.'

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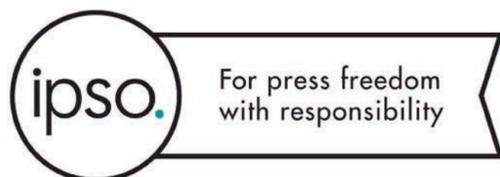
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The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith.

A daytime telephone number

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

Pupils will have artwork on Oban Live T-shirts

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

TWO LORN school pupils have won a competition that will see their artwork printed on the official Oban Live T-shirts this year.

Isla, a primary four pupil from Lochnell, and Ruby Heritage-Crabb, a first year student at Oban High School, had their entries chosen out of more than 200.

Oban Live asked pupils aged between five and 18 to submit designs for the event's official 2018 T-shirt.

Organisers said the entries were so fantastic that they created a primary school winner as well as an overall secondary school winner.

Isla and Ruby were surprised with free tickets to the festival, as well as a T-shirt with their design on it.

This was presented by Oban Live's head of communications, Pauline Clifford, and events marketing assistant Shannon Watson of Oban High School.

This year's Oban Live takes place on Friday and Saturday, June 8 and 9, at Mossfield Stadium.

The two-day festival has become the biggest open-air live music concert in rural Argyll, welcoming just under 8,000 fans each year.

Last week, Tide Lines joined the line-up of acts, which includes Skerryvore, Skipinnish, Sharron Shannon, the Chunks, Sons of Argyll as well as Blazing Fiddles and this year's Oban Unsigned act Kathleen Robertson.

Tide Lines complete Friday's line-up, taking the second last slot on June 8.

They go on stage at 9pm, before



headliners Skipinnish, who are returning for their third year running.

One more act is still to be confirmed for the Saturday and an announcement is expected soon.

Tide Lines have racked up nearly two million single track streams on Spotify. Their videos play to hundreds of thousands on YouTube and their social media account followers are in the tens of thousands.

Tide Lines have sold 10,000 physical copies of their debut record *Dreams We Never Lost*.

For tickets and details, visit www.obanlive.com.

Above, Ruby Heritage-Crabb, a first year student at Oban High School, will see her artwork on the official Oban Live T-shirt while Isla, right, a Lochnell Primary pupil, shows off her winning design. Below, Tide Lines have been added to the line-up.



The winners proudly show off their awards.

Health and social care staff recognised

ARGYLL and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) held its Staff Excellence Awards recently to recognise the exceptional health and social staff who have performed over and above

expectations. This is the second year that the HSCP has held these awards and once again a wide range of nominations were received from fellow colleagues and members of the public.



Oban Times deputy editor Martin Laing congratulates Anne.

Anne is cruising to a free ride on Waverley

OBAN resident Anne Malloch will be heading to the Isle of Skye aboard the world's last sea-going paddle steamer – thanks to *The Oban Times* and the PS Waverley.

On Saturday June 2 sail from Oban North Pier over the sea to Skye or cruise Loch Nevis to

Inverie. On Sunday June 3 the Waverley cruises to four lochs: Shuna, Melfort, Craignish and Crinan and the Corryreckan Whirlpool. On Monday June 4, visit the Isle of Coll and don't miss the chance to sail round the Mull of Kintyre on Tuesday June 5.



Bien joué! Molto bene! (Well done, Taynuilt!)



The Taynuilt boys and girls competed in the Holyrood debating chamber.

ON MONDAY May 15, five primary six pupils from Taynuilt travelled to Edinburgh to the Euroquiz national final 2108.

The competition involved 470 schools from all over Scotland taking part in Euroquiz heats to represent their own areas. Taynuilt Primary won the area quiz to represent Argyll and Bute.

There were 31 schools at the final, from the Borders to Shetland to the Western Isles, and it was held in the debating

chamber of the Scottish Parliament. Taynuilt arrived in time to have lunch in the members' room before taking their place in the chamber.

The quizmaster was Deputy Presiding Officer Christine Grahame MSP, and the whole event was streamed live on the Scottish Parliament TV.

There were three rounds – geography, languages and understanding Europe – and the questions were challenging!

The Taynuilt youngsters had been

studying hard over the past few weeks and gave some very good answers.

The Argyll team didn't make it through to the final two but they really enjoyed the whole day and came away with some great photos, a goodie bag and good memories. They said 'merci' to the organisers and to Mrs MacPherson for coaching them so well.

See the whole event by following the link to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Y8pvGOHIK1>



The Taynuilt team arrives at the Scottish Parliament.



Summer Business Day



30th May 2018

10am to 4.30pm

Perle Hotel Oban

Come along and find out what's happening in Oban to support your business

Details on Cruise Ship Visits

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Presentations on the hour every hour

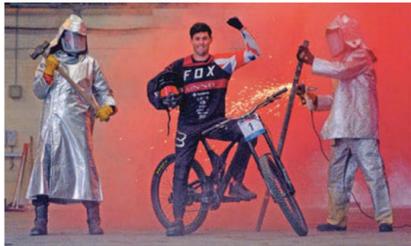
Free tea and Coffee

FORGED IN THE FORT

FORT WILLIAM GETS SET TO WELCOME ELITE RIDERS FOR WORLD CUP



Photo: Abrightside Photography



This year's theme, Forged in the Fort, is a nod to Fort William's impressive industrial heritage.



Riders from across the world will take on the downhill course at Nevis Range this June.

With just over a week to go before the return of the UCI Downhill World Cup to Nevis Range, Fort William is getting set to welcome more than 20,000 fans to the area for a weekend of high-altitude, high-octane action and entertainment.

The event, voted the best downhill mountain bike event in the world an incredible 10 times by teams, riders and cycling's international governing body, will host the only UK leg of the eight-round World Cup series on June 2 and 3.

The theme of this year's event – Forged in the Fort – is a nod to the incredible reputation Fort William has established at an international level.

More than 250 elite riders from 25 different nations will descend on Fort William for an action-packed weekend with thousands of fans cheering them on. Riders to watch include the most successful ever women's racer, Britain's Rachel Atherton, who is returning from injury, reigning men's World Cup Champion Aaron

Gwin (USA) and seven times Fort William winner, South Africa's Greg Minnaar.

The current British national champion, and Highlander, Greg Williamson, recently checked out the Nevis Range downhill course, where he will battle it out with the world's best riders for the coveted Fort William World Cup win. Having just competed in the third downhill World Cup event of this year's series in Albstadt, Germany, Williamson is now set to race on home ground.

He said: 'I love racing in Fort William. I'm from Inverness so I did a lot of junior racing here and always dreamed of competing in the World Cup.'

'My career has definitely been Forged in the Fort and it is undoubtedly one of the best venues on the circuit, both in terms of the technical challenge and the amazing atmosphere created by the fans.'

Mike Jardine, from event organiser Rare Management, said that this year's event in Fort William will pay homage to the incredible

Mercedes-Benz
UCI MOUNTAIN BIKE WORLD CUP
FORT WILLIAM | GREAT BRITAIN
FORGED IN THE FORT
WATCH ON Red Bull TV
2-3 JUNE 2018
FORTWILLIAMWORLDUCUP.CO.UK

influence Fort William has had on the world of downhill racing. 'Reputations are created here and a win at Fort William means so much for every rider,' he said. 'Tickets are selling fast for this year's event.'

'The fans love the whole experience and can't wait to see who is going to take the win this year. And the riders love it because there is no better crowd, location or atmosphere.'



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Ben Nevis Distillery
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Monday - Friday 9am-5pm
Easter to September: Saturday 10am-4pm July to August: Monday - Friday 9am-6pm
Saturday 10am-4pm Sunday 12pm-4pm October to Easter: Saturday, Sunday and evenings by arrangement

Ben Nevis Distillery (Fort William Ltd)
Lochy Bridge, Fort William, PH33 6TJ. Tel: 01397 702476 Fax: 01397 702768

ADVERTORIAL

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Euan Fundingsland studies BA (Hons) Marine and Coastal Tourism.

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We have a wide range of full-time and part-time courses at a variety of levels starting in September. So whether your interest lies in cookery, social care, early education, construction, music, fashion, maritime, administration, business, computing, outdoor adventure, Highers or study with the University of the Highlands and Islands, we will have something that suits you.

For more information about any of our courses, see our website www.whc.uhi.ac.uk or call 01397 874000.

apply now!
for autumn start

@ Portree, Broadford, Auchtertyre, Mallaig, Fort William
Kilchoan, Kinlochleven, Gairloch, Strontian & Ullapool

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- > of combining work and learning?

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West Highland College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean
Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an Iar



Time for a break.

Advertising feature



MARCH OF THE PENGUINS

4.9% ABV / 500ML £2.98/L

WILLIAMS BROS. BREWING CO.

- STYLE** - Stout
- TASTE** - Creamy Stout with chocolate notes. Coffee gives way to a hoppy middle with hints of orange peel
- HOPS** - Cascade, Magnum

£1.49



DRAGONHEAD STOUT

4% ABV / 500ML £2.98/L

ORKNEY BREWERY

- STYLE** - Classic Stout
- TASTE** - Rich roast malt and dark fruits smooth bitter finish
- HOPS** - Challenger and East Kent Goldings

£1.49



DARACHA

5.2% ABV / 500ML £2.98/L

INVERALMOND BREWERY

- STYLE** - Oak Aged Ruby Ale
- TASTE** - From the old Scots term "from the Oak", this ruby ale imports flavour of toffee and vanilla with a unique oak character
- HOPS** - Amber Malts & Roast Barley

£1.49



FATHOM

4% ABV / 500ML £2.98/L

JAW BREW

- STYLE** - Porter
- TASTE** - A deep & rich complex porter with notes of espresso and treacle
- HOPS** - Progress hops added to a special blend of speciality malted barley

£1.49



SOUTHERN SUMMIT

4% ABV / 500ML £3.38L

LOCH LOMOND BREWERY

- STYLE** - American Pale Ale
- TASTE** - A juicy citrus fruit aroma leads to a full-on grapefruit flavour that is rounded off with a bitter and refreshing finish
- HOPS** - Summit and Citra (USA)

£1.69



MAVERICK

4.2% ABV / 330ML £3.38L

FYNE ALES

- STYLE** - Bitter Ale
- TASTE** - Caramel and fruity malts with a well hopped flavour creating a wonderfully well balanced beer
- HOPS** - Bramling Cross/Challenger

£1.69



ELVIS JUICE

6.5% ABV / 330ML £4.82/L

BREWDOG

- STYLE** - Grapefruit IPA
- TASTE** - Waves of crashing pine, orange and grapefruit round off this citrus-infused IPA
- HOPS** - Magnum, Mosaic, Citra, Simcoe, Amarillo

£1.59

LIDL PRESENTS THE ISLE OF ALE SCOTTISH CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

13 BREWERIES



Paul McQuade Lidl Head of Buying, Scotland

Our Isle of Ale festival returns this May bank holiday where we'll be celebrating Scotland's small artisan breweries and showcasing carefully selected highlights from the craft beer movement. From IPA's to full bodied porters and fruity pale ales these beers will be available in our Scottish stores for a limited time only. In-store 24th May, while stocks last.

**AVAILABLE IN STORE
FROM 24TH MAY**

lidl.co.uk/isleofale

Available in Scotland only.
Subject to availability.
Prices, packaging and sizes may vary.

CAFÉ RACER

6.5% ABV / 330ML £4.52/L

FIERCE BREWERY

- STYLE** - Porter
- TASTE** - A dark roasted coffee and vanilla porter with a hint of danger
- HOPS** - Chinook



£1.49

WHITEOUT

3.8% ABV / 330ML £4.52/L

CROMARTY BREWING

- STYLE** - Session White IPA
- TASTE** - A seriously hopped up session white IPA with a smooth wheat backbone
- HOPS** - Mosaic (US), Citra and Motuek (NZ)



£1.49

PELTON PILSNER

5.1% ABV / 330ML £4.52/L

SIX° NORTH BREWERY

- STYLE** - A Classic Pilsner
- TASTE** - Crisp with pleasant lemon bitterness
- HOPS** - Classic Saaz and Tettnang Hops brewed with Pilsner yeast.



£1.49

DISCO FORK LIFT TRUCK

5.1% ABV / 330ML £4.52/L

DRYGATE BREWING

- STYLE** - Mango Pale Ale
- TASTE** - Juicy and bursting with mango, sweet malt with soft bitter undertones
- HOPS** - Cascade (USA), Ekuanot (USA), Azacca (USA)



£1.49

FIRST WORLD PROBLEMS

6.2% ABV / 330ML £4.52/L

STEWART BREWING

- STYLE** - Belgian IPA
- TASTE** - Fruity yeast esters, big bitterness, huge hop aroma, well balanced
- HOPS** - Magnum, Challenger, Cascade, Pacific Gem, Green Bullet, Lubelski



£1.49

BLACKHOUSE

5% ABV / 330ML £4.52/L

FALLEN BREWERY

- STYLE** - Smoked Porter
- TASTE** - Peat smoked malts ensure a complex, deep brown, smoky beer with a subtle fruity hop flavour
- HOPS** - Magnum, Hallertau Mittelfruh (Germany)



£1.49

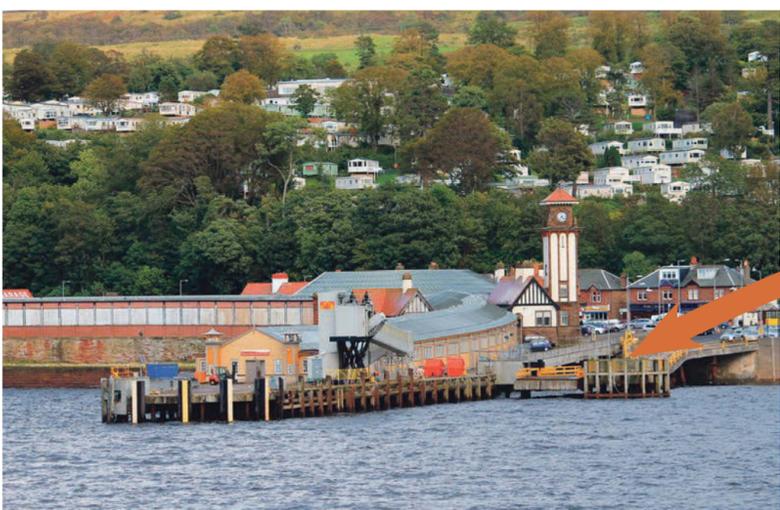
Big on Quality
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for the facts
drinkaware.co.uk

WELCOME TO

WEMYSS BAY



Architectural gem 'doon the watter'

Before the advent of package holidays the tiny village of Wemyss Bay was busier than the departure lounges at Glasgow Airport as holidaymakers headed for the Clyde, its beach resorts and the Isle of Bute by road, rail or steamer. Greater Glasgow escaped 'doon the watter' for its holidays; for day trips or longer stays.

Check out: The magnificently restored Wemyss Bay railway station and pier combined is Grade A listed - one of the finest railway buildings in Scotland and top 10 examples of railway station architecture in the UK. Wemyss Bay is still catering for tourists to this day; good places to eat and drink.

The journey: The A78 extension of the A8 takes you from the historical heart of the industrial Clyde down to the Firth of Clyde. River, sea, mountains, islands, sunsets - what more do you want? You'll see nuclear submarines and pods of whales on the Clyde. The railway hugs the coast in part, then goes inland giving some great hilltop views.

Hopscotch: Largs for Millport, Isle of Cumbrae.

The best chippy in Argyll?

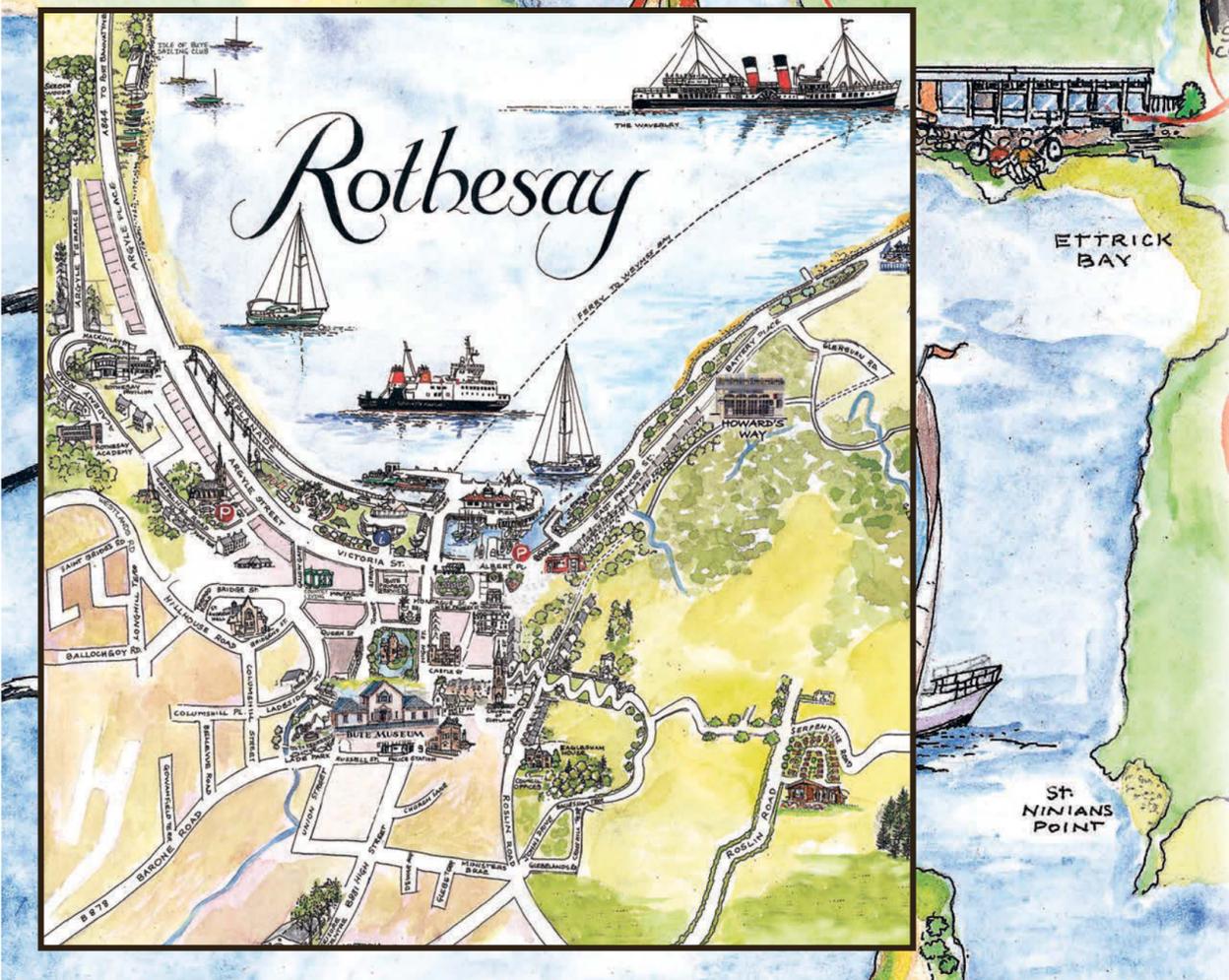
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Caledonian MacBrayne

Hebridean & Clyde Ferries



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WEMYSS BAY TO ROTHESAY

WELCOME TO

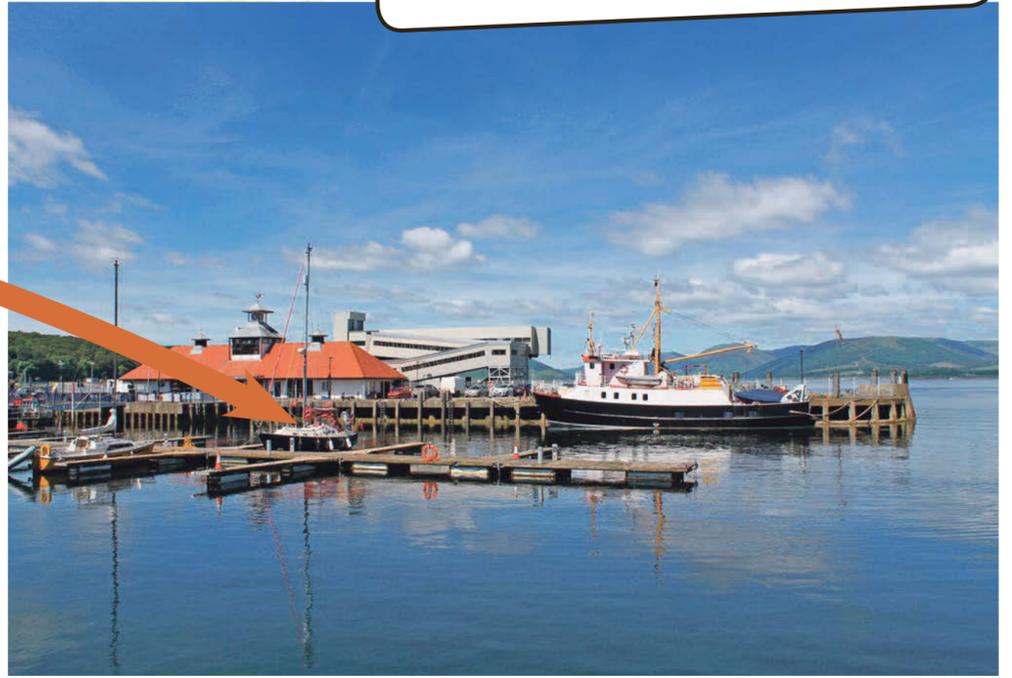
ROTHESAY

BUTE
WEMYSS BAY - ROTHESAY

TEXT CODE 03
Table 3

DAY	Glasgow Central Depart	Wemyss Bay Arrive	Wemyss Bay Depart	Rothesay Arrive	Rothesay Depart	Wemyss Bay Arrive	Wemyss Bay Depart	Glasgow Central Arrive
	-	-	-	0625	0700	0715	0808	-
	0605	0657	0715	0750	0800	0835	0957	1044
	0632	0732	0800	0835	0900	0935	1057	1144
	0750	0841	0900	0935	1000	1035	1057	1144
	0855	0943	1000	1035	1050	1125	1157	1244
	0957	1047	1105	1140	1150	1225	1257	1344
	1057	1147	1205	1240	1300	1335	1357	1444
	1157	1247	1305	1340	1400	1435	1457	1545
MON-FRI	-	-	1345	1420	1430	1505	1557	1646
	1257	1347	1445	1520	1530	1605	1645	1733
	1357	1448	1515	1550	1600	1635	1645	1733
	1457	1547	1615	1650	1700	1735	1751	1844
	1550	1639	1650	1725	1735	1810	1824	1917
	1635	1725	1745	1820	1830	1905	1947	2043
	1716	1809	1820	1855	1905	1940	1947	2043
	1755	1843	1915	1950	2000 A	2035 A	2047	2144
	1838	1938	2000	2035	-	-	-	-
	1936	2034	2100 A	2135 A	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	0700	0735	0754	0846	-
	-	-	-	0800	0835	0857	0944	-
	0632	0732	0800	0835	0900	0935	0957	1044
	0750	0841	0900	0935	0945	1020	1057	1144
	0855	0943	1000	1035	1045	1120	1157	1244
	-	-	1045	1120	1130	1205	1257	1344
	0957	1047	1130	1205	1215	1250	-	-
	1057	1147	1215	1250	1300	1335	1357	1444
	1157	1247	1305	1340	1400	1435	1457	1545
	1257	1347	1405	1440	1500	1535	1557	1646
	1357	1448	1500	1535	1600	1635	1645	1733
	1457	1547	1600	1635	1700	1735	1751	1844
	1550	1639	1650	1725	1735	1810	1824	1917
	1633	1725	1745	1820	1830	1905	1947	2043
	1716	1809	1820	1855	1905	1940	1947	2043
	1755	1843	1915	1950	2000	2035	2047	2144
	1838	1938	2000	2035	-	-	-	-
	1936	2034	2100	2135	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	0800	0835	0850	0939	-
	0750	0839	0900	0935	0945	1020	1055	1143
	0850	0939	1030	1105	1030	1105	1150	1239
	0950	1039	1115	1150	1130	1205	1250	1339
	1050	1139	1215	1250	1200	1235	1250	1339
	1150	1239	1300	1335	1300	1335	1350	1439
	1250	1340	1350	1425	1400	1435	1450	1539
	1350	1439	1500	1535	1530	1605	-	-
	1450	1539	1615	1650	1600	1635	1650	1739
	1550	1639	1700	1735	1700	1735	1750	1839
	1650	1739	1800	1835	1800	1835	1855	1944
	1750	1839	1900	1935	1900	1935	1950	2039
	1850	1939	2000	2035	-	-	-	-

PLEASE CHECK WWW.CALMAC.CO.UK FOR FARES AND FURTHER INFORMATION



The day we went to Rothesay O'

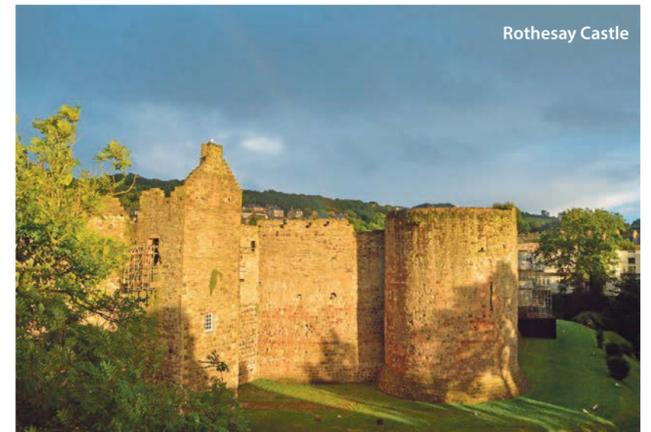
The main town on the Isle of Bute with an interesting selection of shops, eating places and entertainment; gateway to an unspoiled island crammed full of wildlife and history.

When restoration of the art deco Rothesay Pavilion is complete it will re-open next year as a major arts centre; the Winter Gardens are art nouveau, the castle in the centre of town is 13th century with moat.

Check out: The splendour of Mount Stuart; Victorian neo-gothic architecture created with no expense spared. Visit the annual jazz festival. Shopping like it used to be with butchers, bakers, fishmongers and green grocers and hardware stores that sell everything including the kitchen sink.

The journey: The A844 draws a loop around the southern half of the island, bisected by the B881 and the B878; the A 886 goes north on the eastern side to Rhubodach and the ferry.

Hopscotch: Rhubodach for Colintraive and the Cowal Peninsula of Argyll.



Rothesay Castle

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Arena

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

WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town Diary bid4oban.co.uk



Thursday 24th May	Saturday 26th May	Sunday 27th May
Oban Health Walk Oban Congregational Church Hall 10am - 11.30am	Argyll Animal Aid Garden Open Day Druimneil House Port Appin PA38 4DQ 11am - 3pm	Oban Music Society Presents Esslinger Brass Band St John's Cathedral. 3pm Viking Invasion Dunstaffnage Castle 12noon - 4pm
Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY	Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading Glencruitten Church Hall All Day	Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm £1 per person, max of 6 per team Win £20 bar voucher
Friday 25th May	Viking Invasion Dunstaffnage Castle 12noon - 4pm	Monday 28th May
Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading Glencruitten Church Hall All Day	Master Builders Lego Club The Rockfield Centre 10am-12pm	Hill Walk Isle Of Egg All Day
Let's Make a Scene #18 The Rockfield Centre 8pm-10.30pm	Songshare#3 The Rockfield Centre 8pm-10pm	Wednesday 29th May
National Theatre Of Scotland The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart Corran Halls 7pm - 10pm	Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans Ossle Highlanders from 10pm Free entry Open till 2am	Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban Lorne Pub Quiz Starting at 9pm £25 bar voucher prize and free pizza at half time
Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans Crackin' Craic from 9pm Free entry Open till 1am	Sunday 27th May	
	Hill Walk Loch Laggan. All Day	

Hundreds take part in Atlantis Leisure's MAD event



HUNDREDS of competitors jumped, dived, crawled and climbed through mud, water, and everything else for Muddy Atlantis Day (MAD) on Saturday.

The MAD event was a 10km obstacle race around Ganavan and attracted more than 250 adults and children, who helped to raise more than £6,000.

The money will be used to help with the costs of building improvements at the community centre.

Speaking about the one-off event, Atlantis Leisure's general manager Nick Wesley said: 'It makes me so proud to see Oban's community and Atlantis Leisure coming together to make a special event like this possible.'

'The event was part of our 25-year celebrations and was made possible by lots of hard work from volunteers from

Atlantis, Atlantis staff team and local businesses.

'I would like to thank The Dunstaffnage Estate and West Highland Housing Association which made their land available to us at no cost, giving us probably one of the best locations in the UK for an event of this type.'

Claire Hutchison of Atlantis Leisure said: 'It was an awesome day. I can't believe how well it went and we didn't even open a first aid kit.'

'I think the biggest thing for me was all the companies that helped us pull it together - we couldn't have done it without them and that community spirit really made it.'

'Everyone did so well and it was great to see so many people out pushing themselves and trying something different.'



Above left, Mateusz Polewaczyc dives into the second last obstacle during last Saturday's MAD event. Above right, Grant Anderson and Andy Buchanan are full of smiles after the race. Above, teams crossed the line in a show of solidarity after their muddy adventures.



The giant paddling pool gave competitors a much-needed cool down at the finish.

Events may charge. Please visit www.obanwhatson.co.uk for more details

To list your event, please call 01631 568000

The Oban Times supports local charities and not-for-profit event organisers

Let us know about your forthcoming event to appear for free in our listings, in association with Oban Town Diary.

We have reduced our community noticeboard box adverts to just £10 plus VAT (where VAT is applicable)

Put your event in front of 25,000 readers and also see what we can offer you by promoting your event online - we have more than 11,000 followers on Facebook and 36,000 monthly visitors to www.obantimes.co.uk

It pays to advertise with The Oban Times - first for community news, business news and events throughout Oban, Lochaber and the West Highlands.

Contact Nadine or Rhona on 01631 568000



What's on at The Nevis Centre

Superbowl
open everyday from 12 noon until 10pm

SPECTRUM

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

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

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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

GLASGOW MADRIGILLS
The Wonderful Wood: Choral & Folk Songs
St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe
Sat 2nd June, 7.30pm
Refreshments
£10 (£8 Friends) on door

Mòd Sgìre an Òbain 2018
Oban & District Provincial Mod
FRIDAY 1ST JUNE
Junior Competitions From 9am
Corran Halls, St Columba's Cathedral Halls, Scout Hall
Great Western Hotel
SATURDAY 2 JUNE
Adult Competitions From 9am. Oban High School
Tickets on sale at the door - £3 all day ticket
£2 for a morning or afternoon ticket
No charge for children

ARGYLL ANIMAL AID GARDEN OPEN DAY
SATURDAY 26th MAY 2018
11am - 3pm at DRUIMNEIL HOUSE, PORT APPIN PA38 4DQ
Meet a Rescue Dog • Meet a Parrot • Fundraising Stalls
Finn Falconry - Viewing with Display
Local Young Pipers
Music by Sutherlands Groove • Plants for Sale
TEAS, COFFEE AND HOME BAKING
ADMISSION (INC TEAS) ADULTS £5
CHILDREN FREE

M'ALBA MY ALBA

BBC ALBA

DIARDAOIN 24 CÈITEAN THURSDAY 24 MAY

17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Air an Toir** (rpt)
19.30 **Aithne air Ainmhidhean** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **ÙR/NEW: Fianais**
21.00 **Nationwide an Alba: An Taobh An Iar** (rpt)
22.00 **ÙR/NEW: Belladrum 2017**: KT Tunstall
22.25 **ÙR/NEW: Impireachd Banrigh Bhictoria**
23.20 **Binneas - Na Trads** - Seamas O' Sullivan (rpt)
23.25 **Air an Rathad** (rpt)

DIHAOINE 25 CÈITEAN FRIDAY 25 MAY

17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
18.30 **Machair** (rpt)
19.00 **An Là** - News
19.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
19.30 **Alba: 1976** (rpt)
20.00 **Air an Ùrlar** (rpt)

20.30 **Vets: Gach Creutair Beo** (rpt)
21.00 **Honeyballers** (rpt)
22.00 **Ceòl Uilaidh** (rpt)
23.00 **Henry Ford** (rpt)
23.50 **Dhan Uisge (Gaylet Pot)** (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 26 CÈITEAN SATURDAY 26 MAY

16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.30 **Machair** (rpt)
19.55 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
20.00 **Alba: 1977** (rpt)
20.30 **O Mo Dhùthaich** - From Uist With Love (rpt)
21.00 **Port - Druthag Eile** (rpt)
22.00 **Impireachd Banrigh Bhictoria** (rpt)
22.45 **Sgeul Seòlaidh** (rpt)
23.00 **Jock Stein** (rpt)
24.00 **Gun Sgot?** (rpt)

DIDÒMHAICH 27 CÈITEAN SUNDAY 27 MAY

16.00 **ÙR/NEW: Scottish Junior Cup Final 2018** - Auchinleck Talbot v Hurlford United

18.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
18.30 **ÙR/NEW: Seachd La** - News Review
19.30 **Sorchar nan Reul** (rpt)
20.00 **Fianais** (rpt)
20.25 **Puirt-adhair** (Highland Airports) (rpt)
20.55 **Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach** (rpt)
21.55 **Port - Druthag Eile** (rpt)
22.55 **Henry Ford** (rpt)

DILUAIN 28 CÈITEAN MONDAY 28 MAY

17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Fuine** (rpt)
19.30 **Aithne air Ainmhidhean** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.15 **Sgeul Seòlaidh** (rpt)
20.30 **ÙR/NEW: Vets: Gach Creutair Beo**
21.00 **ÙR/NEW: Trusadh - Preantasachd** (rpt)
22.00 **Ceolmhor @ Piping Live** (rpt)
22.30 **Talamh gu Truinnsair** (rpt)

23.30 **An Sgrùdaire** (rpt)
23.45 **Dhan Uisge** (Gaylet Pot) (rpt)
23.55 **Belladrum 2017**: Gallagher & Lyle (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 29 CÈITEAN TUESDAY 29 MAY

17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Air an Toir** (rpt)
19.30 **Aithne air Ainmhidhean** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **Puirt-adhair** (Highland Airports) (rpt)
21.00 **Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach** (rpt)
22.00 **Trusadh - Preantasachd** (rpt)
23.00 **Air an Rathad** (rpt)
23.30 **Sorchar nan Reul** (rpt)

DICIADAIN 30 CÈITEAN WEDNESDAY 30 MAY

17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Fuine** (rpt)
19.30 **Aithne air Ainmhidhean** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **O Mo Dhùthaich** - From Uist With Love (rpt)
21.00 **Talamh gu Truinnsair** (rpt)
22.00 **ÙR/NEW: An Sgrùdaire** (rpt)
22.15 **ÙR/NEW: Dhan Uisge** (Falls of Acharn)
22.25 **Belladrum 2017**: KT Tunstall
22.30 **Ceolmhor @ Piping Live** (rpt)
23.00 **Nationwide an Alba: An Taobh An Iar** (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 31 CÈITEAN THURSDAY 31 MAY

17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Air an Toir** (rpt)
19.30 **Aithne air Ainmhidhean** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **ÙR/NEW: Fianais**
21.00 **Nationwide an Alba: An Taobh An Ear** (rpt)
22.00 **Belladrum 2017**: Dr Feelgood
22.25 **ÙR/NEW: Impireachd Banrigh Bhictoria**
23.10 **An Sgrùdaire** (rpt)
23.25 **Air an Rathad** (rpt)

Sun, sea and skiff at Oban

KATHIE GRIFFITHS
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

FORGIVE me for sticking my oar in but anyone who didn't make it to Oban Sailing Club's open day at the weekend really did 'miss the boat', big-style.

While temperatures soared and sizzled on land, a breeze blowing out at sea whipped up a good show of land-lubbers - including 81-year-old Colin who only came for a look but ended up on a yacht.

'Even if we were competing with many local events and a royal wedding, we had about 100 new people who went afloat,' said club commodore Iain Campbell.

Saturday's chance for people to jump aboard and give sailing and rowing a go was part of a nationwide event being organised by the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) to get people out on the water.

The sailing club in Gallanach Road was one of 400 other clubs across the UK which invited the community down for free taster-sessions.

People signed up to join as members on the day and lots of membership forms were taken away, said Mr Campbell, who was just one of the 20 club

volunteers who gave a hand.

Dinghy and keelboat sailing and powerboating were just some of what was on offer on the day. Oban Rowing Club and Seil Coastal Rowing Club also brought their skiffs along.

I'm no stranger to the sea as a CalMac passenger or an open water swimmer but I've never been part of a boat crew before.

Sailing hats off to our cox James Fenton who took on the challenge of taking me and my three pals out in Selkie, a traditional skiff lovingly built-up and cared for by members of the Isle of Seil Coastal Rowing Club.

This particular coastal craft made of wood and share-funded by Seil islanders, was a beauty. Under James's patient coaxing we managed to row her without incident safely round Heather Island. We soon worked out that co-ordination, timing and teamwork was key to a successful voyage.

A seal popped up to say hello and when oars were 'easy' we had time to take a breather and 'soak up' our surroundings.

At one stage James, onboard with Angus, his dog, encouraged us to row with our eyes shut which heightened the experience of feel-



ing the sea breeze in our hair and the nudge and pull of the waves below. There were others waiting on shore to have a shot so all too soon we were heading back to land - I'm definitely up for more.

Argyll College also brought its RIB boat along to the open day

and the town's lifeboat, the *Mora Edith MacDonald*, a Trent-class all-weather vessel, put in an appearance too.

Oban Sailing Club, formed in 1935, is now hoping the Push The Boat Out event will encourage new members to sign up. Both Oban and Seil rowing sides

are also looking for more crew.

To find out more visit obansailingclub.org or follow the club on Facebook and Twitter. Interested in Seil's skiff? Go to seilskiff.org.uk or to discover more about the Oban skiff side head for obanrowingclub.org.uk



James Fenton with Angus taking charge of Selkie, the Seil skiff



Making the most of the sea breeze at Oban's Push The Boat out event.



Out at sea during Oban Sailing Club's open day.



Skiff crew all aboard Seil's Selkie craft at Oban Sailing Club's Push The Boat Out event.



Giving sailing a go at Oban's Push The Boat Out event.

Your local radio listings

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

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

MONDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 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 down

TUESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darlings' Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2

WEDNESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell, 19.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll - Len + Ken, 20.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre

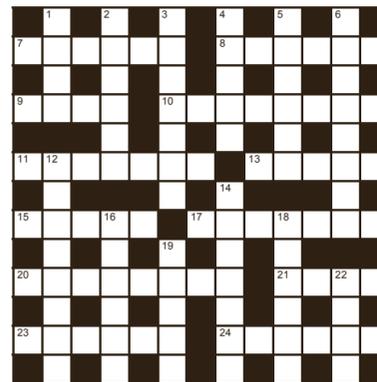
THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00 Christines Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight, 11.00 Margo Till Midnight

FRIDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny, 17.00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 17.30 Drive Show, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 20.00 Lewis Bingham, 21.00 Peter Rainnie

SATURDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Stephen, 10.00 Sat Morning Live, 11.00 Saturday Morning, 12.00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowsher, 12.03 Sat Morning Live, 12.05 Saturday Morning Live, 13.30 Clyde, 18.00 Sports View - Dream Team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight

SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning With Breege, 10.00 Sunday Morning, 11.00 Sunday Brunch With Archie, 12.00 Sunday Brunch, 16.30 Archie Darling, 18.00 Ken's Friends - Ken Hunter, 19.00 New Country Show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



Across

- 7 The dawn (6)
- 8 Ask for payment (6)
- 9 A long way (4)
- 10 Certify a document (8)
- 11 Become prone (3,4)
- 13 Alternative (5)
- 15 Key material (5)
- 17 Written matter in a paper (7)
- 20 Large mammal (8)
- 21 Use scissors (4)
- 23 Naked (6)
- 24 Most advanced in the field (6)

Down

- 1 Split (4)
- 2 Extremely hot (6)
- 3 Night bird (4,3)
- 4 Urgent (5)
- 5 Attic (6)
- 6 Pale shade of blue (8)
- 12 Shifting (8)
- 14 Pompous speech (7)
- 16 Flamethrower fuel (6)
- 18 Unmoved (2,4)
- 19 Rice field (5)
- 22 Frozen (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



OFFERS & competitions

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at www.scottishfield.co.uk. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 30 June 2018. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve whisky.**

WIN

A 70CL BOTTLE OF EDINBURGH GIN'S CANNONBALL GIN

Inspired by Edinburgh's rich naval heritage of cannons and the famous One O'clock Gun, Edinburgh Gin's Cannonball is a Navy Strength gin that lives up to its evocative name. Cannonball resurrects a historic style of gin commissioned by the British Navy, making it an homage to Edinburgh's seafaring past.

Bottled at 57.2% ABV, Cannonball is 100% proof, and defined by intense juniper and Oriental spice. With twice the juniper content of classic Edinburgh Gin, it packs quite the punch.



FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: **What %ABV is Cannonball Gin?**

Terms and Conditions apply

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, 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 Scottish Field rules apply. Information will be shared with promoters and sponsors.

BBC ALBA DIY LE DONNIE



A bheil sibh a' beachdachadh air beagan DIY? Am biodh cuideachadh feumail?

Tha DIY le Donnie a' lorg dhaoine a chuireadh feum air taic le beagan DIY. B' urrainn do Donnie taic a thoirt dhuibh le diofar obraichean, leithid saorsainneachd, plumaireachd no cha mhòr rud sam bith eile! Bidh sinn a' fìolmhadh timcheall an Obain is Earra-ghaidheal tron t-samhraidh agus chòrdadh e rinn obraichean a tha freagarrach - beag no mòr - a dhèanamh dhuibh!

Ma tha sibhse airson pàirt a ghabhail, neo ma tha sibh eòlach air cuideigin no buidheann a chuireadh feum air taic, fònaibh gu 0141 422 6231 no cuiribh post-d gu diyeldonnie@bbc.co.uk le beagan fiosrachaidh.

Are you planning a DIY project?

Could you do with some expert help from Donnie?

DIY le Donnie is back and we're looking for members of the public - preferably Gaelic speakers - who could do with some help from Donnie. He can help with a variety of smaller jobs, from joinery to plumbing and virtually anything in between!

Filming will take place around Oban and Argyll throughout the summer and we're willing to consider any jobs, big or small.

If you're interested in taking part, or if you know someone or a group who could do with some support, give us a call on 0141 422 6231 or send an email to diyeldonnie@bbc.co.uk with a brief description of the job.

Step aboard Paddle Steamer Waverley for a Great Day Out!



Buy onboard when you sail, call 0141 243 2224 or visit waverleyexcursions.co.uk

Sailing from OBAN North Pier

Isle of Skye Inverie

SATURDAY June 2 Leave 10am back 9.30pm
Fares: Isle of Skye £43 SC £41 Visit Inverie £45 SC £43

4 Lochs & Whirlpool

SUNDAY June 3 Leave 12.30pm back 6.30pm
Fare: 4 Lochs & a Whirlpool £37 SC £35

Isle of Coll Cruise Island Coast

MONDAY June 4 Leave 10am back 8pm
Fares: Visit Coll £41 SC £39
Cruise Island Coast £43 SC £41

Mull of Kintyre

TUESDAY June 5 Leave 9.30am back 6.30pm
Fare: Mull of Kintyre £37 SC £35
Return by coach from Campbeltown

Arena

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

Ballet West showcase spectacular



BALLET West's final year students showcased their skills in Oban at the weekend.

Dancers from the Taynuilt-based school performed at the Corran Halls and will be on stage again this weekend at Stirling's Macrobert Art Centre, before some of them graduate and

start out on professional careers. Kate Little, a second-year BA Hons degree student from Oban, was among the cast of dancers in Oban performing examples of what they have learned from classical to modern ballet and contemporary.

Alongside classical work there was contemporary, newly choreographed pieces by award-winning choreographers Indra Reinholde, Natasha Watson and Martin Fenton. The showcase marks a transition for third year students as their last performance as students

of Ballet West. It is also the final assessment they take before graduating with a BA(Hons) in Dance, awarded by the Open University. Ballet West Principal Gillian Barton said: 'It is a wonderful opportunity for audiences to see these exceptionally talented students performing.'

MOJO mania hits Ardfern



Oban band Citizen9 who performed at last year's MOJO event.

MOJO ARGYLL will be back at Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern, on Saturday October 20.

The music event is currently accepting applications from Argyll musicians or those

with strong Argyll links. Any style of music will be considered, with a shortlist of acts to be confirmed by the end of the summer.

Organiser Dan Griffiths said: 'We had a great night of music

last year and felt so welcome and supported in Ardfern.

'We still hope to stage MOJO in other locations throughout Argyll in the future, but Ardfern has given us the start we needed.

'We hope to build on that this year to get MOJO and the artists out there.'

If you are over 18, your band or yourself can perform for more than 30 minutes and you are a resident in

Argyll or have strong connections to Argyll, the MOJO team wants to hear from you.

If you are interested in applying, contact Dan on 01546 602429, or visit the MOJO - Argyll Facebook page.

Special Scottish theatre tour comes to Easdale

A YOUNG woman who has Down's Syndrome is the star of a hard-hitting new play which will be performed at Easdale Island Community Hall on Saturday June 2.

Abigail Brydon, 24, will take the leading role in *Downs With Love*, a new play by Scottish company Cutting Edge Theatre, which sensitively explores questions of love and disability, and invites audiences to think about their own preconceptions.

Abi plays Beth, a young woman who lives a happy, independent

life. Beth has her eye on Mark (Stephen Arthur), who sings in the local pub on Friday nights, but when Mark starts to fall for Beth's support worker Tracy (Katie Milne), everything is set to get a lot more complicated.

Suzanne Lofthus, writer and director, said: 'Downs With Love challenges us all to think about what we consider acceptable. Can we accept a couple, one of whom has Down's and one does not, or would that make us feel uncomfortable?'

'Abi is in a very strong position throughout

the play. She doesn't leave the stage. We're not aiding her in any way - we're all equals on stage. She's an actress in her own right doing what she does, and that makes the story even more powerful.'

Abi is studying acting and performance at Fife College, and has appeared on stage in several local productions. She has been a member of the INSPIRE programme, created by Cutting Edge Theatre, offering drama to young adults with additional support needs.

Abi said: 'Beth is a bit different from me.

When I change my hairstyle, I know I'm playing Beth, not being myself. I like acting a lot - my dream is to be on Coronation Street.'

Downs With Love is on a 10-venue Scotland-wide tour, funded by a grant from the National Lottery People's Project, after votes from the public made it one of this year's top three projects.

Easdale is the furthest flung date on the tour, and the cast is looking forward to travelling to the island. For more information and tickets, see www.easdaleisland-hall.org.

Vote for your top 10!

The deadline to receive votes is 10am, Tuesday May 29, 2018

Just when you think that the voting can't get any more intense, you, our readers, continue to surprise us ... We have been inundated with votes for our bonniest baby and can now reveal the top 20 in all their gorgeous glory. What an explosion of cuteness to brighten up everyone's day. We are now getting to the final stages of the competition and you are invited to vote for the final 10, which will be announced on May 31.

You know the drill by now - complete the voting coupon this week (you will have another chance next week as well) and get your votes to us by 10am on Tuesday May 29. Our top 10 will be published on Thursday May 31.

Let's get voting!

Remember, you can vote as often as you like, but coupons must come from the newspaper, and photocopies or coupons printed from the website won't count.

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. Only original coupons printed in the Oban Times and Lochaber Times will be accepted.

You may submit multiple voting coupons in one envelope. Coupons can also be handed in to our offices in Oban and Fort William.

The deadline to receive votes is 10am, Tuesday May 29, 2018



Kyleakin Connections

SKYE'S Brighde Chaimbeul and Alana MacInnes from South Uist are well known names in the world of piping, and are hosting small piping workshops in Kyleakin at the end of the month.

The classes will take place at the Nice Cafe on Saturday May 26 from 10.30am-2.30pm and Sunday May 27 from 12-4pm.

If anyone's at intermediate or advanced level on the Highland pipes, this is the perfect weekend for them: go along if you're eager to get started on the small pipes, looking to extend piping skills and if you're interested in learning a few new tunes.

As well learning as an individual, there will also be a chance to play as a group. There are also some sets of small pipes for people to try out if they don't have their own. Concessions are offered to anyone under 25 wishing to join the classes.



Brighde Chaimbeul winning BBC Radio 2's Young Fold Award in 2016



South Uist piper Alana MacInnes at a Care for a Ceilidh event in Glasgow. She will team up with Brighde Chaimbeul to host a small pipes workshops in Kyleakin.



Gaelic Americana comes to Benderloch

GAELIC Americana singer Kyle Carey is on stage at Benderloch's Victory Hall tomorrow night, May 25.

It will be a return visit for Kyle who has spent the past six years touring both nationally and internationally winning hearts and re-telling the history of American folk on both sides of the Atlantic.

Tickets are available from 01631 720247 or £12 on the door.

Kyle Carey plays at Benderloch's Victory Hall tomorrow night (Friday).

Glasgow Letter

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



Gordon Pattullo (box) and Malcolm Ross (drums) were a class act at the Clydesdale Club earlier this month.

Gordon Pattullo at Clydesdale Accordion and Fiddle Club

I had a thoroughly enjoyable Sunday afternoon earlier this month at the Clydesdale Accordion and Fiddle Club in St Mary's Club Rooms in Lanark.

The club is run by a committee headed by Scottish Dance Band leader Iain Cathcart and the guest artist for May was Gordon Pattullo.

This was the first time I had heard Gordon play live since I was a wee boy and I still cannot get over the speed of his fingers over the keyboard as well as the intricacy of his bass

hand in both the faster Scottish repertoire but also his continental pieces.

It really was a great day of music and, as I have said before in this letter, a Sunday afternoon is just the perfect time for an accordion and fiddle club. Nobody feels tired after a working day, and nobody is keeping one eye on the clock looking for an early night.

The audience is just fully relaxed. I totally recommend heading along to this excellent club which takes place at 2pm on the first Sunday of each month when the season resumes after the summer.

Orain is Oraid with Aonghas MacCoinnich

Have you ever heard of the Fife Adventurers?

Until last week, I was aware of the name but probably could not have told you much about them at all.

After attending Aonghas MacCoinnich's lecture on them in the Glasgow Gaelic School, I left completely fascinated at this bit of Highland history I knew so little about.

The Fife Adventurers were 12 nobles who set sail from Fife to Stornoway in 1598 at the behest of King James VI in an attempt to 'civilise' the 'barbarous' Gaelic-speaking islanders. At this time, it was obviously convenient for King James (with a view to endear himself to his future subjects in England) to be seen to be extremely hard on the Gaels and to reap profit for the crown from the natural resources of the Hebrides.

For an hour and a half, a fairly large audience sat transfixed as Aonghas shared with us the findings from his historic research on the subject. When next I hear of something like this in Glasgow, I will be sure to publicise and recommend it in this column.

What's On

Friday May 25: Helensburgh and District Highland Association Annual General Meeting and Dance in the Commodore Hotel at 8pm.

Thursday May 31: Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm in Lourdes Secondary School.

Thursday May 31: Glasgow Sutherland Association AGM in the RAOB Club, 937 Dumbarton Road, at

7.30pm.

Tuesday June 5: The Glasgow Islay Association Annual General Meeting at 7pm in Partick Burgh Hall.

Friday June 8: The Glasgow Skye Association End of Session Social at 7pm in the Redhurst Hotel, Giffnock.

Wednesday June 13: Unit 3 of An Leannag, 22 Mansfield Street, at 7pm.

Friday June 29: Helensburgh and District Highland Association Dance at 8pm in the Commodore Hotel.

Pub Scene

Islay Inn: Friday May 25: Twist of Fate.

Saturday May 26: Bad Influence.

Park Bar: Friday May 25: Susan MacFadyen.

Saturday May 26: Robert Nairn.

CUTTING EDGE THEATRE PRESENTS: "Downs With Love"

"They told me that I should have told them I have Downs. Why? What difference does that make?"

"Downs With Love" explores the subject of love and disability and challenges us to consider what we view to be "acceptable". Can we accept seeing a couple - one of whom has Down's and the other does not? Do we understand the complexities and issues surrounding love and disability? The play has been written around the performers and especially with Abi Brydon, the central actor. Cutting Edge Theatre have worked with Abi, taking her own feelings, challenges and experiences growing up with Down's and creating a very real, moving performance around her.

"Downs With Love" tells the story of Beth, a young girl who has Down's Syndrome. She lives a very independent life, has her routines and lives simply but happily. She is helped by a new support worker, Tracy and they soon strike up a friendship. On a Friday night, she goes to the pub to watch Mark, a local singer. Beth loves Mark but the problem is - Mark loves Tracy who loves both of them. Complex and challenging issues arise for all.

Abi is one of the students at the INSPIRE project in Fife which is a programme created by Cutting Edge Theatre. INSPIRE uses Drama to help people who have additional support needs to become more confident, increase their self-esteem and improve their vocal abilities - all to help them be more confident in society.

Cutting Edge Theatre works primarily in Community Theatre in Scotland and overseas. The company works in prisons, produces large scale open air productions and develops Inspire projects in Schools and young adult groups. Cutting Edge Theatre recognises that everyone has potential and works to help encourage that potential, whatever that might be, so the Company is delighted that Abi is realising one of her dreams - to act onstage!

This tour has been made possible due to Cutting Edge being one of three successful projects nominated by the public for a grant in this year's People's Project.

For High Res images, follow this link - <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7ahd6j1gr-molrtd/AACVLjkf8vcAraZDLsqX32fa?dl=0>

eilean eisdeal

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ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

Downs WITH LOVE

A CHALLENGING STORY OF LOVE AND DIVERSITY

Easdale Island Community Hall

2nd June @ 8pm (doors & bar 7.30pm) Late Return Ferry

Tickets & Info: www.easdaleislandhall.org

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Trail will push Hebrides as top whale destination

EUAN CARR
editor@obantimes.co.uk

INDIVIDUALS, communities and businesses are being asked to contribute ideas for top sites for spotting whales, dolphins and porpoises from land on Scotland's West Coast to help create a Hebridean Whale Trail.

The trail, the first of its kind in the UK, will be a network of around 25 world-class whale-watching and whale heritage sites. Its development is being led by the Mull-based charity Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust.

The project will promote Scotland as one of Europe's best destinations for spotting whales, dolphins and porpoises, and champion conservation of the Hebrides' unique, globally important, marine wildlife and environment.

Due for a summer 2019 launch, the initiative will connect and support existing wildlife tourism businesses and heritage sites of national cultural significance that showcase the history of people's relationships with whales in the Hebrides. Many of these will be small, community-run visitor centres at spectacular sites.

The trust, which is headquartered in Tobermory, hopes to identify sites from the Clyde in the south to Cape Wrath in the far north, and as far west as St Kilda. There will be a variety of locations from remote and dramatic headlands and sea lochs, white sandy beaches and bustling harbours.

The trail will have a dedicated website with suggested routes, transport options and site details, with visitors able to share experiences by uploading photos.

Activities will support local economic growth and job creation, promoting land-based whale-watching as a sustainable and accessible activity. The project aims to help communities – particularly in remote areas where visitor numbers or facilities can't support boat-based whale-watching businesses – to generate an income from their local natural heritage.

Events, workshops and school field trips will raise awareness about whales, dolphins and porpoises, while volunteers will be able to be trained how to responsibly watch, identify and record marine wildlife.

Wildlife tour businesses and commu-



Siobhan Moran, Hebridean Whale Trail officer, and Karl Stevens, Hebridean Whale Trail manager.



nity groups setting up trips that incorporate nearby whale trail locations will be offered expert advice, training and information materials.

Karl Stevens, Hebridean Whale Trail manager, said: 'People currently visit Scotland for the landscapes, wildlife and culture – but not necessarily to see cetaceans. With the Hebrides being

one of the best places in Europe to see these spectacular animals, we want to add them to the mix – and our research shows that the potential is huge.

'We're keen to hear from local people, communities and businesses for their ideas and suggestions to ensure the Hebridean Whale Trail embodies the spirit of the Hebrides, and places

Scotland's land-based whale-watching opportunities on the international map.'

David Adams McGilp, VisitScotland regional director, said: 'Scotland is renowned for its outstanding beauty and our natural environment is one of the top reasons people choose to visit. This new whale trail will help cement Scotland's reputation as one of the best places in Europe to watch marine life, and provides a platform for local communities to come together and promote everything that makes the Hebrides such a unique and special place.

'With figures suggesting nature-based activities are worth nearly 40 per cent of all tourism spending in Scotland, our natural heritage is certainly an important asset when attracting visitors.'

The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust has been taking action for the conservation of whales, dolphins and porpoises for more than two decades.

Its research – primarily conducted from its specialised research yacht Silurian – has advanced understanding of species that visit or are resident in the Hebrides.



Litter signs urge people to take their rubbish home with them.

National park joins campaign to tackle roadside rubbish

VISITORS to Scotland's first national park are being urged to 'give their litter a lift' as part of a national campaign to tackle roadside rubbish.

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park has teamed up with Keep Scotland Beautiful to support its roadside litter campaign.

As part of Keep Scotland Beautiful's national week of action, the National Park Authority has placed 'Give your litter a lift' messages on bins and lampposts at key locations throughout the park where visitors often stop to pick up something to eat or drink or enjoy a picnic.

While many of these locations have bins, the aim is to remind people that if they are moving on with their snacks and drinks to keep their litter with them until they reach a bin or to take it home with them.

The national park attracts more than four million visitors every year and has some of Scotland's busiest major roads passing through it.

This can lead to increased levels of litter being dumped on some of the most scenic routes in the country. This type of litter spoils the spectacular landscape and views, and roadside litter in

particular is difficult, dangerous and costly to clear up.

Litter levels in Scotland are at their worst in a decade with 82 per cent of motorways and A-road verges recorded a presence of litter in 2016/17.

Simon Jones, director of conservation and visitor operations at Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, said: 'The national park is one of the most beautiful places in Scotland yet litter is a problem blighting some places in this special landscape.

'As the National Park Authority, we aren't responsible for collecting all litter in the park but we are working to tackle this issue across the area as best we can.

'We are doing this by trialling different approaches to managing litter on our own sites, by working in collaboration with our partners, other landowners and communities through initiatives like community clean-ups, and by taking part in campaigns such as this one to spread the message that everyone can play their part in preventing litter from spoiling this beautiful area.

'The solution is simple: if there are no bins, or bins are full, take your litter home with you.'

THIS WEEK'S WALKS

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted before hand for meet-up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy. Further information at www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk. Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk.

Saturday May 26 Appin Village and Port Appin

A pleasant varied walk through clear felled forest areas on good paths giving extensive views over hills coast and islands. Start at the Appin village hall CP,

NM938459. Take the short path NE down to the cycle track. Turn right and follow it SW for about 1 km to NM949455, where a path leads back up to the A828.

Follow it W for a short distance then cross the main road to the forest entrance. Head S then SW on the forest track for about 3km. At a junction NM929434, turn NW past Ledgrianach and onto the minor public road. Turn right and follow the road NE for about 430m then take the forest track on the left. Follow it NE at first, turning SW, for 800m. Turn left onto a path at NM925441, heading S then SW to junction at NM922439. Turn right and follow the path up N, then down to reach the forest track and a

gate. Pass through the gate and turn right on to a path heading up NE.

It turns SW and up onto a ridge with fine views of the Firth of Lorn and Isle of Mull. The path turns right then left through an area of young trees then zig-zags down an escarpment through mature forest to reach the public minor road at NM916440.

Follow the road N, around Glacriska Bay and uphill to Drumnell House where gardens are open to the public. Continue on the road to Airds Bay and turn left onto the footpath heading SW along the foot of the cliffs towards Appin Rocks. There is a natural arch at the end of the peninsula and fine views down the Lynn of Lorn.

Head back up the W side of the peninsula to reach Port Appin, with its jetties, ferry to Lismore and the Pierhouse for refreshments.

Grade: L; Distance: 12km; Height to climb: 300m Map(s): LR49, EX376; Meet at Longsdale car park, Oban, at 9.30am or North Ballachulish school at 9.30am. Start at 10am Leader: Gerry Gilbert 07765 830203.

Thursday May 31 Glen Gour to Strontian, Ardgour

This is an old route that linked the lead mines at Strontian with the Corran Narrows and would have been busy during the Napoleonic wars. Today, a fine walk through a remote, peaceful glen. Start from the old twin-arch

bridge over the River Gour at Sallachan, NM978629. Limited parking is available in the vicinity. Head W up Glen Gour, along a path on the south side of the River Gour.

The path disappears after about 6km. Continue W to the pass between Sgurr na Laire and Sgurr nan Cnamh, which is the watershed at about NM894648, 200m alt. Continue W but cross to the N side of the Strontian river and follow it for about 3½km to pick up the path which leads to the ruined cottages of Ceann a' Chreagain. Head SW along the track through the very fine natural woods of the Ariundle Oakwood NNR to reach the Ariundle Tea

Rooms at NM821631.

Grade: M; Distance: 20km; Height to climb: 200m; Map(s): LR40, EX391; Meet at Corran Ferry for 9.15am sailing. Start of walk at 9.45am. Leader: Rick Atkinson 07587 549731.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB
Please see full walk details at www.nevishillwalking.club. If anyone would like to go out on the walk please contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email enquiries@nevishillwalking.club.

Sunday May 27 Geal Charn, Creag Pitridh, Loch Laggan
Cross the River Spean and

follow the track. Take the left fork leading up to the Allt Coire Pitridh and then turn north on the stalkers path before striking uphill to the northeast to the summit of Gael Charn.

Return to the coll between Gael Charn and Creag Pitridh where a path leads up the south-western side of Creag Pitridh to the summit. From the summit cairn head W then SW, picking up the path leading down the grassy slope to the Allt Coire Pitridh and back to the start.

Distance: 19km; height to climb: 900m. Suggested by Gavin Theobald; co-ordinated by Andrew Gilbert.

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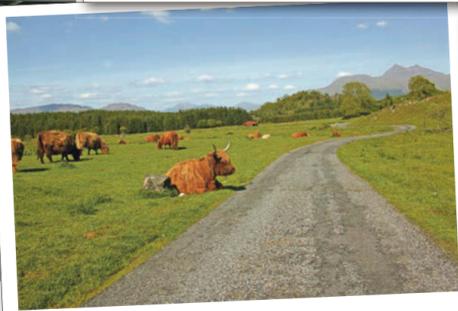
and drink



History...



and culture



Land...



and sea

The sun obviously brings out the best in our readers. We have been overwhelmed by the response to #myargyll. If anything, things have accelerated now that the summer has arrived with hundreds of photographs, memories and videos being added to our social wall every week. Go to www.myargyll.co.uk and check them out.

You really are proud of Argyll. And we are more than happy to keep showcasing your content – so keep it coming. To participate, simply tag your photos,

videos, poetry or prose on Twitter, YouTube or Instagram #myargyll. Remember to ensure your privacy settings are set to public to enable sharing.

Why not take the next step and enter your content into our #myargyll competition? Once you have shared your content via social media, visit www.myargyll.co.uk/competition, follow the instructions and upload your content. All entries will then be judged by an independent panel of experts and a winner will be announced later in the summer. The closing date for entries is Monday June 11, 2018, so don't delay.



Extra prizes announced

Not only are you using the hashtag in your droves but we have been inundated with entries into our competition to win a priceless Argyll experience.

We are delighted to announce that, courtesy of our partners at AITC and OLTA, we have added to the prize package...

AN OVERNIGHT STAY AT THE FALLS OF LORA HOTEL IN CONNELL and, for good measure, we'll give you two tickets for a walking tour with Oban's Yellow Badge guides from North Pier to McCaig's Tower.

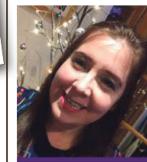
Why I love Argyll



Kay MacDonald

Oban Town Ambassador

I've grown up hearing Argyll described as 'God's own country' and the older I get the more I agree with the sentiment. We have everything we need within its borders – the sea, the mountains, the glens and the rivers and, most importantly, the people. I could live and holiday here all my life and not get tired of it because around every corner is different and every cloud scudding across the sky changes the landscape. The wee nooks, crannies and villages keep me exploring and coming back for more – and Oban, the jewel in the crown, is my home.



Carol Bennet

Brand Home Manager
Oban Distillery

First and foremost, Argyll is my home, the place where I live, work and where I always return to after my travels. Here, I am sure to find every type of weather, which keeps life interesting. I have even grown to tolerate the rain!

The people are genuine and friendly and the scenery spectacular. Living close to the sea means there is always a beach to be found or a boat trip to enjoy. Perhaps the most special gift of all though, are the stunning sunsets – which often stop me in my tracks.



Martin Laing

Deputy Editor
The Oban Times

Since moving to Oban two years ago, I have been really struck by the sense of community and warmth of the people.

This is, as many have said, a stunning part of the world scenically, with its spectacular mountains, lochs, glens, coast and islands. However, it is the people who ice the cake.

Visitors and tourists I have spoken to routinely comment on how they are blown away by the welcome extended by Argyll's greatest asset: its residents. Oh, and the food and drink are not half bad either!

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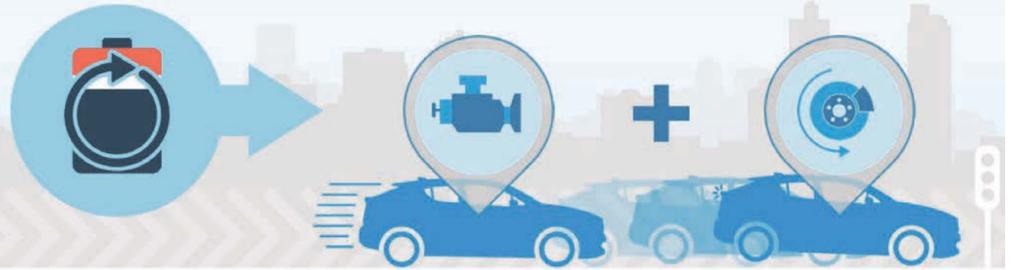
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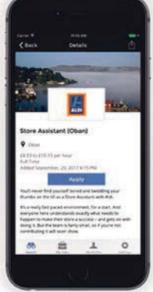
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£149,500



Lovely 3 bed end-terrace family home with front and back gardens and driveway. The end property in a row of traditional Victorian villas in popular Queen Street, a short stroll from the town centre, and boasts a spacious sitting room, dining kitchen, three bedrooms, cloakroom / utility room, separate cloakroom and bathroom. Adorned with many original features such as high ceilings, cornicing, deep skirting, archways, wooden flooring, decorative door-glazing and a lovely staircase this is sure to appeal to anyone looking for a practical family house full of character with added bonuses of lovely views, gardens and a driveway.

For more information contact: 01369 701755
info@watersideprop.com www.watersideprop.com

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SNH National Nature Reserve and Nature Reserves

Sporting Leases Opportunity

To let by Scottish Natural Heritage – individual leases to deliver annual deer culls over up to 7 sites (total 5,300 hectares) on SNH managed NNRs or NRs:

- Ben Wyvis NNR • Claish Moss NR
- Craigellachie NNR
- Dell Woods (Abernethy NNR)
- Glasdrum NNR • Glencripesdale NR
- Glen Roy NR

To be let from 2018 to 2022. Interested parties are invited to submit an expression of interest, for 1 or multiple sites, 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 2018**. Please include a 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 bidding documents will be issued to interested parties by **4th June 2018**. Please note that invitations to bid will only be issued to parties who have expressed an interest by **31st May 2018**.

North Argyll Carers Centre Ltd

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 14th June 2018
Hut 1, Rockfield Centre
12 till 2.00
Refreshments and home baking will be served.
All welcome to attend

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

J MacDonald
2 Portnaluchaig, Arisaig & Moidart
0.156 ha – Site for a dwelling house
86258

J MacDonald Dougall
Ardionra, Eastend, Kilfinichen & Kilvickieon
0.08 ha – Site for a dwelling house
86425

First Registration of a Croft

Elizabeth Kilmurray has registered her croft Balgarve, Lismore and Appin on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by February 2, 2019. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C5063.

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 21/06/2018. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

G Campbell & A Campbell
Achnacroish, Kilbrandon & Kilchattan
85955
0.123 ha
Reason – Existing croft house site & garden ground
Condition – Fencing

I M Fyfe
3 Stronaba, Kilmonivaig
83077
0.6 ha
Reason – Existing house site
Condition – With fencing conditions.
Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Argyll and Bute Council

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL (QUEENS PARK PLACE, STATION ROAD AND RAILWAY STATION ACCESS ROAD, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2018

On Monday 21st May 2018, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle, with the exception of emergency services vehicles, through the entire length of Queens Park Place, Station Road and Railway Station Access Road, Oban in order to permit the holding of Charities Day on or near those roads.

The restrictions, which shall be effective when indicated by signs, will be in operation between 0800 hours and 1800 hours on Saturday 2nd June 2018.

Alternative Route: There is no alternative route.

Jim Smith, Head of Roads and 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
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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
18/01976/FUL	Land 30M NW Of Tigh A Righ, Onich		Formation of cycleway
18/02150/FUL	Achnabobane Junction With A82(t) Spean Bridge		Installation of 1 x DSLAM Telecommunication Broadband Cabinet measuring 1430mm x 450mm x 1300m
18/01862/FUL	9 High Street Fort William		Change of Use from Class 1 (Retail) to Class 3 (Food & Drink)
18/01764/FUL	Land NE Of Knock House Lochaline, Morvern		Installation of clear water tank and ancillary kiosks
18/02232/PIP	Land 185M NW Of Carinish, Achaphubil Fort William		Erection of house
18/02242/FUL	Sundolitt Ltd Unit 9 Annat Point Industrial Estate, Corpach Fort William		Erection of boiler house building (retrospective)
18/02224/FUL	Land 45M West Of The Underwater Centre Marine Walk Carmichael Way, Fort William		Change of use of land to site 4no. static caravans (Renewal of 13/01532/FUL)
18/01949/FUL	Land 40M NE Of 63 Ormsaigbeg Kilchoan		Erection of house

Time period for comments is 14 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
18/01036/PP	Alterations and extension to former church to form 4 flats and 1 dwellinghouse	Balnakeil Kirk Road Dunbeg Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1PP	Sub Post Office Dunbeg
18/00870/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land South Of Schiehallion Crossapole Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute	Tiree Area Office
18/00749/PP	Refurbishment and change of use of former school to form mixed use centre for community wellbeing/arts & culture/heritage and enterprise, demolition of dilapidated WC block and installation of new accessible entrance and ramp, demolition of stair block to make new compliant stair and lift core	Former Rockfield Primary School Hill Street Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
18/01091/PP	Erection of 2 semi-detached dwellinghouses	Plot 35 Powell Place Connel Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Connel
18/00970/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and wind turbine (6 metres high), installation of septic tank and ground mounted solar panels	Land North East Of Lonban Cottage Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
18/01100/PP	Erection of replacement dwellinghouse (amended design to that approved under 05/02174/DET)	Land North East Of Tigh Bhaan Portnacraich Argyll And Bute PA38 4BL	Sub Post Office Port Appin
18/01094/PP	Erection of a building for use as storage (class 6)	Yard 3B Business Park Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7BF	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
18/01106/PP	Erection of sunroom extension and extension to form ancillary accommodation	Skerryvore Isle Of Iona Argyll And Bute PA76 6SP	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
18/01075/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and studio	Selma Church Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1QP	Sub Post Office Connel
18/01090/PP	Change of use of harbourmaster building and associated ground to dwellinghouse (retrospective)	Harbourmaster House Melfort Pier Kilmelford Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4XD	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
18/01063/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access and installation of septic tank	Land South Of Collaig House Kilchrean Tainuill Argyll And Bute PA35 1HG	Sub Post Office Tainuill
18/01077/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land North West Of Sailean Isle Of Lismore Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5UL	Sub Post Office Lismore
18/00740/LIB	Refurbishment of former school to form mixed use centre for community wellbeing/arts & culture/heritage and enterprise, demolition of dilapidated WC block and installation of new accessible entrance and ramp, demolition of stair block to make new compliant stair and lift core and general internal alterations	Former Rockfield Primary School Hill Street Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

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Blarghour Wind Farm Ltd

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000

Notice is hereby given that Blarghour Wind Farm Ltd, (company registration number 09171723) 22 – 24 King Street, Maidenhead Berkshire, SL6 1EF has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate a wind farm at Blarghour (Central Grid Reference 204000, 714000). The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be in excess of 50 MW comprising 17 turbines with a ground to blade tip height of up to 136.5 metres. The proposed development is subject to Environmental Impact Assessment and an Environmental Statement has been produced.

Blarghour Wind Farm Ltd has also applied for a direction under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it relates, together with a copy of the Environmental Statement discussing the Company's proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, are available for public inspection in person, free of charge, during normal office hours at:

Location	Opening Hours	Address
Dalmally Post Office	MONDAY 9am-1pm 2pm-5.30pm TUESDAY 9am-1pm 2pm-5.30pm WEDNESDAY 9am-1pm THURSDAY 9am-1pm 2pm-5.30pm FRIDAY 9am-1pm 2pm-5.30pm SATURDAY 9am-12.30pm	Main Road Dalmally PA33 1AX
Argyll and Bute Council Offices	Monday to Friday from 9am - 12.30pm, and from 1.30 pm to 4pm.	1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

The Environmental Statement can also be viewed at the Scottish Government Library at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ; on the application website at (www.blarghourwindfarm.co.uk); or at www.energyconsents.scot.

Copies of the Environmental Statement may be obtained from Blarghour Wind Farm Ltd (telephone: 0141 202 0625/info@blarghourwindfarm.co.uk) at a charge of £550 hard copy and £15 on CD. Copies of a short non-technical summary are available free of charge.

Any representations to the application may be submitted via the Energy Consents Unit website at www.energyconsents.scot/Register.aspx; by email to the Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit mailbox at representations@gov.scot; or by post to the Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU, identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for representation.

Written or emailed representations should be dated, clearly stating the name (in block capitals), full return email and postal address of those making representations. Only representations sent by email to representations@gov.scot will receive acknowledgement.

All representations should be received not later than 2nd July 2018, although Ministers may consider representations received after this date.

Any subsequent additional information which is submitted by the developer will be subject to further public notice in this manner, and representations to such information will be accepted as per this notice.

As a result of a statutory objection from the relevant planning authority, or where Scottish Ministers decide to exercise their discretion to do so, Scottish Ministers can also cause a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) to be held.

Following examination of the environmental information, Scottish Ministers will determine the application for consent in two ways:

- Consent the proposal, with or without conditions attached; or
- Reject the proposal.

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit processes consent applications and consultation representations under The Electricity Act 1989. During the process, to support transparency in decision making, the Scottish Government publishes online at www.energyconsents.scot. When making an email or paper representation you will automatically be opted in to its publication unless you choose to mark it as confidential. We may share your personal data with DPEA and local Planning Authorities but will not publish your personal data (e.g. your name and address) as this is removed beforehand in compliance with the Data Protection Act. Should you choose not to provide your personal data then your representation will only be considered by Scottish Ministers and not be shared for consideration with any other party. If you have any concerns about how your personal data is handled, please email us at: Econsents_admin@gov.scot or write to Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

David Stuart Alsop trading as Alsop Transport Services of Braeview, Cuan Road, Balvicar, Seil, Oban PA34 4RA is applying to change an existing licence as follows To keep an extra 5 goods vehicles and 5 trailers at the operating centre at The yard, Upper Sorobe Farm, Soroba, Oban PA34 4SD. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Menzies Distribution of 2 Lochside Avenue, Edinburgh, EH12 9DJ is applying for a licence to use Unit 15, Annat Industrial Estate, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7NA as an operating centre for 6 goods vehicles and 2 trailers..

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

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MEMORIAL SERVICE Highland Hospice

Tuesday, 5th June 2018

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For more information contact: Tina McGarrell, Clinical Secretary. Tel (01463) 227901
SC0 11227

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The heavy cost of such a harsh winter is now clear

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

AS THE snow drifts started to melt at the beginning of the month, the full extent of the damage done by the extreme winter has become clearer.

Across the country, on the high hills and some not so high, the numbers of sheep and deer carcasses being revealed are much higher than have been seen for many years.

Hill sheep, like deer, are normally able to cope with these conditions because they have large areas of hill and mountain to roam over and use their instinct to find shelter when the weather is bad. They also build up fat reserves in the autumn which they then use up when forage becomes difficult to find or the weather is particularly bad.

The amount of lying snow and the persistent rain are what have made this winter so difficult. Livestock have hardly had a dry back since last June and, just when they were at their lowest ebb, the Beast from the East threw the kitchen sink at them. Add to this the late spring and lack of grass, and it became a perfect storm.

Here at Kirkton and Auchtertyre, we have had to take a few exceptional steps to try to minimise the damage.



Some of the Highland calves born at SRUC this spring.

The scanning results gave a very clear indication of how our Lleyn flock were struggling and, despite extra feeding and putting some in the shed, we still lost a few.

The Auchtertyre hill flock were also in poor condition at scanning and we decided to keep them all on the in-bye fields and feed them concentrates and hay. We delayed their Heptavac vac-

ination for a couple of weeks to give them the best chance and these measures appear to have paid off, with most of the ewes returning to the hill with a lamb at foot.

Despite our best efforts, however, our 'pet' pen is probably the biggest it has ever been, but with the help of a new Heatwave automatic feeder and the tireless attention of my colleague

Jenna Kyle, they are all doing very well.

Calving is also nearly finished with one Highland cow left to calve. The other 31 calves were born without any problems and they are now out on the hill where their mothers will continue to get a small amount of feeding until the grass eventually appears.

Despite lambing, we have

continued to have visitors. A group of eight HNC agriculture students from our Oatridge campus near Edinburgh came for a visit to learn about a range of hill farming issues as part of their pasture management unit.

And we have recently had 30 students from the University of Montana in the USA, who were on a fact-finding mission about how Brexit might affect different farming systems in the UK. They found their visit to the farms very interesting, remarking that, given that the landscape was very similar to what they see back home, they were expecting to see many more cattle than sheep on Scotland's hills.

Finally, we will have an international flavour for the next three months as we are welcoming two intern students from the Arkansas University in the USA. James and Patterson are students in Agricultural Systems and Technology Management. They will help us on the research farms with various projects, but they will also assist me with the livestock.

There is plenty to do and I am sure they will relish the Scottish experience.

That's it until next time. We might see you at Scotsheep, where my colleagues will be on the SRUC stand. If you are planning to go there, come along and pop in.

Brexit could see '21st century clearances'

RURAL Scotland could face a Brexit impact likened to '21st century Highland Clearances', according to a new report by the Highlands and Islands Agriculture Support Group.

The report, looking at the impact of Brexit on Scottish agriculture, has warned that failure to provide financial support to farmers and crofters in the Highlands and Islands post-Brexit could accelerate declining agricultural activity and cause the workforce to shrink, leading to a modern version of the Highland Clearances.

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara said: 'Brexit is undoubtedly going to be the biggest challenge the Scottish farming industry has faced for generations,

and this new report underlines the scale of the challenge.

'Scottish food and drink has been an enormous success story, particularly in Argyll and Bute, and that success has been built on our place in the single market and the Common Agriculture Policy.

'Farming and crofting is instrumental to the economy, people and environment of Argyll and Bute and this report shows just how vulnerable this industry really is.

'We mustn't forget that people in Argyll and Bute voted decisively to remain part of the European Union and this report reaffirms that Scotland's interests are being left behind by the UK Government.'

Union praise for Bill on livestock worrying

NFU SCOTLAND has welcomed Emma Harper MSP's announcement to bring forward a consultation on a Member's Bill to tackle livestock worrying following months of pressure from the union.

With a clear increase in the number of devastating dog attacks on sheep throughout Scotland, NFU Scotland has been pushing the message that dogs need to be controlled around livestock and that authorities need to have clear powers when dealing with such incidents.

NFU Scotland president Andrew McCornick said: 'Live-

stock worrying is an issue which is affecting farmers the length and breadth of Scotland and it is undeniable that there has been a serious increase in the number of incidents reported.

'We know a huge number of instances go unreported, so the real scale of the issue is likely to be even greater than is in the public domain.

'I am delighted that Emma Harper is taking a Bill to the Scottish Parliament and I look forward to working with her, to push through this badly needed legislative change. NUFs is leading the charge on this issue.'

Around the markets

OBAN - United Auctions held its annual May sale of all classes cattle and sheep at Oban Livestock Centre. A much-increased entry on the year saw 217 head of cattle sold and 590 sheep which attracted a large following of buyers resulting in a satisfactory day's trading for all sellers. Bullocks sold to average 254.15 pence per kilo or £709.38 per head whilst heifers levelled out at 221.96 pence per kilo or £661.55. Bullocks sold to 317.1 pence per kilo for Limousin crosses from M/s Buchanan, Achnaba and to £1,100 per head, also Limousin Crosses from M/s Campbell, Achnacreebeag. Heifers sold to 282.3 pence per kilo for Limousin Crosses from Achnacreebeag and to £945 per head from the same home. Breeding cattle from Mr G MacCormick, Annet sold to £1,700. In the sheep section, ewes with lambs at foot from M/s McCorkindale, Scammadale sold to £135. Mule hogs from Mr D MacDonald, Tyree sold to £96. Principal lots and prices. Top prices per head
Bullocks
LIMx: £1,100(2), £1,090 and £1,080(3) - Achnacreebeag: £1,080, £1,070, £1,060(3) and £1,040 - Achnaba: £1,000(2) - Ardachy: £980 - Achnacreebeag: £980(3) - Garraron and Melfort: £970 - Ardchatten: £960 and £945(2) - Achnacreebeag: £900(2) - Garraron and Melfort.
AAx: £800(2) - Ardachy.
BRBx: £1,010 and £900 - Tyree.

SIMx: £810 - Feall, Coll: £800 - Ardchatten.
Heifers:
AAx: £780 - Ardachy.
BRB: £860 and £840 - Tyree.
CHARx: £870 - Shenavallie.
LIMx: £945 and £920 - Achnacreebeag: £850 - Achnaba.
SALx: £790 - Feall, Coll.
SIMx: £880(2) - Arileod, Coll.
Top prices per kilo:
Bullocks:
AAx: 261p, 248p(2) and 244p(2) - Ardachy.
BSx: 280p and 249p - Glenure Estate.
BRBx: 309p, 300p, 259p and 240p - Tyree.
LIMx: 317p - Achnaba: 309p(2) - Achnacreebeag: 305p(2) - Ardachy: 305p - Achnaba: 300p - Ardachy: 294p(2) - Achnacreebeag: 293p - Achnaba: 292p(2) - Ardachy: 292p(5) - Aird: 292p(3) - Garraron and Melfort: 289p(2) - Ardachy: 286p - Achnaba: 283p - Aird: 282p - Achnacreebeag: 281p - Achnaba: 280p and 277p - Achnacreebeag.
SHx: 280p(2) - Glenure Estate.
SIMx: 280p(3) - Glenure Estate.
Heifers:
AAx: 260p(3) - Ardachy.
BRBx: 272p and 271p - Tyree.
CHARx: 247p - Shenavallie
LIMx: 281p - Achnacreebeag: 276p(3) - Ardachy: 261p(4) and 256p - Achnacreebeag: 255p - Achnaba: 251p - Achnacreebeag: 250p - Ardchatten
SIMx: 251p(2) - Arileod, Coll: 249p(3) - Feall, Coll.
Cows and calves:

£1,700 - Annet.
In-calf cow: £1,020 and £980 - Achnacreebeag.
Sheep:
Hoggs:
SUFFx: £95 - Kilbride: £86 - Upper Largie: £84 - Kilbride: £80 - Tyree.
CROSS: £94 - Curacao: £89 - Aird: £82 - 1 Knockvologan: £80 - Kilbride.
BELTx: £89 - Upper Largie
TEXx: £84 - Glenamachrie: £73 - Tyree
CHEV: £64 - Kilvaree
MULE: £96 - Tyree
BF: £79 - Upper Largie: £77 - 1 Knockvologan: £71 - Tyree.
WEDDERS: £78 - Fiddin.
Ewes:
SUFF: £108 - Mid Farm.
TEXx: £76 - Fiddin.
CROSS: £80 - Kengharair: £71 - Fiddin.
BF: £64 - Fiddin: £61 - Glenamachrie.
Ewes with lambs at foot:
MULE: £135 and £132 - Scammadale.

STIRLING - Caledonian Marts on Tuesday May 15 sold 1,774 spring lambs, prime hoggets, ewes and tups. Spring lambs (45) averaged 286.3ppkg (-7.7p on the week) selling to 337ppkg for a pair of outstanding Beltexes from W S Young and Son, Mawcarse and to a top of £155 for the same lambs. Prime hoggets (1,223 averaged 235.3ppkg (-1p on the week) selling to 356ppkg for a pen of Dutch

Beltex Hoggets from R Squair, Lower Killernie and to a top of £148 again for a Beltex from DS and RC Taylor, Easter Ochtermuthill. Prime sheep (51) averaged 162ppkg (+18p on the week) selling to 213p for a Beltex from I Reid, Isle Cottage and to £100 for the same sheep. Spring lambs - prices per head: Beltex £148 and £141. Easter Ochtermuthill
Texel £145, Badenheath
Suff £139, Isle Cottage
Suff X £134, Easter Ochtermuthill. Spring lambs - prices per kg: Beltex 334p, Mawcarse
Texel 327p, Balhelvie
Texel 312p, Badenheath
Suff 307p, Isle Cottage
Leading hogget - prices per head: Beltex £146, Isle Cottage
Texel £140, Wharlawhill
Cont £140, Touchie
Beltex £139, Cuilbturn
Chev £131, Nether Myres
Suff £127, Meikle Seggie
Mule £122, South Park
BF £124, St Mungo's
Leading Hogget Prices per kg: Beltex 344p, Easter Ochtermuthill
Texel 338p, Touchie
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GOLDEN WEDDING

KERR - MARTIN - On May 25, 1968 at St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban, John to Sheila, Millpark Place, Oban. Congratulations from all the family xxxx

DEATHS

BROWN - Alastair passed away suddenly but peacefully after a short illness surrounded by his family in Malaga, Spain on Saturday May 19, 2018, aged 77. Beloved husband of the late Betty, much loved father to Alison, adored papa to Rebecca, Connor and David and proud great-granddad to Luna. A true highland gentleman who touched all who knew him and will be sorely missed. A celebration of Alastair's life will be held in Oban on a date to be announced.

CAMERON - Peacefully within Lorn and Islands Hospital on May 20, 2018, Alexander Cameron aged 86 years of 2 Lorn Road, Dunbeg. Beloved husband of Phemie and much loved uncle and great uncle. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service will be held in Oban Cathedral on Tuesday May 29 at 10am. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to The British Heart Foundation and Alzheimer Scotland.

DUNLOP - Peacefully at home with her family at her side, on May 19, 2018, aged 65, Elsie Dunlop, beloved wife of the late Willie Dunlop, much loved mum to Izzy, Willie, Michelle and the late Colin and mother-in-law to Murray and Brian, loving Nana to Daniel, Bethany, Jamie and Dylan. Sadly missed.

FOSTER - After a short illness at Eadar Glinn Care Home, with her family at her side on May 18, 2018, Norma Foster, in her 90th year, beloved wife of the late Ronnie, mother of Muriel and the late Neil, mother-in-law, grandma and great-grandma. Funeral service will be held at Oban Parish Church on Tuesday May 29 at 1.00 p.m., thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Donations if desired to Oban and Lorn Dementia Support Group.

MACCORMICK - John MacGregor, peacefully at home on the Isle of Lismore on May 16, 2018, aged 50. Much loved husband of Hazel. Loving father to Rachel and Donald. Eldest son of Anne and Donnie (Baligarve). Dear brother to May, Jim and Sandra. Wonderful uncle and friend to many. Sorely missed by all.

MACDONALD - Noonie Carr (Banavie and Glenelg). Unexpected but peaceful passing of our mother and nana. Special thanks to Laura, Lisa, Donna and all the nursing staff at the Belford Hospital, Fort William. Funeral Service will be held on Monday, May 28 at 1 pm from the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church, Fort William followed by interment in Glen Nevis Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to CRPS Burning Nights.

MACDIARMID - Alexander (Alec) MacDiarmid. Peacefully passed away in the early hours of May 9, 2018 in the Belford Hospital, Fort William. Alec was the beloved husband of the late Morag MacDiarmid and father to Alasdair, Willie, Colin and Graeme. The funeral service will take place at Fort William Free Church on Tuesday, May

29 at 12.30pm followed by burial at Glen Nevis Cemetery thereafter. Family flowers only with charitable donations to Budhnmhor House Care Home, Portree.

MACFARLANE - Peacefully at Morar Lodge Care Home, Helensburgh, on May 11, 2018, in his 82nd year, James MacFarlane (Jim) formerly of Taynuilt and Connel. Sadly missed.

MACLACHLAN - On May 6, 2018, peacefully at her home, Chalmers Court, Inveraray, Morag Helen MacLachlan, former teacher of music for many years, in the Cowal schools and later in Midlothian, in her 98th year, beloved daughter of the late William and Jean MacLachlan, dear sister of William and Hamish. Funeral service at Inveraray Parish Church, on Monday, May 28 at 11.00am, interment thereafter at Kilmun Cemetery, Holy Loch, to which all friends are respectfully invited. No flowers, but donations if desired to Inveraray Parish Church.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HAY - Duncan, Kathleen, Claire and David would like to express their sincere appreciation to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown to them following the loss of Jessie on March 14 and the sudden and unexpected passing of Lorna only five weeks later. Special thanks to Jack MacDonald, who conducted both committals, for his comforting and personalised words. Thank you to Linnie and Scott of John McLellan Funeral Directors for their attention to detail and support to us during this difficult time. Grateful thanks to the staff of Crossroads for their care and support to Jessie and Lorna over recent years and heartfelt thanks to Norma McLellan for her kindness and help.

MACEWAN - Billy, Rae, Walter and family convey their heartfelt thanks to all those who have given support following the recent tragic loss of Sandy. All your cards, letters, phone calls and visits were much appreciated. Thanks to McLellan Funeral Directors for caring professional service. A big thank you to Rev. Sandy Stoddart for a warm and touching service and support. Special thanks to Paolo, Elspeth and Berardelli family and also to Peter and Paulette Weir. To all those who attended the church and subsequent refreshments so well provided by the Ballachulish Hotel. A final thank you to all of you for your care and comfort during this time of tragedy and sadness.

MACDONALD - Kathleen (née Steele), Ballachulish and Isle of Barra. Peacefully at the Belford Hospital on May 15, 2018. Much loved wife of the late Ronnie, adored mum, granny, sister and auntie to the family. Friend to many. Funeral on May 30, 2018 at St. Muns RC Church, Ballachulish at 1p.m., thereafter to Duror Cemetery.

MACLEOD - Mary Margaret (Marie), Alister and the family of the late Marie would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for cards, telephone calls, flowers and support given to them at their sad loss. Also the doctors and nurses at the Belford Hospital in Fort William. To the doctors and nurses at Mallaig Health Centre, the local ambulance crew and staff at the local pharmacy in Mallaig for

their caring services over the years. We would also like to thank Rev Mgr Donald MacKinnon for attending to Marie when she was sick, Father Stanislaw Pamula, Father Jim Dunn, Father Sandy Culley, Father Danny Convery, Father Joe Calleja, Father Andrew Barratt and Father Roddy Macauley for attending Marie's requiem mass. We would like to thank our friend Allan Henderson for piping at Marie's funeral. Thanks also to the West Highland Hotel for their excellent catering and Mike McFall Funeral Directors for their professional service. Final sincere appreciation goes to all who attended Marie's funeral mass.

MEMORIAMS

CAMERON - In loving memory of Alan Cameron (Cammy), who passed away May 26, 2016. Sadly missed. - by Elma, Ian, and Cameron family.

CARTER - Treasured memories of my very dear husband Murdo Joseph, who passed away on May 20, 2017. A loving dad and grampa, loved and remembered every day. - By Chrissie and family.

MACLEOD - Duncan, died May 24, 2014, my husband, our dad and papa. Loved and remembered forever. - Doreen and family.

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Oban welcomes new Provost to town's St John's Cathedral

OBAN'S St John's Cathedral officially welcomes its new provost tomorrow, May 25.

Reverend Margi Campbell will be collated and installed into her new role at a special service starting at 6pm.

The service will be led by the Right Reverend Kevin Pearson, the Episcopal Church's Bishop of Argyll and The Isles. Representatives from other churches,

the local community in Oban and Lorn as well as guests from the wider Diocese of Argyll and The Isles will also be present.

During the service the new Provost will accept symbolic gifts including the keys of the cathedral, oils for healing, bread and wine for communion and a Bible.

A welcoming reception will take place in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls afterwards.



The new Provost for St John's Cathedral in Oban is Margi Campbell.

Church of Scotland new Moderator is installed

THE RT Rev Susan Brown has been installed as Moderator of the Church of Scotland's 2018 General Assembly.

His Grace Richard Walter John Montagu Douglas Scott, the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, KBE, DL, FSA, FRSE, represented HM the Queen as the Lord High Commissioner to the assembly.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon also attended, along with lord provosts from across the country and distinguished visitors from around the world.

The Very Rev Dr Derek Browning welcomed the new Moderator, saying a 'full-blooded, soul-warming, kind-hearted parish ministry' has been the centre of her work.

'On this year when we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, it is particularly special that you, as a committed parish minister, will be our Moderator,' Dr Browning said.

'It is also a delight that, having served in two Highland parishes, you will also repre-

sent that important part of our country for the first time in a number of years.'

The Lord High Commissioner also welcomed the new Moderator, saying: 'On this 50th anniversary of the ordination of women it is especially appropriate and we pay tribute to the wisdom, the dogged determination which achieved such progress so that today women can be properly and fully at the heart of the church.'

'It is your hope, Moderator, that each of us at this General Assembly can also walk together and build our own bridges of friendship in the week ahead. I look forward more than I can say to doing just that and to meeting and talking with as many of you as time will allow.'

The Dornoch minister has chosen 'Walking With...' as her theme for the year.

Her personal chaplains for the year will be the Rev Jim Stewart, minister for Letham St Mark's in Perth, and Rev Mary J Stobo, an ordained local minister and community healthcare chaplain in Sutherland.



The Right Rev Dr Susan Brown is elected to office in the presence of the Lord High Commissioner the Duke of Buccleuch and First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

Thought for the week

WE CELEBRATE Pentecost Sunday as part of the church calendar, in which we look back to the moment the Holy Spirit was poured out on the believers and the moment the church entered a significant new phase of growth.

Looking back is always valuable: it helps us to understand what some call the Law of First Mention - that is, something is defined by what it meant at its point of origin.

In my reflections on the 'why' of Pentecost, I've come to understand more fully the reason for this outpouring. On

the surface, the disciples had been quite effective (people healed and some had come to trust in the name of Jesus).

But, with the arrival of the Holy Spirit, God hinted at something greater - a bearing of fruit in every believer that would be ever-increasing and fruit that would last - only truly achievable through partnership with this power from on high.

During Pentecost 2018, let's call out for this power, so that we can live a life of supernatural fruitfulness. (Ref: Acts 2.)

Pastor Stuart Lawson

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A big cheer from all the youngsters who took part in this season's final Dalriada mini rugby festival at Taynuilt Community sports field on Sunday.



The victorious P4/5 Etive Vikings with their trophy.

Etive Vikings and Mid Argyll win mini rugby silverware

MINI rugby teams ended their 2017/2018 Dalriada programme on Sunday when Etive Vikings hosted the final festival of the season at Taynuilt Community Sports Field.

Despite wet conditions, fantastic rugby was on show during the day proving the amount of hard work that has been put in by players and coaches throughout the season.

This was the ninth Dalriada of the season hosted by an Argyll and Bute club, the largest number of festivals to be held in the area in one season.

Sunday's event was attended by Oban Lorne RFC, Mid Argyll RFC, Lochaber RFC along with hosts Etive Vikings RFC. A few players from Isle of Mull RFC also came along and joined in with other teams. Unfortunately Kintyre RFC and Islay RFC were unable to attend.

Going into the final round of fixtures, the P4/5 overall season winner was still to be decided, with only four points separating Etive Vikings in first place and Oban Lorne and Mid Argyll in second and third respectively.

The scores from Sunday's P4/5 event were: Etive Vikings

The final 2017/2018 Dalriada tables were as follows:

P4/5	PLD	W	D	L	PTS
1. ETIVE VIKINGS	21	17	3	1	57
2. OBAN LORNE	27	10	3	14	52
2. MID ARGYLL	24	11	6	7	52
4. LOCHABER	18	6	6	7	41
5. KINTYRE	10	0	0	10	10
6. ISLE OF MULL	7	0	2	5	9

P6/7	PLD	W	D	L	PTS
1. MID ARGYLL	28	16	5	7	65
2. ETIVE VIKINGS	23	14	5	4	56
3. OBAN LORNE	28	11	4	13	54
4. LOCHABER	19	2	0	12	25
5. KINTYRE	10	6	1	3	23
6. ISLE OF MULL	10	2	1	7	15

6 - Lochaber 1; Oban Lorne 3 - Mid Argyll 6; Etive Vikings 5 - Oban Lorne 0; Lochaber 3 - Mid Argyll 3; Oban Lorne 3 - Lochaber 3; and Mid Argyll 2 - Etive Vikings 2.

The P6/7 age group saw Mid Argyll going into Sunday's fixtures nine points ahead of nearest challengers Oban Lorne in second. The scores from Sunday's P6/7 event were: Mid Argyll 5 - Oban Lorne 0; Etive Vikings 5 - Lochaber 0; Mid Argyll 5 - Lochaber 0; Oban Lorne 3 - Etive Vikings 6; Mid

Argyll 2 - Etive Vikings 4; and Oban Lorne 6 - Lochaber 4.

Congratulations to Etive Vikings who were season winners at P4/5 and Mid Argyll at P6/7.

This season has been a hugely successful one for mini rugby clubs in the area.

Argyll and Bute Rugby Development Officer Allan Wright said: 'This has been the most promising season yet for mini rugby teams in Argyll. It has been great to see such a high number of players attending our nine Dalriada Festivals

this season. Our Highland neighbours Lochaber RFC have been a fantastic addition to the programme, along with Kintyre RFC who attended a few events for the first time. Thanks to all the players, coaches and parents who have helped make this such a fantastic season.'



Glencruitten

COLIN Campbell won the Captain of Dunstaffnage Trophy at Glencruitten on Saturday with net scores of 61, 66 = 127.

Malcolm Cullen was runner-up with a score of 64, 70 = 134.

Angus MacNeill won the Isis Trophy with net scores of 60, 62 = 122. Phillip Murphy was runner-up with scores of 61, 66 = 127.

The first round of the Terry Ng Trophy takes place this Saturday, May 25.

Tobermory

MEN'S Section, Shell Cup: 1 Lewis Wilshire, 38 points; 2 Alastair Currie, 36 points; 3 David Honeyman, 35 points. Nine hole Stableford: 1 Alastair Currie, 17 points; 2 Aaron Paterson, 15 points; 3 Mike Campbell, 14 points.

Jubilee Cup: 1 Tom Nunn, 39 points; 2 Alastair Currie, 38 points; 3 Mike Campbell, 34 points.

Ladies' Section, Nine Hole Stableford: 1 Rosalind Reid, 14 points; 2 Doris Hargreaves, 10 points.

Ladies' Tobermory Open: 1 Donna Campbell, Isle of Seil, 36 points; 2 Christine Cameron, 34 points; 3 Doris Hargreaves, 34 points.



Above: Mid Argyll P6/7s won the senior trophy.



Left and right: Action from Sunday's mini rugby event.



SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £4250

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

I Kennedy Baledhuil Isle of Tiree

I Kennedy Lochaber Road Fort William

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



Please tape your £1 coin here (only if posting)

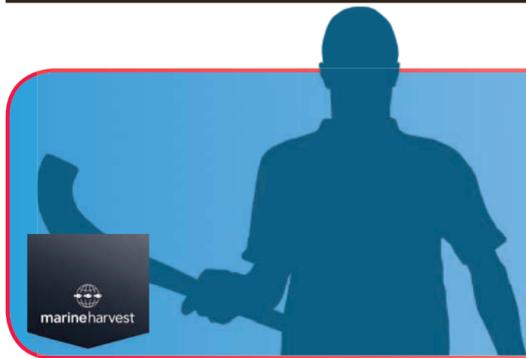
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SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Teams battle through to cup finals

OBAN Camanachd and Kyles Athletic will contest the Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final, whilst Lovat and Newtonmore reached the cottages.com MacTavish Cup Final following the shinty action on Saturday May 19.

Glasgow Celtic Society Cup semi finals

Oban Camanachd 2 Inveraray 0

Oban Camanachd scored a goal in each half to beat Inveraray 2-0 in their 3pm throw-up at Mossfield.

Oban Camanachd's Keith MacMillan was still missing, but Matt Rippon returned and started on the bench.

Inveraray were minus Ally Munro and they fielded Allan MacDonald at full back to mark Oban danger-man Andrew MacCuish.

Oban Camanachd took the lead on 25 minutes. David Lafferty, on the right, cut the ball across Daniel MacVicar who moved the ball to his left side before finishing with a nice strike from 15 yards.

It was a stuffy first half, during which Inveraray struggled to threaten the Oban Camanachd goal.

Oban Camanachd manager Ian Hay made a couple of changes at the break with Willie Neilson and Chrissie MacMillan, who will both miss this Saturday's meeting with Kyles Athletic, replaced by Craig MacDougall and Matt Rippon.

Lorne Dickie has been troubled by a heel injury and came off just after the hour in favour of Daniel MacCuish.

And it was MacCuish who made it 2-0 on 66 minutes. Andrew MacCuish sent a high ball with pace from right to left. MacCuish showed great skill to take the ball out of the air before running on a couple of steps and beating keeper Scott MacLachlan on his left side.

Scott MacLachlan stood between Oban Camanachd and an increased lead. First he tipped an angled Craig MacDougall strike from the right over the bar.

Daniel MacCuish then ran in and his effort clipped off a defender and went wide.

MacLachlan then made a cracking stop to deny Andrew MacCuish. MacCuish turned his marker but the Scotland U21 stopper kept the waist-high shot out with his stick and the hosts had to settle for the 2-0 win.

Robert Baxter was the match referee.

Glasgow Mid Argyll 2 Kyles Athletic 4

Kyles Athletic fought off a Glasgow Mid Argyll come-back to win 4-2 at Yoker.

Glasgow Mid Argyll were at



Allan MacDonald, Inveraray, left, and Andrew (Papa) MacCuish, Oban Camanachd, battle it out in the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup semi-final at Mossfield on Saturday, which Oban won 2-0. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

full strength for this tie. With their second team on Sutherland Cup duty, Kyles' resources were stretched.

Andrew King, who was carrying a shoulder injury, started on the bench alongside Scott MacDonald.

Neil MacVicar took over from King in the heart of the defence with Ross MacRae coming into the back four.

In a forward line switch, Thomas Whyte moved to the wing, with Dunky Kerr taking up Whyte's attacking position.

Kyles opened the scoring on 25 minutes when the ball was played to an unmarked Dunky Kerr in the left wing forward position and he drove the ball past GMA keeper Robert Dunning, into the opposite corner of the net from 15 yards out.

Kyles added a second five minutes before the break when Colin MacDonald turned his marker and fired first-time past Dunning from a central position.

Colin MacDonald was on target again 10 minutes into the second half. Left wing forward Dunky Kerr fed Colin MacDonald, who dribbled along the by-line before turning his marker and shooting home from close range to make it 3-0.

GMA gave themselves a lifeline when Craig Anderson, who was well policed by Kyles' full back Calum Miller, turned quickly to get away from his marker and smashed the ball past John Whyte in the Kyles goal from just inside the penalty spot.

With just under 15 minutes remaining, GMA's Jamie MacFadyen played the ball in to Calum Malay who beat John Whyte in a race for the ball, turned the keeper and squeezed

the ball home from close range.

A Kyles Athletic victory wasn't assured until 85 minutes when the GMA defence failed to clear a Thomas Whyte corner and when the ball fell to Grant Irvine 15 yards out, he drove the ball low and hard into the net to make it 4-2.

This was a tenacious display from GMA that belied their National Division status. They kept Kyles on their toes until the fourth goal went in and former Kinlochshiel players John Don MacKenzie and Johnny MacAskill made strong contributions.

Kyles deserved the win though and it sets up a 2018 Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final against Oban Camanachd, a repeat of last year's final which Kyles won 3-1.

Lachie Wood was the match referee.

cottages.com MacTavish Cup semi finals

Lovat 0 Newtonmore 1

Holders Newtonmore are back in the cottages.com MacTavish Cup Final after they beat Lovat 1-0 in their 3pm throw-up at Balgale.

Lovat welcomed Callum Cruden and Craig Mainland back into their starting 12. Duncan Davidson also returned, joining Thomas Fraser and Martin Mainland on the bench.

Newtonmore fielded Norman Campbell, Rory Fraser, Craig Ritchie and Andy MacKintosh in defence which allowed Michael Russell to play in midfield.

Steven MacDonald had his first call-up of the season and he started on a strong bench

alongside Drew MacDonald and Ewen Fraser. Defences were generally on top and it was a game in which neither keeper – Stuart MacDonald for Lovat and Kenny Ross for Newtonmore – had much to do.

The game's only goal came on 47 minutes.

A ball from Iain Robinson looped over Drew Howie and Glen MacKintosh and deflected to Evan Menzies who struck on the half-volley, sending the ball into the side of the net from just outside the penalty spot.

The game was untidy at times and contained a number of enthusiastic challenges which affected the flow of play.

Amongst the niggling incidents, Michael Russell was booked for a wild swing which caught Callum Cruden, Norman Campbell suffered a cut on his cheek below his left eye and Daniel Grieve took a heavy challenge on the back of the legs.

Craig Mainland did well for Lovat, whilst Newtonmore's Evan Menzies worked hard and scored the goal that made the difference.

Iain Robinson did a power of work, running at the Lovat defence at speed, especially in the second half.

Newtonmore will feel they had enough of the game to be deserved winners and showed they are determined to hang on to their crown.

Deek Cameron was the match referee.

Kinlochshiel 2 Caberfeidh 7

Kinlochshiel reached the cottages.com MacTavish Cup Final, recovering from the loss of an early goal to beat Caberfeidh 7-2 at Kirkton.

This was Kinlochshiel's first game on their home pitch for a month.

Caberfeidh's Liam Symonds served a one match ban for passing through the disciplinary points threshold.

Craig Morrison stunned the home support with a goal after four minutes.

Their lead was short-lived, however, and Keith MacRae on eight and 10 minutes put Kinlochshiel 2-1 ahead.

John MacRae added a third on 26 minutes and Jordan Fraser made it 4-1 on 32 minutes.

Colin MacLennan gave Caberfeidh hope with a strike on 41 minutes.

However, any hopes of a comeback were extinguished early in the second half as Keith MacRae completed his hat-trick on 55 minutes to make it 5-2.

John MacRae got his second four minutes later and that's the way it stayed until late in the tie.

When referee Martin MacLean awarded Kinlochshiel a penalty with a couple of minutes remaining, and with regular penalty taker Jordan Fraser off

the field, Keith MacRae stepped up to score his fourth goal of the afternoon.

This was the first of three big home matches for Kinlochshiel. Newtonmore are the visitors in the league this Saturday, whilst Oban Camanachd arrive a week later in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup second round.

Martin MacLean was the match referee.

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup second round

Lochside Rovers 5 Kyles Athletic 0

Holders Lochside Rovers are through to the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup quarter finals after they beat the Kyles Athletic second team 5-0 at Mossfield.

Lochside started Aidan MacIntyre, who has been out injured since the opening day of the season.

Keith MacMillan played the first half at full centre before returning to work and there was a place for 15-year-old Daniel Sloss, who had featured for Oban Camanachd earlier in the day.

The influential Michael MacQueen was on holiday.

Kyles Athletic had won all five of their matches this season and Chris Blair had completed his two-match suspension. There were places for Innes MacDonald at full centre as well as Rupert Williamson, Brandon Wilson and Luke Thornton.

Lochside Rovers got off to a great start when Charles Spreadbury, back with the side after a spell with Oban Lorn, sent a shy from 40 yards out on the right looping into the net.

Lochside manager Gareth Evans used Aidan MacIntyre to good effect at full forward and, on six minutes, he gathered the ball midway through the Kyles half before speeding away from his marker and slotting the ball past the advancing Douglas Nicolson in the visiting goal.

Kyles suffered a blow when full back Calum MacArthur was forced off with a knee injury.

Lewis Buchanan made it 3-0 on 16 minutes. Lennan Campbell took an initial shot and when the ball fell for Buchanan he turned it home to make it 3-0.

Lewis Buchanan almost got a



Lochside Rovers' Aiden MacIntyre, left, and George Thomson, Kyles Athletic, during their Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup second round clash. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

second soon after but his terrific half-volley from 20 yards out went just the wrong side of the post. Kyles came more into the game late in the first half and had wind advantage after the re-start.

It was Lochside who extended their lead on 59 minutes though. Douglas Nicolson saved a Lewis Buchanan shot from distance with his feet, but the ball spun into the air and Ross Campbell darted in to score.

When an Aidan MacIntyre shot was saved on 71 minutes, substitute Niall MacFarlane followed in and made it 5-0.

Brian MacCallum was relatively untroubled in the Lochside goal.

Aidan MacIntyre, who also had a goal disallowed, was withdrawn for the final 15 minutes. Three Lochside youngsters, Ross Campbell, 14, Daniel Sloss, 15, and Lennan Campbell, 16, all caught the eye.

Lochside now host the Kingussie second team in the last eight of the competition. Lochside travel to Col Glen this Saturday.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Lochaber 4 Skye Camanachd 1

Lochaber boosted their top flight survival hopes when they beat Skye Camanachd 4-1 at Spean Bridge.

Lochaber had John MacKenzie back in their side, but Brian MacDonald was injured.



Shaun Nicolson of Lochaber puts away his side's first goal five minutes into the game against Skye. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, Alba.photos.



Fort William's Calum Shepherd intercepts Neil Carmichael of Oban Celtic as he heads for the home goalmouth. Fort William won this Marine Harvest National Division league match 3-0. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Brennan MacDonald, who came off injured in the heavy defeat against Oban Camanachd the previous week, started on the bench, player/manager Neil MacDonald came into the side at full back and Martin Johnstone returned after injury.

Skye's Jordan Murchison remained out with a hamstring strain, Danny Morrison and Stewart Grant were unavailable and Ally MacDonald remained on the injury list. Gilleasbuig MacDonald answered a call to take a place on the bench for the first time this season.

Shaun Nicolson gave Lochaber the lead on five minutes when he punished hesitancy in the Skye defence and pushed the ball home to make it 1-0.

Skye lost full back Iain Murray after he twisted his knee on 10 minutes. Young Jamie Gillies came on in his place and played well.

Skye equalised on 27 minutes. A Ruairidh MacLeod run and shot produced a save from Lochaber keeper Ally MacDonald, but Will Cowie scored from an acute angle.

Lochaber had to replace John MacKenzie at the break as he had a calf problem.

Lochaber finally pulled away in the final 20 minutes of the game after a number of terrific saves from Iain MacLeod in the Skye goal.

Lochaber substitute Stuart Matheson punished slack defensive play to make it 2-1 on 70 minutes.

Kevin Ferguson was given time and space to pick his spot four minutes later, whilst Shaun Nicolson got his second to round off the 4-1 win with 10 minutes remaining.

Lochaber are now two points ahead of second bottom Glenurquhart with a couple of games in hand.

Skye remain rooted to the bottom of the table and will try to pick up their first point of the season at home to Glenurquhart this Saturday.

Marine Harvest National Division

Strathglass 2 Kilmallie 4

Kilmallie stay top of the Marine Harvest National Division after beating Strathglass 4-2 in their 3pm throw-up at Cannich.

Ally MacAdams scored for the second successive Saturday to give Strathglass the lead on five minutes.

Daniel Stewart levelled on 19 minutes before Michael Rodger scored twice in two minutes, on 34 and 35 minutes, to make it 3-1.

Daniel Stewart got his second on 43 minutes and Kilmallie led 4-1 at the break.

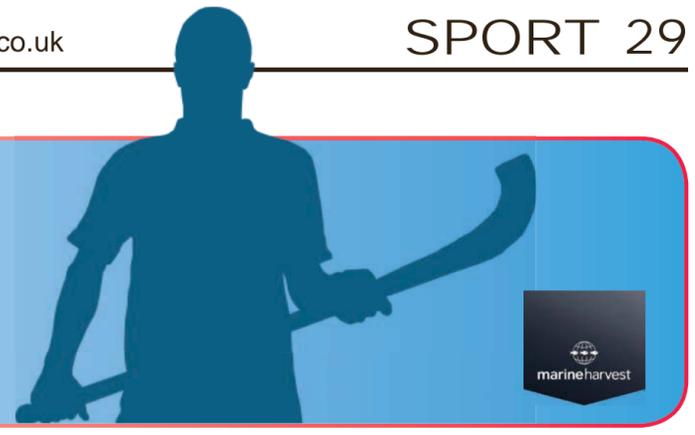
Ally MacAdams got his second on 64 minutes and it finished 4-2.

Fort William 3 Oban Celtic 0

Fort William go second in the



Newtonmore's Norman Campbell, right, in a battle for the ball with Marc MacLachlan, Lovat, in the cottages.com MacTavish Cup semi final on Saturday.



Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

table, a point behind leaders Kilmallie, after beating Oban Celtic 3-0 in their 3pm throw-up at An Aird.

Fort William's Alexander MacMillan served a one match suspension for passing through the disciplinary points threshold. Oban Celtic welcomed back captain Daniel Madej and defenders Fulton Ronald and Michael MacKinnon. Kieran Gallacher was still out. Jack Fraser gave Fort William an early advantage with a goal after six minutes.

Lewis Clark added a second on 20 minutes.

Jack Fraser got his second a couple of minutes before the break to make it 3-0.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Glenurquhart 3 Newtonmore 4

The Newtonmore seconds bounced back from last week's defeat to their Fort William counterparts by beating the Glenurquhart seconds 4-3 at Blairbeg.

It was a hot day and, even before throw-up, referee John Angus Gillies decided there would be a two minute water break midway through each half.

There was an even start to the game but it was Glenurquhart who took the lead after 14 minutes. A good ball from Liam Robertson in midfield found Christopher Mack on the left who struck a screamer past Calum Grover in the Newtonmore goal.

It didn't take Newtonmore long to get level. Paul MacArthur's ball from the left found Craig MacLeod in space on the right and he unleashed a powerful shot from 25 yards out which flew into the top corner of the net to make it 1-1 after 16 minutes.

Both teams had chances before Calum Stewart took a Paul MacArthur pass on 40 minutes, turned his man and hit the ball into the bottom right-hand corner of the net.

Newtonmore's Orsten Gardiner was booked for a reckless swing just before the end of the first half.

Newtonmore extended their lead on 55 minutes after they were awarded a free-hit 20 yards from the Glenurquhart goal. Calum Stewart played the ball to Craig MacLeod who scored from 20 yards, on the angle, with the ball going in at the keeper's top right hand post.

Newtonmore went 4-1 up four minutes later. Referee John Angus Gillies penalised Glenurquhart keeper Tommy Ellis for a 'kick' and Craig MacLeod completed his hat-trick, firing home resultant penalty.

Glenurquhart never let their heads drop though and Christopher Mack grabbed his second goal of the game on 72 minutes.

This was almost a replica of his first when he found space on the right and beat the keeper at his right hand post to make it 4-2.

With a minute remaining, Newtonmore won a free-hit when the referee penalised a challenge on Chris Sellar. However, Sellar was then sent off for violent conduct.

Glenurquhart's Ryan Porter made it 4-3 a minute into stoppage time with a shot from 15 yards on the right, but there was no time to go for a leveller.

This was a good match and Calum Miller was solid in defence for Glenurquhart whilst young Finlay Robertson also played very well.

Both centre lines were good with Scott Chisholm working tirelessly on the Newtonmore right where he was effective in providing a supply to the forwards.

Paul MacArthur also put in a really good shift.

Craig MacLeod's hat-trick was crucial for Newtonmore and he linked up well with Calum Stewart.

With Glengarry in Balliemore Cup action, the Newtonmore reserves now go two points clear at the top of the table but they have played a game more than Glengarry.

Kingussie 2 Skye Camanachd 0

The Kingussie colts stay in fourth position after they defeated fifth placed Skye Camanachd colts 2-0 at The Dell.

Kingussie fielded Louis Munro at full centre on his return from injury but Rory Fraser and Kevin Thain were missing.

With 13 absences between their first and second teams, Skye struggled to get a side together and were grateful to Kingussie and their boss Ronald Ross for agreeing to a 6pm throw-up. This meant the islanders could include youngsters Connor Gilpin, James Morrison, Ruairidh MacLeod and Jamie Gillies, as well as Iain MacLellan, who had all been included in the senior squad which faced Lochaber at Spean Bridge earlier in the day.

With keeper Ryan Morrison carrying an injury, Skye started with U17 keeper Murphy Henderson in goal and he pulled off a string of stunning saves to deny Kingussie a breakthrough.

The young Skye defence of Jamie Gillies, Connor Gilpin, Jamie MacKay and James Morrison also put in terrific displays and, given the pressure they were under, it was little surprise they ran out of steam during the closing stages.

Kingussie finally broke the deadlock with 10 minutes remaining when Russell Menzies scored.

Kieran MacPherson added a second a couple of minutes from time to clinch a deserved win.

Fort William 3 Kinlochshiel 0

The Fort William reserves go level on points with second-placed Glengarry after they beat the Kinlochshiel reserves 3-0 in their noon throw-up at An Aird.

Mark Fraser gave Fort William the lead on five minutes and Grant Disher added a second on 35 minutes. Mark Fraser got his second 10 minutes after the re-start.

Fort William have played two games more than Glengarry.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Inveraray 2 Bute 4

A good, young Bute side came from 2-1 down to defeat the Inveraray reserves 4-2 at The Winterton

Bute pair Chris Lawrence and Arran Dunn both served the second game of their two match suspension. Keeper Kevin Queen, John MacCallum and Robert Walker provided the experience in the side, whilst Ian McDonald was on the bench.

Inveraray's Scott Robertson was also out, serving the second game of a two-match ban. Craig Mather continued in goal with player/manager Graham MacPherson at full back.

Bute took an early lead, courtesy of a well-taken Robert Walker goal on five minutes.

Kenny Kirkhope equalised on the half hour following a quick, short corner, netting from a tight angle.

David Robertson gave Inveraray the lead on 65 minutes



Kilmallie's Stevie Stewart, left, and Scott Douglas of Strathglass, keep their eye on the ball during their Marine Harvest National Divisiion match on Saturday. Photograph: Donald Cameron.

with a clean strike after great defensive work from Graham MacPherson.

MacPherson then conceded the penalty that allowed Bute back into the game five minutes later, bringing down Robert Walker, who was running along the by-line, and referee Iain Kennedy pointed to the spot.

Ian McDonald, whose second half introduction helped swing the match Bute's way, converted the penalty to make it 2-2.

Bute went in front again with 78 minutes on the clock when Robert Walker pounced on a long ball forward and volleyed over young Gregor Mather's head for his second goal of the game.

Ian McDonald got his second with practically the last hit of the ball to make it 4-2.

The Inveraray seconds will be encouraged by how they competed against a good Bute side. The islanders climb to third in the division.

Kilmory 1 Aberdour 4

Aberdour go level on points with the Kyles Athletic second team at the top of the table after they beat Kilmory 4-1 in their 2pm throw-up at MacRae Park.

This was only Kilmory's second game in five weeks and duo Bruce Johnstone and Andy Cunningham were free of one-match-bans.

Angus Thorburn scored from the penalty spot on 34 minutes for the only goal of the first half.

Kilmory made a storming start to the second period, with Hal Jones levelling a minute in.

Ruaridh Reid restored Aberdour's lead on 52 minutes and Angus Thorburn completed his hat-trick with strikes on 64 and 67 minutes.

Aberdour are only off top spot on goal difference, although they have played two games more than the Kyles Athletic second team.



Amy Disher of Lochaber and Ewan Pocock of Strathglass battle for the ball during the Marine Harvest North Division 2 match on Saturday. Photograph: Donald Cameron.

Col Glen 2 Taynuilt 3

Taynuilt leap-frogged Col Glen into sixth place in the table when they won 3-2 at Glendaruel.

Col Glen started strongly and took the lead after 10 minutes through Jimi MacKellar.

Taynuilt equalised on 20 minutes when Robbie Brown fired a long-range shot into the top corner of the net.

The rest of the half was evenly matched with neither team able to get on top.

The turning point came when Taynuilt scored twice in a couple of minutes to lead 3-1. Scott Dempster put the visitors in front on 50 minutes with Robbie Brown adding a third 60 seconds later to give Taynuilt a two-goal advantage.

Col Glen never gave up and reduced the deficit in the 75th minute through a hotly disputed penalty which was fired home by Conor Kennedy. But Taynuilt held on for a narrow win.

Best for Col Glen was Neily MacNaughton, whilst young Blair MacFarlane turned in a man of the match display for Taynuilt.

Ballachulish 1 Tayforth 1

Ballachulish and Tayforth shared the points in a 1-1 draw at The Jubilee Park.

Both goals came early in the game. Alan Clark gave Ballachulish the lead in the opening minute, whilst Ewan Menzies equalised on nine minutes.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Lovat 1 Kilmallie 0

The Lovat second team stay out in front in Marine Harvest North Division 2 on goal difference after they edged out the Kilmallie second team 1-0 in their noon throw-up at Balgate.

After a goal-less first half, Cameron MacMillan scored the goal that made the difference on 55 minutes.

Caberfeidh 4 Boleskine 1

The Caberfeidh colts remain hot on Lovat's tails following their 4-1 win over Boleskine at Castle Leod.

Boleskine started well and took the lead after five minutes when William MacKinnon surged forward through the home defence to round the keeper and net a great individual goal.

Brian Mackain drew Caberfeidh level four minutes later when he drifted a shot from distance high into the net.

The hosts went in front for the first time on 24 minutes when Stuart Krzyzanowski lost his marker and smashed the ball home from the Caberfeidh right.

Ruaridh MacLeman made it 3-1 five minutes before the break, scoring on the half volley.

There was a flashpoint for referee Barrie Dallas to deal with on the stroke of half time when Caberfeidh's Paddy Wilson was chopped down in a heavy challenge, earning the Boleskine full back a yellow card.

The second half never hit the heights of the first 45 minutes with the heat hampering both sets of players. Alan Ross made it 4-1 on 62 minutes with another powerful finish.

Strathglass 3 Lochaber 0

The Strathglass second team came from two goals down to draw 3-3 with the Lochaber second team in their noon throw-up at Cannich.

Rolands Freimanis gave Lochaber the lead on seven minutes with the only goal of the first half.

Eddie Noble levelled five minutes into the second period.

Max Campbell on 56 minutes and Ryan Toal on 69 minutes had the visitors 3-1 ahead though and they looked good for both points.

Eoghan Stewart started the fight back on 76 minutes and Eddie Noble got his second to make it 3-3 on 81 minutes.

Lochcarron 2 Inverness 0

Lochcarron defeated the Inverness reserves 2-0 at Battery Park.

Lance MacCuish gave Lochcarron the lead on 18 minutes and Angus Urquhart sealed the win with a goal nine minutes from time.

Lewis Camanachd 1 Beaulieu 1

Lewis Camanachd and the Beaulieu second string drew 1-1 at Shawbost.

Alexander Gordon gave Lewis the lead a couple of minutes into the second half.

Callum Flynn drew Beaulieu level on 74 minutes.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Glenorchy 1 Strachur 4

Strachur stay top of the division after they beat Glenorchy 4-1 at Mart Park.

Strachur won the game in the first half with Stuart Robertson on 10 minutes, Ally Mirlees on 30 minutes and Steven Bulloch on the stroke of half time giving them a 3-0 interval lead.

Iain Wilson added a fourth on 65 minutes, before Conor Sartain countered five minutes later.

Glasgow Mid Argyll W/O v Oban Celtic

The Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds were awarded the points when the Oban Celtic seconds were unable to raise a team for their noon throw-up at Yoker.

Bute P Aberdour P

The Bute reserves and the Aberdour reserves agreed to re-schedule their match at The Meadows.

WCA round-up

There were top flight wins for Skye and Fort William and the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup semi-finalists are known following the Women's Camanachd Association shinty action on Sunday May 20.



Lorna Macrae, Skye, and Megan Ralph, Badenoch, in action during last Saturday's Marine Harvest National Division 1 game. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Marine Harvest National Division 1

Badenoch 1 Skye Camanachd 3

There was a top of the table clash at the Dell where reigning champions Skye Camanachd beat Badenoch 3-1.

Badenoch went into this 2pm throw-up with a four point lead at the top of the table, although Skye had a couple of games in hand.

This was a very hard game and Skye didn't really come into it until the last 10 minutes of the first half. Lorna MacRae scored twice for Skye, with Caitlin MacLean getting the other.

Megan Ralph scored for the home side. The result means Skye now trail Badenoch by just two points but they have two games in hand.

Fort William 3 Ardnamurchan 1

Fort William beat Ardnamurchan 2-1 in their 11.30am throw-up at An Aird.

Zoe Smith, Leah Maxtone and Katherine Ann Gall scored the Fort William goals, with Carolanne Cameron countering for Ardnamurchan.

Glasgow Mid Argyll P Lochaber P

The meeting between Glasgow Mid Argyll and Lochaber at Yoker has been re-scheduled to Sunday June 10.

Marine Harvest Challenge Cup quarter finals

Skye Camanachd 5 Glasgow Mid Argyll 1

The Skye Camanachd Ladies second team beat the Glasgow Mid Argyll Ladies second team 5-1 in the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup quarter finals at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree, on Saturday May 19.

The MacLean sisters were to the fore, with Abby MacLean grabbing a hat-trick and Holly MacLean, who was superb in midfield, bagging a brace.

Shona Fisher netted for Glasgow Mid Argyll.

Strathglass 1 Lovat 10

Lovat overcame Strathglass 10-1 at Cannich.

Cassie Dorrian scored for the hosts, but Fiona Urquhart, four, Laura Gallacher and Paige MacDonald, two, and strikes from Holli Sneddon and Ruth Campbell gave Lovat a convincing win.

Inverness 3 Lochaber 1

Inverness defeated the Lochaber reserves 3-1 at The Bught Park.

Katie MacMillan grabbed a home hat-trick, with Megan Munro scoring the Lochaber goal.

Ardnamurchan 0 Glenurquhart 11

Glenurquhart and the Ardnamurchan second team met in a 2.30pm throw-up at Strontian.

Hazel Hunter scored five times, Abbi Stoddart and Ishbel Barr bagged braces, with Shanna Aris and Donna MacKenzie getting the others.

Fixtures

Saturday May 26

Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup second round

Kilmallie v Ballachulish
Calum Girvan - 3pm
Inverness v Glasgow Mid Argyll
Iain Kennedy - 3pm
Oban Celtic v Fort William
Skye had a couple of games in hand.
Brian MacKay

Strathdearn Cup first round

Inverness v Fort William
Neil MacDonald - noon
Kilmallie v Caberfeidh
Des McNulty - noon
Kingussie v Boleskine
John Wood - noon
Lochcarron v Lochaber
John Matheson
Lovat v Newtonmore
Steven MacLachlan - noon
Skye v Kinlochshiel
Archie Ritchie - noon
Strathspey v Strathglass
Ronnie Campbell

Bullough Cup first round

Aberdour v Scots Camanachd
David Mitchell
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Inveraray
Graham Fisher

Marine Harvest Premiership Lochaber

Ross Brown - 3pm
Kinlochshiel v Newtonmore
Deek Cameron
Lovat v Caberfeidh
John Angus Gillies - 3pm
Oban Camanachd v Kyles - noon
Andy MacLean
Skye v Glenurquhart
Archie Ritchie - 3pm

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Bute v Kilmory
Alex MacVicar
Col Glen v Lochside Rovers
Robert Baxter
Kyles Athletic v Taynuilt
Jim Innes

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Glenorchy v Oban Celtic
Ewan MacDonald

Results

Saturday May 19

Cottages.com MacTavish Cup semi final
Lovat 0 v Newtonmore 1
Kinlochshiel 7 v Caberfeidh 2

Glasgow Celtic Society Celtic Semi Final

Oban Camanachd 2 v Inveraray 0
Glasgow MA 2 v Kyles Athletic 4

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 2nd Round

Lochside Rovers 5 v Kyles Ath 0

Marine Harvest Premiership

Lochaber 4 v Skye 1

Marine Harvest National Division

Fort William 3 v Oban Celtic 0
Strathglass 2 v Kilmallie 4

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Fort William 3 v Kinlochshiel 0
Glenurquhart 3 v Newtonmore 4
Kingussie 2 v Skye 0

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Ballachulish 1 v Tayforth 1
Col Glen 2 v Taynuilt 3
Kilmory 1 v Aberdour 4
Inveraray 2 v Bute 4

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Caberfeidh 4 v Boleskine 1
Lewis 1 v Beaulieu 1
Lochcarron 2 v Inverness 0
Lovat 1 v Kilmallie 0

Strathglass 3 v Lochaber 3

Marine Harvest South Division 2

ButeP v Aberdour P

Glasgow MA W/O v Oban Celtic
Glenorchy 1 v Strachur 4

Mull rugby Sevens a great success

STARTED in 1985, the Isle of Mull Sevens Tournament brings together rugby clubs from all over the rugby world.

In 1992, organisers made rugby history by running a dual tournament for both ladies and men - the first of its kind anywhere in the world.

Over the years, teams from as far away as the USA have made the long journey to Mull to take part in this famous tournament.

The day starts with the Mull and Iona Tag Rugby finals. This is a wonderful event that brings a smile to the faces of everyone watching.

Primary schools from all over the island compete for four trophies. This year's winners were: Golden Ball, Salen; the Garmony Quach, Bunnass; the Scarlett Cup, Salen and the McGochans Fair Play Cup, Salen.

A new award was introduced this season for the most outstanding player in tag and mini rugby and this was won by Gemma Cameron from Bunnass.

Congratulations were given to all these young, up-and-coming stars.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the tag rugby medals were stuck in Oban. On hearing this, Keith Robbie of MBS, who was already on the ferry, travelled back to Oban so the youngsters weren't disappointed.

In the Mull Sevens, rugby players from all walks of life and all levels of ability compete on equal terms. This year was no exception with social players from local sides getting to pit their skills against players from the highest reaches in Scottish rugby.

This year's men's tournament



Above: The Mull men's team celebrate winning the Sea Eagle Trophy at last weekend's Mull Sevens tournament.



Left: Isle of Mull Pipe Band leads Mull and last year's winners the Brown Trouts, onto the field to start the 2018 event.

had an exceptional standard of entries. The ladies' tournament was also an exciting prospect with an in-form Oban Seven hoping to wrestle the crown from Stirling, winners in the previous four years.

The men's tournament started to the stirring sound of the Isle of Mull Pipe Band.

The draw had pitted Mull against last year's winners 'Brown Trouts'. In a thrilling game, Mull came out on top by two points.

The competition had been given a local boost late on Friday night when Oban was released from a prior league commitment allowing the team to attend. This was great news and the President's Team stepped aside to make room. Local attendance was rounded off with a fine Coll side, captained by Dougie Wainwright, son of Scotland and British Lions player Rob Wainwright.

Throughout the day, the three local sides played impressive

rugby and all notched up fine wins. However, the opposition was just too strong with Oban and Coll falling to the Red Kites and Mull going down by three tries to one against the Commonwealth Crusaders.

For those not in the rugby know, these are two very strong select teams. The Red Kites have all been capped for Scotland at various levels and the Commonwealth Crusaders are a side of national league players. It's an outstanding

testament to local rugby that none of the Highland and Island sides looked out of place in such illustrious company.

As expected, the final was a game of the highest calibre and will be remembered by the spectators for many years. The Commonwealth Crusaders came through with a late score to snatch the Gruline Cup from the grasp of the Red Kites.

The second tier Sea Eagle Trophy was an all-local match with Coll taking on Mull. The

partisan Muileach support carried Mull through to a fine victory.

The women's tournament was a hard fought affair. Stirling had their eyes fully focused on retaining the famous pink trophy and powered through the top half of the draw.

In the other half, Oban surged into the final. Unfortunately for the local support, Stirling were determined to make it five in a row and retained the Pink Cup with Oban commendable runners-up.

The tournament always ends with a raucous prizegiving where gallons of fizz is sprayed with abandon.

The prizes were presented by club president John Archbold, who is recovering from a serious illness, and everyone wished him a speedy recovery.

Two further sought-after trophies are the most 'sociable team' awards. These are awarded by the Commentary Team and went to the wonderful Craig Dunain women's squad from Inverness and Mull Sevens virgins, the Scots Guards. The trophy was accepted in true military fashion.

Three trophies are presented to highlight individual skills. To ensure fairness these are chosen by the referees.

The women's player of the tournament went to Rachel Shankland from Stirling and the men's was awarded to Hugh Lindsey of the Red Kites.

Many readers will remember Angus MacColl, a 'weel kent face' from Mull and Mull rugby who sadly died last year. Angus loved the sevens and was an exceptional player.

To honour his memory, his

wife Pam donated a cup to be awarded to the outstanding Mull player in the tournament. The trophy was presented by Angus's daughter Leanne to Sean Black.

The tournament hosts Mull's annual corporate lunch. The venue is provided by joint sevens sponsor Central Events with a splendid marquee and furnishings. The lunch was prepared by the other Sevens sponsor, Isle of Mull Hotel.

Noel, the Isle of Mull Hotel head chef and his professional staff, prepared a sumptuous feast using locally donated food. The meal was savored by a sell-out attendance.

At the end of the dinner a raffle was drawn and an auction skillfully overseen by Neal Goldsmith.

This was to raise funds for the 'My name's Doddie Foundation'. This a foundation to aid research into Motor Neurone disease established by Scottish rugby international player Doddie Weir.

Mull rugby were thrilled when the Sevens raised a figure approaching £4,000, a wonderful example of generous giving from everyone involved.

The Sevens always ends with an evening of entertainment. The theme of the Sevens this year was 'the Europeans'.

No Brexit nonsense here as the nations of Europe rubbed shoulder to shoulder at the awesome 'Ceilidh at the Clubhouse' with entertainment provided by the brilliant Democrats band.

The club thanked the many people who made 'the world's most sociable Sevens' such an outstanding event and Mull's first aid medical team who ably took care of the day's bumps and bruises.

MARTIAL ARTS WITH IAIN RODGER

Kyokushinkai Karate
ON THURSDAY May 17, the Oban club paid host to two Kyokushinkai instructors who were, coincidentally, holidaying in Scotland from different parts of the world.

Following a request from the club, Sensei Peter Appleton, who runs a club in the Peak District in Derbyshire and is an old friend of Iain from the Oban club, and Senpai Twan Smolders from Holland taught a section of the class as it's always good to see different teaching methods.

If anyone would like more information about Kyokushinkai Karate classes, contact Iain Rodger on 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk

Kickboxing
CLASSES are as follows: juniors 4.30pm on Wednesdays and Fridays and 11am on Sundays. Seniors 6pm on Wednesday and Fridays. Women only session 1pm on Sundays and Kick-Fit Mondays at 6pm. Beginners are always welcome. The first session is free and there are discounts for multiple sessions.

Find Senshi Do Kickboxing on Facebook or contact Wullie Rodger on shihanwill@gmail.com or 07480 273190.

Shukokai Karate
ANYONE looking for more details on this club should contact Kenny Gray on kenni.gray@btinternet.com or 07884 183905.

BJJ
THURSDAYS are now centred on MMA and as this class is starting from the basics, it is the perfect time to try something different. All classes start at 7.30pm. For more information contact Coogie Potter on coogiepots@gmail.com

Wado Kai Karate
WADO KAI Karate clubs have now been established.

The main club trains on Tuesday evenings at Dunbeg Primary School, 6.30pm - 7.30pm for juniors and 7.30pm-8.30pm for seniors. Wado is a flowing style of karate that suits people of any age.

It's a small and friendly club with an emphasis on the technical and aesthetic aspects of the art. Gradings are held twice a year and there are occasional courses/master classes run by 7th Dan instructor Christopher Bruce. For more details email crb999@btinternet.com

There is also a weekly children's club at Park Primary School, Oban, on Mondays



Left to right: Twan Smolders, Peter Appleton, Iain Rodger, Paul Mackay, Charlie McLaughlin, Sean McQuade, Darryl McLaughlin and Jamie Docherty.



Twan Smolders teaches part of a class.

Loch Fyne Sea Angling Club prizegiving

LOCH Fyne Sea Angling Club held its annual general meeting and prizegiving in the Argyll Arms, Ardriahig, on Saturday May 12.

Trophies were presented by Archie MacGill of Fyne Tackle.

Jim Smith won shore champion, heaviest boat fish and heaviest shore fish.

Nikki Thompson was named boat champion and won the Christmas Shield and best percentage specimen, with Robert MacBrayne runner up for the champion and nominated species.

Also competing were Robert, Jim and Andrew Jamieson and Gary Sinclair.



Prizewinners Nikki Thompson, Robert MacBrayne, Jim Smith and Gary Sinclair.

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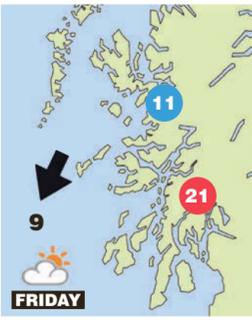
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WEATHER

Thursday	Sunny intervals Breezy from the east, south east Temperatures 11°C to 20°C
Friday	Sunny intervals Breezy from the north, north east Temperatures 11°C to 21°C
Weekend	Sunny intervals on Saturday
Outlook	Sunny intervals on Sunday Breezy from the east Temperatures 12°C to 21°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 24 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm							
Thur	01.32	3.1	08.14	1.3	14.32	3.0	19.57	1.2	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	02.38	3.2	09.16	1.2	15.22	3.2	21.01	1.1	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	03.27	3.4	10.04	1.1	15.59	3.4	21.55	1.0	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	04.07	3.5	10.43	1.0	16.33	3.6	22.41	0.9	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	04.43	3.6	11.18	1.0	17.07	3.7	23.23	0.9	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	05.18	3.7	11.51	1.0	17.41	3.8	***	**				
Wed	00.02	0.9	05.51	3.7	12.25	1.0	18.14	3.9				

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

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Tourist bed tax is back on Highland Council agenda

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
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ACCOMMODATION providers in Lochaber could yet face a controversial tourist bed tax after Highland Council leaders revealed the idea is back on the table.

Council leader Margaret Davidson revealed this week that she is reconsidering the introduction of a levy on tourist accommodation in an attempt to generate some extra revenue for the cash-strapped council.

The proposal has met with opposition in the tourism industry, both locally and across the Highlands, as the Fort William Accommodation Marketing Group (FWAMG), along with the Highland branch of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), expressed concerns over the implementation of the levy and raised fears over its impact on the local economy.

'We need legislation before we can take this forward in any way,' Mrs Davidson said. 'However, we are indeed looking at ways we can widen our discussions and will be looking at working up a business case. Meanwhile, we are happy to work with the business sector to address any of their concerns.'

Last December, a plan to charge a levy of £1 per night on tourist accommodation was put forward by councillors but this was eventually snubbed by the Scottish Government, which failed to approve the plans.

In a renewed push for the levy, Councillor Bill Lobban, convener and chairman of redesign, now believes there is enough support among members to make the plan

a reality. Mr Lobban said: 'There is considerable cross-party support for the introduction of a tourist tax in Highland, as there is elsewhere in Scotland, Edinburgh being a prime example. A tourist-related tax would provide huge benefits for tourists and local residents, especially in these times of ever-decreasing council budgets.'

However, John Jarvis-Jones, chairman of FWAMG, said he was opposed to the idea of a tourist bed tax on the basis that the levy might not apply to all accommodation providers, such as Airbnb hosts and campsites.

'It's going to be very tough to administer. There are a lot of questions that need to be answered. The main issue is how it is going to be policed and whether it is going to be inclusive of all accommodation providers, not just B&Bs.'

Mr Jarvis-Jones said the accommodation group did welcome efforts to raise revenue to improve the area's infrastructure but stressed that any attempts to do so by the council must apply to all accommodation providers.

'If we don't fix these problems, we will end up killing the golden goose. But there are fears that the area could price itself out of the market. We have got to do it so we don't ruin it for everybody and it must be inclusive.'

Lesley Benfield, chief executive of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, also acknowledged the importance of generating revenue for the council but warned that the levy could be onerous to accommodation providers.

She said: 'Tourism plays a huge part in Lochaber's economy and

Family affair as grandson unveils Model T bronze



The family resemblance is obvious as Mike Munro, above, gets in the passenger seat beside the bronze statue of his grandfather Henry Alexander, the first man to drive a Model T Ford to the summit of Ben Nevis in 1911. A parade of Model T Ford cars, followed by a crowd of locals and visitors, gathered in Cameron Square, Fort William, on Saturday to witness the unveiling of the new bronze statue that commemorates Mr Alexander's fabled expedition to the top of the ben. IF F21 Bronze Model T Munro.

we welcome consideration of all suggestions to raise extra revenue to help our infrastructure cope with visitor numbers.

'The Highlands is typically disadvantaged by higher costs of doing business and lower profit margins. We must, therefore, ensure any tourist tax is a pro-

gressive step enabling businesses in the Outdoor Capital of the UK to remain competitive without placing undue burden on local accommodation providers.'

The FSB, a vocal opponent of the bed tax, recently conducted a survey which, it says, shows Highland businesses remain

'resolutely opposed' to the tax. 'The strength of opposition to the introduction of a tourism tax should come as a wake-up call to Highland Council and the Scottish Government,' said Amanda Frazer, FSB's Highlands and Islands leader. 'Passions are running high, and rightly so,

because a new Highland tourism tax would be bad for business, bad for local Highland economies and bad for communities.'

'If Highland Council wants to shore up its budget, the last thing it should do is tax our visitors - the people on which so many fragile Highland communities depend.'

Views sought on proposed taxi fare hike

TAXI fares in Lochaber could be set to increase later this year after councillors put forward a number of draft proposals which have gone out to public consultation.

The proposed changes follow discussions with taxi and private hire operators throughout the Highlands and Fort William.

The public is being asked for its views on proposals by Highland Council to increase the maximum level of charges for the hire of taxis or private hire cars fitted with meters operating under a council licence.

The proposed changes, agreed by the licensing committee and which would take effect from October this year, include an

increase in the initial fixed start tariff from £3 to £3.30, with a £2 charge for each additional mile.

For night-time journeys, between 9pm and 7am on any day, an increase from the fixed fare from £3.30 to £4 has been proposed, while additional miles would be charged at £2.50. In addition, the fee for booking ahead is set to double from 50p to £1, while the cost of airport car parking incurred by taxis may be charged on production of a receipt to the hirer.

Increased fares for journeys around the festive period have also been proposed.

A representative of the council said: 'In reviewing and putting forward these proposed changes

to the fares for consultation, the council has taken into account increases in the costs of operating taxis, such as rising diesel, petrol and overall vehicle running costs, and costs of employing drivers.'

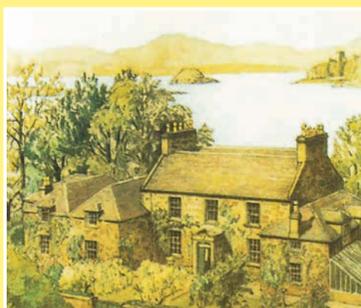
Councillor Ian Cockburn, chairman of the licensing committee, said that in putting forward these proposed changes for consultation, members of the licensing committee were mindful of the Scottish Government's advice, which is that 'the public interest is better served by ensuring the maintenance of an adequate taxi service by giving the trade a fair return than by depressing fares for social reasons, however understandable'.

He added: 'It is stressed, however, that these proposed fares would be the maximum fares which taxis might charge and that individual operators would be free to charge less.'

The council has a statutory duty to review its scales for the fares and other taxi related charges every 18 months.

Members of the public are invited to submit their comments about these proposals by Thursday June 21. This can be done via an email to licensing@highland.gov.uk or in writing to Susan Bleasdale, principal solicitor (regulatory services), The Highland Council, Council Offices, High Street, Dingwall, IV15 9QN.

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Left to right, Neil MacLeod, Chris Robinson, May Macintyre, Margaret Boyd, Robbie Robertson, Iain Blyth, George Bruce and Bill Cameron.



Iain Blyth and members of the Bronze Model T team lead the parade through Fort William High Street.



Neil Tuckett of the Model T Owners Club at the Commando Memorial.



Laurel and Hardy, aka Bill MacLay, left, and Bruce Reid, brought humour to proceedings.



The Bronze Model T sits in Cameron Square at the point where the Ben Nevis ascent started in 1911. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, Alba.photos

Bronze and beautiful

MARK ENTWISTLE
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SNOW from the summit of Ben Nevis gave a magical touch to Saturday's unveiling of the Bronze Model T Ford in the centre of Fort William.

Local teacher and runner Bill Cameron had made his way to the peak of Britain's highest mountain early on Saturday to fill a special flask with snow which later accompanied the unique whisky used in the unveiling ceremony.

A big crowd, including the proud owners of 52 Model T Fords who had brought their prize vehicles from across the UK, had thronged the High Street to witness the unveiling in Cameron Square by Mike Munro, grandson of Henry Alexander Jr who had famously driven his Model T Ford

to the summit of Ben Nevis in 1911. Mr Munro was assisted by Henry Alexander Jr's great-grandson Dan Munro and great-grand-daughter Michelle Munro.

Legend has it that it was Henry's father, also Henry, an Edinburgh motor dealer, who had challenged his son to see if he could drive a Model T Ford to the summit of the mountain.

The statue was crafted by Powderhall Bronze in Edinburgh and includes the seated figure of Henry Alexander Jr in the driver's seat. The hope is that visitors to the town will climb into the passenger seat and have their photo taken.

Chris Robinson, chairman of the Ben Nevis Model T Ford Project Team, said the hope was for the statue to have the same impact on Fort William when it comes to attracting

visitors as the Kelpies near Falkirk and the Angel of the North at Gateshead have had.

'It is an amazing piece of work. Powderhall Bronze has done an incredible job. To be honest, my interest in this hasn't anything to do with cars but rather uplifting the High Street,' Mr Robinson told the *Lochaber Times*.

'I think it can become an icon in Fort William, in Lochaber and in the West Highlands that will draw people into the town. I'm also really pleased we managed to draw so many Model T people here, many resplendent in period attire as well.'

After being introduced to the crowd by Councillor Allan Henderson from the back of a Model T Ford – after a résumé of the history behind the event – Mr Munro drew back a tartan cloth to unveil the statue. He then

addressed the crowd in an often emotional speech, touching on memories of his famous grandfather.

Mr Munro, who was accompanied by members of his family, said it was a great pleasure to attend the unveiling.

'First, with great appreciation, I'd like to thank all the Model T owners for making this incredible event happen. And, of course, not least the community businesses which have all been very generous. The Model T is certainly making its mark in the town.'

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times*, Mr Munro said: 'It is a good likeness of my grandfather. Bit of both of us in the face – him and me.'

'It's been a great event and fantastic having such glorious weather. And wonderful to see so many people from the local community turning out to see the unveiling.'



Allan Henderson addresses the crowd who came out to see the bronze Ford.

Crown Vets open new Pet Health Centre



Crown Vets are delighted to be expanding their services in Lochaber by opening our new Pet Health Centre in Inverlochry in early June.

We will offer more specialist clinics there, including puppy parties, to aid socialising puppies, and geriatric clinics for our older pets, and a Fit Pets' club for weight management. We also will offer routine veterinary appointments in the morning, and you can make these by calling our normal number 01397 702727. Most afternoons we will have our health benefit, nurse-led clinics, and we hope to

offer rehabilitation treatments including physio, massage, reiki and acupuncture. Our excellent nursing team consists of Morag McGee RVN, our head nurse, and Sophie Hardy RVN, and we would like to welcome our new addition Emma Grieve RVN, who will join us in August. Emma is a local girl, from Inverlochry, and we are delighted to have her on board. She has spent the past few years working in Glasgow, specialising in canine rehabilitation. Morag has a keen interest in canine behaviour and Sophie is currently studying feline behaviour and specialist feline nursing care.

We hope to have cat-only veterinary clinics too, to minimise the stress for our feline friends. And pop in to check out our dog food and exclusive pet retail. We currently have a fantastic dental promotion running and are offering free dental health checks by appointment, with a free dental goody bag, and, until the end of July, special prices for a cat scale and polish of £109 (normally £180), and a dog scale and polish at £149 (normally £220). So it's well worth getting your pet checked. Altogether very exciting times ahead, and we look forward to welcoming you, both in Glen Nevis Place and in Inverlochry.



Archie Paterson of Nevis Bakery celebrates the arrival of the Bronze Model T in his 'new' delivery van, which was built in Aberdeen on 1924.



A total of 52 Model T Fords joined the parade through Fort William to celebrate the installation and unveiling of the bronze statue.



Mickey made some friends. Picture: Abrightside Photography

Successful summer fete

BUN-SGOIL Ghàidhlig Loch Abar (Lochaber Gaelic School) at Caol held another very successful annual summer fete last week.

Fantastic weather drew a good-sized crowd, helping to raise a total of £2,500.13.

A school spokesperson said:

'Thank you to all our children, staff, parents, volunteers and community members for their continued support. Thank you to all those who donated prizes and vouchers. Thank you to all the businesses locally and nationally who contributed to our fete. Ceud taing dhuibh uile.'

WHAT'S ON

- There will be a craft fair featuring local crafts in Duncansburgh Macintosh Church Hall, Fort William, from 11am-3pm, on Friday May 25.
- Fort William will welcome passengers from the cruise liner Seabourn Quest to the town tomorrow (Friday May 25). The ship is estimated to arrive at 8am and if anyone can help as a volunteer to welcome the passengers, please contact Sarah Kennedy of the Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company on 07768 805040.
- There will be a Nether Lochaber craft fair on Saturday May 26, from 10am-4pm in Nether Lochaber Hall, Onich.
- There will be a garden opening in aid of local charities, including Laggan Parish Church, at Arderikie with Aberarder, Kinlochlaggan, on Sunday May 27, from 2pm to 5.30pm. Entry is £5.50 but children are free.
- Nether Lochaber Community Association, with funding from Sustrans, has been developing a picnic site alongside the filling station at North Ballachulish. This will be officially opened on Sunday May 27, at 2pm.
- West Highland Museum in Cameron Square, Fort William, holds its AGM on Thursday May 31 at 5pm. Please contact museum manager Colleen Barker at colleen@westhighlandmuseum.org.uk if you would like a copy of the agenda.

View from the Chamber



IT MIGHT seem quite a long way off, but the team at Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is already busy planning for another great Lochaber Ideas Week, from November 12 to 16.

Lochaber Ideas Week is a celebration of ideas and innovation in business that brings Lochaber business people and the wider community together every year.

One of the most popular events is the Dragons' Glen business competition in which anyone with a great business idea can win an amazing £10,000 cash prize generously donated by the West Coast Communities Growth Fund (administered through Foundation Scotland).

The Dragons' Glen competition is open to everyone based in Lochaber, whether you're already in business or not. If you think you've spotted a gap in the market or an exciting new way of doing something, then this is the competition for you.

If you haven't already got a firm idea of your business plan, now is the time to start getting ready. Dragons' Glen will open for entries in the early summer so make sure you're all set to give it a go.

Now in its fifth year, Dragons' Glen has helped lots of great new business ideas to take shape. There has been an amazing variety of business ideas submitted over the years, from hand-crafted Highland lamps and ornaments to a new glamping site, seaweed-based products and many more.

Previous winners have been the 3WiseMonkeys climbing centre, Clark Pods wooden camping pods, Lorna Gillies fashion designer and Kin-



Food entrepreneur Levi Roots presents the prize cheque to last year's winners, Kinlochlovin' social enterprise company.

lochlovin' social enterprise.

So, if you think your idea could be the next big thing, keep your eyes peeled for the competition opening soon. Remember, no idea is too big or too small. If you can convince the judges of your idea's merit, you could be the lucky winner of £10,000 to invest in your business.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce represents businesses throughout Lochaber with a focus on encouraging economic growth, job creation and promoting Lochaber as a great place to live, work, study and visit.

If you'd like to join, call 01397 705 765 or visit www.lochaber-chamber.co.uk.



Sail training was one of the options on offer to the S3 pupils at Kinlochleven High this month.

Kinlochleven High students are on crest of a wave

MARK ENTWISTLE
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KINLOCHLEVEN High School's S3 pupils have had a very busy employability month, with lots of exciting options to explore.

The majority chose to sail for seven days around the west coast of Scotland with the Ocean Youth Trust.

The trust is a world leading youth work charity, delivering a programme of residential youth work voyages aboard its fleet of sail training vessels, providing a uniquely powerful and effective environment for personal development as well as an opportunity to work on employability skills such as teamwork and emotional intelligence.

However, sailing is not everybody's thing and there are also plenty of opportunities to work on employability skills on dry land.

The school, together with Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) West Highland, organised employability workshops in school and in a variety of work places such as the Ice Factory in Kinlochleven, Liberty Aluminium in Fort William and the National Trust in Glencoe, so that pupils could see a



The group of pupils representing Lochaber Action on Disability won the £3,000 prize for their nominated charity.

range of sectors, jobs and entry routes for careers in the area.

'I really enjoyed learning about local career opportunities,' said Lewis Moran.

This was combined with planning, organising and delivering a coffee morning in the Leven Centre for a charity of their choice, Cancer Research.

The pupils used this to contribute to their Bronze Youth Achievement Awards. These are individual learning awards, which are nationally recognised and SCQF levelled, providing a framework to support quality learning and work with young people, thus offering accreditation for young people's achievements.

The S3 pupils also came up with great plans, exciting ideas, made fabulously tasty snacks for a wonderful cause and raised over £89.

'I really enjoyed this week,' said Hope Middleton. 'And learning about my strengths and weaknesses has been really useful.'

This hive of activity was rounded off with the third YPI (Youth Philanthropy Initiative) final.

As with previous years, all S3 pupils took part, pitching to a panel of judges for their chosen local charity, which has to focus on a social issue.

YPI is a curricular programme, designed for secondary schools, centred

on youth voice, action and philanthropy, empowering young people to understand and make a difference in their community.

This is supported by the Wood Foundation, which gives £3,000 to the charity with the winning presentation. The youngsters have to investigate local charities and chose a social issue, visiting the charity to find out what it does and how it benefits the community.

The chosen charities were Lochaber Sensory Care, Lochaber Council on Alcohol, Lochaber Action on Disability, Lochaber Cinema Group and Glencoe Mountain Rescue.

All five groups did amazingly well and did their charities proud. Thankfully, S3 home economists also prepared lots of delicious baking to keep the eager crowd busy while the judges deliberated.

'We are delighted to say that the group representing Lochaber Action on Disability produced the winning presentation and it is that charity which is the recipient of £3,000. Congratulations!' said head teacher Rebecca Machin.

'And very well done to everyone for that you contributed to a wonderful afternoon.'

Driver's alcohol level was 'horrifically high'

A FORT WILLIAM building site labourer was banned from driving for two years and fined £630 after having so much alcohol in his bloodstream a sheriff said she was surprised he could walk, let alone drive a car.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald had deferred sentence on John Gillespie, 61, of the town's High Street, at an earlier court appearance for the preparation of a criminal justice social work report.

Gillespie had pleaded guilty earlier to driving a car on December 1, 2017, on the A830 road at Lochy Bridge with a blood alcohol level of 234mg of alcohol in 100ml of blood. The

legal limit is 50mg of alcohol in 100ml of blood.

At the earlier court appearance, defence agent Hamish Melrose said his client had never appeared in court previously.

But this week, Sheriff MacDonald reminded Gillespie he had been almost five times the legal drink drive limit.

'This was a horrifically high reading and extremely reckless to get behind the wheel of a car with that amount of alcohol in your system,' she said. 'I am surprised you could barely walk, let alone drive a car. I note in the report that you have expressed remorse for this, but this was a very serious offence.'

Police warning after drink-drive offences

POLICE in the Highlands and Islands are again appealing to the public not to drink and drive - with 12 motorists already having been charged with offences this month.

Eight men and four women from across the Highlands and Islands will be the subject of reports to the procurator fiscal in relation to drink driving offences.

Five of these incidents occurred over the past weekend alone.

Road policing sergeant Donnie Mackinnon said: 'Time and again we have warned people that drinking and driving is dangerous and will not be tolerated so it is disappointing that we

continue to stop drivers who are over the limit.

'Anyone getting behind the wheel under the influence of alcohol not only runs the risk of gaining a criminal record and losing their licence. They also put themselves and other completely innocent road users in danger.'

'Over the summer there may be the temptation to have a drink and then drive home. Our message is simple: there is no safe limit.'

'If you need to drive, it is best not to drink at all.'

Anyone who has concerns about a suspected drink driver should call 101 or 999 in an emergency.



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Knife charge man is freed from court

A SHERIFF found charges of possession of a knife and behaving in a threatening or abusive manner against a marine engineer from Morar not proven after a trial at Fort William Sheriff Court this week.

The trial of James MacNaughton, of Rhubana View, had been part heard after starting towards the end of last year.

MacNaughton, now 61, had denied that on September 8, 2016, he had been in possession of a knife at Mallaig harbour and had behaved in a threatening or abusive manner likely to cause fear or alarm by shouting and swearing, uttering threats and brandishing a knife.

When the trial first started, the court had heard from fishing boat skipper and MacNaughton's brother-in-law Michael MacNeil, 57, that on the day in question, he was in the wheelhouse of his vessel, which was tied up at a pier in Mallaig.

Mr MacNeil said MacNaughton had appeared on the pier in a car and was shouting something

through the open window. He said he had gone to speak to MacNaughton when one of his crewmen shouted a warning about a knife.

Mr MacNeil said MacNaughton was holding something in his hand. He said: 'It looked like a fisherman's knife with a blade of about six inches. A few words were exchanged and I told him he should be ashamed of himself.'

Mr MacNeil agreed there was a history of bad feeling between the two men, but denied threatening MacNaughton and denied his son had threatened him.

This week, Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald heard from Martin Burgess, 38, who had been a crewman aboard Mr MacNeil's boat on the day in question.

Mr Burgess said he had been working in the boat and saw and heard Mr MacNeil arguing with a man in a car on the pier, and that the driver had something metallic in his hand that could have been a knife.

But MacNaughton's solicitor Richard Souter told Mr Burgess it would have been impossible for him to have witnessed anything from where he was, as the boat was low in the water.

Mr Souter added that Mr Burgess had originally told police he would not recognise the man in the car again but now was identifying MacNaughton as the driver.

The court also heard from a police officer and Mallaig harbour master James McLean.

Both had viewed CCTV footage of the incident, but there was no audio and the cameras could not see the interior of the car.

MacNaughton told the court he had heard Mr MacNeil 'screaming abuse' from the wheelhouse window as he drove past and, after turning round, had stopped near Mr MacNeil's boat.

MacNaughton also agreed with procurator fiscal Robert Weir that a problem had existed between the two families.

Mr Weir asked: 'So why didn't you just drive on? Why stop?'

MacNaughton replied it was because Mr MacNeil was shouting abuse and he wanted to find out what was going on.

Mr Weir continued: 'Was it not the case you decided not to report the matter to the police because it was you who had threatened someone with a knife and you were worried about that?'

'No,' said MacNaughton. Mr Souter argued there were too many discrepancies in the witnesses' testimonies, including uncertainty over the size of the knife blade or whether the object had even been a knife.

Mr Souter added: 'Mr MacLean's evidence was that the position of the boat itself was significantly lower than the witnesses said, and if they were where they said they were, they wouldn't have been able to see onto the pier. So there is a reasonable doubt.'

Sheriff MacDonald said she found both charges not proven.



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Cash windfall for Ardgour charity

A CHARITY which provides respite breaks for vulnerable and disadvantaged children at its centre in Ardgour has been awarded a five-figure grant.

HopScotch Children's Charity has received a whopping £21,500 grant from the Scottish Children's Lottery, which the fundraising team says will help fund a new minibus for the centre.

Alison Bass, fundraiser at HopScotch, said: 'We are so grateful to the Scottish Children's Lottery for the funding towards the purchase of a new minibus. This will enable us to continue to transport young people to and from Ardvullin and on daily activities for many years to come.'

'We believe that good childhood memories last a lifetime, and it is HopScotch's goal to ensure that every child returns home with increased confidence and lots of amazing memories. Thank you so much.'

HopScotch provides free



Alison Bass and Peter Traynor from HopScotch with the cheque.

respite breaks for vulnerable children at its centre at Ardvullin in Ardgour, giving them a chance to enjoy a truly memorable break in a safe and supportive environment.

Most children attending the centre have no other opportunity to experience a holiday, many being young carers for family members, while others suffer due to parental health issues or addictions, bereavement, domestic violence and

poverty. A break with HopScotch offers a rare chance to get away from a chaotic and often stressful home environment.

The Scottish Children's Lottery was launched in October 2016 to raise money for children in Scotland, with proceeds helping to improve the lives of children right across the country and make a real difference to those who need it most.

Algal toxin levels found in Lochaber

HIGHLAND Council's Environmental Health team has identified raised levels of naturally occurring algal toxins following routine monitoring at Loch Beag and Loch Ailort in Lochaber, along with others across the West Highlands.

Commercial harvesting sites in these areas have been closed as a consequence of the levels of an algal toxin called PSP (paralytic shellfish poison).

Eating shellfish such as cockles, mussels, oysters or razor fish from these areas is likely to pose a health risk arising from the consumption of these toxins.

As a sensible precaution, people should avoid eating shellfish from this area until further notice.

It is important to note that cooking does not remove risks from consumption.

FW

SNH to transfer land to South Uist community

A PROPOSAL from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) for a South Uist community group to establish a new nature reserve within an active crofting estate has been approved by the Scottish Government.

With 1,100 hectares of land at Loch Druidibeg, South Uist, brought back into community ownership, local group Stòras Uibhist, in partnership with RSPB Scotland, plans for the site to include visitor facilities; habitat, goose and deer management; enhanced drainage and water quality; and improved access to the loch.

David MacLennan, area manager for Outer Hebrides and Argyll, said: 'We have been working closely with Stòras Uibhist and RSPB Scotland on this proposal for some time, and we are delighted approval is now in place to proceed with the transfer.'

'As well as creating an opportunity for a new nature reserve in South Uist, this transfer is making a significant contribution to meeting the Scottish Government's target of having one million acres of land in community ownership by 2020.'

Angus MacMillan, Stòras Uibhist chairman, added: 'This is an extremely exciting opportunity for Stòras Uibhist to work closely with SNH and RSPB to deliver meaningful environmental and habitat management in this area of South Uist.'

'The east coast of the Uists is often not appreciated for the diversity of wildlife. It is hoped that many people will visit the reserve, in addition to enhancing the economic opportunities that arise from nature tourism.'

George Campbell, RSPB Scotland regional director, said the hope was for the new reserve to replicate the success of the RSPB's Balranald reserve.

'There are real potential benefits to the local community, visitors and wildlife from the establishment of this new nature reserve and we look forward to working together with our new partners to realise the potential of Loch Druidibeg's wonderful natural assets.'

Land Reform Secretary Roseanna Cunningham congratulated Stòras Uibhist. 'The transfer provides a unique opportunity for the community trust, working in partnership with RSPB Scotland, to showcase its commitment and vision for the Loch and surrounding area,' she said.

'I am grateful to SNH, Stòras Uibhist and RSPB.'

CalMac crisis continues as MV Clansman goes back into dry dock

Frustration at renewed island ferries' disruption

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
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WESTERN Isles councillors have expressed their disappointment and frustration over further disruptions to CalMac services to the Outer Hebrides after it was announced that MV Clansman is to return to dry dock for repairs.

Following the announcement by CalMac that the MV Clansman is to undergo further work to its propulsion system for a 12-day period during the first half of June, the comhairle has expressed anger and frustration over the implications for the travelling public at one of the busiest times of the year.

Councillor Uisdean Robertson, chairman of the comhairle's Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said: 'This is particularly frustrating for those involved in the tourism sector which has seen real and sustainable growth over the past several years.'

'The comhairle has played an important role in this and we are disappointed that all the efforts by the businesses and their representative bodies have been undermined by recent events.'

'We appreciate the advance notice given and the improvement in communications undertaken by CalMac and we recognise the situation the op-

erator faces in having to run the services within the constraints of the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service contract and a limited and ageing fleet.

'We would, however, suggest that these alternative arrangements in terms of routes and timetables are no substitute whatsoever for the availability of additional tonnage or vessels which could be utilised in events such as that associated with the Clansman.'

Following a temporary repair to the vessel's propulsion system, MV Clansman will dock again for a permanent replacement part to be fitted from June 1, returning on June 12.

During this period an amend-

ed service will operate on the Mallaig to Armadale route and the Mallaig to Lochboisdale route will be suspended.

Customers wishing to travel on the Mallaig to Lochboisdale service will be directed via Oban to Castlebay and Uig to Lochmaddy. Additional sailings have been organised on the Barra to Eriskay route, enabling passengers to travel to South Uist via Oban to Castlebay on the same day.

The MV Loch Bhruisda will also be deployed on the Skye route to provide additional sailings for the duration of this maintenance period.

'This is an essential piece of work that we wanted to

schedule in before the summer season fully started and have built a temporary timetable that causes the least disruption whilst maintaining all lifeline services,' said CalMac managing director Robbie Drummond.

'We fully appreciate the impact this will have on the communities affected, which we apologise for. In the circumstances, we have tried to limit the disruption to as few routes as possible and will deliver extra sailings to help manage passenger movements as best we can within the resources we have available.'

A full scheduled timetable will run again from June 13.

Community tells CalMac boss that service is 'unacceptable'

A MEETING was held recently bringing together community representatives in Uist with CalMac managing director Robbie Drummond.

Ferry services to Uist have experienced considerable disruption; during the Easter period the MV Hebrides was taken off the Uig triangle to be replaced by the much smaller MV Hebridean Isles, while it was sent south to service Tiree, Coll and Colonsay.

This decision was later reversed. The Mallaig-Lochboisdale route has also been cancelled until the end of May.

Chairman of the meeting Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan said the past few months had not represented CalMac's finest hour.

'In terms of the problems at Easter in particular, I cannot recall a similar level of confusion and service disruption in my time as MSP for the islands,' he said. 'The meeting on Friday was a useful opportunity to bring senior CalMac management together directly with community representatives. Communities in Uist made their views abundantly clear that the service they have received in recent months is unacceptable to them.'

'The key point for CalMac is that it urgently needs to get better at communication with island communities.'



Anger at ferry suspension Transport minister blasted

CALMAC'S plans to suspend all services from Lochboisdale for two weeks in June have been criticised by Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan.

The proposal has been devised by CalMac to cover a period while the MV Clansman will go back into dry dock for permanent repairs to her propeller shaft.

Dr Allan said: 'Given that CalMac's CEO and north area manager were in Uist just last week to listen to the concerns of residents over the chaos caused by previous redeployment decisions, it is particularly disappointing that the latest changes result in Uist bearing the brunt of disruptions to services again.'

'It is clearly not within the spirit of what was discussed at that meeting to have had no consultation whatever before making this decision.'

'While I accept that the current strain on the fleet is exceptional, I cannot accept that removing all services from one port is an equitable solution, no matter how exceptional the circumstances may be.'

'In my view, the contingency plan has been ill-considered and, again, poorly communicated.'

'I have made these points to both the CEO of CalMac and to Transport Minister Humza Yousaf.'

AN ISLANDS tourism organisation has slammed the Scottish transport minister for not intervening in the on-going disruption to CalMac ferries.

Outer Hebrides Tourism (OHT) said it had 'disappointingly, not yet heard back from Humza Yousaf, Minister for Transport and the Islands following our call, last month, for him to intervene on the ferries issue.'

A spokesperson for OHT said: 'We had an acknowledgement from the MSP's office on April 19 that we should expect to receive a response within 20 working days. That deadline expired on Monday May 14.'

'The low priority suggested by such a response window concerned us as much as the critical issue that caused us to write to Mr Yousaf in the first place. We have had no response from him.'

'As a reminder, we continue to wait for his response on our call for him to personally intervene for the urgent reinstatement of the MV Lord of the Isles to its normal schedule on the Mallaig-Lochboisdale route and to engage with us in a meeting in the Outer Hebrides to discuss growing concerns around CalMac's ageing fleet and its inability to commit publicly to ongoing service reliability.'

Schools get mental health cash

IT WAS revealed during this month's Mental Health Awareness Week that pupils at both Portree and Plockton High Schools have secured a share of more than £15,000 allocated to help address mental health issues in their communities.

Mental health charities, including Mikeysline, Scottish Association of Mental Health and Spirit Advocacy, have benefited from youngsters securing grants through the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) Scotland. Mental health causes represent a quarter of YPI grants already awarded this academic year in the Highlands, the highest proportion in any of Scotland's 32 local authority areas.

YPI Scotland is the flagship programme of The Wood Foundation. Deputy UK director Jonathan Christie said: 'With a number of factors leading to an increase in issues faced by young people, it is important that intervention, openness and understanding begin at a young age. We know young people see this as a matter that affects them and their communities.'

'The fact that Highland youngsters are so passionate about supporting these causes is a real hope for the future.'

Working in small teams, students across an entire year group are tasked with choosing a social issue they care passionately about and researching a charity they believe is best placed to challenge or support their chosen issue.

Literary honour for deputy head

THE deputy head of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Skye has been recognised by a Scottish literary organisation for his outstanding contribution to literature.

John Norman MacLeod, vice-principal of the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture in Sleat, was made an honorary fellow of the Association for Scottish Literary Studies (ASLS) at an event in Edinburgh on Friday April 27.

A native of Staffin on Skye, John Norman was educated at Portree High School, Glasgow University and Jordanhill College of Education. He began his career at Plockton High School, where he was a teacher of history. In 1983, he became the first lecturer to be appointed to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, where he developed and managed the introduction of full-time courses through the medium of Gaelic.

Professor Boyd Robertson, principal of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, said: 'John Norman richly deserves this award.'

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Skye pupils get a taste of the great outdoors

A LARGE number of Skye school pupils got involved in outdoor activities this month when the team of Spòrs Gàidhlig visited Portree with an action-packed programme of events.

Gaelic-medium pupils from six of Skye's primary schools participated in the two days, sponsored by Highland Council, and sessions were also delivered to pupils from Portree High School.

On day one, bushcraft sessions were held for pupils of upper primary age who learned the rudiments of working with fire in the outdoors.

On the following day, the six primary schools participated in an orienteering festival in Portree.

Through its Iomairtean pro-



The youngsters enthusiastically embraced orienteering.

gramme, Comunn na Gàidhlig has been delivering orienteering sessions at individual schools since 2016.

A total of 26 first-year pupils from Portree High School are working towards their level one attainment of the John Muir

Award through Gaelic. Comunn na Gàidhlig has been delivering this award throughout Scotland since 2012. During the first morning, the S1s braved the elements for a trip around Scorrybreac on the outskirts of Portree to learn about wildlife.

By afternoon, with worsening weather, plan B came into force with an indoor session on 'mapland'.

These were two action-packed days for primary and secondary pupils of Skye. In total, 123 young people engaged enthusiastically with the activities.

Councillor Alister Mackinnon, chairman of Highland Council Gaelic Strategy Implementation Group, said: 'I'm delighted that Spòrs Gàidhlig with support from the Gaelic team delivered the activities programme, and that the new Bun-Sgoil Gàidhlig Phort Rìgh provided a base for the pupils from schools across Skye.'

'It is important that young people learning Gaelic have the opportunity to engage with extracurricular activities.'

Firefighters set for epic trek across Europe

NA H-EILEANAN an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan has waved off three island firefighters who are heading on their way to deliver a refitted fire engine to Moldova.

The Lewis-based firefighters joined colleagues from across Scotland in Edinburgh as part of the Scottish Emergency Rescue Association (SERA) expedition that will see five fire engines and an ambulance taken to the eastern European country.

This is the 10th year that a crew from Lewis has taken part in the initiative, which is carried out in partnership with Blythwood Care.

Dr Allan said: 'I was delighted

to see off Iain, David and Alex as they set off on their epic 2,000-mile journey.'

'The group has been doing lots of fundraising over the past months in order to deliver lifesaving equipment and a fully refurbished fire engine to Moldova.'

'I understand this will involve non-stop driving through Europe for four days before they eventually get to Moldova.'

'I am always in awe of people who dedicate so much of their time and efforts in order to help others.'

'They are doing the islands proud and I wish them the best on their mission.'



Left to right are Ian Murray, Alasdair Allan MSP, David Campbell and Alex MacLennan.

Winner of Highland Euromillions ticket finally claims prize

AN UNCLAIMED EuroMillions prize of £1,000,000 has now been revealed to have been won on a ticket bought in Highland Council area.

Camelot UK Lotteries, operator of The National Lottery, has announced that the £1,000,000 EuroMillions European Millionaire Maker prize from the EuroMillions special event draw on February 23 this year – which had previously remained outstanding from a ticket bought in the Highland Council area – has now been claimed.

Unless the winner of a major National Lottery prize opts to take full publicity and signs an agreement to that effect, no further information can be released about their win.

Andy Carter, Senior Winners' Advisor at The National Lottery, said: 'We're delighted that the winner of this amazing prize has now come forward and we hope that they will enjoy their win.'

'It would have been awful if the ticket-holder had missed out on this life-changing amount of money.'

'We would like to remind all National Lottery players to check their tickets every time they play.'

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Bus service debate continues as Stagecoach end date looms

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WITH just more than five weeks to go until Stagecoach ends its services in Lochaber, councillors have been discussing the on-going work being done to ensure the area's vital bus links are maintained.

A report on last week's agenda of the council's environment, development and infrastructure committee focused on bus contracts in Lochaber and provided councillors with an update on the situation.

It was in 2016 that Stagecoach took on the running of three public service bus contracts, as



well as a school transport contract from Duror and Onich to Kinlochleven High School. A further school transport

Stagecoach will end its Lochaber operations at the end of June.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

contract from Roy Bridge to Spean Bridge was also awarded following the mothballing of Roy Bridge Primary.

After Stagecoach gave notice to the council it would be terminating its Lochaber bus contracts and closing the depot in Fort William at the end of June, councillors and officials have been working behind the

scenes to ensure transport links are provided throughout the area.

Members at last week's meeting also agreed to delegate authority to the director of community services, in consultation with the chair and vice-chair, to decide an appropriate level of service and to agree the award of contracts for the three key routes between Corpach – Upper Achintore (evenings); Kinlochleven – Fort William and Roy Bridge – Fort William.

Tenders are currently being invited for replacement contracts and it is expected these will be awarded in time for the start of the school year in August.

Temporary arrangements will be made for public transport routes during the school summer holidays.

Committee chairman Councillor Allan Henderson said he and his colleagues were well aware of local concerns after news of Stagecoach's decision to pull out of Lochaber, saying: 'But I want to give people the reassurance that a lot of hard work is going on to keep any disruption to a minimum.'

'Every effort is being made to encourage other local operators to apply for the replacement contracts and we are confident this can be achieved before the start of the school year.'

Council chairman threatens to bypass Highland Council in future following ombudsman's decision over complaints

A LOCHABER community council chairman is threatening to start bypassing Highland Council officials and to deal directly with the Scottish Government on local issues after the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman said it could not investigate a complaint, writes Mark Entwistle.

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council had asked the ombudsman to investigate Highland Council's decision not to allow the community council to make a collective application to the local authority's Discretionary Ward Fund.

In the run up to Christmas, the Lochaber Times revealed

that the community council had been knocked back by Highland Council in its request for £1,000 to distribute to small community groups for such activities as children's festive season parties.

But the ombudsman has now thrown out the community council's complaint, telling Mr Fotheringham that the powers of the ombudsman are set out in the Scottish Public Ombudsman Act 2002, which states that the body can only investigate where a member of the public has sustained injustice or hardship through fault or failure by an organisation.

And the Act excludes any body constituted for purposes of public service, such as a community

council, from being classed as a member of the public.

'In relation to complaints made by, or on behalf of, community councils, we have previously sought legal advice on whether we can accept complaints from community councils,' stated the ombudsman.

'Our advice confirmed that the ombudsman does not have the authority to accept complaints from community councils.'

Mr Fotheringham passed on news of the ombudsman's decision to fellow community councillors.

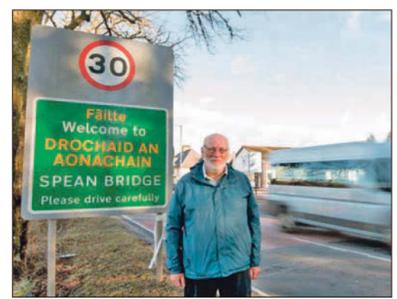
'It appears that our ability to hold Highland Council officials to account has been diminished by the fact that we as a com-

munity council are unable to complain to the Public Service Ombudsman,' Mr Fotheringham told them.

'One can understand why so many community councils are in abeyance when public service organisations ignore us and we can't hold them to account or complain to the ombudsman.'

'I trust that one of our Highland councillors will take up the fact that Highland Council took seven weeks to reply to a stage two complaint - three weeks longer than is allowed by their own published policy.'

'I think this brings to an unsatisfactory end our complaint about the Ward Discretionary Fund.'



John Fotheringham is furious with the ombudsman's decision following the community council's complaint. Photograph: Abrightside Photography

And Mr Fotheringham warned: 'I believe it has further damaged the credibility of Highland Council officials and if we don't see any movement shortly in devolving power

under the Community Empowerment Act locally, we will have to consider bypassing them and dealing directly with the Scottish Government to bring change.'

ADVERTORIAL

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*Education Scotland Inspection Report 2015

BEAR thanked for Spean Bridge road resurfacing work

TRUNK roads operator BEAR Scotland has been thanked for its recent work to resurface a section of the A86 road in Spean Bridge.

Potholes on this section of the road have been a source of continuing frustration for community councillors and residents for months.

But this month John Fotheringham, chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council, finally felt he had cause to write to BEAR Scotland managers and thank them.

'It is much appreciated by the community council and the local residents,' Mr Fotheringham told BEAR Scotland network manager Tommy Deans.

'We are particularly thankful to everyone who has campaigned over the last six months to have the road resurfaced. We earnestly hope there are no further issues here, but will be monitoring the surface.'

In his communication to BEAR Scotland, Mr Fotheringham also revealed that in a separate meeting with representatives of Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE), it emerged there was an agreement between Transport Scotland and SSE that the latter would pay for any damage to trunk roads sustained through the transportation of equipment used during the construction of wind farms, hydro schemes and other electricity work.

However, Mr Fotheringham quizzed Mr Deans: 'As the carriageway on the A82 at the intersection with the A86 is showing signs of breaking up, and it is also at a critical turning spot for turbines being transported to Stronelairg Wind Farm, is Transport Scotland waiting for the completion of the contract before reinstating the road? We are concerned that having solved one problem at this busy intersection, another will cause concern shortly, inconveniencing road users and pedestrians.'

MSP calls time on roadside litter louts

LOCHABER MSP Kate Forbes is backing a campaign to tackle the scourge of roadside litter across the Highlands.

Keep Scotland Beautiful has been running its Clean Up Scotland 2018 Spring Clean initiative, which raises awareness of the impact of litter as well as testing out new solutions to help alleviate the problem.

Recent research revealed more than 100 bottles and cans are found on every mile of Scotland's roads and that more than 96 per cent of the nation's main roads are affected by litter.

Ms Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, told the *Lochaber Times*: 'Pick your litter up. It seems a simple message, but one that is being ignored.'

'Our road verges demonstrate some people are happy to toss their rubbish out the car window and leave their litter for someone else to pick up.'

'It is incredibly selfish to assume other groups, whether public bodies or private individuals, are going to clean up the litter.'

'We should all take responsibility for our own litter and take it home or bin it.'



Kate Forbes MSP is backing a campaign to tackle roadside litter louts.



Ronald Menzies, 85, and Peggy MacDonald, 94, were taken for a spin on the three-wheeled bike last week by Christine Bell of Cycling Without Age Scotland.

Trike delight for Abbeyfield residents

RESIDENTS of Abbeyfield Care Home in Ballachulish saddled up for a ride on a three-wheeled bike courtesy of a visit from Cycling Without Age Scotland last week.

Ronald Menzies, 85, and Peggy MacDonald, 94, got the wind in their hair as Christine Bell from Cycling Without Age Scotland demonstrated age is no barrier to cycling, with the correct bike.

The tri-shaw is specially designed for senior citizens to safely enjoy the

outdoors. Ms Bell said: 'Knowing the unpredictability of our Scottish weather, our tri-shaws are equipped with rain canopies and weather proof blankets so there's no excuse for staying indoors.'

Founded in Denmark 2012 by Ole

Kassow, Cycling Without Age aims to help elderly people who have limited mobility get back on their bikes and enjoy the fresh air and make connections with younger volunteers who become trained tri-shaw 'pilots'.

Abbeyfield staff and residents attended a presentation by Christine Bell, Cycling Without Age Scotland executive officer, and there was no shortage of volunteers as residents queued to have a shot on the tri-shaw around the village.

Abbeyfield Ballachulish is now looking to raise funds to buy a tri-shaw for use by all elderly residents in the community. They are also interested in hearing from anyone interested in volunteering as 'pilots'.

Petition for parliament over Kyle RBS branch

MP FOR Ross, Skye and Lochaber Ian Blackford has presented a petition to Parliament asking that the closure threat to the Royal Bank of Scotland in Kyle of Lochalsh be removed.

In delivering the papers, bearing hundreds of signatures, Mr Blackford told the House of Commons the closure announcement came as a bombshell to customers in Kyle of Lochalsh and surrounding areas, who would face a journey of more than an hour to the nearest RBS in Portree.

He also revealed that despite RBS management claims that only 51 people used the bank regularly, his investigations showed the actual number was 2,436 customers who made 25,000 annual transactions in the branch.

The Kyle branch was granted a reprieve from its proposed closure next month until the end of 2018 to allow an independent study of branch use to be carried out.

Meanwhile, in response to questions from the Scottish Affairs Committee in Westminster last week, RBS chief executive Ross MacEwan said if this study showed that any or all of the 10 branches granted a reprieve, including Kyle, were viable, they would stay open. Responding, Mr Blackford said: 'I will be closely monitoring how the independent review is being carried out and how the results are interpreted,' he said.



Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Ian Blackford presented a petition against the proposed closure of the Royal Bank of Scotland's branch in Kyle to parliament.

RETRO Roamer

More items from Roamer columns of 30 years ago

□ A notice was pinned up in the High Street doorway of Lodge Fort William 43 last week, proclaiming the masonic hall was NOT being used at that particular time for a sitting of the district court. 'Intriguing', thought I. 'Does that mean there will soon be notices outside the hall stating the premises ARE being used for district court and sheriff court hearings? That could cause lots of ribaldry for a while until the court house at the West End is back in business. This week, however, with due 'notice', I presented myself at the masonic hall for what was supposed to be the historic first court hearing there - only to discover the case was being heard in camera.

□ No sooner had the Aonach Mor road been given the green light, than the Strathclyde University experts were issuing statements that there will be precious little Scottish ski-ing from here on in. Their global warming warning avers that our winters will be at least a couple of degrees up on past years and there won't be much snow to ski on.

□ 'Essential works' by the BBC on the Cow Hill mast will mean the telly will be off during the day at least twice next week. It all depends on the weather, as maintenance is required at the top of the mast. The blackout and colour-out will, apparently, affect Fort William and Spean Bridge. So if you want to watch 'Neighbours' I suggest you make alternative arrangements - but not with your neighbours.

□ A well-fed American came breenging in to a High Street delicatessen on Tuesday. 'Hi,' he bellowed at the eager proprietor. 'Is this the Good Food Shop?' The proprietor, sizing up the possibilities of a bumper sale, beamed brightly, with a welcoming 'aye'. Whereupon the Transatlantic traveller smiled hugely and said: 'Gee, that's great. I'm looking for Mr Pettinger the dentist and I was told his surgery was above The Good Food Shop.' He then took his leave as the none-too-delighted deliman gritted his teeth.

□ All the talk late afternoon on Friday was of the poor prices being fetched at the auction mart for tups and ewes. 'Pity the poor crofter' was the day's text. However, it couldn't have been that bad as, not one crofting couple, but two, with hill hirsels on the other side of the loch, were observed having dinner...at Inverlochy Castle.

□ Catherine MacLean was in Coronation Street on Tuesday. 'That can't be right?' says you. 'Coronation Street isn't on on a Tuesday.' However, for Catherine, it was. She had been invited on to the set to show her 'Silk Collection' garments to Julie Goodyear and Barbara Knox, both of whom made purchases. Bet chose a ball gown for the BAFTA awards ceremony, while Rita took silk for herself. Catherine mentioned Deirdre looked so different without her specs.

□ Have you noticed the notices for the 'ScotRail Specials' this week? Not trains - red buses. Glenfinnan Viaduct isn't taking the strain at the moment, as it is being refurbished. Rail passengers are having to take to the Road to the Isles. Hence the promotional panels on the Glenfinnan Station windows which proclaim 'ScotRail Specials'.

□ Kinlochleven will soon have its own parallel lines in mellow yellow, stretching along Leven Road from the Co-op to the junction with Nevis Road. On both sides, restrictions at all times folk, including evenings and weekends. But don't tell the drivers of the red - and green - buses.

□ I'm waiting for Lochaber District Council to rediscover - and conquer - the MacIntosh Steps. Presumably, if our local authority has plans to recycle paper, it could redouble its efforts and do likewise with the litter and cans which abound on the steps?

□ No water up Lundavra on Saturday, apart from the rain. The supply was off all day. But residents were kept in the dark. There was a burst, it seems, which, having been fixed, was followed by a mains fault. So if you happened to be passing by and saw housewives carting pots and kettles of water along Lundavra Road, you now know why. They'd been to the burn to obtain toilet water for flushing purposes. Next time they're hoping loudspeaker vans will advise them of the water being disconnected and reconnected.

□ After the Buckie game at Claggan Park, Fort William Football Club's hospitality suite was stowed out. So I repaired to the Pulp Mill Club. There I had an interesting conversation with three regulars. It went something like this: Ally: 'What was the score?' Me: '1-1.' Dodo: 'Who was playing?' Me: 'Fort against Buckie.' Bob: 'What were they playing?' Me - speechless.

□ Bulb planting is all the rage this weather. The Rotary Club of Lochaber has provided sacks of bulbs to 10 Lochaber primary schools and Caol Nursery. And some went to senior citizens in Caol. And, no, those were not OAPs you saw at a planting in Murdie Stewart's field at Claggan Road End last Saturday. They were Rotarians, admittedly one or two of whom might just be on the wrong side of 65.

□ They were having kittens with pigeons at Scottish Crafts. Confused? I'll explain. Several customers were admiring the capercaillie, grouse and other feathered friends, which form part of the taxidermy collection there. Suddenly one of the birds took flight, much to the amazement of the 'towrists' who had foregathered. Thus a pigeon proceeded to do a couple of laps of honour around the Scottish Crafts ceiling. It seems a pair of pigeons had walked through the front door, took a liking to the establishment and hung around for a while. One of the 'bird watchers' needed a seat to get over the shock of seeing an apparently demised pigeon taking wing again.



Fort William Parade in days gone by.

Arisaig and District Community Council

ARISAIG and District Community Council (ADCC) met on Monday April 16.

Those present included Iain Macniven, chairman; Gerard MacDonald, vice-chairman, Susan Carstairs, secretary; Maureen McColl, treasurer; Anne Baillie; Eleanor Barrie; Morag Keenan and councillors Allan Henderson and Denis Rixson.

Under matters arising from the minutes, the meeting discussed:

The defibrillator at Traigh which still needed to be registered with the ambulance service. The equipment at Arisaig Hotel is due to be fitted soon.

A £50 donation to the Trossachs search and rescue group has been approved.

Mallaig and Morar Community Centre Association is to apply to the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund for money to build toilets at Mallaig, Traigh and Morar.

On the issue of the war memorial, a draft application to the Heritage Lottery Fund has been prepared jointly by Arisaig Community Trust and ADCC. A copy of the draft will be circulated to council members for comment.

Revised timetables have been sent from Inverness but it was felt the Shiel Buses timetable is clearer so Gerard MacDonald will request A3 copies of them for display.

The kerb at the junction of the A830 and B8008 has been repaired. A sign

about dog waste opposite Astley Hall has become bleached and the secretary has contacted the dog warden who will supply new signs.

David Lamont was due to visit Arisaig to assess reported problems at the cemetery ground. Gerard MacDonald agreed to attend.

Planning applications: Mr and Mrs Schaeffler, erection of house, land south of 2 Canon Gillies Place. Ref: 18/01368/FUL.

Mrs R Bridge, erection of house, Hilbre, Arisaig. Ref: 18/01119/PIP.

NHS Highland has requested its survey about availability and purchase of alcohol be completed. The secretary will attend to this.

A draft of the Review of Polling Places has been circulated and comments are invited until Monday December 10. It is proposed Astley Hall, Lady Lovat Primary School and Mallaig and Morar Community Centre remain as polling places.

Concern had been expressed by several people about the decision of Dr Katrina to move to Ullapool. It was suggested there may be further information through an exit review which would enable the practice to see a way forward.

Community council meeting dates for 2018: June 18, September 17, October 15 and November 19.

Stromeferry bypass to close for 12 weeks

THE A890 Stromeferry Bypass is to close for three months.

Highland Council says essential stabilisation work will start on Monday September 3 on a 72-metre section of rock face close to the west of the avalanche shelter.

The rock face is in a single-track section, adjacent to the railway track.

The work will take 12 weeks with the route closed to vehicles of more than 7.5 tonnes during this time. A road to rail diversion will be available to smaller vehicles during the day when no trains are scheduled. The diversion will be controlled by traffic lights and convoy vehicles and will only operate during the day.

Small is...

Life changing

LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times

07/06/18

FW

Viewpoint



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

LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times

There has been considerable fanfare over the arrival and installation of the new bronze Model T Ford, complete with driver Henry Alexander, in Cameron Square in the centre of Fort William.

Quite rightly, too.

The new statue is a striking, even stunning, piece of work that will prove to be an eye-catching addition to the town.

It was gratifying to see so many people come out to witness the unveiling of what will become an iconic item of street furniture. It was also heart-warming to

watch the highly colourful procession of 52 beautifully restored and maintained Model T Fords along Fort William's High Street.

One of the best parts of the statue's design and execution is the amazing opportunity it will afford to local people and visitors to climb aboard so they take home their photographs taken sitting in the car.

Chris Robinson, chairman of the Ben Nevis Model T Ford Project Team, was correct when he said that Powderhall Bronze 'has done an incredible job'. It is a point of view we heartily endorse.



Days gone by – 1914

This week we travel back to the Great War and a photograph of men from Glencoe who served in the army during the First World War. The picture is dated 1914 and, going by their cap badges, the regiment is thought to be the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. This photograph was featured in Glencoe Folk Museum as part of a day of First World War-themed family activities as part of Scotland's annual Festival of Museums last weekend.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



THE FIRST stage of my double bill of short running events is over and I'm very nervous about the next.

I'm writing this on the train back up from Manchester, where I joined the Team Eilidh fundraising group to take part in the Great Manchester Run.

Most of us did the 10k event and, given how hot it was, I was very glad I didn't join the one brave soul in the group who tackled the half-marathon.

For a cold water creature like me, who finds it physically draining to even lie down and read a book in the sun, to have to run in the sweltering heat of Manchester last Sunday was not pleasant and I was exhausted just walking to the start line.

However, the combination of good craic in the group beforehand, encouragement from the spectators and envisaging the relief of submerging myself in cold water afterwards kept me going and I managed to finish 4,870th with a time of 57.48.

Having come so close, it was obviously tough just missing out on a podium

place but the 4,867 folk between me and the bronze medal were just lucky on the day!

Mo Farah will not be feeling threatened with these results but I was just happy to get to the finish line without melting.

With more than 30,000 people taking part, this was a massive event and the diversity of runners was huge.

This was the first time I have ever run with more than a few people and what was more surprising than anything else was the lack of correlation between body type and age and speed of other runners. I dare say further up the field into the elite category, the bodies and ages of the leaders would narrow into the categories of young and lightly-built types but back in the mid-range average Joe department, all bets were off.

At the beginning, when running among a large concentrated clump of people when the speeds of runners have to separate them, I had some amazingly gratifying moments of gliding past folk who looked like fitness models.

The elevated feeling was short-lived because, as the runners began to spread out further, I noticed there

were a fair number of the elderly and those who looked rather less than in the peak of condition leaving me for dust.

It's not a nice feeling when running along feeling like you're doing quite well when a pleasantly plump cailleach in her sixties flies past you like a Redbay Rib overtaking a CalMac ferry. Regardless, I just had to swallow my pride and plod on, despite them leaving me in their wake.

The welcome at the finish line was incredible and it felt great to be part of such a thoroughly positive event.

The fundraising for Eilidh's memorial is going well but we still have a fair bit to go to reach the £3,000 target on the Just Giving page.

The downloads of *Wishing Well*, which reached number 24 in UK mainstream charts last week, are still selling in good numbers which will add to the fund and the audience were very generous with donations to the collection buckets at the Usher Hall last week.

The main event for us is the half-marathon this Sunday in Edinburgh and we need to have reached the online target by then, so any donations, large or small, would be most welcome.



Ashleigh Khan: 'Why are people so opposed to new housing? You hear enough people moaning that there isn't enough housing for the population yet are objecting to them being built?'

Duncan Campbell: 'With the traffic congestion in Oban the last thing that is required is to build houses in that area of Oban, common sense, but that is what our councillors lack.'

£700,000 each for Ulva residents

You report (*The Oban Times*, May 17) that the Scottish Land Fund (ie, the taxpayer) has given £4.4 million to purchase the island of Ulva for the local community and I understand that local fundraising activities yielded a contribution of £37,000.

This would seem to represent a gift of around £700,000 to each of the six residents of Ulva.

The local community hopes to raise the island population to around 50. Let us hope that the existing six are happy with those who join them, as that has not always been the case elsewhere.

I do wonder at the merits of attracting more residents to a small island when they might be better located on the island of Mull. No doubt if they are located on Ulva it will not be long before they want the taxpayer to provide them with a bridge.

Meanwhile, I am looking forward to receiving my gift of £700,000 from the taxpayer.

Colin Davidson,
by email.

Walk challenges mental health stigma

Congratulations to Des MacMillan for organising Oban's first walk to challenge the stigma of mental health.

A range of organisations were represented, including Acumen, You Matter Always, Andy Man's Club, Mull Safe and Sound Group, SiMBA, Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis, New Hope and Police Scotland. People of all ages from our local communities walked and talked.

Sadly, which organisation wasn't present? NHS Highland. If mental health is to be placed on an equal footing with physical health then there must be equality of access to NHS provision.

People are dying because they are unable to access appropriate support in a timely manner. Giving out helpline numbers or telling them to speak to their GP is not good enough.

Christine Green,
by email.

Disturbed by noise from roadworks

The contractors working on Kirk Road in Dunbeg have received permission from Argyll and Bute Council to erect their portable site office in the recycling section/car park next to McCullum Court in the village, a sheltered housing complex for elderly and disabled people.

The fact is these site offices come with generators that make mega noise which travels into the McCullum Court residents' flats, as well as disturbing the natural habitat of the wildlife living in the wilderness in and alongside the burn running through the village.

This is unacceptable and these site offices with generators need to be moved to a different location where the generator is not disturbing these vulnerable groups. On Monday, NRS

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



CHAN URRAM FÈIN-MHOLADH a rèir gliocas an t-seanfhaicail agus 's e car den aon ghliocas a tha a' comhairleadhadh gum bu chòir measadh air cothromachd seirbheis a bhith fo smachd neo-eisimeileach.

Ach tuigear gum feum luchd-sgrùdaidh seirbheis sam bith eòlas agus tuigse mhionaideach air dleasan na h-obrach ma tha iad dol a dhèanamh tomhas ceart air na tha go choinneadh. Sin a dh'fhàg gum bheil a' mhòr-chuid de bhuidhnean proifeiseanta le siostaman sgrùdaidh taobh a-staigh gearaiane bho àm gu àm mu laigse fèin-mheasaidh agus daoine nach d' fhuair riarachadh a' fàgail air na proifeiseantaich gum bheil fèin-dhion nas cudromaiche dhaibh na tha e ceartas a bhualleadh air neach a thog casaid nan aghaidh.

Group erected its noisily-generated site office in the recycling/car park area.

In the year 2018, it should be made Argyll and Bute Council policy that no contractor or sub-contractor will be awarded any work unless their site offices are 'green' and that means no more generators. It should be made a legal requirement that all site offices and portable staff rooms have to be operated by solar panels and batteries. That way the site offices and portable staff rooms are not burdening the environment with their generators.

Please can I ask the Argyll and Bute Council project manager overseeing the Kirk Road project to get them to move the NRS site office to a more suitable location, such as SAMS or Dunbeg Castle car park.

Kay Lang,
by email.

Lagging behind on superfast broadband

Scotland still woefully lags behind the rest of the UK on fibre broadband and superfast speed coverage.

Large areas of rural Scotland still experience extremely slow broadband, with the digital gap widening between urban and rural Scotland. The SNP government was given funding in 2014 by the UK Government for phase two of the roll-out but is only now using it for procurement.

It is clear that the UK Government has delivered, while the SNP continues to dither on broadband. It is past time that the SNP got on with the job of ensuring access for our rural communities instead of offering excuses.

Scotland lags behind England and Wales on provision of superfast speeds above 24 Mbps. Some 93.7 per cent of premises in Scotland had access to speeds of over 24 Mbps compared to 95.7 per cent in England and 94.6 per cent in Wales.

Six out of the 10 worst constituencies for download speeds are in Scotland. They are Orkney and Shetland, Ross, Skye and Lochaber, Banff and Buchan, Caithness, Skye and Easter Ross, West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine, and Argyll and Bute.

Scotland has already benefited nearly 2.5 times more funding per head for superfast than England. The Culture Secretary announced a further £190 million for full fibre networks, due to a lack of progress from the SNP government.

A quality internet service is an essential part of living in the modern world – not a needless luxury.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.

The 'uncommon' gulls of Ardrishaig

Many thanks to Robert Wakeham, writing in last week's *Argyllshire Advertiser*, for his questions regarding the nesting colony and status of common gulls within the former oil depot, currently the Mid Argyll hub and museum construction site.

Agus tha suidheachaidhean den t-seòrsa sin fìor thar luchd-obrach sheirbheisean de gach seòrsa eadar lagh, poileas, slàinte, foghlam, agus cuideachd a thaobh leithid Chomhairlean aig am bheil dleasan libhrigidh sheirbheisean. Ach cha ghabh daoine riarachadh fad na h-ùine agus chan eil teagamh nach nochd gearaiane ge b' e dè cho tèarainte 's a bhiodh modhan-obrach agus rianachd nam proifeiseantaich.

Ann an aithisg eadar-amail bhon bhuidheann-sgrùdaidh a stèidhich an Rìghaltas air riaghailtean togail agus dìon bho theine, a' leantainn tubaist bhàsmhor Grenfell, thuir Cathraiche na buidhne, Dame Judith Hackitt, gun do chuir cuid de na chual i a thaobh modhan-obrach uamhas oirre. Bha e follaiseach gum robh briathrachas chuid de riaghailtean tuilleadh is toinnte agus a' toirt cothrom dhan fheadhainn a bha deònach ire na h-obrach a lùghdachadh gus an tuilleadh prothaid a dhèanamh.

Feumaidh leithid sin de chleachdaidhean stad, thuir Hackett. Bheir atharrachadh bunaiteach agus maireannach ùine ga stèidheachadh ach 's e ceann-uidhe na cuise gum bi na h-uile a bhios an sàs ann an gnìomhachas togail is sàbhailteachd a' coileanadh

I am happy to address these questions.

Historically, this species was first named in the 1700s and thought by many to come from their association with grazing or 'common land' and, in the more recent past, the name 'uncommon gull' may be more apt.

In the UK, they are essentially restricted as a breeding species to Scotland where numbers continue to decline, with this being reflected in Argyll, principally due to predation by the American mink, as pointed out.

Studies at the Lingerton landfill site have shown that, unlike the larger gull species at the tip, common gulls do not scavenge there, as was perhaps claimed, but use the tidal mud flats of Loch Gilp and surrounding fields to find invertebrates, fish and vegetarian foodstuffs. As with other gull species which are opportunistic in diet, junk food and bits of plastic provided by us humans can be consumed inadvertently.

Over many years, the Gleaner oil depot, which has a concrete bund in case of oil spillage, has provided a safe nesting site for around 20 pairs. The suggestion that this colony could easily find an alternative site is perhaps wishful thinking as suitable sites nearby in Mid Argyll are already occupied by other gull species or don't have the required habitat features.

Thankfully, however, this should not prove necessary. Following a productive on-site meeting last week with the Scottish Canals' environmental scientist, the project architect and TLS Contractors, we noted 10 to 15 birds sitting on eggs and unaffected by the work going on around them.

Planned works over the coming weeks should not affect these gulls, oystercatchers or black guillemots from nesting and will also not impede the building work which is scheduled to be completed by next spring.

The Mid Argyll hub project and new canal museum will largely reflect the social and cultural heritage of the Crinan Canal, but should also encompass the important and often decreasing natural history of the Crinan Canal corridor. These breeding birds are also a part of this and should not just be something to 'chase off' to somewhere else.

Excellent viewing and educational opportunities from the new build will make it possible to watch this colony raise their chicks as well as providing a point to look out for other wildlife on the loch.

Nearby, the tidal estuary of Loch Gilp provides us with an often highly under-valued unofficial nature reserve that links Ardrishaig with Lochgilphead, which in winter hosts important numbers of ducks and waders, in summer includes breeding eider ducks and common terns and, during migration, is a vital stopping off point during adverse weather for passage whooper swans, Brent geese and black-tailed godwits, to name a few.

Increasingly, good work is being undertaken by locals and the Phoenix Trust to help clear up some of the increasing amounts of shoreline rubbish.

Keep up the good work!
Jim Dickson,
Argyll Bird Recorder, Cairnbaan.

Ailean Caimbeul

an dleasananas gu cogaiseach ceart. Is neònach gum bi mòran a dhèanadh argaidh fhollaiseach an aghaidh leithid de mholadh ach far am bheil farpais airson cumhannan agus buannachd daonnan cho guineach, tha e gu bhith doirbh a h-uile buidheann agus neach-togail a chumail air an t-slighe seo, agus tha sin a' ciallachadh gum feum measadh agus sgrùdadh a bhith nas cunbhalache agus nas cruaidhe na tha e aig an ìre seo.

Ach tha dleasan cogais oirnn uile mar a chualas aig a' bhanais Rìghail Disathairne seo chaidh, agus comas an saoghal a leasachadh.

In the interim report from the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety, chairwoman Dame Judith Hackitt described herself as 'shocked by some of the practises' she had heard about and said 'cultural and behavioural change' was required so that 'everyone's focus must be on doing the right things because it is their responsibility'. Not a dissimilar message to Bishop Michael Curry's stimulating sermon at Saturday's royal wedding.

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

Social media

There has been immediate and concerted opposition to plans to build up to 44 new homes in Loman Drive in Oban. The campaign against the development saw around 100 people gather for a 'rally in the valley' last Friday. **Allan Strang Jr:** 'Nicely kept trees aye. Folk need homes to live in let's build homes. Plenty more green space around us to explore. Is it

possibly the case that it's housing association homes and folk thinking they're far superior to housing association tenants? Was the land beneath spam valley not green before houses got built there either?' **Nikki Warham:** 'There is no question here! Homes are needed! I understand the desire to have "green space" but people need a roof over their heads and a place to call home.'

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Mallaig edge through to final after 18-goal thriller

Mallaig	10
Sleat and Strath	8
GF MacRae Cup semi final	

MALLAIG Football Club are through to the GF MacRae cup final in their first season in the competition after a thrilling victory against Sleat and Strath which included 18 goals and three red cards.

Mallaig, who beat Portree Juniors 5-0 in the previous round, made a dream start through James MacQueen who continued his great form when he finished from a Ross Douglas flick on in the first five minutes.

Sleat rallied and turned the game on its head by taking a 3-1 lead after defensive errors, one leading to a penalty which was well converted.

Mallaig pulled one back before half time after a great left foot finish from Andrew Sneddon which rattled the underside of the bar. Despite this good work from the home side, they made another error before half time which gave Sleat a 4-2 lead at the break.

The second half started as the first ended and Sleat added another after a great turn and half volley to seemingly put the game out of sight at 2-5.

Buoyed by captain Jaimie young, Mallaig nicked a goal back after Angus MacNaughton got his head on an excellently-taken Andy Cunningham corner at the near post.

Cunningham then scored from a free kick at the edge of the box to make it 5-4 and soon after an almost identical free kick by Cunningham brought the game level.

Between the two free kicks, Sleat were reduced to 10 men

for a second bookable offence. With the game tied, Mallaig went all out to win but fell behind again, this time through Sleat midfielder Yoxon with a free kick.

With five minutes left on the clock, Mallaig pulled level again through Gordy Jamieson, whose cross/shot lobbed the Sleat goalkeeper and found the back of the net.

With the scores level at 6-6 and the game seemingly set for extra time, Sleat found one more goal through a headed free kick which looked to have booked the Skye side a place in the final.

Mallaig were not dead and buried yet though and with the 90 minutes up the home side were awarded a penalty after Niall Annette was judged to have been brought down. Cunningham stepped up to slot away the penalty to send the game into extra time with the score 7-7.

After the restart, Sleat's Yoxon again finished excellently to pull the visitors ahead.

The second half of extra-time would provide even more entertainment, after Niall Annette immediately brought Mallaig level at 8-8 through a header. Ross Douglas added two goals

to cap a fine performance - the first a finish from the left side after a through ball from Annette and the second a chip over the on-rushing keeper - to put Mallaig two-goals clear at 10-8. In between Douglas's brace, both teams had a player sent off for second bookable offences.

The final whistle sparked scenes of celebration and was welcome relief for both sets of management after a tortuous 120 minutes of breathless action. Mallaig will now play either Glenelg or Kyleakin in the final of the GF MacRae Cup.

Mallaig are at home to Kyleakin in the league on Saturday.

Thistle secure points in ill-tempered match against Westcliff

Westcliff 2- SLT 6
Match abandoned due to ineligible number of players on the field

THERE were incredible scenes in Dumbarton on Saturday as South Lochaber Thistle Amateur Football Club were awarded a win after their match against Westcliff was abandoned following a number of red cards.

In what became an ill-tempered match, Thistle come home with three points after being 6-2 up before four Westcliff players were ordered off the field of play.

Thistle took an early two-goal lead through Martin Munro and Sean Noble and were dominating the game.

However, Westcliff rallied well to peg the Jags back to two a piece but the visitors were soon back in front thanks to a Dave Forbes free kick.

By this point Westcliff had lost their discipline and began to rack up several bookings in what was increasingly becoming an ill-tempered game.

Goals from Tot, Mclean and Munro gave the Jags an unassailable lead as they looked to be cruising to a comprehensive victory.

A highlight for South Lochaber was the return of Bradley Flanagan, who made a rousing appearance after a long period of absence through injury.

Sadly, continued indiscipline from the home team led to four of their players being sent off, all of them for second yellow cards, and the referee abandoned the game.

This resounding victory secures third spot in the league for Thistle and guarantees a promotion play-off tie.

Man of the match: Sean Noble.

Thistle are in action again this Saturday in the Bobby Thomson Challenge Cup semi final where they play Crookston in a 3pm kick off in East Kilbride.

Big turnout at Fort golf club for Mike McFall Texas Scramble

A STRONG field of golfers took to the course on Saturday May 19 for the Mike McFall four-person Texas Scramble.

The team of Angus Morrison, John MacPhee, Lachlan Campbell and Ian MacFarlane secured a one-point victory in the competition. In the ladies' competition, Kathleen Leitch, Kim Topping and Gina Hough finished in the top spot.

Mike McFall Funeral Directors sponsored the charity competition which was in aid of Gary Campbell's stem cell treatment campaign.

Full results: Men, winners: Angus Morrison, John MacPhee, Lachlan Campbell

and Ian MacFarlane, net 53 (58 - 5). Runners-up: Andrew Brown, Cal Brown, Stephen Howden and Brian Stewart, net 54 (59 - 5). Third: Dougie Duncan, Keith Duncan, Alex Stewart and Lewis Corbett, net 55 (60 - 5).

Ladies, winner: Kathleen Leitch, Kim Topping and Gina Hough, net 64 (76 - 12).

Nearest the pin at the third hole: Robert McCover. Robert won this with a hole in one.

Nearest the pin at the sixth hole: Martyn Cameron.

Nearest the pin at the 12th hole: Paul Campbell.

Nearest the pin at the 16th hole: Ryan Haggerty.



Winners of the Iain Aitchison Trophy, Kilmallie Shinty Club. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Kilmallie win Aitchison Trophy

KILMALLIE were crowned winners of the Iain Aitchison Trophy, after their recent victory over Ballachulish, ahead of a re-run of the shinty fixture this week.

The annual competition, in memory of Kilmallie and Ballachulish player Iain

Aitchison, could not be played last year because of bad weather and their Camamachd Cup fixture on Saturday May 12 was the first opportunity for the teams to play each other.

The cup was awarded to the winners of

the match, Kilmallie, who cruised to a 14-0 victory over their Lochaber rivals at Jubilee Park.

The 2018 fixture will be played at Canal Parks this Saturday, May 26, when the teams come together again in the Balliemore Cup.



Mike McFall Texas Scramble winners with Jamie Manson, right, and Beth MacBeath, left, both new directors at Mike McFall Funeral Directors. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography.

National podium places for Lochaber riders

LOCHABER mountain bikers had a successful outing at the recent national competitions at Nevis Range with five local riders securing podium places in the senior competitions.

On Saturday May 12, 10 young riders from West Highland Wheelers' Kids Club entered the third round of the HSBC British Cycling National 4x race at Nevis Range. #4xWednesdays, a group which promotes 4x riding in Scotland, generously supported the event by funding all race fees for under 18s.

Ruby Clark and Daniel Parfitt both made the podium in their respective junior categories. Lochaber adults also competed against riders from across the UK with Ben Thomas and Craig Howie flying the flag for the area on the podiums. This was a great opportunity for local riders to try out a different mountain bike race format.

On the following Sunday, Lochaber riders Cory Muir, Jack McCallum, Lachlan Blair, Alastair MacLennan, Fiona Beattie and Mikayla Parton were competing in the national Scottish Downhill Association series at Nevis Range. Alastair MacLennan finished first in the grand veteran category, while Mikayla Parton won the senior women category with an impressive race run.

Parton was followed by fellow Lochaber rider Fiona Beattie who finished second. Jack McCallum took third spot in the men's senior competition.

Also on Sunday, the final qualification round for the world cup children's mini downhill was run at LagganWolftrax. Eight West Highland Wheelers youngsters made the trip with Fraser Clark and Alan Cameron making it onto the podium in their respective categories.



Left to right: Lochaber riders Fiona Beattie, Alastair MacLennan, Lachlan Blair and Mikayla Parton at the end of the downhill race.

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WEATHER

Thursday	Sunny intervals Breezy from the east, south east Temperatures 11°C to 20°C
Friday	Sunny intervals Breezy from the north, north east Temperatures 11°C to 21°C
Weekend	Sunny intervals on Saturday
Outlook	Sunny intervals on Sunday Breezy from the east Temperatures 12°C to 21°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 24 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm							
Thur	01.32	3.1	08.14	1.3	14.32	3.0	19.57	1.2	Ardershaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	02.38	3.2	09.16	1.2	15.22	3.2	21.01	1.1	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	03.27	3.4	10.04	1.1	15.59	3.4	21.55	1.0	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	04.07	3.5	10.43	1.0	16.33	3.6	22.41	0.9	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	04.43	3.6	11.18	1.0	17.07	3.7	23.23	0.9	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	05.18	3.7	11.51	1.0	17.41	3.8	***	**				
Wed	00.02	0.9	05.51	3.7	12.25	1.0	18.14	3.9				

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