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Vital service is cut from Lorn and Islands Hospital

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

PEOPLE with bladder problems will now have to travel further for specialist care after clinics in Oban were moved to Paisley, Alexandria or Glasgow hospitals.

Urology is no longer offered at Lorn and Islands Hospital after city consultants said they were moving the clinic and closing the unit in town.

For some patients, of which there are believed to be at least 300 in the area – including at least 40 patients on Mull alone – it will mean a whole day of travelling for a 15-minute appointment.

A meeting of Oban Community Council on Monday evening was told that members were unaware of the service closure.

Even the chairman of the local health and social care partnership, Councillor Keiron Green, appeared to be completely in the dark about the move.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, who is the newly appointed Argyll and Bute representative to NHS Highland, said she had been inundated with complaints about the situation, adding: 'It is no laughing matter – this is an incredibly serious issue.'

'Nobody knew that this essential service was moved to Glasgow and people are genuinely concerned that they will not get the support they need.'

Urology is the branch of medicine that focuses on surgical and medical diseases of the urinary tract and male reproductive organs and genitourinary surgery.

Ms Devon continued: 'It is disgraceful that as a councillor I have to find out what is happening in Oban hospital from constituents.'

'One of them has tried four times to get to an appointment and there was no patient transport available and she hasn't made it.'

'Travelling for an hour to Oban and back is quite different from travelling a whole day for a five-minute appointment.'

'There is no joined-up thinking, there is no patient transport. So how are people going to get to their appointments?'

'People should be encouraged to claim every single penny for travel costs to the hospital. That might make them think again.'

'I don't think we are being told the truth about the hospital. The clinic has been in the hospital since it opened and surgery has always been done in Oban. That is no longer the case. The nurses, the equipment and everything is there – but it is not going to be used.'

'I have no idea why no-one in this room knows that the service is gone.'

Chairwoman of Oban Community Council Marri Malloy said: 'You will not believe this ... I am on the communication group for Lorn and Islands Hospital – and I don't even know about it.'

'To say I am furious is an understatement. We have been told lies.'

'There is no way this has just happened. This has been part of longer term planning by consultants in Glasgow. But no-one seems to have remembered to have told us.'

'I am going to say this very simply – we have been fed a load of lies by the hospital managers, and so have the staff in the hospital. We can see that bit by bit they are taking away all the services from the hospital.'

'If people at the hospital don't



Oban Unsigned winners are ready to go live

Excitement is now at fever pitch for the imminent Oban Live. Among those taking to the stage at Mossfield are the winners of Oban Unsigned, the competition organised by *The Oban Times* and Oban Live to let a local act perform for the masses. The big break was won by K9 Kev (aka Kevin Irvine) and Rory O'B (O'Brien). K9 and O'B will be performing with a backing band made up of local musicians Alastair Robertson, Mike Henderson, Ruairidh Galbraith, Andy Bruce and Chaz MacKenzie.

tell us the truth, then we will need to have another public meeting and take matters into our own hands.

'If councillors don't know about it, who is fighting for us against the health boards cuts?'

Former councillor Neil MacIntyre told the meeting: 'This is a problem being faced throughout the country. Consultants cannot be found for anywhere, so these doctors have got together and said, "I am not getting any more money for going to Oban, so let's just get them here where I can see more patients in the same time".'

'The only answer,' he continued, 'is to re-nationalise the health service.'

Community councillors have arranged a public meeting on Tuesday June 13 at 7pm in the Corran Halls.

After the community council meeting Councillor Elaine Robertson confirmed that she knew about the plans on May 23. Her understanding was that urology had been discussed at a public meeting held by the community council back in January.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care

Partnership said: 'Due to the national shortages of consultant urologists, we have been unable to recruit a replacement lead urologist to support the local outreach and diagnostic service for more than two years. Therefore, we jointly planned and agreed with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde that urology services for the area could only be provided in Glasgow by NHS GG&C's team of urologists, as this would ensure we would have a safe and sustainable service which meets clinical governance standards.'

'Urology is a specialist clinical service and NHS GG&C is unable to support the continuation of the hybrid service model which had operated in Oban with a general surgeon and a urology nurse providing a basic diagnostic and follow-up service. All other aspects of the urology service have always been provided in Glasgow. 'However, patient safety is our priority, and therefore for the foreseeable future basic urology diagnostics and follow-ups are now carried out in Glasgow. This has been in operation since January and we have confirmed this on a number of occasions.'

INSIDE YOUR OBAN TIMES THIS WEEK

Island hospital cut

ISLAY Hospital plans to reduce its number of inpatient beds from 10 to six to create a new 'one-stop shop' day case unit. Full story – page two.

Tributes to Eilidh

BARRA has rallied to support the families and friends of the two island girls caught in the devastating events in Manchester last week. Full story – page three.

Stay Alive on A85

A SERIOUS accident caused major traffic disruption on Tuesday this week, putting *The Oban Times* campaign into even sharper relief. Full story – page five.

Argylls appeal

THE Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders museum is appealing to old soldiers in the Oban area to take part in a groundbreaking history project. Full story – page seven.

Oh, baby!

The Oban Times Bonnie Babies competition is now down to the final 10, and it is nail-bitingly close. So to make sure your favourite wins, don't waste any time and get voting! Turn to page 14.

Livestock centre

THE directors of Oban Livestock Centre have agreed to appoint United Auctions to take over the running of the mart at Upper Soroba. Full story – page 20.



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Family of fisherman slam inquiry

THE family of a fisherman who was lost aboard a small trawler on April 25, 2013, say a fatal accident inquiry (FAI) due to start on Monday (June 5) will be a 'sham'.

The family of Scott MacAlister, who was 40 when he died, believe the only route for justice is a petition to parliament.

Peter MacAlister, Scott's father, told *The Oban Times*: 'Scott will be blamed and the owner of the boat has already been told he will not be prosecuted.'

Scott's family are threatening to boycott the investigation into Scott's death because of alleged comments made by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) that will allow the owner of the vessel to be given immunity from prosecution before the hearing begins.

Mr MacAlister said: 'How can it be possible for someone to be told they will not be prosecuted before an investigation into the condition of the boat takes place?'

'We have been categorically told the owner of the Speedwell will not be prosecuted. 'From the very beginning we have known Scott will have to take some responsibility for going out on a vessel that we believe was not fit for purpose. But the truth is we were able to live with that if the owner of the boat took his share of the blame for its condition.'

'I have written to Sir Alan Massey, the chairman of the MCA, to ask how the MCA could make the decision not to prosecute the owner without any investigation being undertaken by them as the policing body first? It is incredulous to everyone.'

'The MCA has already said that is what is going to happen, when it hasn't even gathered evidence about the boat or any of the witnesses to the state of the boat.'

'How can we find justice?' Andrew MacAlister, Scott's brother, said: 'It is as though the owner has been given a get-out-of-jail-free card. Surely it is up to the judge to make that decision and not for the MCA.'

'How can an FAI make an informed decision when it doesn't have all the information?'

Previously the MCA has said it will decline to comment on any matters to do with the FAI prior to the hearing – but extended its sympathies to Mr MacAlister and his family.

Scott's brother, Glen, will be starting a petition on June 9, after the general election, to seek a judicial review of the accident.

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Islay Hospital plans to reduce number of beds from 10 to six

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

ISLAY Hospital plans to reduce its number of inpatient beds from 10 to six to create a new 'one-stop shop' day case unit.

Health officials are confident the six beds could meet demand for inpatient care, since they say the hospital has been operating at under 50 per cent bed capacity for more than three years.

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership said

GPs support the reduction, because it will help lead to 'new and innovative services, ensuring the long-term viability of Islay Hospital'.

The new day care unit will aim to provide additional services locally and reduce the need for people having to travel to the mainland for treatment.

Alan Beresford, local area manager for Islay and Jura, said: 'We are well aware that many people do still have to travel to the mainland to access

services and receive treatment.

'We are, therefore, keen to provide more services locally and have been working with the innovative GP team on Islay, community representatives and hospital staff to develop our locality plan to assist with this process. We have been reviewing our current services to establish where we can build on these and, where clinically appropriate, develop new ones.'

'One of the key elements in the plan is to create a new day

case unit within the hospital so that we can provide a one-stop shop style of service for the community. We have been successful in securing integrated care funding to assist with this development.

'This type of day case unit will be a great asset for the local community and will allow us to provide a wider range of services locally reducing the number of unnecessary trips which patients have to make to mainland hospitals.

'The development of a new day case unit will mean we will need to make alterations to the layout of the hospital and invest in an up-to-date clinical space to provide these services.'

'In order to achieve this there will be a reduction in the number of inpatient beds in the hospital from 10 to six.'

'We have been operating at under 50 per cent bed capacity for more than three years, so with six beds we are confident that we will continue to be able

to meet demand for inpatient care.'

'I do hope that the development of new services locally will allay any concerns that members of the public may have about the reduction in beds and I would like to reassure the local community that this proposal will allow us to deliver a wider range of services for the people of Islay and Jura without compromising our ability to provide inpatient care for those who need it.'

Volunteers pick up 65 sacks of rubbish on beach

MORE than 30 people gathered at Breachacha, one of Coll's famous beaches and the location of the island's two castles, and collected 65 bags of plastic on Sunday May 14.

The beach clean event was organised as part of the three-day Coll Bird Festival 2017, the island's fourth festival and the result of lots of hard toil by RSPB volunteers and staff working alongside volunteers from the community and staff from An Cridhe, Coll's community centre.

The festival is timed to take advantage of the return of the corncrakes to the island, at a time of year when the vegetation is quite low, maximising the chances of seeing this elusive bird. It also provides an opportunity for participants to experience the unique wildlife and beautiful scenery of Coll.

Three days of activities included, a series of walks around Totornald RSPB reserve and the village of Arinagour, an evening of talks with guest speaker and expert on corncrakes Professor Rhys Green, a ceilidh with up-and-coming band Eabhal, boat trips to the island of Lunga and Gunna with Coastal Connections and culminated in the Breachacha beach clean. A total of 65 30-litre bags of mostly plastic rubbish were collected, as well as 12 larger items.



The beach clean at Breachacha was part of the Coll Bird Festival 2017. Photograph: David Palmer.

Value of Scottish seafood catch at record high

THE value of fish landings is at a record high, according to the Scottish Government's sea fisheries statistics.

Mackerel continues to be the most valuable stock, accounting for £169 million of Scottish landings.

Overall, the quantity of fish landed by Scottish-registered vessels in 2016 rose by three per cent from the previous year to 453,300 tonnes, and the total value surged 29 per cent to £563 million.

Similarly, the total value of shellfish also climbed by 26 per cent to £169 million in 2016, with the volume increasing 10

per cent to 63,600 tonnes. The number of active Scottish fishing vessels also increased – just, at one per cent – to 2,038, employing 4,823 fishermen, roughly an equal number to 2015.

Mackerel accounted for 30 per cent of the total value of Scottish landings. But the volume fell six per cent to 188,000 tonnes. The average price of Scottish mackerel landed abroad increased 40 per cent to £936 per tonne, whereas the average price of mackerel landed into Scotland increased 35 per cent to £885 per tonne.

Herring's value shot up 121 per cent to £47 million, due to a 98 per cent rise in the average

price to £719 per tonne, and the volume landed by Scottish vessels increased 12 per cent to 66,000 tonnes.

The value of cod also rose 21 per cent to £27 million, with the average price increasing by seven per cent to £2,103 per tonne, and the volume landed also went up by 13 per cent.

Monkfish value surged 32 per cent to £35 million, driven by a 16 per cent rise in average price per tonne to £2,743, and the volume also increased 14 per cent to 13,000 tonnes.

The value of plaice climbed 65 per cent to £7 million, due to a 31 per cent increase in the

volume landed and a 26 per cent increase in the price per tonne. Both ling and megrim landings had a value of £6 million, a 38 per cent and 29 per cent increase from 2015, respectively.

Hake's value also rose 16 per cent to £18 million, due to an 18 per cent increase in the volume landed to 8,000 tonnes. Saithe landings also rose £8 million in value, up 14 per cent, but the volume decreased by four per cent. Whiting value dropped six per cent to £8 million, and the volume landed decreased by eight per cent, with the price per tonne increasing by three per cent.

Langoustine, or nephrops,

are the most valuable shellfish stock, accounting for 47 per cent of shellfish landings, and overall the second most valuable stock, to the Scottish fleet. The total value of nephrops was £79 million in 2016, 30 per cent higher than 2015, due to a 27 per cent increase in volume landed to 21,000 tonnes, and a two per cent rise in average price to £3,766 per tonne.

Scallops are the second most valuable shellfish stock to the Scottish fleet, making up 22 per cent of the value of shellfish landings. The volume of scallops landed in 2016 decreased four per cent to 15,000 tonnes.

However, the value of scallops increased 12 per cent to £37 million, due to a 17 per cent increase in the average price to £2,416 per tonne.

Fisheries secretary Fergus Ewing said: 'These latest statistics show the value of Scottish catch is at a record high with Scotland's fishing fleet and sea fisheries contributing £563 million in revenue to our economy.'

'It is encouraging to see increased landings of nephrops, shellfish and demersal fish like cod, haddock, whiting and monkfish. These positive figures reflect the hard work of all those involved with our fishing sector.'

Islanders warned of new scam

TRADING Standards are warning residents that there is an International FIFA World Cup online lottery scam letter circulating in the islands.

The letter states that you are the winner of a lump sum of money but, in order to claim the substantial prize, you have to call a telephone number to process the winnings.

A further letter is sent claiming the prize money is on hold and a clearance charge is required to be paid by the recipient to release the funds.

Trading Standards advised residents not to respond to these letters and to put them in the bin. They offer the following guidance on checking if something is a scam.

Scams are schemes to con you out of your money. They can arrive by post, phone call, text message or email or a scammer may turn up at your home.

It could be a scam if the call, letter, email or text has come out of the blue; you have never heard of the lottery or competition they are talking about and did not buy a ticket; you are asked to send money in advance; or are told you have to respond quickly so don't get time to think about it or talk to family and friends.

'Major' new facility for Tobermory

A 'MAJOR new facility' encompassing a visitor centre and shop is planned for the vacant site next to Tobermory Harbour building.

A planning application, submitted by Argyll Properties Ltd of Tobermory, is proposing a retail unit, visitor centre and self-catering accommodation west of the Taigh Solais, Ledaig.

According to one supporting document, three two-bedroom self-catering units will sit on the second floor, with the shop and visitor centre on the ground floor, connecting internally to the existing harbour visitor centre.

Hebridean challenge

THE Moray Wheelers, a group of 32 cyclists with an average age of 'well above 60', pedalled down the Outer Hebrides last week on their 400-mile circular route from Elgin raising funds for Cancer Research UK.

The cyclists, the eldest of whom is 75, battled torrential rain and 12 punctures on their first 63-mile leg, fought strong headwinds between Stornoway and Benbecula, and then a cancelled ferry between Barra and Oban.

Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

Lagavulin Distillery

LAGAVULIN is one of the three distilleries operating in the Kildalton district of Islay and situated north of the village of Port Ellen. It stands in a scenically pleasing area and looks over the picturesque Lagavulin Bay and the ruined remains of Dunyvaig Castle, once a bastion of the powerful MacDonald Lords of the Isles.

The area was a hive of illicit whisky distilling before Archibald Campbell built a legal distillery on the Lagavulin site in early 1800s. This may have gone under the name of the Ardmore distillery and is likely to have been in operation up until 1821.

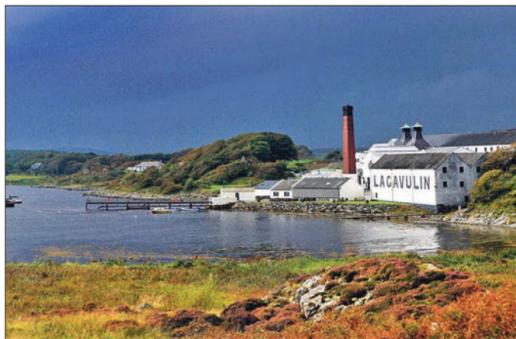
Local farmer John Johnston, whose family members were distilling pioneers, established Lagavulin in 1816, and nine years later took over the ownership of the other distillery on

the site. A decade later he closed the Ardmore operation and died soon afterwards in 1836.

The distilleries were then purchased by Glasgow spirit merchant Alex Graham, who merged the two properties which then began to operate as Lagavulin in 1837.

In 1852, Alex Graham's son, John Crawford Graham, took over and he continued at the helm until 1862 when the distillery was purchased by whisky blender James Logan MacKie.

His nephew, Peter J MacKie, eventually took over the production at Lagavulin and also held the agency at nearby Laphroaig. Peter, who was later knighted, was a go-getter extraordinaire and went on to create the iconic and world famous White Horse blend and was the co-founder of the Craigellachie Distillery in the heart of Speyside.



Lagavulin Distillery traces its history back to the early 1800s.

He eventually had to forfeit his Laphroaig connection mainly through his high-handed attitude which saw a number of litigations involving product and ownership issues.

His irritation at losing the Laphroaig agency led him in

1908 to build a replica distillery at Lagavulin which he called the Malt Mill. It operated until 1962 and although its aim was to produce the same character as Laphroaig, its close neighbour, it never achieved this end.

A rare bottle of 'Malt Mill'

was recently unearthed to the delight of collectors and whisky connoisseurs, but, happily, it remains in safekeeping and uncorked.

A fictitious cask of 'Malt Mill' played a major part in the Ken Loach film comedy *The Angels' Share*.

What was the Malt Mill now houses the distillery's visitors' centre and administrative offices.

In 1924, Lagavulin was taken under the wing of the White Horse Distillers before becoming part of the Distillers Company Ltd operations three years later. The DCL ownership lasted until 1986 when it was then taken over by United Distillers.

The distillery closed in 1941 and remained so until the hostilities ceased in 1945.

A serious fire within the building in 1951 caused exten-

sive damage to the property which has been owned by the drinks giant Diageo since 1997.

Lagavulin is the only one of the island's eight distilleries currently having a young lady in charge of the proceedings. She is local girl Georgie Crawford who has held the managerial reins since 2010.

Winning hoteliers

CONGRATULATIONS are due to Ballygrant Inn and restaurant proprietor David Graham and his son Ewan who, in the face strong opposition, received the top award for their bar in the Best Craft Spirit Selection category at the 2017 Scottish Entertainment and Hospitality Awards ceremony recently held in Glasgow's Merchant City.

The presentation ceremony

was a glittering affair and topping the entertainment was singer Tony Christie who still remains unsure of the way to Amarillo!

Guests and customers were responsible for the initial nominations and the Ballygrant hoteliers are delighted with their success and grateful to their supporters.

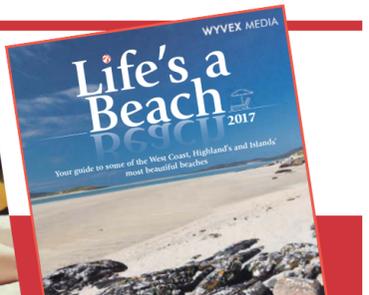
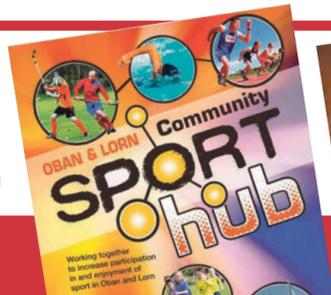
The island hostelry has also enjoyed winning success in the National Pub and Bar Awards after being named county winners for the Argyll and Bute region.

They are also short listed for the *Scottish Field* magazine whisky awards and the overall national bar and pub awards. Well done and we wish you further successes.

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Barra rallies together after tragedy of Manchester bomb

Eilidh MacLeod's parents offer a moving statement

'EILIDH MACLEOD was our beautiful, intelligent, popular and talented daughter as well as a loving sister and we are at a loss without her.

'Eilidh loved nothing more than spending time with those she loved, both family and friends alike. She loved socialising whether through social media or spending time with them down on the beaches of both Barra and Vatersay.

'Her love of music was unsurpassed and she enjoyed her time playing, travelling and competing in the pipe bands immensely.

'We would like to thank the emergency services who did everything in their power to help following the explosion. Sincere thanks also go to all who have supported us through this terrible time, including the people of Manchester, Scotland and well-wishers worldwide.

'Specific thanks to all those in our Western Isles communities and, in particular, our home islands of Barra and Vatersay, for everything they have done and continue to do for us.

'Messages and tributes to our Eilidh by her friends have given us great comfort and we wish to thank you all. The offers of help and support have been truly overwhelming and greatly appreciated.

'Eilidh and Laura were so excited about going to the concert together but what should have been the perfect ending to a fantastic trip ended so tragically.

'We continue to have Laura and her family in our thoughts and pray that she makes a full recovery. As a family, we would also like to offer our support and condolences to all the other innocent victims who have been needlessly killed in this attack.'



Laura MacIntyre survived the Manchester bombing but is seriously ill in hospital.

Laura MacIntyre's parents said in a statement last week: 'Our daughter Laura is a funny and witty young girl who excels at everything she does.

'She and Eilidh were so looking forward to the concert but that night has now ended in tragedy.

'Eilidh has lost her life and Laura is in a critical condition.

'Our hearts and minds have been with Eilidh's family since we heard their news.

'We want to thank everybody for their support, including the emergency services for all they



Eilidh MacLeod tragically lost her life in the atrocity last Monday (May 22).

have done and continue to do.

'We know Laura is in the best possible place and receiving the best care she can. She is strong-willed and a fighter.'

Head teacher of Castlebay Community School Annag Ma-

clean said: 'Tragically, Eilidh's life has been cut short and our worst fears have been realised.

'However, Eilidh, what she did and what she was, will remain with each of us who knew her so well.

'We are in shock, numb and struggling to come to terms with the deep sadness throughout our community.

'Laura is in our thoughts and prayers. We hope she will return to us soon.'

Father John Paul MacKinnon

FOLLOWING last week's tragedy, Barra's parish priest urged the island community to come together and to pray together.

He said: 'A week which began normally for so many has turned out to be real "living nightmare" especially for two of our island families.

'Today we face the reality that one of our teenage girls, Laura MacIntyre, aged only 15, is in hospital in Manchester fighting for her life with her parents by her bedside.

'And sadly another of our beautiful teenage girls, Eilidh MacLeod, aged only 14, has died tragically in Manchester because of the terrible atrocity of the terrorist bombing.

'I have spoken to both families, to both sets of parents and they have asked me to tell everyone that they are so grateful for all your love and

support, prayers and messages.

'Their hearts are broken, their lives have changed forever but they are lifted up by the love and support of their island and also by the wider world.'

Urging parishioners, he said: 'Be together and pray, pray continuously as the early apostles and followers of Jesus did in their own time of need.

'Praying to the Holy Spirit to come down upon our islands and communities and families, and especially upon the MacLeods and MacIntyre family.'

He added: 'God has a special place for our dear, beautiful Eilidh, she will be united forever with God's holy angels. She will forever see the glory of God face to face and will forever be in God's love. She will forever be loved and remembered by her family and by all her many friends. Our loss is certainly heaven's gain.'

Politicians led tributes following the atrocity

Angus Brendan MacNeil MP said: 'We are all simply heartbroken and thankful for the kind thoughts of so many people across the islands and beyond.

'I can't begin to imagine how awful it is for Eilidh's parents.

'This will live with them forever. It's difficult to comprehend how anyone could have carried out an act like this.'

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan said: 'The island of Barra has had to face an unimaginable tragedy today, as news is confirmed that Eilidh MacLeod died as a result of the appalling crime in Manchester.

'I cannot begin to imagine the devastating consequences this will have for her family, and can only offer my condolences, which I know will be joined by expressions of sympathy from Manchester and from around

the world. The news comes as Eilidh's friend Laura MacIntyre is in hospital in Manchester.

'Anyone who knows Barra, will have some idea of the kind of impact this is going to have on a small island community.

'I know people will be keeping both families in their thoughts and prayers.'

The Convener of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Councillor Norman A MacDonald, on behalf of the comhairle and the communities of the Outer Hebrides expressed condolences to the family of Eilidh MacLeod.

Mr MacDonald said: 'Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Laura and Eilidh, and with all those affected. The comhairle, working with other partners, is putting in place the necessary support arrangements for pupils and staff, and we will

Bishop visits island to offer comfort

THE Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, Bishop Brian McGee, has travelled to Barra to visit the families of Eilidh MacLeod and Laura MacIntyre.

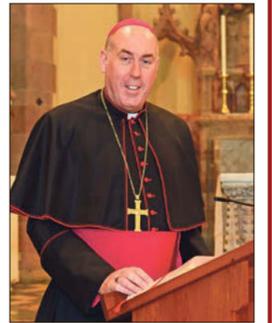
Both teenagers attended the concert at the Manchester Arena on Monday May 22, at which Salman Abedi launched a suicide bomb attack, killing 22 and injuring 64 concert-goers.

Laura, 15, is in hospital with serious injuries, while her friend Eilidh, 14, was killed in the attack.

Bishop McGee joined island parish priest, Father John Paul MacKinnon, visiting relatives of both girls last Tuesday night and said mass for the families on Wednesday.

After mass, the bishop and Fr John Paul visited Castlebay High School, which both girls attended, to speak to teachers and staff.

Bishop McGee said: 'This is a time of terrible anguish for the MacLeod and MacIntyre families. Spending time with the relatives of both girls was a reminder of the human cost of acts of terror. Such acts leave families broken, lives scarred and innocence destroyed. My



Bishop Brian McGee

thoughts and prayers are with the families at this traumatic time.'

Fr John Paul added: 'Barra is an island of close bonds and deep faith. The ripples of pain spreading out from the terrible events in Manchester on that Monday night are amplified here in such a small community. While everyone in the community is affected, it is the families of Eilidh and Laura who are in the greatest pain. The church joins with the whole community in praying for them and offering them every support.'

Angus McCormack writes with sadness

Dear Annag [head teacher Castlebay Community School], staff and pupils,

It was with such deep sadness that I heard of the passing of your pupil and friend, Eilidh, following the terrible events in Manchester.

It may be of little consolation at this time but I felt that it was important to let you know that this tragic and needless loss of life is profoundly felt by all throughout our islands, the country and indeed, beyond these shores.

Words alone cannot convey the grief and sorrow we are all experiencing, but I know that for you, the feelings and emotions will be far more intense. I can only say that I and my

colleagues are grieving with you.

I know, too, that you are thinking of Laura and we all dearly hope that she can make a full recovery and that she will come home to be with her family and friends again in the near future. Indeed our thoughts are very much centred on the friends and family of both these young girls.

Yours is a strong community and while these are dark times, I know that you will support and help each other in the days, weeks and months ahead. I wish you well.

Angus McCormack
Chairman, Education Sport and Children's Services Committee

May 2017

By D S Murray

'We are all survivors,' we tell ourselves each spring when we look out to see lambs suckling their mothers,

conscious for the first time in months that seas are still and there's heat emerging from the sun,

that bird-song has chipped away the stone-coloured skies stretching out all winter above the roofs of home.

But it does not feel like that this year. Not when parents sit in vigil.

Or when tears blind those who grieve the loss of love and song. Lambs still grow fat on ewe-milk, but our pleasure's gone,

if only for a short time, for we know that we must reach out to those who stepped from school in Castlebay or walked upon the beach at Traigh Mhor or Tangusdale,

only to see that wave break out of the stillness, wash away all that they wished safe.

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OT

Work on tots' park starts in July

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

CONSTRUCTION of the under-fives' play park at Atlantis Leisure will get under way this summer.

Chairwoman of Friends of Oban Community Playpark Lyndsay Elliot revealed that building will start on July 17, and it will take approximately five weeks to complete, weather depending.

The contract of the build was awarded to Wicksteed - the same company that built the adjacent five-to-15s' play park and the garden area at Atlantis Leisure.

The park will feature a number of locally-themed activities, with some aimed at helping those taking their first steps.

The project is being delivered in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council and Atlantis Leisure.

There will be a chance for a youngster to etch his or her name into the play park's history books in June, as Scottish Sea Farms will be running a 'name the ship' competition.

The friends raised a total of £100,000 in order to pay for the children's play park.

This was possible thanks to Suez Communities Trust, Cre-rar Hotels Trust, Scottish Sea

Farms, Oban Common Good Fund and many donations from local people and businesses.

In order to mark the completion of the park, the friends will be hosting a party alongside Atlantis Leisure, which happens to celebrate its 25th birthday this year.

The joint party will take place on October 1, will be free to attend and open to everyone - from 'grannies to babies'.

The playpark should take about five weeks to complete, with work planned to start on July 17.



Children in Need cash

BBC Children in Need is giving a three-year grant of £30,000 to Hope 2 Oban for its work supporting vulnerable young people who are struggling with mental health issues, family breakdown or are at-risk of social isolation.

The award will help pay for youth workers and materials to support a number of weekly programmes aimed at improving young people's responses to stressful situations and building their self-confidence.

Amy Inglis, director at Hope 2 Oban, said: 'Our project works with a number of young people coming from Argyll's more remote islands. It's so important they have trusting adults who will listen to their concerns and point them in a positive direction.'

'Thanks to this funding from BBC Children in Need we can continue to provide the time and space to help children and young people feel less lonely and better supported.'

Gaelic school news brief

Mini Puppets
PUPILS from P1 and 2 had great fun working together collaboratively to make mini puppet theatres out of cardboard boxes as part of their recycling topics.

They are looking forward to learning more about reusing and recycling during their school trip to Dunstaffnage Castle along with P3G next month.

Action song at music festival
THE SGOIL-ARAICH and Primary 1 and 2 excelled themselves in their action song performance when they participated in the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

They are looking forward to performing it again at the Oban Mòd this weekend.

Ben Cruachan class trip
PRIMARY 4-7 enjoyed themselves on their class trip to Ben Cruachan. The class have been learning about non-renewable and sustainable energy sources and their use in Scotland today and in the future.

Debbie MacKay of BBC's Ban-nan TV series
THE CLASS have been busy preparing a Gaelic play, with the help of TV star Debbie MacKay, centred on the Clearances. They are eager to perform it at the Oban Mòd on Saturday (June 2).

Logo competition
THE SGOIL-ARAICH and Gaelic classes participated in a logo competition to design a logo for the Gaelic Pupil Council.

The council shortlisted the entries to a winner from each class. Pupils now have the opportunity to vote for their favourite and the results are eagerly awaited.

Kay McDonald: Where is this?

WHAT a hectic month May was, with a holiday weekend at the beginning and the end and the wonderful weather we had, the town seemed to stay busy all month, writes BID4Oban ambassador Kay McDonald.

I especially loved seeing Stafford Street so busy in the good weather; it gave a great continental feel to the place and now that our beautiful hanging baskets are back up and the bunting is brightening up the entrance to the town it feels as if we're raring to go.

The Bid4Oban Local Market was even busier, too, with new stalls and more people. Hopefully it will continue to go from strength to strength with the next one on June 24.

It's here at last - Oban Live hits town this weekend and I can't wait.

There has been a distinct buzz for the last few weeks with everyone discussing whether they have tickets or not and where they're going before and after the main event. Tickets are still available online and in the Bid4Oban office on Stevenson Street for anyone who's as disorganised as me - and I'm now checking the weather forecast

on a daily basis; it's looking not too bad at all, which is good news for the other big event this weekend - the Waverley.

If you've not had a trip on the Waverley yet you don't know what you're missing, it really is an experience. Not forgetting that this weekend is also Oban Provincial Mòd, another weekend with music all around the town and a wealth of local talent.

I must sound like a broken record at times but I'm constantly in awe of the talent in a wee town like ours and not just musicians. Pay a wee visit to the galleries and craft shops or take a walk up to the tower via Craigard Road and see Alice Strange's amazing garden, and don't get me started on the amazing chefs and bakers we have too.

I'll be spending this weekend dancing, hopefully in the sunshine (and moonlight), and I hope everyone has something fun planned from the wealth of possibilities available.

While you're out and about have a lookout for the photo from last week. It's on Combie Street just beside Bell's shop, this week's photo is one you all walk past all the time.



This young model took a turn on the catwalk to help raise cash for the community centre.

Soroba fashion show

SOROBAs Fashion Show held last weekend was a treat for anyone helping to raise cash for Oban's Viewpoint Community Centre.

Volunteers dressed up in all the latest designs from high street retailer M&Co.

On the mic was Nicola Wilson, a woman that would make any party go with a swing.

Organisers were delighted with the turnout and thanked everyone who came for their support.

A clean-up day for the Soroba view point area has been organised for Saturday June 17 and everyone is welcome to go along.

Helpers should bring gardening tools and meet at Soroba Community Centre. There will be a treat in store for everyone who helps. A team from *The Oban Times* will be joining helpers and it is hoped that other businesses with an interest in the area will go along and give an hour to help with removing overgrown plants and trees on the site.

Am Am teams and tee-off times

OBAN Rotary Club is looking forward to welcoming more than 40 teams from all over Scotland to the 32nd AM AM competition on Sunday (June 5).

Convener David Mudie is delighted with the support of the golfers and all of the sponsors of their major charity event.

The list for teams is now closed and Mr Mudie wishes everyone a good day of golf on the course which is in perfect condition for the event.

The teams and tee-off times are as follows:

- 7.30am Walton Electrical
- 7.40am Andy's Giants
- 7.50am MacFadyens
- 8am Munro's Garage
- 8.10am MacCallum Roofing
- 8.20am McCamley and Laird
- 8.30am MacArthur Legal
- 8.40am OMT
- 8.50am The Grumpies
- 9am Eric Deverill
- 9.10am Lochaber Rotary All Stars
- 9.20am Oban Memorials
- 9.30am D M Hall
- 9.40am D & A Munn
- 9.50am Oban Camanachd 'B'
- 10am Scottish Sea Farms

- 10.20am Aulay's Bar
- 10.30am Dalmally 1
- 10.40am Confidential Destructors
- 10.50am Oban Camanachd 'A'
- 11am Dalmally 2
- 11.10am Dalmally 3
- 11.20am Laffertys
- 11.30am China Restaurant
- 11.40am Ross Elect Oban
- 11.50am The Fore Tops
- 12noon Jackson Bros
- 12.10pm Oban Camanachd 'C'
- 12.20pm Bank of Scotland
- 12.30pm Crieff Rotary Club

- 12.40pm Rotary Club of Bridge of Allan and Dunblane
- 12.50pm Oban Times
- 1.10pm No Chance
- 1.20pm Cameron Surveys Ltd
- 1.30pm KW Plumbing and Heating
- 1.40pm Trespass of Tobermory
- 1.50pm John Plunket
- 2pm Ross Electrical Glasgow
- 2.20pm The Lorne
- 2.30pm Markie Dons
- 2.40pm Paint Shop Boys
- 2.50pm Posties Past and Present



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WHITE VAN Man

THE breakwater for Oban Marina has arrived and is now in position at the North Pier.

The project is almost complete, but at the last minute there are claims and counter claims about the impact it will have on Dunstaffnage Marina.

It has been said that despite the figures given by Argyll and Bute Council for the number of yachts able to berth in Oban Bay that these numbers are incorrect and many more boats will be able to berth, taking business away from Dunstaffnage Marina.

So who is telling porkies? Could we please have a clear answer to this as jobs at Dunstaffnage Marina are under threat, according to the owners.

Was it not the case that Oban Marina was planned to be a transit marina? A Tesco, Aldi and Lidl bus stop, where the 'yachty' fraternity would sail in, get their stores and depart to Dunstaffnage or wherever.

But now this does not seem to be the case as the berthing time limit in Oban is three days. So will this also have an effect on other marinas locally? Will yachts depart Oban after three days for Mull, the Hebrides etc?

Feelings among the working people I have spoken to in Oban is that they don't care what happens to the marina as they feel it will not benefit them.

What I can't understand is why after so many public consultations this is now rearing its ugly head.

Maybe Argyll and Bute Council could ask Highland Council for some advice. I note Fort William's new shopping complex is well under way on the North Road, its new police/ambulance station is up and running and has been for some considerable time.

Come on Oban 'pull your socks up'. For once, can we complete something without a political punch up?

Appeal to Humza Yousaf

THIS week another serious accident closed the A85 at Achnacloch on Tuesday morning, with another incident, on the Connel Bridge, causing tailback and delays.

STAY Alive on the A85

This is why our campaign to improve road safety on the A85 is so important, and so timely.

This week *The Oban Times* has written to Transport Minister Humza Yousaf, copying in the MSPs for the area, community councils and Argyll and Bute Council members.

The letter reads:
Dear Mr Yousaf,
You will no doubt be aware of the many issues with the A85 and concerns that local people in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles

area have been raising over a number of years.

Many people have lost their lives on the road, with others injured and families lives changed forever.

The community is aware of several issues with the road, including adverse cambers and areas where there is no visibility, and many believe that road improvements are long overdue.

The Oban Times has gathered a wide range of evidence from the community who use the road on a daily basis.

The consensus is clear – a few simple measures could save lives on the road. These include: improving visibility, decreasing speeds on the road, slowing traffic coming into Oban, installing a roundabout at Dunbeg, and creating a safe drop-off zone for buses and passengers at Pennyfour cemetery.

Of course, these measures cannot be implemented without a thought towards driver behaviour. But with good driver education, the community believes that together we can solve the intolerably high number of

accidents and deaths on the A85 between Oban and Connel.

While we realise the threshold of accidents may not have been reached in order for you to invest heavily in improving this road, we want you to know that, for our readers and ourselves, it is a daily risk for those of us who have to drive on this road.

The trunk route is fairly narrow, in some places the surface has worn away and the edges of the road are non-existent in areas – although some work has been completed on this in the past few weeks.

Our campaign 'Stay Alive on the A85' already has hundreds of supporters.

We would now like to invite

you to come to Oban to allow us to discuss our concerns with you and to highlight the accident hot spots on the road.

We look forward to hearing from you and arranging a suitable time for your visit. If you would like an initial meeting at Holyrood, we are happy to meet with you in Edinburgh.

Your sincerely,
Susan Windram,
Group Editor,

On behalf of *The Oban Times* and the campaigning community for improvements on the A85.

Please sign our petition at the bottom of this page and help us highlight the dangers on the A85 and secure road improvements.

POLICE FILES

Shoplifting

ABOUT 10am on Monday May 22, a 23-year-old man was arrested following an allegation that he had stolen a pair of headphones from Tesco in Oban. A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Mountain rescue

AT 12.25PM on Wednesday May 24, police and mountain rescue were called to an injured hill walker on Mull. It was initially reported the man had been walking with friends and had become separated from them, somehow sustaining a head injury. The man, a 20-year-old French national who was on holiday, was located about two hours later with a minor injury.

Cannabis found

AT 1.30AM on Friday May 26, police received a report of people being in possession of controlled drugs in Argyll Street, Oban. Following searches by officers, two women were detained and taken to Oban police office having been found in possession of small amounts of cannabis.

Road accident

ABOUT 4.40pm on Saturday May 27 on the A816 near to the Knipoch Hotel outside Oban, there was an accident in which a Volvo car left the road and narrowly avoided colliding with oncoming vehicles. The driver

of the Volvo, a woman in her seventies, sustained a minor injury. A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Damage to vehicle

BETWEEN 8am and 10am on Thursday May 25, a car was damaged while parked at the Corran Esplanade in Oban. Police are treating the incident as a fail to stop accident, and inquiries are ongoing to trace the other vehicle and driver.

Speeding offences

BETWEEN Friday and Sunday, May 26 and 28, at various places within Argyll and Bute, including the A83 near Lochgilphead and the A85 between Dalmally and Tyndrum, five drivers (four men and one woman) were stopped and charged with driving at excessive speed. All were the subject of reports to the procurator fiscal.

Minor injuries

ABOUT 7am on Wednesday May 24 at Strone Point, on the A83 just outside Inveraray, a vehicle went off the road. The female driver and only occupant sustained minor injuries.

IF ANY member of the public has information in relation to any of these incidents, call police on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Carers win top national recognition

AN INNOVATIVE home care project in Appin and Lismore has been recognised with a national award.

The Appin and Lismore Community Care Scheme is pioneering a 'social enterprise' model of home care which employs local carers to deliver care for people.

Now its team has won the Innovative Practice category at this year's Scottish Care Awards. Its delighted project co-ordinator, Liz Bruce, said: 'We are very surprised, but thrilled and honoured to be chosen as a winner in these prestigious awards.'

Nick Boyle, chairman of Highland Home Carers, said: 'We are delighted that the Appin and Lismore communities have been recognised, and our congratulations to them.'

'They have provided excellent care and worked together as a community. The success of these communities comes from the open and informed approach from NHS Highland which has sought to innovate. They have worked with Highland Home Carers to ensure high levels of care can be offered in rural and Highland settings, and we are seeing this succeed.'



Left to right: awards host Michelle McManus, Esther Harding on behalf of Appin and Lismore Community Care Team and Highland Home Carers, and Jim Fordyce of award sponsors Hazelhead Homecare.

Consultation today on Dunbeg's proposed masterplan



The masterplan details development plans for the Dunbeg area.

DUNBEG residents are reminded that a drop-in information event will take place today, Thursday June 1, on council plans to upgrade the village's Kirk Road.

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

It is part of the Dunbeg Corridor Strategic Masterplan, which sets out plans for sites between

Dunbeg and Ganavan. As well as the road improvements, the masterplan includes 600 new homes, retail and commercial development, green spaces, play parks and landscaping.

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

Local residents are invited to call in at any time during that time to find out more about what is planned for Kirk Road from the council planning team behind the project.

The information drop-in event is taking place across three hours to give as many people as possible the chance to attend.

The masterplan complies with the council's local development plan, which outlines major development proposals for the next five years.

It will provide a framework for development in Dunbeg and the subsequent planning applications for the sites, which includes 300 homes in the first phase.

Councillors grilled over parking in Oban

NEW members elected last month to Argyll and Bute Council have been challenged about what they are going to do about parking in Oban.

Describing the current situation as 'congested' and 'unsustainable', Oban Community Council says something had to be done to stop the many problems with badly parked cars on residential roads.

Uppermost in the minds of the community council is the need to find spaces for workers in the town, particularly CalMac staff who are away from vehicles for up to 14 nights.

It was suggested that these cars are causing some of the worst congestion in the town towards

Gallanach - but very little can be done as it is 'perfectly legal' for them to be parked in the area.

Recently appointed spokesman for transport, Councillor Roddy McCuish, said: 'This town is haemorrhaging money when it comes to parking.'

'We take the majority of money in from parking meters and yet we don't get, I believe, the benefit of the money back into the town.'

'The time is right for an agreement between the council and a private car parking organisation to come to an arrangement about building a multi-storey car park.'

Mr McCuish is to meet transport minister Humza Yousaf later in the month.

Kintyre crash victims named

TWO men killed in a light aircraft crash two miles off the coast of Skipness, between the Mull of Kintyre and the Isle of Arran, on Thursday May 25 have been named.

Anthony Woodward, 62, and

Robert Archer, 57, were travelling from Oban Airport to Carlisle. The alarm was raised when they did not arrive at their destination.

Relatives have been informed and a report will be sent to the procurator fiscal.

Day out sees Angus a double champion

PIPER Angus D MacColl from Benderloch 'took a lift' with his son Andrew James to competitions at the Atholl Gathering and Highland Games held last weekend, and came back as its reigning champion.

One of the first major games of the season saw Mr MacColl take two firsts in the hornpipe and jig and the march, Strathspey and reel, and a second in the piobaireachd prize. The contest is sponsored by Glenfiddich and adheres to College of Piping grading.

Speaking from teaching a busy class of young pipers getting ready to play with Skerryvore at this weekend's Oban Live, Mr MacColl said: 'I have never been to Blair Atholl before so I took a lift with my boy when he was going.'

'It was alright for a day out to win.'

But it was back to the day job on Monday as Mr MacColl works with pupils from Oban High School who will play a 'few jigs' at the end of the Oban Live this Saturday evening.



Angus MacColl had reasons to be cheerful.

Surge in number of visitors from overseas

SCOTLAND experienced a six per cent surge in visitors from overseas in 2016, new figures show.

Statistics published this week by the Office for National

Statistics (ONS) highlighted an additional 155,000 overseas visits were made to Scotland last year compared with 2015.

The increase was particularly strongly supported by a rise in

the number of tourists from North America.

Visitors from overseas spent an extra £155 million during their stay – an increase of nine per cent compared with the

previous year. This compares with a four per cent increase in overseas visits and a two per cent increase in overseas expenditure for the UK as a whole.

The Oban Times petition for safety improvements on the A85.

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

PLEASE SIGN BELOW:

Name

Address

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

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OT

Appin



Allister and Kathleen Ferguson.

A PRIVATE garden in Port Appin was recently opened to the public, raising more than £1,000 for charity.

Owners of Dalnashean, Allister and Kathleen Ferguson, were taking part in the Scotland's Gardens scheme and welcomed visitors on May 13 and 14 to view the gardens and buy crafts made by Allister.

Around £600 of the money raised will go to the charities supported by Scotland's Gardens, which raises funds for charities by organising garden open days throughout Scotland. The remaining funds

raised from the Dalnashean open day will go to Appin Parish Church.

PEOPLE of all levels of fitness are being encouraged to join a sponsored walk from Appin Parish Church to Creagan in aid of church funds.

The walk on June 24 will go along the cycle track and will be split into sections for those who don't feel they can manage the full distance.

Anyone interested in taking part can contact Margaret Ross, Appin, for a sponsor form.

Dalmally



Dalmally's Zumba class with tutor Dorah Mothae-Hall.

MEMBERS of a Dalmally exercise class received an unexpected confidence boost last week, when singer Amy MacDonald praised their efforts in dancing to her latest single.

The Scottish star's attention was drawn to a video clip of the Zumba class, led by instructor Dorah Mothae-Hall, after class member Kimberly-Anne MacGillivray posted it on Twitter, with the message: 'Amazing fun Zumba routine created by my instructor Dorah to @Amy_Macdonald.'

Within minutes of the Dream On video being posted, a reply from Amy appeared: 'I love this.

Looking awesome ladies,' Kimberly-Anne said: 'I was ecstatic when I saw she had replied. I absolutely love my Zumba class. Dorah makes it so much fun that it doesn't even seem like a workout.'

Dorah recently qualified as a Zumba instructor, and her Wednesday classes at Dalmally Community Centre have been a hit, with more than 30 locals of all ages (from 11 to 70) attending regularly.

The video was recorded by eight-year-old Billy Campbell, whose mum, Caroline, attends the class. It was shared online with the permission of members.

Loch Lomond



James Fraser (chairman, Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs), Paul Saunders, Joe Twaddle, Ross Anderson (chairman, Scottish Campaign for National Parks), John Beveridge, Willie Nisbet (vice-convenor, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority) and John Urquhart (vice-chairman, Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs).

Friends honour stalwarts

THE Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, the independent conservation and heritage charity for the national park, has recognised the outstanding voluntary and selfless contributions made towards enriching the special qualities of the area for the benefit of visitors and local residents.

At the charity's recent annual general meeting, awards were given to former Buchanan Community Council secretary Joe Twaddle, Paul Saunders,

who runs his media and photography business around Loch Lomond, and John Beveridge, who is one of the main driving forces behind the restoration of the Maid of the Loch steamship at Balloch Pier.

All three were recognised as having made an enormous difference to the visitor experience in the national park in recent years.

Joe, who runs Passfoot bed and breakfast in Balmaha with his wife Betty, was given the third

Hannah Stirling National Park Award in recognition of his hard work, commitment and outstanding service over many years to the wellbeing of east Loch Lomondside.

The Hannah Stirling National Park Award was established by the Friends in 2015 in honour of its late former president.

The National Park Business Supporter of the Year award went to Paul, in recognition of his contribution to the success of the Tom Weir's

Loch Lomond Wonderland project and the Friends of our Park scheme.

The Friends recognised the voluntary efforts of John, who for the past 35 years has been at the helm of the efforts to get the Maid of the Loch sailing again. As voluntary project manager working with a number of consultants, John has also recently managed to secure significant funding pledge towards this cause from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Taynuilt



Etive Vikings celebrate new strips and equipment.

A TAYNUILT-based children's rugby club has secured sponsorship for equipment and strips from a local fish farming company, ensuring children have everything they need to improve their game.

Etive Vikings RFC mini rugby club for P2-P7 has around 40 players attend-

ing each weekly training session and has received a total of £1,500 in sponsorship from Dawnfresh, the UK's largest producer of farmed trout with three sites in Argyll.

Greig McPhail, of Dawnfresh, visited a training session for the Vikings to see the new strips being

worn and the new balls, cones and other equipment being used.

The company made the award as part of its commitment to supporting the communities around their farming operations.

Greig McFarlane, Etive Vikings coach, said: 'It is vitally important that

children are given the opportunity to take part in sport to help their physical and mental health.

'Given our location, this can sometimes be difficult if people have to travel longer distances to other towns so with Etive Vikings we are trying to provide this activity in the local area.'

Western Isles

THE Isle of Eriskay has been chosen as one of two places in Scotland for a scheme to trial fibre broadband over long distances.

The technology, known as Long Reach VDSL, was previously trialled in North Tolsta last year by BT Openreach.

Broadband speeds reduce significantly the further away households are from the nearest cabinet and this technology aims to address this challenge.

Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan said: 'This technology has obvious implications for the roll-out of superfast broadband across the Western Isles.'

'It's good news that Eriskay is one of the first communities to take part in this commercial pilot.'

firmly but these meetings will take place the week commencing Monday June 5 2017 and further details will be publicised closer to the time.

A STORNOWAY masterplan is being initiated which aims to develop a clear vision for the physical development of Stornoway, and sets out proposals to address the key strategic challenges and opportunities facing the town.

This has been identifying small, medium and large level strategies to improve the local environment and infrastructure for residents and visitors.

The comhairle is seeking views and comments on the proposals emerging to date, and what you think would make Stornoway a better place to visit, live, work, study and invest.

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar and partners will publish an extensive list of more than 40 apprenticeships which will see posts created from the Butt to Barra, across a wide range of sectors and departments including: business administration and management, community development, child care, education attainment, Gaelic language assistants, health and social care, heritage, human resource, multi-media, outdoor/indoor education, roads maintenance, sustainable resource management, sport and health, and motor mechanics.

The comhairle will be hosting community meetings throughout the Western Isles to provide full information on the above apprenticeships.

Apprenticeships are open to anyone, not just young people, interested people should register at

www.myjobscotland.gov.uk and setup an alert for the job category Modern Apprenticeships/Trainee where they will receive notifications by e-mail as soon as the Comhairle's Apprenticeships posts go live.

Dates have yet to be confirmed but these meetings will take place the week commencing Monday June 5 2017 and further details will be publicised closer to the time.

FOLLOWING a successful pilot in 2016, customers on the Ullapool-Inverness coach route should once again benefit from extra capacity following an agreement by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Scottish Citylink and the Highlands and Islands Regional Transport Partnership (HITRANS).

Coach operator Scottish Citylink, which operates the service, already regularly deploys an additional coach whenever bookings for the service exceed the capacity more than 48 hours in advance of the departure time.

Scottish Citylink has previously confirmed that it also deploys additional coaches every Friday, Saturday and Monday on its summer services between May 22 and Saturday September 30.

As the coach operator runs the service on a commercial basis without any public sector investment, it cannot guarantee that it can add in extra vehicles to the route with less than 48 hours.

Bookings can be made from the Scottish Citylink website by using debit or credit card or to a call centre on 0141 352-4444.

Loch Awe

A PIRATE ship, rocking frog and jumbo noughts and crosses game are among the items of play equipment recently installed at Cruachan, the Hollow Mountain visitor centre, on the banks of Loch Awe.

The mini play park, in a picnic area on the lochside, adds a new dimension to facilities at the Scottish Power tourist attraction, which offers visitors an insight into the workings Cruachan power station, one of Scotland's foremost engineering achievements. In tandem with the

existing coffee shop and the children's 'interactive house' and dressing-up station inside, the new play equipment reflects a commitment on the part of the centre to welcome local families as well as those visiting the area.

'We're in a beautiful spot, and there are things to outdoors and indoors,' said Sarah Cameron, visitor centre manager.

'We want local people to feel that the free facilities here are for them to come and use, whenever they want to.'

At Random

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



An unimaginable tragedy for Barra

IT IS hard to know where to begin, such has been the scale of the tragedy visited upon the people of Barra in general and two of the island's families in particular.

The shock that followed the atrocity which claimed the life of Eilidh MacLeod, 14, and seriously injured her friend Laura MacIntyre, 15, has been felt right across the world, but most achingly on the island.

There is still a sense of disbelief that the bombing in Manchester could have happened in the first place. Yet there is an added feeling of utter incredulity that a safe community such as Barra should be involved at all.

Tragically, such communities are, as was made all too evident last week.

However, such is the strength of Barra and Vatersay that it has been hugely moving to observe how people have come together to console, support and help those involved and each other.

This has been an unimaginable chain of events, resulting in a desperately sad outcome for the MacLeods and MacIntyres in particular, and their wider families and circle of friends in this close-knit society.

The vast majority of us are so

lucky that we have never had to even contemplate the agonies our neighbours are suffering right now. Our communities have rallied to help in many ways. It is crucial that we continue to offer what little succour we can.

Turn to page 10, Angus MacPhail.

An appeal well worth supporting

ANYONE who has been to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Museum within the confines of Stirling Castle will know what a great asset it is.

A visit to the castle is a memorable experience anyway but the museum at its heart is a fine tribute to a great regiment with an illustrious history.

As we report today on the facing page, the Thin Red Line Appeal has been launched - with the very welcome support of Prince William, the Earl of Strathearn - to improve and extend the museum and archive it contains.

The appeal wants to hear from old soldiers, their families and descendants, with a particular emphasis on setting up a 'living archive' of recorded recollections and memorabilia.

There must be very many former Argylls in our area who

served and have vivid memories of their time in the regiment, including those who were in Northern Ireland during the troubles. They must also have photographs and other artefacts that would be of great interest to the museum.

I would urge anyone in such a position to contact the appeal and help to bolster the project.

The regiment may no longer exist as a separate entity but its long history going back more than two centuries - including service, famously, during the Crimean conflict and its Battle of Balaklava, the Boer war, both world wars, the Korean war and the Iraq war - will endure.

A good season for Oban Saints

I RECALL the great Jack Charlton (for those too young to know who I'm talking about: Google the name) being interviewed at the end of, I think, the 1972-73 season.

The interviewer put it to him that it had been a pretty disappointing season for the club.

To enlighten those who may not know, Leeds had finished third in the league, runners-up in the FA Cup and were beaten finalists in the European Cup Winners' Cup.

'Aye,' replied the bluntly-spoken centre-half, 'it's been so disappointing that about 90 other clubs would have happily swapped places with us.'

This season just coming to an end has been a bit like that for Oban Saints. The Glencruitten boys have had a decent league performance, reached the semi-final of the Scottish Amateur Cup and on Friday were defeated on penalties in the final of the Jimmy Marshall Cup after Easthall Star fired an equaliser in the 93rd minute.

Saints' ever-affable club secretary, Davie Buchanan, was disappointed after losing the cup final.

'We were gutted,' said Davie. 'But it was great to make the final and we had a good run in the Scottish Cup, only being beaten by Colville Park, the eventual winners. And we've played some good stuff in the league.'

Whatever way you cut it, this has been a season many other clubs would have envied.

What do you think?

Do you have something you want to share? Let me know by writing to me at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4 HB, or by email to mlaing@obantimes.co.uk.

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At Random
An unimaginable tragedy for Barra
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What do you think?

Argylls in appeal for Oban old soldiers to back project

THE Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Museum at Stirling Castle is appealing to old soldiers in the Oban area to share their experiences, memories and documents with the museum as part of a groundbreaking project to preserve them for posterity.

The museum and the regimental association have plans to create a unique 'living history' archive, in which veterans and their families and descendants who served in the regiment since the Korean War (1950-53) can capture the reality of life with the Argylls through oral and video history.

The celebrated museum is making the appeal as it prepares for a major transformation, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, in order to become 'a new kind of museum of Scots military heritage for the 21st century', and is looking for volunteers to support the project.

As part of the renewal and community development programme, the museum wants former soldiers, members of the association and their families to get in contact to tell their stories and to share their letters, memories and artefacts.

With a £4 million building and display renewal programme already in motion, the new museum is set to open in 2019.

It will aim to commemorate the history and sacrifice of the great Scottish regiment, whose battle honours include Balaklava, the Indian Mutiny, the Boer War, two world wars and the Korean War in the context of their local communities in central Scotland, including Oban and surrounding area, from where thousands of young men joined the Argylls in war and peace.

Rob Layden, chief executive of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum, said: 'One of the objects is to understand what is out there, what heritage exists within the community that can be used to tell the Argylls' story. We want to record, give advice and, with the appropriate permission, use them to tell the regiment's story both at Stirling Castle and in the Oban and north Argyll community.'

'It's about getting heritage back into the community. Part of HLF funding is about heritage, community and people. We want a better understanding of what resources are out there.'



The Argylls parade at Stirling Castle, which Prince William visited and saw the famous painting *The Thin Red Line*.



Prince lends support to project

PRINCE William, the Duke of Cambridge, also known as the Earl of Strathearn in Scotland, has become patron of Thin Red Line Appeal, to secure the future of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Museum.

The project will enable the museum to be redeveloped to meet the expectation of visitors to one of Scotland's key heritage sites, and to educate future generations on the remarkable role played by the soldiers of one of Scotland's great Highland regiments over the past 220 years.

Brigadier Bruce Russell, chairman of the Museum Trust, said: 'I am delighted that the Earl of Strathearn has given his support and encouragement to this appeal, designed to safeguard the memory of a unique part of the British Army and of the nation's proud military and cultural heritage.'

'With the help of the regimental association, which is embedded in the museum, we are looking for people to volunteer and to come in and help us make a record of all things Argyll-related. Because of the geographic spread of the Argylls' community across central Scotland - from Clackmannanshire to the islands - it is up to us to be proactive and to take the museum out to where the regimental connections are.'

'We also want to collaborate with local community groups, by providing additional material, plus help and advice on conservation, both in general and in relation to specific exhibitions. We have a good record in this

“It's about getting heritage back into the community”

Rob Layden

area - for example, working with Helensburgh Heritage to organise exhibitions in the local library there.'

Jim Tilly, secretary of the Argyll

and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Association, added: 'We have a superlative collection here at the museum but there are gaps. We want the whole story to be told. For example, we don't yet fully cover episodes like the peace-keeping operation in Northern Ireland, the regiment's longest engagement, which lasted the 1960s to the 2000s.'

'There's a lot of information and stories out there, not just with former soldiers but with their friends and families. We would like to have more interaction with the public so we have that up-to-date material in the museum. We'd love them to share it with us so we can put it all out there.'

The museum renewal programme will be part-funded by the Thin Red Line Appeal, under the patronage of HRH The Earl of Strathearn, as Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge is known in Scotland. The total cost of the project is estimated at around £4 million.

Do you have memories, stories, photographs, artefacts or other militaria related to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders you would like to share with the Argylls museum? Contact the museum at museum@argylls.co.uk or write to The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Museum, The Castle, Stirling FK8 1EH, or call 01786 475165.

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MORVERN lines

The shameful state of our graveyards

I WAS passing through North Ballachulish recently and was disappointed to find the little Highland Council graveyard at Creag Mhor in such a poor state of repair. The grass and weeds were knee high and a section of the surrounding wall had been knocked down and replaced with a cheap wooden railing.

Although small, the site has many interesting headstones, including that of the well-respected parish minister, the Rev Alexander Stewart (1829-1901) or 'Nether Lochaber', as he was known all over the Highlands. For more than 40 years his regular articles and letters graced the pages of this and other newspapers and periodicals, resulting in two books, *Nether Lochaber* (1883) and *Twixt Ben Nevis and Glencoe* (1885).

Nether Lochaber was so popular and revered that the largest number of people possibly ever to assemble by Loch Leven, gathered on January 22, 1901, to attend his funeral. According to a contemporary account, it was a day of low cloud and mist passing across a backdrop of snow-clad mountains.

Pipers of the Ballachulish Volunteer Company, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, preceded the procession from the manse at Onich, playing MacCrimmon's Lament, Lochaber no More and The Land o' the Leal. Then came Lochiel, representatives of the clans, learned societies, the Presbyterian of Abertarff and the Stewart Society.

More telling, almost every man and boy in the locality followed, and women and girls stood along the mile-long route, or watched from the hillside above the churchyard.

Nether Lochaber's greatest quality was his ability to write in an unaffected, graceful and unpatronising style. He talked about archaeology, natural history, the habits of birds, beasts and fishes, and could communicate to his



One of Strontian's toppled headstones and, left, the Rev Alexander Stewart.



readers the wonders of science in an easy and pleasant manner.

He once wrote an amusing letter about a habitual tearer-up of books, Jack the Ripper, his pet jackdaw, who was excused the complete destruction of a Book of Common Prayer in an Episcopalian home in Onich because 'he had been brought up a Presbyterian'.

Two-and-a-half years after Nether Lochaber's funeral, a huge crowd gathered on July 18, 1903, at Onich, to pay homage to the beloved pastor and man

of letters. A public subscription organised by the Stewart Society, provided a memorial in the form of a 20-foot high Celtic cross which was unveiled by Stewart of Achnacone.

Stewart of Ardvorlich gave the address to the memory of a great clansman, venerable divine, a learned doctor, a great Celtic scholar, a lover of nature and a true Highlander well versed in the lore of his country. Later the cross was removed for safety from quarrying operations in 1955 to the new village cemetery at Innis a' Bhiorlinn.

The day I visited the Creag Mhor cemetery, I could hardly read the inscription on the minister's headstone because the grass had not been cut. Shame on the Highland Council, the Stewart Society and the village of North Ballachulish.

If there is one consolation, Highland Council officialdom has not yet laid its heavy hand on Creag Mhor's headstones by toppling them as it has done recently with some of those at Strontian and Ardgor.

A few years ago a headstone somewhere in Highland region fell over. The

knee-jerk reaction by the council was to let down others that they considered a hazard. Fortunately, there was such a hue and cry the practice ceased. Of course no-one wants to see someone being injured by a falling stone but you cannot protect the public from themselves. Graveyards are not playgrounds.

If you take the argument to its logical conclusion, the council might as well put a notice on every road bridge telling the public not to leap over the parapet because the water below is cold and injurious to health.

One of the two casualties in the Strontian Parish Church cemetery commemorates two only sons aged 19 and 20 who died at the Somme and Arras in 1916 and 1917. One is buried in Strontian which, incidentally, lost more men per head of population than any other village in Scotland, and the other in the Great War cemetery at Delville Wood, France. Their memorial stone was considered 'less than safe'. How much less than safe were these two young Gordon Highlanders who climbed out of their trenches and ran towards the German machine-guns for King and Country?

At a time when the 100th anniversary of the Great War is being remembered across the world, it is surely a sad reflection on today's values when those in local government and others in the Highlands choose to forget the sacrifice their community made.

Strontian is being lauded for building its own primary school. It would be a graceful act on the part of the many local builders and contractors who will be involved if just one of them would volunteer his skills and cement bucket and reinstate both stones.

Etched on the Strontian war memorial on its knoll above Loch Sunart, is the legend: 'These were ours in the days of their boy hood and their names have become our heritage.' Indeed.

Iain Thornber

iain.thornber@btinternet.com



1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU
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National park celebrates 'wee hills with big views'

YOU don't have to be an experienced hillwalker to enjoy Scotland's most spectacular views.

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park boasts a range of 'wee hills with big views' that can be enjoyed by people of all levels of fitness and experience.

With excellent transport links and less than an hour's drive for 50 per cent of Scotland's population, it is easy to get to the park and start enjoying these little gems.

■ **Ben A'an:** in the Trossachs, the 4km walk up this lovely peak offers a surprisingly big experience with many of the ingredients of a mountain hike such as an atmospheric forest, open moorlands, views of crags and a superb vista of the surrounding landscape at the top.

■ **Dundurn:** in the north of the national park, Dundurn, is a rocky knoll only 112m high where a Pictish Fort once sat. Filled with local history, en route to the top you can visit a burial ground and the remains of St Fillan's Chapel, dating back to the 1300s.

■ **Gouk Hill:** on the east of Helensburgh, Gouk Hill is accessible by train from both Glasgow and Edinburgh, and sits on the western edge of the national park. The hill is 277m high and forms part of the long-distance coast-to-coast walk, the John Muir Way.

■ **Glen Striddle hills:** also on the west side of Loch Lomond, these hills offer a fine hike from the village of Luss and to the highest point, Beinn Dubh at 657m.

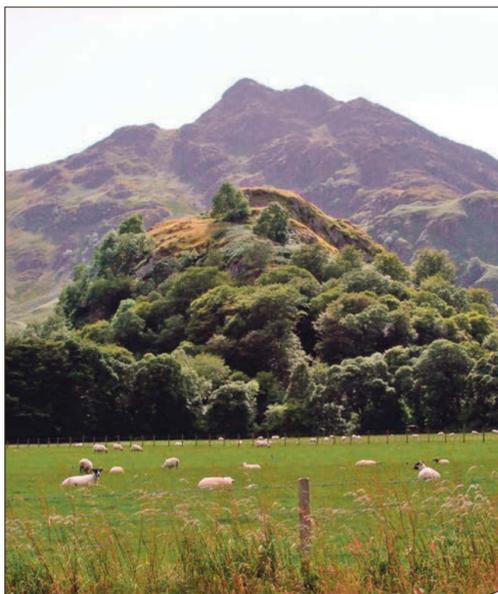
You could choose to simply walk out and back on the same route, or complete a 12km horseshoe circuit taking in another hilltop, Mid Hill at 623m. Outstanding views of Loch Lomond will be spread out beneath you.

■ **Ben Gullipen:** starting from the popular town of Callander, this is a 414m hike up a well-established path. The reward for this wee challenge is breathtaking views of the Wallace Monument near Stirling, Loch Venachar, Ben Venue and Ben Ledi, as well as the Munros Stuc a'Chroin and Ben Vorlich, and the rolling Menteith Hills.

■ **Conic Hill:** a short but fairly stiff 361m climb beginning in Balmaha, Conic Hill offers magnificent views of Loch Lomond and its islands starting from about a third of the way up



Among the 'wee hills with big views' are, clockwise from above, Ben A'an, Dundurn, the Conic Hill and Inchcailloch.



a well-trodden path. It comes with the added bragging bonus of being able to say you've walked part of the West Highland Way, one of Scotland's most famous trails.

■ **Callander Crags:** If you're looking for something a little less challenging, these crags offer a very pleasant walk through beautiful woodlands, over the crag tops and to a cairn at 343m. Many people also take in a

visit to the stunning Bracklinn Falls, a short walk up the road from the car park start point.

■ **Inchcailloch island:** If you fancy a boat trip, cross over from Balmaha to the enchanting Inchcailloch island, and then follow the easy-going way-marked trail up to the island's highest point (85m).

From here you'll get a panoramic view of the peaks of many mountains including the iconic

Ben Lomond. Inchcailloch is part of a National Nature Reserve and sits on the Highland boundary faultline that separates Scotland's Highlands and Lowlands.

Brendan Paddy, director of Ramblers Scotland, said: 'We want everyone to feel confident and inspired to enjoy Scotland's amazing landscapes on foot, so it's fantastic to see the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs

National Park promoting the wonders of its wee hills with big views.'

'It's a great reminder that you don't have to be a hardened hillwalker to experience some of the park's most iconic views, and enjoy all the health and social benefits of walking.'

To find out more about these 'wee hills with big views' go to www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/wee-hills.

Chequered skipper season is with us again

ONE of the wildlife specialities of the region is that the chequered skipper thrives in Lochaber and North Argyll, its only British location.

This pretty little chocolate-brown butterfly, no bigger than a thumbnail, has yellow chequered markings. Depending on the weather, the skippers fly from mid-May to the end of June. Their favoured larval food plant is purple moor grass, and they are often found where bog myrtle also grows in conjunction.

Often thought of as a butterfly of shaded woodland, skippers



can also be found on damp hill-sides, particularly in proximity to burns or rivers. The adults like to nectar on blue or purple flowers, particularly bluebells, bugle and lousewort.

Skippers are feisty little in-

sects, with the males guarding a territory, flying up to see off any intruders off a sprig of myrtle or heather.

The females lay a single egg on a blade of purple moor grass and the caterpillars have a nifty trick of cutting a couple of notches on one side of the leaf to stimulate growth.

This allows them to continue to grow well into the autumn, and they overwinter as a caterpillar, the larger, the better. This, together with the warm, mild climate may be the reason they do so well locally. Pupation takes place in spring.

Good locations to find them include Glasdrum national nature reserve (NNR) on the shores of Loch Creran, Ariundle Oakwoods NNR at Strontian, Loch Arkaig, including the butterfly reserve at Allt Mhuic, and Glen Loy. We even get them occasionally in the garden at Glenloy Lodge.

Recent work co-ordinated by Butterfly Conservation has shown that the chequered skipper is much more widespread in Lochaber and North Argyll than once thought.

Targeted recording in specific 1km grid squares from 2012

to 2014 has revealed a wider distribution, with butterflies being found in no less than 104 new 1km squares, an increase of some 42 per cent.

It is not clear whether the butterflies are spreading or people have simply not looked widely enough before.

All information on distribution is welcome and sightings are particularly useful.

Records should be sent to Butterfly Conservation Scotland www.butterfly-conservation.org.

Glenloy Wildlife
www.glenloywildlife.co.uk

THIS WEEK'S WALKS

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

Saturday June 3

Map 50, NN035488 Gl en Creran Beinn Sgulaird (937m, Munro) (meaning unknown)

Take the road from Elleric towards Glenure. Follow the sign that avoids going past the house and takes you through a gate.

Turn right behind the house to cross the River Ure by the bridge, and turn left on to a track heading east up Glen Ure.

At some trees and a bridge over a burn (at NN059477), leave the track and ascend steeply south through a gully and on to the ridge at a lochan below Stob Gaibhre (684m).

Turn west along the ridge, which turns towards the south to the summit (937m).

To return, go back the way you came (11.4km, 1070m ascent), or for a more interesting route, go south and SW over Meall Garbh (848m), and another height at 863m, where you turn west down the broad ridge to the track leading to Driumavuic (12.7km, 1240m ascent).

This is a linear route, so there will have to be cars at both ends.

Suggested by Chris Tracey; co-ordinated by John Burton

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and you can try before you buy. You can walk three times with the club before joining. Further information at www.lochaberand-lorn-ramblers.org.uk. Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group, can be contacted by email on info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk.

Today (Thursday June 1)

Loch Morar and Loch Nevis

A stunning day out combines a walk along the north shore of the beautiful freshwater Loch Morar and through Glen TarbetEX to the shore of the saltwater Loch Nevis. For transport details, visit the website.

Start from Morar Station, NM677929, where limited parking is available.

Head SE along the B8008 for about 400m and turn left on to the minor road. Follow this E

along the N shore of Loch Morar to its end at Bracorina. Head SE along the track by the shore. After 1Km, this becomes a footpath, serving settlements at Brinacory and Swordland. The way improves again to a track which turns N through Glen Tarbet to the settlement on the shore of Loch Nevis.

For transport details, visit the website.

This is a leisurely walk of 15Km, with a climb of 0f182m. Meet at Fort William Station NN105741 for 8.30am dep; Fort William Woollen Mill NN112742 at 8.45am. Start of walk at 9.50am.

Leader: Toril Frantzen, 07788 264007.

Sunday June 4

Glen Coe Munro and top One of the hidden hills of Glen Coe, this Munro has fine rocky ridges and great scenery.

Start from the CP on the bend of the A82 near Achnacon at NN119565. Cross the stile opposite and head S across level and usually boggy ground to a bridge hidden in the trees at WP NN1190955791.

Continue S to reach the foot of the steep N ridge of Aonach Dubh a'Ghlinne to the E of the rocky crags forming its spine, at WP NN1216054824.

Climb the grassy slope, trending right towards the crest of the ridge until the way is barred by rocky slab-sided rib. Pass below this and continue climbing up the steep grass on its W side to reach a prominent ledge at WP NN119754733.

Follow the ledge rightwards a short distance to reach more grassy slopes leading back up to the crest of the ridge. Follow the ridge, zig-zagging as necessary to avoid rocky outcrops, to the summit of Aonach Dubh a'Ghlinne, 845m.

Still going S, descend a short drop and climb the steep slope to the summit of Stob an Fhuarain, 968m. From here the ridge leads SW to the summit of Sgurr na h-Ulaidh, 994m.

Descend W on to the spur of Corr na Beinne, then turn N down rocky slopes to the bealach at the head of Gleann Leac na Muidhe-EX. Descend NE to pick up the path by the Allt na Muidhe and return to the start.

This is a strenuous walk of 12Km, with a climb of 1,136m. Meet at Glencoe Village car park NN098587 at 9.15am, start of walk at 9.30am. Leader: Toril Frantzen, 07788 264007.

Get hands on to improve the paths in our mountains

ACROSS Glen Nevis and our various events, from tree-planting to archaeology, one thing is a necessity to connect you with the outdoors and your adventure – paths.

Where would we be without them? The environment of our mountains would certainly be struggling and many outings simply wouldn't get started.

With that in mind, how many of you have put a little back into these paths that take us on these amazing journeys across wild land and up our biggest mountain?

Recently, we welcomed volunteers from National Trust for Scotland for a week-long work party to look after one of the most famous paths in the country, the Allt a' Mhuillin, and got some real results.

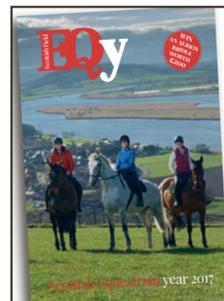
People power is crucial to maintaining the outdoors, so why not give it a try? This weekend we'll be grabbing our pinch-bars and mattocks for a day of

remedial work on the upper part of Ben Nevis.

If you feel hill-fit and ready to give the land a hand get yourself signed up to take to the mountains with Dougie, paths officer, and give a little back.

We hold path work parties on the first Saturday of every month. No experience is necessary and training is provided but you will need a good level of fitness to tackle uneven ground and mountainous terrain at times.

Get hands on about your landscape. For more information, go to www.nevislandscape.co.uk/ events or call 01397 701088.



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Charity walk costs family their disability mobility car



The group walked from Fort William to Kinlochleven to raise money for Down's Syndrome Scotland. Picture Iain Ferguson The Write Image.

ELLIE FORBES
eforb@obantimes.co.uk

THE completion of a charity walk which raised more than £2,000 has resulted in a Kinlochleven family losing their mobility car.

For the past five years 13-year-old Mark McDuff, who has Down's syndrome, has put on a charity walk called Mark's Gangnam Style Walk, named after one of his favourite songs, to raise money for Down's Syndrome Scotland.

Mark, along with a group of his friends and family, travel from Kinlochleven to Fort William by minibus and then make the 12.8-mile journey home on foot.

This year's walk, which took place on Saturday May 27, saw 32 people take part, raising more than £2,000 for the charity.

But Mark's mum, Kay McDuff, has told the *Lochaber Times* the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) has taken the family's mobility car away as a result of Mark being able to complete the walk for the past five years.

Ms McDuff had a mobility Ford Focus for six years. But when she went to renew the

car last year, she was shocked to be told the car was going to be taken away because of Mark's ability to walk a certain distance.

Ms McDuff said: 'They [DWP] said that because Mark can walk a certain amount of miles, once a year, we don't need a mobility car.'

'I have never hidden the fact Mark has done that walk. And there is nothing to say he couldn't have done that walk if he had one leg.'

'It is a real struggle for him. In the pictures after we did it last year you can see Mark just sitting on a rock with his head in his hands - he was exhausted. But he pushed himself to do it because it's for charity, and all of his friends and family are there, doing it to support him.'

Ms McDuff described the grilling she was given when she tried to renew the car.

She said: 'I had to answer questions like how many times does he get up during the night, and how long is he in the toilet for and that is stuff you can't always remember - it's just ridiculous.'

Ms McDuff lodged an appeal with an independent tribunal



Inverlochry fun run raises almost £3,000

SCHOOLS around Lochaber have been hosting summer fun nights and fairs in the past few weeks, as the children get ready to finish for the year.

Inverlochry Primary School hosted its fantastic May fair on Friday May 12, with a slip and slide, bouncy castle, face

painting and much more. The school also put on a fun run which raised almost £3,000.

Pictured are the race winners - Ben Corner, middle, who secured first place, second was Daniel Parfitt, left, and Ben Britton came in third.

For more fun night pictures from across Banavie, St Columba's, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar, Spean Bridge primary schools and Stramash Nursery, turn to page four.

For a full gallery of events head to www.lochabertimes.co.uk

which has upheld the DWP's decision. Disability Living Allowance payments for higher rate mobility, where a person qualifies for a mobility car, are reserved for people who are 'virtually unable to walk'.

A DWP spokesperson told the *Lochaber Times*: 'Decisions are made after consideration of all the information provided by the claimant - including any supporting evidence from their GP or medical specialist - and an independent appeal has upheld our decision in this case.'

Ms McDuff added: 'When I got the letter saying they didn't think I needed the mobility car for Mark, people in the village started writing letters complaining, because lots of them

have known Mark all his life, and seen him struggle, and they are worried about him.'

'He could walk over to the shop, but he would really struggle with it and he would get tired. Where it would only take me a few minutes to walk, it would take him much longer.'

'It's not even just about the car. We haven't had it for a year

now so we are getting used to it, but it's the principle of it. Thankfully we have a good support system of friends and family who help out, and give Mark a lift to school.'

'I have a great sister-in-law who takes time off work to take us places as due to his health issues Mark struggles to use public transport.'

Charged over library incident

A 26-YEAR-OLD man has been charged in connection with an incident last Thursday which saw Fort William library cordoned off after reports of a gunman.

Police officers and ambulances were dispatched to the High Street just after 10am and the library was evacuated.

A plastic BB gun was recovered from the scene.

Michael Kucera, of no fixed address, appeared in private on petition in Fort William Sheriff Court on Friday May 26 charged with theft by shipbreaking and opening a lockfast place, and two counts of breach of the peace. Kucera entered no plea and was committed for further examination. He was remanded in custody.

A police spokesperson said: 'Police Scotland can confirm that a 26-year old-man has now been arrested and charged in relation to an incident at the library in Fort William on Thursday May 25.'

Tributes to shinty star

TRIBUTES have been paid to a Kilmallie shinty player who has died aged 29.

Duncan Rodger, from Inverlochry, died in the early hours of Monday. He is survived by his wife Emma and son James, six.

Tributes poured in for the shinty star who made his name with the Fort William team, and played in several Camanachd Cup finals.

A player of huge talent and skill, Duncan rose to the top, playing at an international level.



Reprieve for Glasgow Islay Association

THERE may be a last minute reprieve for a 155-year-old charity after some volunteers have come forward to take vital positions in the organisation.

Last week, columnist Robert Robertson broke the news that the well established Glasgow Islay Association would need to fold if new volunteers didn't come forward.

But at an AGM tonight, Thursday, in Partick Burgh Hall at 7pm, office bearers will be sworn into the roles of secretary, treasurer and chairperson.

The group runs various events throughout the year, including the annual Glasgow Islay Gathering, a pre-mòd ceilidh, and a senior citizen's dinners.

As a charity, the association has supported a long list of pro-

jects on the island to the tune of tens of thousands of pounds, including all primary schools and various projects to enhance the island over the years.

In a letter to all 700 members of the association, the current chairwoman Janette MacArthur wrote: 'It is with great sadness I have to write this to you. For a number of years now the Glasgow Islay Association has been struggling to attract committee members to assist in the general running of the association.'

'Two years ago we were delighted to welcome several new young members to our committee but due to work/university/lifestyle duties, they are now unable to fully commit. This now brings me to the reason for

this letter - unless we gain some new committee members willing to offer their services and attend meetings (7-9pm on the first Tuesday of each month), the Glasgow Islay Association will have to be wound up after 155 years!

'The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday June 1 at 7pm in the Patrick Burgh Halls - please make every effort to attend and give us your support. Should any member be unable to attend the AGM but are willing to assist please contact either myself or Katherine McNaughton.'

Membership is open to people who belong to Islay, have lived or have married someone from the island.

After the letter went out, Ms

MacArthur received emails of support from all over the world. She continued: 'I have been at the helm for 12 years and it is time for me to retire along with my fellow committee members.'

'We need someone younger to take a turn. While we are leaving the posts we will still be around to support the new committee and help them get into the jobs.'

'There is an overwhelming support for the association, but for the charity side of things we need to make sure there is a committee to take things forward.'

Glasgow Islay Association meets tonight, Thursday, in Partick Burgh Halls at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

All are welcome.



Russell Dods from West Coast Motors.

Bus company starts new services and tours

A BUS company is expanding its Oban tours and services.

West Coast Motors, which operates City Sightseeing Oban and other bus routes in the town, is introducing three new Oban tours.

Until September 24, City Sightseeing Oban will operate Oban to Altantic Bridge, Oban to Connel Bridge, and Oban to Connel and Easdale.

Ranging from one hour to two hours and 35 minutes, the tours not only capture the bustling town and its harbour, but also provide the opportunity to discover and explore some of the West Coast's most breathtaking countryside and seascape.

The tours will operate daily with a newly refurbished open-top double decker vehicle.

The company has also in-

creased the frequency of its service 5/405 Oban to Dunbeg. The route takes in a number of local attractions, including Dunstaffnage Castle and Ocean Explorer Centre.

West Coast Motors is hoping the additional tours and summer service will encourage more people out of cars and ease the town's traffic congestion.

Russell Dods, Oban and Mull area manager, said: 'During the summer months we experience an increase in the volume of cars on the roads in and around the town.'

'Our enhanced route and tours, which are serving the areas main attractions and locations, should hopefully encourage both visitors and local people to ditch the car and hop on the bus.'

Fusion Marine moves offices to Dunbeg

FUSION Marine is moving its administration office from Barcaldine to new modern facilities at Malin House at the European Science Park in Dunbeg.

Fusion Marine will continue its manufacturing operation at Barcaldine and is in the process of recruiting an additional two staff for that site.

Moving the office premises will also benefit the local economy by freeing up space at Barcaldine for the new Scottish Sea Farms hatchery which is being developed there.

Stephen Divers, managing

director of Fusion Marine, said: 'This is great news for Fusion Marine and the European Science Park as it will aid the process of creating a cluster of marine expertise and knowledge at the site.'

'It also means that we will still be very close to our manufacturing base at Barcaldine by Loch Creran, where we are looking to expand the workforce further.'

The company currently employs 21 staff, with eight of those moving to the new office in Dunbeg at the end of June.

Council celebrates double recycling wins

ARGYLL and Bute Council has won two UK awards for recycling.

It has scooped gold in two categories, beating councils from across Britain.

In one month, the council collected the most waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) per head of population.

And its community recycling centre in Oban has been named as the most improved month-on-month WEEE collector.

Jim Smith, the council's head of road and amenity services,

said: 'We are delighted that Argyll and Bute is leading the way in recycling electric and electronic waste.'

'Thank you to local residents and businesses for playing their part in helping to grow recycling rates across the area.'

'This double gold award shows just how committed the council is to recycling, and how the people of Argyll and Bute are supporting this.'

For full details on how and where you can contribute to recycling in Argyll and Bute, see www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/bins.

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

The pain being felt by the MacLeod family on Barra, whose daughter Eilidh was killed in the Manchester Arena bombing, remains beyond the imagination. And the desperate concern is still all too fresh and raw for the MacIntyre family, whose daughter Laura was seriously injured in the horrific events.

Eilidh's parents spoke emotionally and from the heart this week in paying fulsome and fitting tribute to their beloved daughter. However, as well as talking so eloquently about Eilidh, they were also extremely generous in their comments about the emergency services and the support from the people of Manchester and across the world.

Likewise, the MacIntyres spoke openly about the dreadful injuries suffered by Laura and of her fight to recover in hospital. They, too, thanked those in the emergency services who helped in the aftermath.

In addition, there have been emotional contributions from many people, including the girls' head teacher at Castlebay Community School, Annag Maclean, and clergymen such as the Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, Brian McGee, and parish priest Father John Paul MacKinnon.

Indeed, it has been extremely moving to witness how the community has pulled together to support and pray for the families and friends of both teenagers.



Days gone by – 1984

This week we travel back to 1984, courtesy of a photograph sent to us anonymously. Our contributor wrote: 'You have heard of the Two Ronnies – now here's the Two Hughies. Winning the Veterans' Pairs Cup at Oban Bowling Club in 1984 were Hughie MacCorquodale and Hughie Sheeky.'

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



Terror strikes at heart of island community

FROM an island tragedy of long ago about which I wrote last week, the subject of this week's article is another island tragedy but very much of the present day.

The seeds of Islamic terrorism grow far from Britain and the streets of Manchester are far from the shores of Barra, but last Monday night the contemporary wrongs of the world, by a combination of fate and an act of evil by a single human being, struck at the very heart of that remote and beautiful island.

We are constantly made aware of the unpredictable nature of existence, and although that has always been and always will be part of life, it never will cease to cause pain.

In the remote islands of the Hebrides the people are, of course, not unaccustomed to tragedy.

On Barra, with a long history of such a large percentage of the population working on the sea and dealing with the risks that entails,

the hand of death is all too familiar. The serious injury suffered by Laura MacIntyre and the death of Eilidh MacLeod, among so many others in last Monday's Manchester bombing, is set apart from these previous times of sorrow because it was caused not by the untethered hand of fate but by a deliberate act carried out with the primary intention of killing innocent young people.

This is very different from anything that people are accustomed to dealing with in this part of the world and the scars will be difficult to heal.

However, the people of Barra are a particularly robust, resilient, close and caring population, and if ever a community had the strength to grieve and then heal together, it is that of the Barraich.

The evils of the world that last week visited these shores will not change the people of Barra and Vatersay, and the good in the people there will always far outweigh the evil of this despicable act of mindless killing.

Laura will be given all the support she needs to recover, and memories of Eilidh, a bright young piper and

Highland dancer, will be cherished and celebrated far into the future.

The following is a post we put on the Skipinnish Facebook page last week.

'Our thoughts are on Barra. From our very earliest days playing in the Craigard Hotel, before we even had a name, the people of Barra and Vatersay have been a big support to Skipinnish. When tragedy strikes close to home, it is felt sorely and our sympathies and condolences are being sent to that very special island.'

'We wish Laura a speedy recovery and to Eilidh, a safe passage on tranquil seas to Tir nan Òg.'

'There is a link below to a Justgiving page for contributions. Money will not ease the pain, but there will be some pressures in the weeks, months and years to come that will be helped by a little support from us all.'

'www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/alan-anderson'

'We hope Eilidh is dancing on her island of the young...'

'...Will you dance and return to the island of the young'

'Will you dance until the dawn until the rising of the sun?'



Social media

THERE was a huge outpouring of grief from all over the world at the death of Eilidh MacLeod and the serious injuries suffered by her best friend Laura MacIntyre, both from Barra, in the Manchester Arena atrocity.

Jackie Aspinall posted: 'We are travelling up to Oban from Lancashire for our annual family holiday. We feel like we have a foot in each community. We are desperately saddened. Rest in Peace little one.'

Pat Trehan lamented: 'There are no words. So sad for the loss of Eilidh and the other beautiful children and young people. Impossible to imagine the pain her family and friends are feeling. I

can only hope heartfelt thoughts and prayers can help a little.'

Danni Hay said: 'What a terrible end to this. So sad. I can't even imagine how the family from a small safe community will deal with this. To have the girls so excited about a big trip away and it ends like this. It's heartbreaking.'

Mairi Mackinnon wrote: 'RIP Eilidh, you were just too young to go. May your love of music live on in your name and not be dampened by terrorism.'

Carine Baker posted: 'Originally from Oban. My heart breaks for your devastating loss. My deepest sympathy from Currumbin Valley. Gold Coast. Qld Australia.'

Geoff Edwards said: 'So sad to hear

this news. So sorry. Sending love to Barra from Liverpool.'

Moira Melrose wrote: 'I'm so gutted, thought she might have been also found. so so sad.'

Julie Brownrigg posted: 'Their worst nightmare come true. My heart goes out to all who are grieving this terrible loss.'

Doreen Paterson said: 'Taken to young on what should have been a special night were memories are made so sorry for your loss RIP lovely Eilidh.'

Sandra Macdonald posted: 'Can't imagine what you are going through! Thinking of you all! RIP Eilidh.'

Nicola Pretty added: 'So so sad with love from Auckland NZ.'

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

New Oban berths will benefit everyone

Sir,

In the 1980s I looked after the 24-berth, very weather-dependent, pontoons at the South Pier and I was amazed at the amount of business this created.

I think this was not generally recognised as the sailor ashore – apart from the heroes who go shopping wearing their lifejackets – appears as just another tourist.

We always had a large influx of yachts from Ireland and, frequently, could not accommodate all those wanting berths. Bear in mind that this was 30 years ago.

As a keen sailor, I am very much aware that yachts sail from, say Crinan, directly to Tobermory or, more recently, to Loch Aline, which now boasts a marina. For some 30 years Oban has been a backwater, largely bypassed due to lack of berthing facilities.

This is a tragedy as Oban has all the facilities a yachtsman might require such as quality marinas, marine engineering, marine electronics, boat building repairs and excellent storing from the shops and supermarkets.

Tobermory is a shining example of the success of providing visitor berthing. I recently sailed into Tobermory for a brief stop. We used, for one hour in the middle of the afternoon, the second last of the 50 available berths, and this is only May.

The new transit berths in Oban – and the clue is in the name – will not disadvantage any local marina businesses as the maximum number of permitted nights is three. Rather it will complement them. The more yachts that are attracted to Oban, the greater the chance that they will choose to base themselves here permanently, taking advantage of the excellent road, rail and even air connections.

When the owners of the Blue Dragon, a diminutive yacht which cruised the West Coast in the late 1800s, looked for a year-long facility, where did they choose? Kerrera boat yard.

The greatest beneficiaries of the new transit berths will be, firstly, Oban Marina at Kerrera; secondly, Dunstaffnage Marina; and, thirdly, Ardoran Marine. Creran Marine will also benefit as keeping yachts in the Oban area benefits all in the industry.

If yachtsmen are not attracted to Oban, they will not be aware of the benefits of using the area as a permanent base and that is where the real money lies. We have already seen pressure being applied on Argyll and Bute Council for compensation by the previous owner of Oban Marina and it may be that recent correspondence is a precursor to a similar cynical attempt to seek redress for what can only be of benefit.

This suggests a lack of understanding of the industry to an extent that beggars belief. 'Flying a kite' springs to mind. The council must not bow to these claims of potential loss which are without foundation in fact.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



THA MI A' SGRÌOBHADH seo an dèidh tilleadh dhachaigh bho chuairt shamhraidh Chomunn Gàidhlig Inbhir Nis, cuairt a thug sinn am-bliadhna gu Sabhal Mòr Ostaig ann an Slèite san Eilean Sgitheanach.

Bha na h-uirdean dhen an fheadhainn a bh' air a' chuairt air a bhith aig an t-Sabhal uaireigin roimhe, ach dhan fheadhainn nach robh b' e fìor chothrom a bha seo beagan fhaicinn agus ionnsachadh mu phrìomh ionad-foghlaim Gàidhlig an t-saoghail. Dhan fheadhainn againn a bha a' tilleadh b' e cothrom a bha seo faicinn agus cluinntinn mar a tha a' cholaiste agus a h-àrainneachd a' sior fhàs agus a' soirbheachadh.

Mo thaing bhlàth dhan Àrd-Ollamh Ùisdean Cheape airson fiosrachadh cho fìor inntinneach mu eachdraidh na sgìre agus iomradh air mar a chaidh an sabhal mòr san do thòisich a' cholaiste ann an 1973 a stèidheachadh toiseach an naoidheamh linn deug le fear de Dhòmhnallach Bhaile Fhionnlaigh Uibhist a Tuath, ach a bha an uairsin cuideachd air stèidh a shuidheachadh ann am Bhatairnis. Chuala sinn mar a dh'fhuadaich an Dòmhnallach còig bailtean beaga gus talamh-ionaltraidh a chruthachadh airson treud chruidh àrach, mu thimcheall an t-sabhail ùir a thog e gus gearmhachadh a stòradh.

'S e rains a bha an Dòmhnallach airson a chruthachadh ach bu thàmailteach da-rìribh gun do dh'fhàg iomairt inntinneach uimhir a mhuinntir na sgìre air am fuadach às an tìr. Dh'innis Ùisdean mar a bha aithris gun tug an Dòmhnallach ceann-cinnidh Chlann Dòmhnail air chuairt air an rains agus am measg nam beathaichean agus gun robh am Morair ag ràdh gun robh e ag ionndrainn fuaim an t-sluaigh a bha uair ann. Nach mìnig a chunnacas bàillidhean Gàidhealach a' dèiligeadh nas miosa ris na daoine na uachdarain.

Bha e sònraichte math a bhith a' cluinntinn beagan de dh'eachdraidh na Colaiste bho Cheiteag Nic-a-phi a tha na ball de sgioba margaideachd an t-Sabhail. Chan e a-mhàin

J Patrick Maclean,
Oban.

A poor choice of election candidates

Sir,

Well done Ann Horn in highlighting the greed of Alan Reid. Rejected by the electorate as an MP, rejected as an MSP he is now elected as a councillor.

Still not good enough, he has now put himself forward for the coming general election as a MP. What hypocrisy.

On top of this we now have Jamie McGrigor appearing from the wilderness.

And Brendan O'Hara, a novice MP but adept at claiming expenses. Not content with a salary of £74,000, first class travel and subsidised meals, his first year's expenses put him in the top 10 claimants in Scotland.

If these three are the best our country can muster, don't expect Argyll and the Isles to prosper in the near future.

D Johnson,
Tarbert.

Council officers are there to serve

Sir,

I wish the new members of the Highland Council well in their endeavours and note yet-again leader Margaret Davidson's platitudes reported in your newspaper.

If I may borrow the phrase 'Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn' when it comes to any love-ins between the so-called Independents and other partisan politicians.

What I and, I am sure, many others want is the members to take control of the council ensuring the officers running the show are reminded they are public servants and appropriately scrutinised.

I am sure many will agree with me when I say I fear another five years of dictatorship by bureaucracy from the 'we know best' officers. I have always been led to believe it is the job of these public servants and the elected members to handle the actual and perceived needs of the communities as well as ensuring the services are provided as best as possible. Unfortunately, increasingly it seems this is not the case.

We all fully understand the economic problems but I bet my bottom dollar each and every community can point to obvious wastes of resources in the system. Ask us and we will point them out.

Where we can help alleviate problems, again, ask and I am sure many will if they can help. It should be a partnership – not a them-and-us situation.

That will involve something new for many that has been seriously lacking in the past from their management

systems and abilities. They need to consult, listen and assimilate the information from communities large and small and take full cognisance of same in decision-making. Their function, as far as I am concerned, is to support, facilitate and encourage communities in developing and increasing their resilience. If something cannot be achieved, it is their job to explain why and help the community to explore alternatives – not to dictate to them.

I have worked for many decades with the front-line in our local authorities and other public services in my many functions in the community and have great respect for them.

I have found them more than willing to help but increasingly they tell me their ability to operate using their own discretion or initiative is now severely hampered.

I would point out to those donkeys leading the lions that their best assets are their people. They are well trained, trustworthy and a credit to the organisation so listen to them, let them use their discretion or initiative and do what they do best: serve the public.

Jimmy Waugh,
18 West Laroach, Ballachulish.

Unionist was always likely to be elected

Sir,

There is an irony in Islay Councillor Alastair Redman's victory letter highlighting separatists saying he was unelectable, which he has proven wrong.

Prior to his election, Mr Redman was on BBC Alba saying people on the Islay doorstep used to talk about all the Islay revenue going to the Exchequer and not much coming back.

Now it has switched to whether you are separatist or unionist. So it is no surprise that, with three council seats available in the Kintyre and the Islands ward, Mr Redman, being a unionist, was elected.

He should thank the separatists for helping him land a nice taxpayer-funded job as a councillor.

Colin M Campbell,
Bruach Gorm, Port Charlotte,
Isle of Islay.

Shiel buses are a huge improvement

Sir,

I would like to congratulate Shiel Buses on their takeover of the Cor-pach to Perth Place, Upper Achintore route. Especially on the cleanliness and comfort of the new buses, in comparison to the filthy, museum pieces before – a point of view that has been expressed to me by numerous people.

Jimmy Smith,
149 Kennedy Road, Fort William.

Ailean Caimbeul

a h-òige agus a dealas a thug uimhir de thlachd agus togail dhuinn, ach cuideachd cluinntinn bho thè a cheumnaich aig an t-Sabhal agus a fhuair cosnadh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig an sin na dhèidh. Thadhail sinn cuideachd air an ionad Fàs anns am bheil an ofis aig Ceiteag, agus anns am bheil cuideachd na h-uirdean de ghniomhachasan eile ag obair tron Gàidhlig. Nam measg sin tha an stiùidio rèidio is telebhisean Skye Space anns am bheil oileanaich ag ionnsachadh sgilean craolaidh de gach seòrsa, mar a mhinich Alasdair MacAoidh dhuinn fhad 's a thug e sinn air chuairt air na sàr ghoireasan a th'aca an sin.

Fad nan iomadh bliadhna a bha mi fhìn an sàs cuide ris an t-Sabhal Mhòr bhithinn daonnan ag ràdh gun robh mi air mo mhiseachadh gach uair a thadhlaibh ann. Tha mi toilichte a dhearbhadh gun robh an aon rud fìor an-diugh!

OVER many years I found visits to Gaelic college Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to be motivating experiences. Returning last Saturday on Inverness Gaelic Society's annual outing was equally stimulating.

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

Le taic bho



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Your letters

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

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

WOMEN in ♀ business

FORGET about waiting on a glass slipper, women are shattering glass ceilings. In fact, new research by the Centre for Entrepreneurs reveals that female tycoons are twice as ambitious as their male counterparts.

Women's

enterprise can be difficult to precisely define and enumerate, but it is estimated that around 21 per cent of Scotland's 339,000 small to medium sized enterprises are majority-led by women.

They have narrowed the gender gap by six per cent since 2012 and are adding to the economic engine that is entrepreneurship – this is according to a Global Entrepreneurship Monitor 2016 Women's Report,

which confirms that more than 200 million women are starting or running businesses in 83 economies across the globe. An additional 128 million are running established businesses.

This week, we meet some of those women who are running successful businesses around Argyll and Lochaber.

Their stories are inspiring and their business savvy is impressive. Read about how they followed their passions and their own dream jobs.



Business Gateway

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Our adviser can meet at a time and a place convenient to you to talk through your ideas and offer free advice, in confidential one to one meetings.

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To book an appointment with an adviser please contact the Business Gateway team.

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E | bg@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Business Gateway

Over a third of entrepreneurs around the world are women and this number is expected to keep on rising, with more than 20 per cent of Scottish small to medium sized enterprises majority-owned by women. If the numbers of women-led businesses increased to equal the number of businesses led by men the Scottish economy would grow by at least 5 per cent (£7.6 billion).

Research shows women, in the UK, are more likely to use the forms of business support available from government bodies, professional services and banks. If you are a female entrepreneur and would be keen to join a networking group in the Oban or Lochgilphead area a couple of informal groups have been set up. Oban - Victoria Ross, Royal Bank of Scotland, email victoria.ross@rbs.co.uk – meet every couple of months – Thursday June 1 from 10.00-11.30am, Oban Bay Hotel Lochgilphead - WRENScotland, wrens@mail.com - Meet the first Monday of the month at the MS Centre at 7pm

T | 01546 604030

E | bg@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Fiona McGlynn

Partner
R A Clement Associates

Fiona McGlynn is one of the four partners running R A Clement Associates. Having graduated from Glasgow University and qualifying as a Chartered Accountant with a Glasgow firm, Fiona joined R A Clement Associates in 1991, becoming a partner in 1999. Although she has specific responsibilities within the firm for HR and

'Charity & Audit' clients, she also works to meet business and individuals' needs for tax and accounting advice. Nowadays this includes advising on the challenges they face in planning for the future and dealing with the current economic environment. The charity and audit team deals with an increasingly complex regulated sector, with recent major changes set to affect many clients no matter how small or large. Fiona said: 'With over 100 clients in the charity sector, we have built up the expertise to enable us to assist clients of all sizes through the challenges ahead.'



Victoria Ross

Business Growth Enabler
Royal Bank of Scotland

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Meet the candidates vote in this month's

ELECTION day next Thursday, June 8, will see electors return to the ballot boxes only two years after the previous poll.

It is factual to say that the SNP were the winners in Scotland at that time with all seats bar three being taken by the party led by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. Pundits and pollsters think that

this time things might change, and that 14 seats may revert to either Labour or Conservative.

While many people in the Highlands and Islands may have already cast their cross in the box by postal vote there is no doubt that many people feel apathetic about getting out and voting. Young people are the particu-

lar target of political parties to ensure they are both registered to vote and are encouraged to get out on the day to the polling stations.

At a hustings on the Isle of Mull there was some discussion about the confusion that may exist in Scotland while there are three separate voting systems in

Lewis Sturrock

Something New, Ross, Skye and Lochaber

We work a little differently here at Something New. We have an open manifesto which anyone can contribute to. The decision, I believe, lies in the hands of the people.

We provide a technology-based means to accurately represent the current opinion of the populace. I ask every resident to contribute to the open manifesto by visiting somethingnew.org.uk/manifesto/ and clicking 'Suggest a Change'. This can be done easily by any member of the public, and every member of any party, easily through any internet-connected device such as a smartphone or laptop.

We propose a contemporary app that allows voters' voices to be heard quickly and securely.

Using our system, when people contribute, we can quickly and accurately gauge the desire for and against and initiate a response based on a democratic mandate.

Within the first year I will engage every non-voter by making politics easy to access and removing the historical tribal divides and biases. We want to make the public aware of services that can show the voting record of their MPs in seconds. With new tools we can eliminate the apathy perceived by younger voters and have an informed society making smart, quick decisions easily and without barriers.

Ultimately, I would like to see the gov.uk system integrated into the open manifesto and eliminate the need for representatives to travel, saving money and allowing them to understand better the needs of their constituents.



Jean Davis

Liberal Democrat, Ross, Skye and Lochaber

Scottish Liberal Democrats believe that Scotland is best off in the UK and the UK is best off at the heart of Europe. We want to see the closest possible relationship with our European partners.

The Conservatives are intent on throwing away our place in the single market which is so vital for our prosperity. We need our economy to be strong to provide essential public services like schools and hospitals. We cannot have a strong economy if we leave the single market. That is why the Liberal Democrats strongly oppose the Conservatives' rush to a hard Brexit.

Someone will have the final say on the eventual deal. Liberal Democrats believe it should be the British people in a referendum. The government should not be allowed to mark its own homework on an issue of such critical importance which will determine our country's prosperity for decades to come. The people should have the choice of accepting the terms on offer or remaining in the EU.

Liberal Democrat MPs will vigorously stand up for the UK's place in the single market, strive to retain co-operation which helps catch criminals, protect our environment and gives opportunities to our young people to work and study in the EU.

If I am elected, two things will be particularly important for me. First is that, over the summer, I get back to every part of the constituency to have longer discussions about the issues. Local people should have a say in what happens in their area. The second thing is to make progress on broadband and connectivity, which is so important where communities are spread out.



Robert MacKenzie

Conservative, Ross, Skye and Lochaber

This election comes at a critically important juncture in the history of the United Kingdom. We have voted to leave the European Union and only the Conservatives have the strength, commitment and resolve to carry out the democratic will of the people and act in the national interest to get the best deal for the whole of the United Kingdom.

We continue to face the threat from the SNP of yet another divisive independence referendum and only the Scottish Conservatives have the backbone to defend our precious union with England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

In our home communities, the SNP is failing our young people, with falling literacy levels in our schools and longer waiting times in our hospitals. It constantly blames such problems on Westminster and austerity, while failing to use the powers it has at Holyrood to raise revenue and allocate resources effectively.

It is time to end the uncertainty and elect a strong and stable Conservative government that will continue to strengthen our economy, so that we can finance the world-class schools, hospitals, social care services, infrastructure, defence forces and security services we all expect, sometimes take for granted, and too infrequently take a moment to cherish.

I am a local farmer who was born in Dingwall and brought up on my family's farm in Easter Ross. I believe in fairness, freedom of individual choice, tolerance, working hard, speaking out against injustice and respecting the rule of law.



Peter O Donnhaile

Labour, Ross, Skye and Lochaber

It is in the best interests of the UK to negotiate the softest possible Brexit. Economic instability is not in the interests of the small- to medium-size enterprises (SMEs) which generate 60 per cent of GDP. No-one can make good strategic business decisions in a market which has become utterly unpredictable – the position that all UK SMEs are now in, whether they recognise it or not.

In terms of Ross, Skye and Lochaber, tourism is a big cash generator and many of our smallest businesses – such as seasonal B&Bs – produce invisible exports. Our agricultural industry will be vital to our national food security out of the EU, but is threatened by loss of the EU export market for our primary meat products and the risk of being forced to accept 'dumping' of those same products as part of any potential trade deal with the US.

East coast fishermen have long complained about access by other EU nations to their 'home grounds', but fail to acknowledge that much of our west coast inshore catch of crustaceans goes as live export to mainland Europe – predominantly France and Spain. Leaving the single market threatens jobs across the UK.

As for indyref2, I voted yes in 2014, but will not do so again. I was born in England, raised near the Welsh border and always thought of Wales and England as separate countries – but both British. I view Scotland in the same light.

My target for the first year as an MP is to ensure Brexit does not destabilise the local economy.



Jamie Paterson

Liberal Democrats, Western Isles

Scotland, like the rest of the UK, needs to maintain full trade links with the EU. This means we need to negotiate a soft Brexit. Scottish Liberal Democrats recognise that, given the conflicting messages in the leave camp during the referendum, whatever government is elected has no real mandate to seek a particular type of Brexit.

So we believe that, whatever deal is finally agreed, it should be put to the voters for their acceptance or rejection. A decision as fundamental as this should not just be made by the Westminster elite.

Now is not the time for indyref2. In 2014, the SNP said that its referendum was a once-in-a-generation choice for Scotland. We chose - and the SNP dumped its promise. But it is clear why. The SNP wants to hold a second referendum when the outline of the Brexit agreement may be clear, but its implications will not be.

It wants us to vote when Brexit chaos and uncertainty are at a peak. The SNP knows nationalism thrives on a climate of uncertainty and fear. That is why it has cynically chosen to seek a referendum at the peak of Brexit chaos. Scottish Liberal Democrats will oppose that and, unlike a vote for the Tories, a vote for us will oppose indyref2 without backing the Tories' hard Brexit plans.

A single MP cannot drive the Westminster agenda but, if elected, I will make sure that the voice of the islands is heard loud and clear in parliament. And my first priority will be to fight for an emergency tug to be once again based in the Minch.



Ealasaid MacDonald

Labour, Western Isles

I believe that the referendums over the past three years have added to the instability which is affecting the islands' economy.

The continued discussion adds to this uncertainty and is preventing investment and growth. We have businesses for sale in the islands which should be attractive to lots of buyers, but they are languishing on the market.

And the islands are littered with empty houses or holiday homes.

My priority as an MP will be to focus on the key economic drivers which will provide stability and encourage growth. In order to address the real threat of depopulation, we must see jobs in the islands. We must provide opportunities for our young people to stay in the communities where they grew up - and we must attract new families who want to enjoy the fantastic lifestyle we have here. We must see investment in infrastructure to provide a base from which we can flourish.

I will be a strong voice for the islands, something which is very much lacking. It is increasingly evident that not only is our voice not being heard but that no-one has been co-ordinating the case for the islands. We have to work together to take our islands forward.

I promise that, if elected, I will put the islands first. I will take every opportunity to enhance our reputation and promote our assets. I will make sure that there will be no-one at Westminster, or beyond, who is not aware of the Western Isles for all the right reasons.



Daniel McCroskrie

Conservative, Western Isles

I support the position of Theresa May to leave the European Union but to enter the negotiations to seek the best possible deal for the UK. That means ensuring we can continue to trade freely with our European neighbours but also get a deal that works for the whole of the UK.

In the Western Isles, both the crofting and fishing communities are keen to ensure a successful Brexit deal occurs. Only the Conservatives want to see a successful Brexit deal and, as the MP for these islands, I would work tirelessly to ensure we get a solid deal. Back in 2014, the SNP promised that the first referendum would be a once-in-a-generation vote. In fact, it signed the Edinburgh Agreement which stated that it would be 'a result that everyone will respect'. The SNP and Nicola Sturgeon haven't respected that vote.

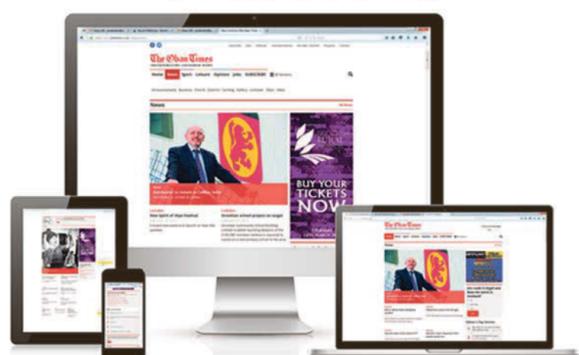
They hope to rerun the referendum over and over again until they get the result they want. Labour and the Liberal Democrats have been incredibly unconvincing in their support for the Union, with Labour leader Kezia Dugdale unable to take a solid and consistent stance on the matter. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party is now the only voice for those who do not want another referendum.

One of the biggest local issues is whether or not a subsea interconnector can be installed between the Western Isles and the mainland. The UK government rightly held a review on how it funds renewable projects in the last parliament but, unfortunately, the general election has paused the outcome. In my first year, I want to ensure the review is completed as soon as possible.



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IT'S A TWO HORSE RACE IN ARGYLL AND BUTE



The facts are clear. Only a vote for Ruth Davidson's candidate Gary Mulvaney can beat the SNP here in Argyll and Bute and stop their second independence referendum.

**WE SAID NO TO INDEPENDENCE.
VOTE FOR GARY MULVANEY ON
THURSDAY TO TELL THE SNP WE
MEANT IT.**



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place for elections. In order not to confuse matters, this is a first past the post election for over-18s only. Electors are asked to place one cross in one box.

At *The Oban Times* and Mull and Iona Community Trust debate held on Mull last week, questions were mixed. The election campaign hustings in Argyll

have seen many reserved issues discussed.

High on the agenda for the public is broadband – and there were some very interesting questions about loyalty in politics. People wanted to know if the candidates' loyalty was to his or her political party or to the voting public and constituents?

Of course, the potential politicians were all keen to point out that their loyalty was to the electorate.

Two candidates – John Cormack of the Scottish Christian Party, and Ronnie Campbell, Independent – were contacted for election statements but declined to supply them.



Ian Blackford

SNP, Ross, Skye and Lochaber

Since my election in 2015, I have been a strong voice in Westminster not only on national and international issues, but also matters of real concern to people in the Highlands and Islands.

I have hosted 71 surgeries in 25 locations across the constituency, including many islands, giving constituents the chance to meet me and voice their concerns.

I have never lost sight of what is important to this area and, if re-elected, I will continue to speak up on issues such as jobs, pensions, Brexit and protecting those who have made Scotland their home.

Pensions are a right – not a benefit. As this is not a devolved matter, only as an MP am I able to pressure the UK government on issues such as the triple lock, workplace pensions and the WASPI women.

Under the Tories a dark future awaits not only pensioners of today, but those of tomorrow. In the last parliament, the SNP fought hard for pensioners, while other parties did little or nothing to oppose shocking proposals.

Working closely with the Scottish Government, I hosted meetings in London and at home in support of the Fort William aluminium smelter, saving existing jobs and creating hundreds more in a new alloy wheels factory.

At Kishorn, a revitalised dry dock means 200 jobs in Wester Ross and on Skye a fish food factory creates around 80.

Brexit could cost Scotland 80,000 jobs and £11 billion by 2030. Only SNP MPs will fight to get the best deal for Scotland during negotiations and aim to secure a place in the single market.



Brendan O'Hara

SNP, Argyll and Bute

This election is about protecting Scotland from a hard-right, hard Brexit. Only a strong group of SNP MPs can protect Scotland's vital interests.

The EU single market supports around 80,000 Scottish jobs and that loss could be devastating for our economy.

The Scottish Government submitted a firm proposal to the UK Government to set a clear path for Scotland to remain both within the UK and the single market but this was dismissed out of hand by Theresa May's government.

The mandate for any referendum at the end of the Brexit process was decided by the electorate at the 2016 Holyrood elections. Let's be very clear, though: the Brexit vote was forced upon us by the Tories. We voted to remain in the EU and we were promised in 2014 that a vote against Scottish independence was a vote to secure our EU membership.

At the time of this snap election, I was scheduled to host a constituency first, a Chinese business summit in Campbeltown - to introduce our local producers and businesses to the lucrative Chinese market.

My focus is on strengthening Argyll and Bute's economic regeneration through cooperation between all stakeholders, the council, HIE and the Scottish Government. Concurrently, I have pressed for the faster roll-out of superfast broadband, digital and physical connectivity throughout Argyll and Bute.

Having built strong relationships and good working partnerships across the constituency, I will continue to champion Argyll and Bute as a fantastic place to live, work and do business.



Alan Reid

Liberal Democrats, Argyll and Bute

I was the local MP when the independence referendum took place and am opposed to another one. The first one gave a clear verdict against independence and there's no point in doing it again.

As an MP, I saw at first hand how nothing got done during the run-up to the referendum and we can't afford to spend another two years debating the same thing. Education standards in Scotland are slipping badly and the NHS needs more investment. We should be concentrating on these matters and forget about having another very divisive referendum.

We also need to spend time getting the right outcome for Scotland from the Brexit negotiations. Our exit from the EU should be as soft as possible. We should keep our membership of the customs union and the single market.

Farming and crofting in Argyll is a precarious existence even with payments from the EU's Common Agricultural Policy. When we leave the CAP, the Scottish Government should continue to make these payments, in the interests of both food security and maintaining the rural economy.

Farmers, fishermen and other businesses must keep the right to sell their produce into the EU without penalising tariffs.

Having finished in clear second place in 2015, I am well placed to overtake the SNP and regain the seat. My first act would be to tell the SNP that my re-election had demonstrated there is no desire in Argyll and Bute for another independence referendum.

I would also, as I did before, hold surgeries in every village.



Angus Brendan MacNeil

SNP, Western Isles

The UK is being led into a hard Brexit by the Tory government and that is why it is so important that there is a strong voice in opposition. Only by returning SNP MPs will Scotland have the voice it needs at this time.

Brexit and leaving the single market will provide huge challenges, and perhaps opportunities, across the country in the years to come. Theresa May knows that any Brexit deal she makes will not have market access as good as we currently have, and meat and fish exports could face substantial tariffs to get to market.

In 2014, Scotland was told to vote no to stay in the EU so the result of 2014 has been changed utterly. The second independence referendum can be seen as a lifeboat for Scotland, a way for us to prosper like Ireland, Iceland, Norway, Denmark with double to four times the growth of the UK. Some of these countries are in the EU, some are out but all are in the single market.

I would advise people to vote for independence when the opportunity comes.

If people do indeed want to go down with the ship, they are free to vote no when the time comes but they shouldn't be against the Scottish people being given the choice, as the implications of Brexit will be great.

It is key that the people of Scotland are able to have a say on what future they face.

I would continue to be part of a strong opposition and will work hard to hold the UK government to account and to speak up for Scotland.



Michael Kelly

Labour, Argyll and Bute

I believe we should be pursuing as soft a Brexit as possible. The fact is that we are so integrated with the EU that any disengagement is already going to take years to implement, and we need to exercise the utmost care to avoid doing damage to the economy and causing massive dislocation in our society.

Furthermore, we should maintain our membership in the various EU associated organisations such as the European Medicines Agency and Europol. These organisations allow for co-operation on important issues such as medical standards and counter-terrorism. The referendum was on membership of the EU itself, not whether our police should share information with other governments.

I am against an indyref2. We have already had a referendum and I see nothing to suggest that anything has changed. We need an end to the uncertainty. How can we plan our futures if we have to keep a constant watch over our shoulders for what might happen?

What we need is a constitutional convention to establish a proper devolved system for the United Kingdom. Brexit means that a host of powers are going to be returned to the UK, and the Labour Party will introduce a 'presumption of devolution', where former EU powers would be automatically devolved to the regional level.

As an MP, the most tangible benefit I could bring to Argyll and Bute in my first year would be an end to austerity. As a society we need these services, but the Conservative government is unwilling to put the money in.



Gary Mulvaney

Conservative, Argyll and Bute

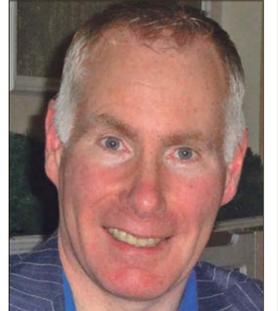
Only one vote on Thursday June 8 can beat the SNP in Argyll and Bute and stop the threat of a second independence referendum – and that is a vote for Ruth Davidson's Scottish Conservatives and Unionists.

This time in Argyll and Bute it is a two-horse race between the Nationalists and the Scottish Conservatives. Just look at how the parties did in the recent council elections. The SNP secured 40 per cent share, Scottish Conservatives 36 per cent, with the Lib Dems well behind on 16 per cent. In every ward, Scottish Conservatives outpolled the Liberal Democrats. The facts are clear - the Lib Dems can't win here this time and a divided opposition will let the SNP back in.

Now is not the time for another referendum, less than three years after the previous once-in-a-generation vote in 2014. The people spoke during the council elections to oppose a second referendum but the SNP is still not listening. Labour is all over the place, with Jeremy Corbyn stating that indyref2 would be 'absolutely fine'. By breaking its once-in-a-generation promise, the SNP has made this election about indyref2 but we need to send it a clear message to get on with the day job.

Across the UK, the choice could not be clearer. Theresa May as our Prime Minister with the strength to get the best deal for us in Europe (however you like your Brexit), or Jeremy Corbyn with a manifesto borne out of the 1970s.

As your MP, I will make sure Argyll and Bute's voice is heard in Westminster. The polls and pundits are clear – only a vote for the Scottish Conservatives and Unionists in Argyll and Bute can beat the SNP.



Re-elect Ian Blackford in the General Election on 8th June

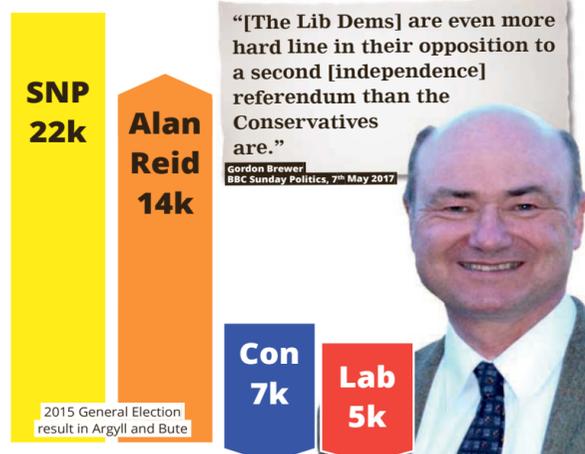
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"[The Lib Dems] are even more hard line in their opposition to a second [independence] referendum than the Conservatives are."

Gordon Brewer
BBC Sunday Politics, 7th May 2017



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119

 Calleigh Kennedy
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149

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 2 years Oban

163

 Calum Alexander Brown
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170

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179

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Readers now have the difficult job of voting for the winner of The Oban Times and Lochaber Times Bonnie Babies Competition 2017! You can vote by simply completing the coupon provided on this page and sending it to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. You may also hand in votes to our Fort William office, 22 High Street. Votes must be received by 10am on Monday, June 12, 2017. You can vote for as many babies as many times as you like using the voting coupon in this issue and next week, June 8. Just make sure you quote the number stated on the child's photograph when voting. Photocopied coupons will not be accepted. One coupon counts as one vote. We'll also accept multiple vote coupons in one envelope. Good luck to all babies and toddlers!

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I would like to vote for:

Baby number*:

Baby's name:

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

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

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

You may send in multiple voting coupons in one envelope.



Terms & conditions: The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. The deadline to receive votes is 10am Monday, June 12, 2017. Please note that voting only applies to readers of the PRINTED VERSION of The Oban Times and Lochaber Times. You cannot vote online or through the digital edition for this competition. One coupon counts as one vote. Only voting coupons from issues June 1 and 8 are accepted for this round. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. Full terms and conditions at www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies. Customer services: 01631 568000.

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Tide Lines kick off their Scottish tour at Oban Live this weekend



Ed Sheeran is one of the most liked men in poplar music, writes Louise Glen.

A colleague believes that Ed Sheeran does something that is almost impossible in that he appeal to a wide market, but that it is 'wrong'.

He says: 'Young people should not be listening to the same music as their parents. They should be rebelling.'

Well, I think he is on the wrong tack there as Tide Lines – the west coast's amazing answer to Ed Sheeran have got it going on.

I asked my beautiful wee friends Calum and Finn (who received the CD as a birthday present) what

they thought of the album *Dreams We Never Lost* – and I would like to say I got an answer.

But these cool dudes, aged five and seven, were far too busy learning the words like Robert Robertson and the air guitar and keyboard of Ross Wilson to talk to me.

Tide Lines are simply one of those west coast bands that almost everyone can like because the men involved – of the four members readers will know Robert Robertson of Lochaber and Ross Wilson of Bunessan who have been part of the west coast music scene since time began.

If I had to give you a reason why

I love the music they make, it is because they bring a relevancy to modern traditional music that touches your heart.

And because it is easy to say that musicians have an easy time of it, but it is hard to get on in the music business with people measuring success against *Britain's Got Talent* and *X Factor*.

Tide Lines' album *Dreams We Never Lost* is a must buy purchase.

Robert told *The Oban Times*: 'We're itching to get out on the road, and here is where we'll be playing. We're looking forward to catching up with many friends, old and new, over the coming months.'

Starting with Oban Live this weekend the band can then be seen at Killin Music Festival 2017, Northern Roots Festival, the Isle of Gigha Music Festival, Gairloch Highland Gathering, Trelawndy Folk at the Hall 2017,

Tiree Music Festival, Hebridean Celtic Festival, The Nevis Centre, Eilean Dorcha Festival, Speyfest, Festival Interceltique de Lorient, Tide Lines @ Gig at the Gathering in Dunoon, Best Of The West Festival at Inveraray Castle, Jura Music Festival and then Tide Lines at Stonehaven Town Hall.

Biography

Tide Lines are a four piece band

from Scotland who are heavily influenced by the traditional music of the West Highlands and Islands, but whose highly eclectic sound is driven by acoustic and electric guitars, with drums and keyboards. Their first single, *Far Side of the World*, entered the UK download charts ahead of popular tracks by Coldplay and Beyonce as well as Adele's *Hello*, less than 24 hours after the band was launched on social media in June 2016.

Tide Lines consists of Robert Robertson from Lochaber, Ross Wilson from the island of Mull, Alasdair Turner from Alness, and Fergus Munro from Glasgow.

Dunbeg pupils put on a show at 'special' fun day



Mrs MacVicar takes a turn getting hit in the face with a wet sponge.

DUNBEG Primary School celebrated its annual fun day in a special way on Saturday, as the pupils put on a show for their retiring head teacher, writes David McPhee.

The children ended the day by performing a series of songs, as well as revealing their fondest memories of Sine MacVicar, who has devoted 44 years to Dunbeg Primary School.

Mrs MacVicar has been shortlisted as the Head Teacher of the Year Award, with the winner being announced on June 7 at the Hilton Hotel, Glasgow.

The fun day itself was made up of many activities such as welly tossing, water slides, sports, various stalls, and the pupils were able to get their own back on the teachers by splatting them in the face with a wet sponge.

Speaking on the day, Mrs MacVicar said: 'It has been a hugely successful day. It's Dunbeg Primary School's main fundraising event of the year and it supports school activities and trips.'

'It's the biggest event of the year and the parent council put a huge amount of effort into the organisation of it.'

'It's a community event, which has been getting bigger and bigger every year.'

Discussing her retirement, Mrs MacVicar added: 'I

would say I have mixed feelings.

'I have loved every minute of my 44 years and still enjoy hearing about former pupils. I feel as if I am going out on a high.'

Nicola Bichard, principle teacher at Dunbeg Primary School, said: 'This year is a special year because it's Mrs MacVicar's last year.'

'We are all going to miss her so much. She is just amazing. She is the glue that holds everything together in the school and she is going to be a massive loss, but we are hoping she will still come back and help us.'

'She is totally dedicated to the school and the community. The children are at the heart of everything she does.'

'She is all about the children and she always will be – even when she retires, because that's her values and she has shared that with all the staff.'

Steven McCauley, who coaches Dunbeg football team, said: 'In the throwing the welly competition the teenage section and adult section were in uproar, with two generations of Drummonds going head to head.'

'Fifteen-year-old Michael Drummond went head to head with his father Craig, 45, and young Michael stepped up to the mark and beat his dad.'



Steven Macaulay, coach of Dunbeg football team, with the winner of the throwing the welly competition, Michael Drummond.



t22DunbegFunDay04

Friday 2 – Thursday 8 June

ALIEN: COVENANT | 15 | 142 MIN

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

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

Fri, Sat: 18:15
Marvel's Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 continues the team's adventures as they traverse the outer reaches of the cosmos. The Guardians must fight to keep their newfound family as they unravel the mysteries of Peter Quill's true parentage.

KIDS CLUB: THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE | U | 104 MIN

Sat: 11:30
Children's Classic. Entry £2. In the irreverent spirit of fun that made The LEGO® Movie a worldwide phenomenon, the self-described leading man of that ensemble—LEGO Batman—stars in his own big-screen adventure. But there are big changes brewing in Gotham, and if he wants to save the city from The Joker's hostile takeover, Batman may have to drop the lone vigilante thing, try to work with others and maybe, just maybe, learn to lighten up.

MISS SLOANE | 15 | 152 MIN

Fri, Sat: 21:00, Sun: 16:45, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 18:15
In MISS SLOANE, a ruthless and highly successful political strategist, Elizabeth Sloane (Jessica Chastain), exposes the cutthroat world of D.C. lobbyists on both sides of the gun control debate. New legislation requiring more stringent background checks for gun ownership is gaining traction in Congress, and Sloane is approached to spearhead the campaign, pitting her against the formidable power of her political opponents.

PARENT & BABY SCREENING - PARENTS' CHOICE | 120 MIN

Tue: 11:30
Parent & Baby Screening! Lights will be left on at a dimmed level and baby changing available. This week's film is viewers' choice!

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

Fri: 18:45, Sat: 12:00, 18:00, Sun: 15:00, Mon: 19:30, Tue: 16:30, Wed: 19:30, Thu: 16:30
3D: Fri: 16:00, Sat: 15:00, Sun: 12:00, 18:00, Mon: 16:30, Tue: 19:30, Wed: 16:30, Thu: 19:30

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

SILVER SCREEN - WHISKY GALORE! | PG | 118 MIN

Sun: 14:30
During World War II, the tiny Scottish island of Todday runs out of whisky. When the freighter S.S. Cabinet Minister runs aground nearby during a heavy fog, the islanders are delighted to learn that its cargo consists of 50,000 cases of whisky. When officious English commanding officer Captain Waggett demands return of the liquor, shopkeeper Joseph Macroon and his daughters Peggy and Catriona spearhead an island rebellion.

THE BOSS BABY | U | 120 MIN

Fri: 16:00, Sat: 13:45, Sun: 12:00, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 16:00
The Boss Baby is a hilariously unusual story about how a new baby's arrival impacts a family, told from the point of view of a delightfully unreliable narrator, a wildly imaginative 7 year old named Tim.

Oban Times LEISURE TIMES

Oban Times LEISURE TIMES

Oban Times LEISURE TIMES

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

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

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

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

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

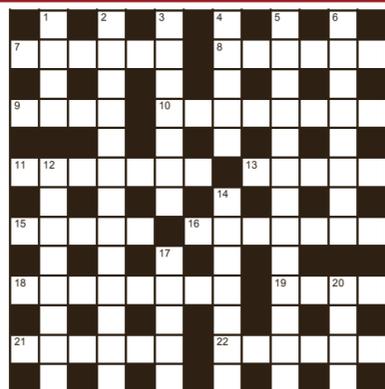
THURSDAY: 08:00 Breakfast with Laura, 10:00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13:00 Elaine's Time Capsule, 15:00 Gordon Covey, 17:00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19:00 Christine's Collection, 21:00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22:00 Margo till midnight, midnight Clyde 2.

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

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

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

THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



Across

- 7 Snow travellers (6)
- 8 Letter (6)
- 9 Spout (4)
- 10 Strict adherence to the law (8)
- 11 Summer-wear (1-6)
- 13 Groom's partner (5)
- 15 Pretense (3-2)
- 16 Land by a road (7)
- 18 Suppurate (8)
- 19 Unending (4)
- 21 Maligner (6)
- 22 Buttonhole (6)

Down

- 1 Of the mallow family, it produces edible pods (4)
- 2 One in need of a dummy (13)
- 3 Set apart (7)
- 4 Acted upon (5)
- 5 Blooming (13)
- 6 Unfair (3-5)
- 12 Achieve with a narrow margin (6,2)
- 14 One behaving primitively (4,3)
- 17 Annoy (5)
- 20 Simple (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Ceòl's Craic Host Gaelictronica Evening

On Saturday June 17 in the Centre for Contemporary Arts on Sauchiehall Street, Ceòl's Craic's annual Gaelictronica event will combine Gaelic vocal and instrumental music with cutting-edge electronica to create a unique fusion of traditional, ambient, and dance sounds.

When the doors open at 8pm, the night will begin with a DJ set by Doktor Robert. Three further acts will feature throughout the evening: Whyte, Ela Orleans, and Inyal. Whyte made their debut at the first Gaelictronica event in 2016.

Composer Ross Whyte and vocalist Alasdair Whyte were brought together by Ceòl's Craic and commissioned to create experimental treatments of ancient Gaelic songs.

In the intervening months, they have recorded and released their first album – and this appearance will mark the end of their Scottish tour.

Ela Orleans is a Polish composer, multi-instrumentalist and singer who uses synthesisers, guitar, violin and piano to create diverse and multi-layered music. She has performed internationally to great acclaim and famous fans include Thurston Moore, Tim Burgess, David Lynch, Ian Rankin and Steven Pastel.

Inyal are establishing a reputation as a phenomenal live act – layering subtle electronics and twisted beats with intricate fiddle and pipes.

The band started 2017 with a spectacular Celtic Connections show at Glasgow's Old Fruitmarket and shortly after their appearance at Ceòl's Craic they will head north to take to the main stage at this year's

Hebceit festival. Tickets for this non-seated, over-18s event are £10 and can be obtained by emailing info@ceolscraic.org.

Clydebank Highland Association Hold AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Clydebank Highland Association was held recently in the Asbestos Group with a warm welcome extended to three new committee members: Graeme and Maureen MacDiarmid, and Ann MacKichan.

Following the ceilidh in aid of Erskine, a donation of £800 has been sent to the home, with many thanks to all who contributed.

Gaberlunzie to play in the Park Bar

As the song goes: 'When the train

reached Glasgow station, it was starting to get dark;

'So we hired a taxi to that famous bar they call The Park!'

This weekend, Gaberlunzie (composers of such classics as *The Park Bar song*, and *The Kishorn Commandos*) will be playing in the Park Bar.

I have been a massive fan of Gaberlunzie ever since I was a little boy (and I am quite a big fan of the Park Bar too!) but, in the five years I have been down in Glasgow, I have never managed to get along to their rare appearances in the pub.

Once again, I am going to miss a great night this weekend.

What's On

Thursday June 1: Glasgow Islay Association Annual General Meeting in Partick Burgh Halls at 7pm.

Wednesday June 7: The Glasgow Skye Association Annual General Meeting in Partick Burgh Hall.

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

Friday June 9: The Glasgow Skye Association End of Session Social in the Redhurst Hotel, Giffnock, at 7.30pm.

Pub Scene

Park Bar.

Friday June 2: Gaberlunzie

Saturday June 3: Deoch 'n' Dorus and Martin Pottinger

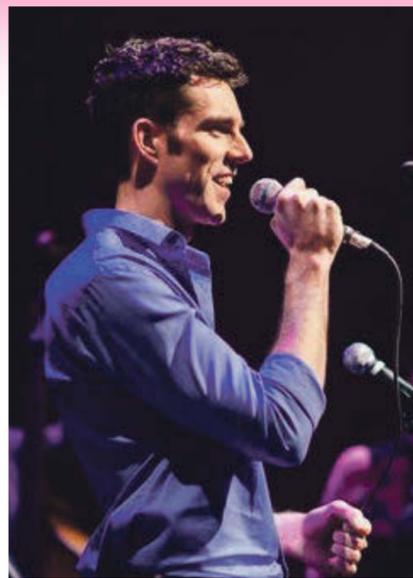
Sunday June 4: Martainn Skene

Islay Inn.

Friday June 2: Crooked Reel.

Saturday June 3: Parting Glass

Sunday June 4: The Deke McGee Band



Alasdair-Whyte_1no

Stòras brings riches from Argyll

Oban Gaelic Choir will take its audience on a musical tour with songs composed over several centuries but with one thing in common, they all originate in Argyll.

Stòras has been several years in the preparation by conductor of 14 years, musician and composer Sileas Sinclair.

Reflecting on how the idea for the concert has developed, Sileas said: 'Argyll has such a long and rich tradition of music and singing that it seemed like the perfect project for Oban Gaelic Choir to bring together a repertoire of these songs in a single performance, in order to celebrate our local Bårdachd and hopefully bring it to a new audience.'

To this end, 10 traditional locally-composed songs have been specially arranged by Sileas for four part choir performance, with many having been performed by the choir

at mòds in recent years at both local and national level.

Sileas's arrangements, full of beautiful choral harmonies and lively rhythms, put the work of Argyll's gaelic Bards in a modern setting, while letting their traditional origins shine through.

The Stòras (Gaelic: 'Riches') repertoire covers a wide range of forms and emotions, from the adoring love of *A' Dhòmhnaill nan Dòmhnall* to the poignant and utterly lovelorn *Gur tu mo Bhean Chomain*; from the individual tragedy of *Maighdean Loch nan Eala*, to the wider laments for lost community of *Cumha Cruachaimn and Taobh Loch Obha*; and from the rousing battle-song *Oran do Bhonaparte* to the haunting piobaireachd-based *Colla mo Rùn*, the Piper's Warning to his Master. Interspersed with these varied pieces are

a sprinkling of up-tempo Puirt-a-Beul and Waulking songs, and a range of individual performances by some of the choir's talented soloists.

Stòras promises to be an evening to remember, as well as the perfect antidote to election fatigue.

Oban Gaelic Choir's showcase 'Stòras' concert takes place next Thursday (June 8), in the Corran Halls.

Conducted by Sileas Sinclair, and accompanied by local musicians Finlay Wells, Archie MacAllister, Lorne MacDougall and Angus MacColl,

The concert begins at 7.30pm; tickets £10, £8, £5 from Oban Music or choir members, or on the door.

There is also a grand raffle, to be drawn at the concert – tickets £1 from choir members or on sale at the concert.

Breabach play Sunart Centre

SCOTTISH five-piece Breabach will be appearing in the Sunart Centre in Strontian next Friday, June 9, before embarking on a Europe-wide tour over the summer.

Voted Folk Band of the Year and Album of the Year at the 2016 Scots Trad Music Awards and twice nominated Best Band at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, Breabach deliver a thrilling and unique brand of contemporary folk music that has earned them international recognition on the world and roots music scene as one of the UK's most dynamic and exciting bands and is sure to be a big hit in Strontian.

Breabach unite the talent of Calum MacCrimmon (pipes/whistles/bouzouki/vocals), Ewan Robertson (guitar/vocals), James Mackenzie (pipes/flute/whistles), Megan Henderson (fiddle/vocals/stepdance) and

James Lindsay (double bass). Since launching their career as winners of the Open Stage Award

at Celtic Connections in 2005, the band has steadily moved from strength to strength, picking up many

accolades along the way. The concert begins at 8pm (doors open 7pm); tickets £12 (OAPs £10,

under-18s £8) and tickets are available online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/sunartcentre or locally.



Fort William's Leisure and Recreation Facility

The Nevis Centre

ELAINE C SMITH

"The fantastic one woman show, as seen on STV!"

BURDZ EYE VIEW

The Nevis Centre, Fort William

Friday 2 June, 8pm

Box Office: 01397 700707 - www.neviscentre.co.uk

Islay Beach Rugby

Get yourself over to Islay for the Annual Islay Beach Rugby Competition on Saturday the 10th of June. Adult mens and ladies teams will gather to do Battle on the Port Ellen Beach for your entertainment. Matches kick-off at 12 noon on Saturday with the final game scheduled to start at 17:00. There will be plenty of top quality local food and drink to accompany the feast of rugby. All sailings to Islay from Kennacraig on Friday will be diverted to Port Ellen. Camping facilities provided.

Islay RFC Juniors and Minis will also demonstrate their skills and entertain

Port Ellen, Islay
1200 - 1720, Sat 10th June

KILCHOMAN

Sat, June 10th

UNIQUELY ISLAY

If you would like to advertise in the Oban Times Leisure section please call 01631 568000

WIN

AN OVERNIGHT STAY IN A FAIRMONT VIEW GUESTROOM FOR TWO ADULTS AND TWO CHILDREN WITH INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY BRUNCH AND SCOTTISH BREAKFAST




With the announcement of the much anticipated International Jazz Sunday Brunch at Fairmont St Andrews this summer, you could be in with a chance to win an incredible prize for the family. Every Sunday this summer enjoy Scotland's best Jazz Brunch. This unlimited, lavish buffet of continental charcuterie, smoked salmon, sushi and sashimi, is complemented by a variety of main dishes ranging from, roasted rib-eye of beef, to a delicious selection of fresh local seafood. A sumptuous choice of home baked pastries and choice of desserts completes this feast, while listening to fantastic live entertainment. The attentive staff are always on hand to create a truly memorable experience.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: On which day of the week is the International Jazz Brunch?

Competition closes on 14 July 2017. Overnight stay valid for Sunday nights only. Voucher must be used by (and including) Sunday 27 August 2017. Bookings are subject to availability. Other T&Cs apply and will be advised on voucher.

To enter, send your name, address, telephone number and email address to Wyvex Media Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL. Closing date is July 14 2017. Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Wyvex Media rules apply. Information will be shared with promoters and sponsors.

ADVERTORIAL

Dogs & families, come hither – Scotland's Gardens Scheme

Calling all dog owners, why not take your beloved family pet on a new and fascinating olfactory adventure?

Be it a Great Dane or a Heinz 57, there are gardens opening for charity which welcome dogs on leads.

Fresh scents and sights of spring, uplifting views for the owners to savour. New, riveting sniffing and tail-wagging for the dogs – at no extra charge. Lots for the kids, too, with meandering paths, lochs, waterfalls and a sticky cake or two to enjoy. A weekend activity for the whole family in one fell swoop. A win, win, win. Woof. Scotland's Gardens Scheme's roots go back to 1931 when its original purpose was to raise funds to support the Queen's Nurses, better known as district nurses. At this time there was no NHS so this support was critical to Scotland's communities.

Openings this weekend, **South of Oban, include Knock Cottage PA31 8RZ** with shrubs, trees, lochan, lily pond and delicious

teas. Drive on to see waterfalls and wildlife of **Crarae PA32 8YA or the Gruffalo Trail at Ardkinglas PA26 8BG**.

North of Oban, you can feed your soul with the peaceful beauty of the gardens of **Fasnacloich, Appin PA38 4BD and Ardchattan Priory and Achnacloich in Connel**.

Find more details in the Scotland's Gardens Scheme Yellow Book or visit us online at www.scotlandsgardens.org. Scotland's Gardens Scheme offer huge thanks to garden owners who work tirelessly to support the wide variety of SGS beneficiaries in Scotland. Without them, none of this would be possible.

Grab your lead, come along and help us dig deep for a great cause. Everyone will need a walk, after all. You won't be disappointed. And nor will they.

Sat/Sun 3/4 June 1.30-5.00pm Knock Cottage, Lochgair PA31 8RZ Specimen rhododendrons and shrubs, woodland, waterfall,

lochan and lily pond. Mature trees include eucalyptus, alder, specimen conifers, acers prunus and beech. Teas. Proceeds to Marie Curie and Christchurch Episcopal Church.

Open nearby is Crarae Garden with an impressive display of rhododendrons, waterfalls, pools and wildlife – red squirrels, otter and pine marten. Also Ardkinglas who sport the only Gruffalo trail in Scotland and the mightiest conifer in Europe!

Sunday 4th June 11.00 – 5.00pm Fasnacloich, Appin PA38 4BD

A 15-acre woodland garden in Glen Creran. Partly laid out in the mid-19th century with structural water features added in the early 20th century. Hybrid and species rhododendrons, azaleas and trees from Eastern Europe, Central Asia and The US. Extensive water features, rhododendrons, azaleas, trees from Europe, Asia and the US. Teas. Proceeds to Mary's Meals.

Open from 9.00am, all year round, **Barguilean's "Angus Garden"**

Taynuilt PA35 1HY. Nine acre woodland garden around an eleven acre loch set in the Glen Lonan Hills. Spring flowering shrubs and bulbs, extensive collection of North American rhododendron hybrids, azaleas, conifers and unusual trees. Three marked walks from 30 minutes to 1.5 hours. Donation to SGS Beneficiaries. Date for your diary: **Sat/Sun 24/25 June Dal An Eas, Kilmore. Oban PA34 4XU** Informal country



Dal-an-Eas

garden with the aim of increasing the biodiversity of native plants and insects while adding interest and colour with introduced trees, shrubs and naturalised perennials. You will see a structured garden and pond, a burn with a pool, a wildflower meadow with five species of native orchid and a vegetable plot. Grass paths lead to waterfalls views and ancient archaeological sites. Teas. Proceeds will go to Mary's Meals.



Ardkinglas



Dal-an-Eas

Care in the Community



Eight Health and Wellbeing Networks across Argyll and Bute are responsible for co-ordinating healthy living messages and making our communities better places to live.

The Networks give out small grants. This year £115,000 is available to support projects on:

- Getting the best start in life
- Working to ensure fairness
- Connecting people with support in their community
- Focusing on wellness not illness

More information on HWN can be found at: www.healthylargyllandbute.co.uk

We are also on facebook at www.facebook.com/healthylargyllandbute

Go on give us a LIKE!



'By the end of her life mum couldn't eat, drink, speak or move anything but her eyes, yet she still wasn't applicable for state funding despite paying taxes and National Insurance all her life. She paid for all her care right until she passed away.'

As part of its United Against Dementia campaign, ahead of Dementia Awareness Week, the charity today publishes the findings from its largest ever consultation with people affected by dementia, Turning Up the Volume: Unheard Voices of People with Dementia conducted with Ipsos MORI.

The report reveals nearly half (47 per cent) of the UK adults aged between 16 and 75 questioned have not started saving for the care and support they might need in the future, and a third (37 per cent) agreed that before being asked, they had not considered the cost of dementia care and support.

When asked whether the government should pay for their care and support if they developed dementia, more than half (54 per cent) of UK adults interviewed agreed that the Government should pay, while just five per cent disagreed.

Jeremy Hughes, chief executive of Alzheimer's Society, said: 'Dementia is a disease, as cancer is a disease, as heart disease is a disease. Getting dementia shouldn't mean families are left bankrupt or destitute with nothing to leave behind.'

'The social care crisis is a dementia crisis. Many people with dementia and their families are buckling under the inordinate pressure of propping up a failing social care system that has been starved of funding for decades. Too many

Leading long, healthy and independent lives in Argyll and Bute

We have a responsibility to look after ourselves; lifestyle choices we make as adults affect our quality of life in old age. Long-term conditions such as diabetes, cancer and heart disease are common and often people have many conditions. Simple lifestyle changes can make a big difference to our health and reduce the chances of getting ill. Healthy living can also help us stay independent for longer. One of the most important things we can do for our health is spend time with people we like. Maintaining social relationships and avoiding being lonely and isolated helps us live longer. Being physically active is another easy remedy to ill-health; just 30 minutes most days of the week is better than any medicine or vitamin. Why not combine the two and join a local walking group, a community garden, sports centre or bowling club? There are lots of activities across Argyll and Bute and many cater for all abilities.

Impossible cost: dementia care bill would take 125 years to save for

An Alzheimer's Society investigation has laid bare the unachievable cost of dementia care, calculating that the typical person's bill for dementia social care would take 125 years to save for.

Successive governments have placed funding of dementia care squarely on the shoulders of people affected, but today's calculation reveals

that even if people pre-emptively saved as they do for their pension, it would be impossible to prepare for. The charity warns the bill will topple 'generation rent', who have fewer assets than previous generations, and are at higher risk of developing dementia as people continue to live longer.

Dementia cannot be cured or effectively treated so it is costly social care, rather than free NHS treatments, that many people with dementia are forced to pay for. Judith from Surrey, whose mum, Joan, had Alzheimer's disease, said: 'My mum ended up spending more than £500,000 on her dementia care. She would be devastated to know her money was gone and she could only leave her grandchildren a fraction of what she had hoped. She was so proud to think they would be sorted financially in the future.'

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS

Lynn of Lorne CARE HOME
www.mckenziecare.com

Lynn of Lorne Care Home provides a superior standard of accommodation and promotes small group living to our residents. Although equipped with every modern comfort, Lynn of Lorne retains an air of unhurried tranquillity, a welcoming atmosphere and a sense of family that ensure residents feel relaxed and at home.

Our highly experienced team offer a level of care that's second-to-none and have an intuitive understanding of hospitality and service ensuring our residents always receive high quality care tailored to their needs.

To find out more about our home or arrange a tour to see what life is like at Lynn of Lorne, call Jennifer Foote on 01631 720 278 or email lynnoflorne@mckenziecare.com

SAMARITANS LET ME SAY IT MY WAY

Talk to us any time you like, in your own way, and off the record – about whatever's getting to you.

116 123 FREE
This number is FREE to call

jo@samaritans.org
samaritans.org

SAMARITANS



Lynn of Lorne

The Lynn of Lorne Care Home offers 61 nursing, residential and respite care beds. Our highly trained staff promote independence, dignity and privacy for each of our residents. The Lynn of Lorne is a home from home for our residents as well and their families. Our in house chef prepares fresh, nutritious meals daily for every palate and the home baking is very popular! Our activities co-ordinators ensure that life at the Lynn of Lorne is as active here as it would be at home with regular concerts and daily activities to suit each individual. The support and company provided here makes such a difference to our residents and visitors which is why our respite services can be a great help throughout the year. We would be delighted to hear from anyone wishing to find out more information. If you would like to find out more, receive a brochure or arrange a visit to the Lynn of Lorne Care Home please call Jennifer Foote on 01631 720278 or email lynnoflorne@mckenziecare.com We are also currently recruiting nurses and care assistants.'

IT'S OKAY TO TALK ABOUT CANCER

WE ARE MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Finding out that you or someone close to you has cancer can be a difficult and confusing time. There's bound to be a lot on your mind, and you may find it helpful to talk with someone who understands what you're going through. That's why we're here to help support you, so you don't have to face it alone.

Who we are
Our volunteers will be there to listen to your worries and concerns and offer free, confidential support – whether you've been diagnosed with cancer, or you're a family member or carer. They can also point you in the direction of other sources of support where needed.

How we can help
We are able to provide:

- time to listen and talk in a comfortable and private space
- leaflets and booklets on all aspects of living with and beyond cancer
- access to the internet and support to access reliable cancer information
- the opportunity to discuss treatments, side effects and other cancer related issues.

We also offer

- signposting to counselling and complementary therapies
- access to practical information, such as how to get to hospital
- help to access a wide range of other support services.

Services in Argyll & Bute:

Drop in Monday
Helensburgh Library 1.15pm - 3pm

Drop in Tuesday
Dunoon Library 11am - 1.00pm

Drop in Tuesday
Rothsay Library 11am - 1.00pm

Drop in Wednesday
Oban Library 2.15pm - 4.15pm

Drop in Thursday
Campbeltown Library 1.00pm - 3.00pm

For more information, contact us:
Telephone **01586 555 932**
Email: macmillan@argyll-bute.gov.uk
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/macmillan

This is a drop in service, so no appointment is necessary.

No one should face cancer alone.
For support, information or if you just want to chat, call Macmillan free on **0808 808 00 00** (Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm) or visit macmillan.org.uk

NHS Highland **TSI** **Argyll & Bute Council**

Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (904).
Printed using sustainable material. Please recycle.

'It's easy to talk to volunteers and nice to know people understand what you've been through.'
Service user

Sometimes people need extra help. The unexpected happens or disability or illness strikes. And, as loved ones inevitably grow older, a bit of assistance is often needed. Asking for help is the first step, and easy to do with a wide selection of products and services available locally.

Seniors often need assistance with day to day chores, home maintenance or routines. They take medications on a schedule. Dementia is especially troubling to deal with. Even when adult children are nearby to provide assistance, busy lives make it nearly impossible to keep up. Trained professional services and home carers are available to do this, allowing the elderly to stay in their own homes and adult children to get the professional assistance they need in caring for their loved ones, whether on a semi-regular basis or 24 hours a day.

Physically or mentally disabled children and adults can benefit from professional home care as well. Experienced carers can not only assist at home, they can take clients on outings and help them pursue their interests,

whether it is bird watching or music sessions.

Carers Week 2017 will take place June 12-18. The focus this year is on building Carer Friendly Communities, which support carers to look after their loved ones well, while recognising that they are individuals with needs of their own. The campaign is brought to life by the individuals and organisations that come together to organise activities and events throughout the UK, drawing attention to just how important caring is – after all, one in eight people in Scotland are caring for a loved one and those who provide care are more likely to become permanently sick or disabled themselves.

Successful relationships are hard work. But sometimes even hard work isn't enough, when there are changes within the family, addiction issues, death or financial crisis. Counselling allows family members or couples to talk about their feelings and problems with a trained, neutral professional in a confidential environment. Counsellors can help people deal with negative thoughts and situations and help heal family rifts, so there is no need to suffer.

The statistics on domestic violence are sobering. A domestic violence incident is recorded every 10 minutes in Scotland. At least one in five women in Scotland will

experience domestic abuse, and one in three teenage girls suffer an unwanted sexual act. These things are nothing to be ashamed about or keep hidden. Local organisations are there to listen and provide solutions, whether a victim needs to get safely out of a situation immediately or counselling for emotional trauma.

There doesn't have to be an emergency situation for a person to reach out. Clinical depression is a medical condition, not just feeling blue, and can be treated as such. Or sometimes life gets overwhelming and people just need someone to talk with. Whatever the case, suffering in silence is not the answer. One telephone call can be the first step to a happy, healthy life.



people are forced to give up everything they own in order to care day in and day out for their mother, father, husband or wife.

'Repeatedly, governments have failed to put a long-term plan in place. On behalf of people with dementia, I challenge the next government to create a long-term, sustainable system for funding dementia care. Currently, many people with dementia feel deserted by the state, and must rely on family members and carers for the support they need.'

Turning Up the Volume: Unheard Voices of People with Dementia is an unprecedented look at what it is like to live with dementia now, bringing together the views of more than 3,850 people with dementia, carers and the public, in a series of in-depth interviews and face-to-face and online surveys.

The report also shed light on the poor quality of care which is unacceptable. A carer interviewed said: 'The care at home wasn't working right. They couldn't always feed them in the time they had, so very often they [parents] hadn't either eaten or drunk. They [the carers] didn't always

have time to change the bedding. They would either forget to do the meds or miss the meds. One time there was a note left to say, "Derek, this is your meds" and he'd never in a month of Sundays remember.'

The report revealed there is still an ongoing stigma around the condition, and that a sense of hopelessness surrounds a dementia diagnosis. It highlights how people can lose their sense of self, independence and the ability to live the life they want. However, when people with dementia are supported and can access the right care and information, it showed they are able to live fulfilled lives.

Last month Alzheimer's Society launched its biggest ever campaign calling on the public to set aside their differences – from age to tastes and social standing to political allegiances – and unite in the fight against dementia, as it is set to become the 21st century's biggest killer.

With this report's new insight into what it means for people with dementia, it is more urgent than ever that the public unites and joins the dementia movement at alzheimers.org.uk.

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Do you care? We can help
Carers Week 2017 runs from June 12-18

Carers Week is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities.

Come and visit us at North Argyll Carers Centre and find out more of what we do to support carers across Oban, Lorn and the isles.

We currently offer ongoing one to one support, weekly coffee morning, therapies, counselling, support groups, social outings, respite opportunities, training and activities, a young carers service, and offer support to carers living in rural and remote areas. We can also offer Carer Support Plans to support you in your caring role.

During Carers Week we will be launching our Carers Photography Exhibition Who Cares? At Waterstones from 2pm on Monday June 12. We have our regular weekly coffee morning on Tuesday June 13 from 11am. On Wednesday June 14 we will have Heather Noller from Carers Trust talking about the new Carers Act and what it will mean for carers.

On Friday June 15 we will have a film show of Mairi Fleck's Trip to Nepal from 1.30pm.

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We are delighted to announce that funding has been provided by the Life Changes Trust, an independent charity set up with a Big Lottery Fund endowment of £50 million to improve the lives of two key groups in Scotland: people affected by dementia and care experienced young people.

Our grant will be used to improve the homes, independence and confidence of people living with dementia, ensuring that they receive equipment and adaptations to assist them to continue to live independently within their own homes for as long as possible.

For people living with dementia, the need for equipment or adaptations can arise from a change in how they perceive their surroundings as a symptom of dementia – a flat path may appear slanted or a patterned carpet could cause dizziness and disorientation. Adaptations can range from fitting handrails, improving lighting, changing floor coverings,

removal or repositioning of mirrors, mounting signage on doors to give clearer direction and highlighting light switches and electrical sockets. Small changes to the home environment like these have been shown to reduce falls, accidents and confusion. This can lead to an increase in confidence and independence, and even better physical health.

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Last year we assisted 69 people to live more independently and safely in their own homes and we hope to increase this number this year.

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United Auctions takes on running of Oban centre

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

UNITED Auctions will replace Caledonian Marts in running Oban Livestock Centre, shareholders decided at their AGM in the Upper Soroba mart on Tuesday.

Oban Livestock Centre (OLC), a co-operative, has been operated by Caledonian Marts of Stirling since 1996, but earlier this year OLC's directors put the running of the business up for tender.

They attracted bids from five auction companies, including one from Caledonian Marts to stay, but they unanimously chose United Auctions (UA) as the preferred bidder, ahead of runners-up Longtown-based C and D Auction Marts.

UA, which currently runs livestock markets in Dalmally, Tiree, Islay, South Uist, Stirling, Huntly, and Lairg, changed ownership in February to a consortium of Donald Young, Christopher Sharp, George Purves, and John Roberts.

OLC chairman Duncan Buchanan explained: 'With decreasing stock numbers and Brexit looming, it was time to put it to tender. We are looking to increase the through-put in Oban. OLC is making profit, but we want to make its profit secure. UA would be a safer bet.'



Left to right: OLC chairman Duncan Buchanan, secretary John MacGregor, directors Edward Gully, John Carmichael, Caroline Ronald and Hugh MacPhail, and United Auctions' group sales director Donald Young and administration director Christopher Sharp.

OLC board member Neil McCorkindale said some were dissatisfied with Caledonian Marts. 'We were hearing rumbling of low stock numbers and high commission rates. We all decided UA should take OLC forward. 'Is there enough livestock to cover two auction companies in the West of Scotland? Inviting a new company is cutting the cake another way. UA run most island auctions. They are not the company that sold OLC out 20 years ago.'

The decision would be controversial, he explained, after UA reportedly 'back-tracked' on its offer to assist in building Oban's livestock market two decades ago. 'To spite them, we raised money to build our own market,' he said. 'It has been a huge success. A lot of water has gone under the bridge. We are confident this will secure OLC for the future.'

Shareholders met to make the final decision at the OLC's AGM on Tuesday May 30. One began by saying OLC was 'a difficult situation', since Dalmally was 25 miles closer to Stirling at 'the centre of things'. If sellers and buyers did not materialise, Mr Buchanan said, 'five years down the line we will have two more companies interested'. Another asked if UA guaranteed it would still be the operator in five years. 'Yes,' replied Mr Buchanan, adding: 'They cannot sell the market: it is our market.'

Donald Young, a UA director and owner, gave a short presentation. 'We are not going to run away in two years or 10 years,' he said. 'We are looking to be here in 20. As long as you want us, we want you.'

Commission rates at Oban, Dalmally and the islands would be 4.5 per cent, he stated, compared to 3.75 per cent at Stirling and Huntly. Responding to concerns over a lack of competition, he added: 'What we want is competition around that ring. We want to get the stock in the sales, and get the buyers to the sales, to get you the prices you need.'

Mr Buchanan asked for agreement, or a vote for UA versus 'another operator', telling one shareholder: 'If you want another operator, the board will have to stand down. You will have to speak to them yourself. Our directors were appointed to direct.'

Other bidders were not invited to speak, he revealed: 'They disclosed information to us they did not want in the public domain.'

Another shareholder said: 'I do not approve of UA. If that is the directors' decision, that is fine by me. But we will be watching UA.'

OLC director Edward Gully appealed: 'We have to thank Caledonian Marts. We made the right decision 20 years ago. This is not the time to start to gamble with our market. We are going into uncertain times. [This] will lead to bigger through-put, and better sales.'

Around the markets

FORT WILLIAM, Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd, on Friday May 26 sold 113 store cattle, 19 OTM cattle, 11 adult head of breeding cattle, and 603 sheep.

Bullocks (66) averaged 251.0p and sold to 297.0p per kilo for a 165kg Charolais cross from Moy Farm, Banavie, and £995 gross a pen of 415kg Charolais crosses also from Moy Farm. Heifers (47) averaged 231.5p and sold to 261.5p per kilo for a 260kg Limousin cross from Antium, Isle of Mull, and £1,015 gross for a 480kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Strathlinnie, Fort William.

OTM cows (19) averaged 123.1p and sold to 156.0p per kilo for an 545kg Shorthorn cross from Kengharair, Isle of Mull, and £1,070 gross for a 725kg Charolais cross from Strathlinnie. Breeding cattle (11) sold to £1,500 gross for an Aberdeen Angus bull from Glendoe Estate, Fort Augustus.

Store lambs (297) sold to £87 gross for Texel crosses from Meall Mo Chridhe, Kilchoan. Ewes with lambs at foot (146) sold to £132 gross thrice for Suffolk cross ewes with triplet Suffolk cross lambs at foot, Cheviot ewes with twin Suffolk cross lambs at foot from Meall Mo Chridhe and also for a Cheviot ewe with twin cross lambs at foot from Drumbuie, Drumadrochit.

Feeding ewes (130) sold to £78 gross for a Texel from Balmagaster, Spean Bridge (Cameron). Feeding rams and wedders (30) sold to £65 gross for a cross wedder from Alcan Highland Estate. 'All classes met an extremely firm trade.'

Other leading prices per head and per kilo: Bullocks up to 200kg - Moy Farm, £490, Greenfield, Invergarry, 221.6p; 201-250kg - Ardnamurchan Estate, Kilchoan, £680, Moy Farm, 295.6p; 251-300kg - South Laggan, Spean Bridge, £790, Antium, 292.3p; 301-350kg - Moy Farm, £855, Monessie Farm, Roy Bridge, 275.8p; 351-400kg - Balmagaster, (Cameron), £940, 247.4p.

Heifers up to 250kg - Keppoch Farms, Roy Bridge, £590, Insh Farm, Spean Bridge, 246.5p; 251-300kg - 2/3 Kinloids, Arisaig, £750, Antium, 259.3p; 301-350kg - Balmagaster, (Cameron), £880, 255.1p; 351-400kg - Rychraggan Farm, Drumadrochit, £835, Moy Farm, 233.8p; 401-450kg - Moy Farm, £900, 211.8p; 451-500kg - 72 Camaghael, Fort William, £940, Strathlinnie, 211.5p.

Other leading prices per head: Cows with male calf at foot: LimX - Kengharair, £1,000; Bsho - Insh Farm, £940. Cows with heifer calf at foot: AAX - 72 Camaghael, £1290; LimX - Tigh Airigh, Fort William, £910. Breeding bull: Lim - Lochunagan, Fort Augustus, £1080.

OTM prime & feeding cows: Ardnornish Farm, Oban, (AAX), £1050; Strathlinnie, (CharX), £1010; Moy Farm, (SimX), £970. Other leading prices per kilo OTM prime & feeding cows: Kengharair, (ShoX), 151.3p; Strathlinnie, (CharX), 147.6p; Moy Farm, (SimX), 141.6p.

Other leading prices per head: Lambs: Chev - Balmagaster, (Cameron), £86; Cross - 12 Aultgrishan, Gairloch, £75; BF - Drumgask, Laggan, £69. Ewes with lambs at foot: Chev ewe - Benhaint, Kilchoan, £130; LynX ewe - 72 Camaghael, £128; SuffX gnr - 72 Camaghael, £122; Cross ewe - Balmagaster, (Cameron), £120.

Ewes: LynX - 72 Camaghael, £71; Chev & Balmacaaan, Drumadrochit, £65; SuffX - Balmacaaan, £63; Cross -

Isle of Muck Farms, £60. Feeding sheep: Suff - Meall Mo Chridhe, £62; Cross - Alcan Highland Estates, £55; BF - 5 Treslaig, £55; Chev - Insh Farm, £50.

STIRLING, Caledonian Marts, Monday May 22 saw 204 breeding cattle sold. An excellent entry of cattle forward both for numbers and quality sold to one of the largest ringside of buyers ever to be seen at this centre which resulted in all classes easily sold. Heifers with calves averaged £3,117 (a record).

Cows with calves averaged £1,212. Bulling heifers averaged £1,191 (a record). Cows in-calf averaged £716. The judge was R Semple, Netherpton, Dalrymple. Champion Heifer with calf came from Craig Malone, Pitcairn, Cardenden which made £5000 purchased by James Mather on behalf of Haasside Farms, Lockerbie. Reserve Champion also came from Craig Malone selling at £3800 to the judge R Semple, Netherpton, Dalrymple. 3rd prize Heifer from John McAlister, West Thomaston, Banknock made £5000 to Brian Harper, Greenwells, Falkirk.

Leading prices outwith prize list Heifers with calves £5,100 Pitcairn £4,800 West Thomaston £4,600 Learielaw £4,100 West Thomaston £4,000 Learielaw £3,300 West Thomaston £3,100 & £3,000 Pitcairn & West Thomaston Cows with Calves £1,900 Flemington £1,700 & £1,650 (three times) Hawkhill, Auchenblae £1,550 (twice) Hawkhill £1,400 Taylorton, Over Hillhouse and Hawkhill £1,280 Blaircressnock Bulling Heifers Lim - £2,200, £1,800 & £1,600 Segarsdean Sim - £1,350 & £1,300 Over Hillhouse Lim - £1,300 Glenside (Stranraer) High x Sim - £1,300 Ashmore & Strone Estates AAX - £1,200 Glenside

DINGWALL, the ninth Luing spring sale was held at Dingwall Mart on May 17 with buyers from Orkney to Yorkshire travelling for the opportunity to purchase. The sale judges were Jim and Jonathan Caygill, Rystone, Skipton. Results:

In-Calf Luing Heifers 1st - F S Renwick, Lochbroom Luing Bulling Heifers 1st - Messrs Scott Farming Co Ltd, Sutherland 2nd - J, J & R Cameron, Monzie Luing Yearling Heifers 1st - Mr M.J. McCall, Kilbrora Sim-Luing Yearling Heifers 1st - M Thomson, Tillyrie In-calf Luing heifers topped 1,500gns with an average of £1,365. Luing bulling heifers sold to 1,900gns for a pair from F S Renwick, Lochbroom, selling to A & C Matheson, Upper Bogrow. Average £1,458. Yearling Luings averaged £968 to top 1,050gns for Welbeck Scottish Farm. Yearling Sim-Luings topped at 1,150gns to average £1,208 for Mr M Thomson, Tillyrie.

Cows and calves sold with a top of 1,800gns with a homebred cow with heifer calf from Mr M.J. McCall, Kilbrora to Firm of Ernest Crawford, Balmagaster. Bulls sold with a top of 5,500gns for Nunnerie Topper bred by C.C. MacAthur. Bulls averaged £3,885.

Crofters must 'stand up with one voice'

THE Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) has written to all the main party leaders asking them to outline their intentions for agriculture and rural development policy in the lead-up to the general election.

SCF chairman Russell Smith said: 'What happens to agriculture and rural development post-Brexit depends very much on the outcome of the national elections and the intentions of the parties that will hold power, both in the UK and in Scotland. 'There are fundamental issues to think about, such as the devolution of decision-making and the size of budget, and how that budget will be allocated. A major concern is with trade agreements and what Scotland's relationship with the European Union will be.'

Mr Smith continued: 'There is the bigger picture of agricultural and rural development in the UK and consequently in Scotland, and there are the more specific issues around crofting that will be of great concern to crofters at this time. Who ultimately will have the say on what crofting-specific support there will be? 'We are worried that crofting will be further consumed into general commercial agriculture when crofting is clearly distinct; it has its own benefits to offer and its own constraints to contend with. 'We cannot afford to be complacent and think that what will be will be - crofters have to stand up as one voice and make the parties aware so that crofting-friendly commitments are included in party manifestos.'

Applications have declined since last year, announced the cabinet secretary for rural economy, Fergus Ewing MSP. 'So far we have received a provisional total of 19,862 applications for 2017 CAP payments before the deadline,' he said.

'We have had an increase in on-line applications. We have been investing in improving the system and figures show it was available for 98 per cent of the application window. 'There has been a slight overall decrease in applications, continuing the trend in recent years. We believe this may be a combination

NFUS urges government to set timetable for CAP payments

FARMERS need a clear timetable for payments to plan their cashflows next year, a Scottish union has told Holyrood, after IT problems again beset CAP applications.

Applications have declined since last year, announced the cabinet secretary for rural economy, Fergus Ewing MSP. 'So far we have received a provisional total of 19,862 applications for 2017 CAP payments before the deadline,' he said.

'We have had an increase in on-line applications. We have been investing in improving the system and figures show it was available for 98 per cent of the application window. 'There has been a slight overall decrease in applications, continuing the trend in recent years. We believe this may be a combination



Fergus Ewing.

of changes to eligibility and some individuals with a very small payment deciding not to apply. 'For those who wish to make an application but have not met the deadline, it is still possible to submit a claim, which will be subject to a modest penalty reduction. 'I can assure farmers and crofters that we continue to work

on the application site to make it as easy as possible to submit your SAF online.'

NFU Scotland president Andrew McCornick said: 'It is encouraging so many Scottish farmers and crofters have successfully met the SAF 2017 deadline of May 15. Due to IT problems, deadline extensions were necessary in both 2015 and 2016, but the improvement in the application process is welcome. 'With the May 15 deadline met and the application process a month ahead of where we were last year and the year before, we want the Scottish Government to build on that momentum and quickly issue a clear and accurate payments timetable to farmers and crofters to allow them to plan their expected cashflows in the year ahead.'

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21,000 Scots could face up to a total £22.6m rent gap from planned under-35s LHA cap – interim report suggests

AN ESTIMATED 21,000 social tenants across Scotland aged under 35 could potentially be adversely affected by UK Government plans to cap housing benefit for social housing tenants from April 2019, collectively facing a rent affordability gap of up to £22.6 million annually. This is a key conclusion of an interim report on the impact of the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) cap on young people in Scotland, commissioned by the Scottish Government in conjunction with the Chartered Institute of Housing in Scotland and submitted this week to the Scottish Parliament Public Petitions Committee. A final report exploring the potential to mitigate against the impact of LHA restrictions is due to be completed this summer. Since October 2015, the UK

Government has made various proposals and amendments to cap Housing Benefit or the housing element of Universal Credit for social housing tenants at LHA rates, including for those living in supported or temporary accommodation. The proposals are intended to bring payments for social housing tenants in line with those living in the private rented sector. Legislation to implement these proposals has yet to be introduced. However, as the proposals currently stand, single people under 35 years of age will see their allowance capped at the Shared Accommodation Rate (SAR).

Comparing DWP claimant data on average awards received by young Housing Benefit claimants with the Shared Accommodation



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Rate produces an annual estimated rent gap across Scotland of £22.8m. This takes into account mainstream tenants and those living in temporary or supported accommodation. While some tenants living in specialist accommodation may be protected from the cap, it is not yet clear what exemptions will be made or how much funding will be available to plug this gap.

Housing association rents are typically higher than local authorities' and so will be affected more by the proposed LHA cap. Using data from DWP awards and the recent supported accommodation review suggests that around 14,000, or 65 per cent of mainstream young social tenants might be affected. This excludes an estimated 7,000 young people in

supported accommodation for whom additional support or exemptions may be available.

The interim report has been submitted to the Scottish Parliament Public Petitions Committee following the lodging of a public petition on the Local Housing Allowance by petitioner Sean Clarkin in March 2017. The petition calls for the Scottish Government to bring forward a debate on the planned LHA cap which it dubs 'bedroom tax 2'.

Commenting on the findings of the interim report, CIH Scotland Executive Director Annie Mauger said: 'Identifying how we might mitigate against the negative

impact of the LHA cap on younger social tenants is an ongoing work in progress and a final report will be published at the end of July. But this interim report clearly shows the potential scale of the problem across Scotland. The intention behind this report is to be

able to show exactly how social tenants aged under 35 will be affected and hopefully to exert some additional pressure on the UK Government to change its plans before they are due to enter into force in April 2019.'

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LANDLORDS FACE STEEP PENALTIES FOR GAS SAFETY NON-COMPLIANCE



An annual gas safety check must be carried out by a Gas Safe Registered tradesperson.

The inspection, which normally takes no longer than a couple of hours, can be carried out with or without the tenant present. As a landlord, you must record the date of the check, along with the results of it. You must provide your tenants with a copy of this report within 28 days of the visit. If the report has identified any faults or issues, you as a landlord have a legal obligation to get these repaired as soon as possible. Not adhering to these gas safety requirements is a criminal offence that could warrant a fine, or in serious cases a prison sentence. Penalties for non-compliance range from a £6,000 fine per offence and/or six months' imprisonment. To ensure compliance with your responsibilities and ensure the safety of your tenants and property, gas safety checks must be completed every year. At West we arrange and oversee all safety checks and compliance matters for our landlords, giving them complete peace of mind.

For landlords in the private rental sector, gas safety is more than just a matter of compliance or non-compliance; it's a matter of life and death. Failure to maintain and repair gas appliances can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning, which could result in manslaughter charges being brought against a landlord who demonstrated negligence by failing to organise the necessary gas safety checks. Last year, a landlord in England received a suspended six-month prison sentence for failing to arrange a gas safety check for two years, and was deemed by the HSE to have put the lives of his tenants at risk.

So how can you remain compliant? Landlords should conduct due diligence and take all necessary steps to ensure the property is safe for habitation at all times:

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W PROPERTIES FOR SALE & TO LET

West

CORRY FARMHOUSE, ISLE OF MULL

- Detached farmhouse and 2 outbuildings with planning permission
 - Spectacular sea views over the Sound of Mull
 - Excellent holiday let potential
 - Set in 14 acres of land
 - EPC Rating - D65
- OIEO £480,000

This traditional detached farmhouse is situated within approx. 14 acres, above the Sound of Mull with far reaching views in all directions. Upon entering the property through the front door, the central hall leads to a cosy sitting room, complete with wood-burning stove, ideal for those chilly winter nights! The kitchen diner leads, through patio doors, to a large conservatory to the front of the property where you can make the most of this fabulous setting, watching the ferries sail up the Sound of Mull and looking for the islands famous sea eagles!

LONGSDALE TERRACE, OBAN

- Two bedroom flat
 - Deposit & References Required
 - Landlord Reg No. 163016/130/24420
 - EPC Rating - D69
 - Council Tax Band B
 - AVAILABLE END JUNE
- £255 PCM

A first floor two bedroom flat on Longsdale Terrace, Oban. The part-furnished accommodation comprises of Lounge (with access to a private balcony), Kitchen (inc. all white goods), 2 double bedrooms (with large amounts of storage), family bathroom, hall cupboard. Outside there is a large stairwell storage cupboard and a shared drying green to the rear. Electric storage heating & double glazing throughout. Parking is on street closely.

SOROKA LODGE, OBAN

- Detached House
 - 5 bedrooms/4 Reception Rooms
 - Elevated views above Oban
 - Recently redecorated throughout
 - Private location
 - EPC Rating - E41
- OIRO £360,000

Originally a shooting lodge dating back to the mid 1800's, reputed to have been owned and extended by Robert Buchanan, the poet and author of "The Land of the Lorne" between 1868-74, this spacious property enjoys a secluded position with elevated views across Oban. The property boasts a multitude of reception rooms and spacious layout, whilst retaining many of its traditional features. The property is accessed via the front porch in a spacious entrance hall.

WATERFALL COTTAGE, TAYNUILT

- Available for Winter Let Only
 - EPC Rating - F31
 - Landlord Registration - 477329/130/29391.
- £625 PCM

"WINTER LET" Large Private 3 bedroom bungalow in Taynuilt. This beautiful home has been a high standard holiday let and will be available full furnished. It has 3 double bedrooms, 2 reception rooms a shower room and a bathroom. The lounge area is spacious with an open fire and a lovely view. Large garden and parking facilities this property is off the main road in a secluded area. Council Tax (E) and Utilities (Oil) heating not included in the rent.

A'CHALLTUINN, TOBERMORY

- Spacious detached bungalow
 - 4 Bedrooms / 1 Bathrooms
 - Quiet and private situation in Tobermory
 - Sheltered private garden
 - Excellent family home or potential holiday rental
 - EPC Rating - C70
- OIRO £215,000

A'challtuinn offers an opportunity to purchase a spacious family home in a popular residential area in Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. Situated in a generous plot the property comprises a bright and spacious lounge, dining area, kitchen, 4 bedrooms and a bathroom (with separate shower and bath).

BELLVUE APARTMENTS, OBAN

- One Bedroom flat
 - Unfurnished with white goods provided
 - Shared off road parking available
 - EPC Rating - D56
- £300 PCM

One bedroom unfurnished flat with modern decor, located in Oban town centre. The accommodation comprises of 1 double bedroom, separate WC and shower rooms, open plan lounge & kitchen. The kitchen includes a built in hob & oven microwave, washing machine & fridge. Council Tax TBC. Electric heating throughout. References and Deposit required. Landlord Reg. Numbers: 43971/130/10230 & 143974/130/10390. AVAILABLE NOW.

LERAGS, OBAN

- Spacious detached bungalow
 - 3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
 - Stunning Loch Views
 - Large 1.1 acre garden
 - Detached garage with workshop/office
 - EPC Rating - E51
- OIRO £280,000

A spacious three bedroom detached bungalow located in the beautiful Lerags Glen only a 10-minute drive south of Oban. Enjoying stunning loch views and an elevated secluded position, the bungalow would make an ideal family home or holiday let investment. The bright and spacious lounge - complete with wood burning stove - and adjacent sun room both enjoy fine views across fields and woodland towards Loch Feochan.

STEVENSON STREET, OBAN

- Deposit & references required.
 - Rent excludes council tax and utilities.
 - Council Tax Band B.
 - EPC Rating - C79
 - Landlord Reg No. 362579/130/02211
 - Available from July
- £500 PCM

A modern 1 bedroom flat located on Stevenson Street, Oban. The unfurnished flat is comprised of combined lounge and kitchen area with spiral staircase to a large mezzanine floor which could be used as a guest bedroom or office. There is a family bathroom, hall storage cupboard and double bedroom with built in wardrobes. The let includes white goods (washing machine, fridge, freezer and tumble dryer) in the kitchen but the rest of the property is unfurnished.

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With a variety of competitive offers to choose from, including Personal Contract Payment plans, the Corsa is a fantastic option to get young drivers on the road.

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Recirculation Unit - Lochailort Hatchery Technician

Salary - £18,485 to £23,451

plus overtime/alarm payments

Due to the current incumbent moving to another post within the Company, a role now exists for a Hatchery Technician at our Recirculation Unit in Lochailort.

The role is focused upon care of the eggs prior to hatching and also effective fish husbandry of the fry and smolts. Applications would be particularly welcome from candidates who have some experience in freshwater operations; however this is not essential as full training and support would be provided.

The chosen applicant will be part of a large team so must be self-motivated and have good communication skills. Beyond the nature of the role, the post holder would be expected to undertake over-time as required in order to accommodate the business needs of the Unit and, for the same reason, would be part of the site Alarm Rota which would involve staying in the hatchery accommodation. The working pattern is any 5 days from 7.

A driving license is essential.

If you are interested in applying for this vacancy, please submit an application in writing with details of relevant experience, by the closing date of Friday 9th June 2017 to: Gillian Dempster, Human Resources Advisor, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Stob Ban House, Glen Nevis Business Park, Fort William, PH33 6RX.

Email: gillian.dempster@marineharvest.com

Marine Husbandry Staff

Locations: Sound of Mull & Loch Nevis

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Experienced Husbandry Staff

Salary £18,275 - £21,500 + Weekend Payments & Training Increments

Applicants should have at least 2 years' practical salmon farming experience. You should be able to demonstrate competence across a wide range of farming disciplines including: fish health monitoring, stock appetite assessment, boat handling skills, feeding system and boat maintenance whilst being proactive in health and safety. Above all you should have the drive and ambition to further your career through training and development. A formal boat qualification would be desirable.

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Salary £17,700 - £18,275 + Overtime Payments

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A current driving licence is essential.

We are also recruiting for seasonal staff on our marine farms between April and October.

To find out more please contact Angela Hand, Recruitment & HR Coordinator on 01786 445521 or email angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com for an application pack.

Closing date: Friday 9th June 2017



Administration Assistant Lochgilhead

Salary £16,574 - £19,498 per annum

35 hours per week - fixed term to April 2019

For more information contact Lachlan Wood on 01546 605832 or email lachlan.wood@acha.co.uk

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 9th June 2017

Interviews will be held in Lochgilhead on 26th June 2017.

Property relocation assistant Campbeltown

Salary £16,574 - £19,498 pro rata

24 hours per week - fixed term 2 years

For more information, please contact Yvonne Angus, Regional Manager on 01546 605800 or email yvonne.angus@acha.co.uk

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 16th June 2017

Interviews will be held in Campbeltown on 27 June 2017

AHFA Electrician 2 posts, Argyll-wide

Salary £25,519 - £30,023

37.5 hours per week - permanent

Closing Date: 12 noon Friday 16 June 2017.

Interviews will be held in Inveraray on 30th June.

AHFA Joiner 2 x eastern Argyll

Salary £21,127 - £24,853

37.5 hours per week - permanent

Closing date: 12 noon Friday 9 June

Interview will be held in Inveraray on 20 June 2017.

For more information please contact Lee Holness (west) 01546 605815 lee.holness@ahfa.co.uk or Lynne Stokes (east) 01546 605 834 lynne.stokes@ahfa.co.uk

For further details and to apply visit the recruitment section of our website www.acha.co.uk

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Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

Proposed Division of a Grazings Share

Mr Ronald Hogg, Blackmill croft, Taynult is applying to divide the Blackmill croft grazing share in the Airds, Kirkton & Balindore Common Grazings into two parts.

If you have an interest, in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

Proposed Division of a Croft by Owner-occupier Crofter

Mr Ronald Hogg is applying to divide the owner-occupied croft at Blackmill, Ardchattan & Muckairn into two new crofts.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@croftingscotland.gov.uk by 29th June 2017.

Proposed Division of a Croft by Owner-occupier Crofter

Mr Ewen & Mrs Lorraine MacPherson are applying to divide their owner-occupied croft at Glenegedale Moor, Kildalton, Islay, Argyll into two new crofts.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@croftingscotland.gov.uk by 29th June 2017.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times

First Registration of a Croft

Mrs JESmith has registered their croft Lochdonhead, Lochdonhead, Pennygown & Torosay on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 16 Feb 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4044

First Registration of a Croft

Mrs M Black has registered their croft Seaview, Gribun, Kilfinichen & Kilveckeon on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 12 Feb 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4037

Amended Registration of a Croft

Mrs Anne Catherine M E McLaren has amended the registration boundaries of the croft 19 and 20 North Ballachish on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 18th February 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2678.

First Registration of a Croft

Mrs Rhona Murray and Ms Phillipa Clare Ramsden have registered their croft Killeen, Killeen, 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 18th February 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is A0941.

First Registration of a Croft

Duncan Clark has registered his croft Cuiulaine, Ardchattan & Muckairn 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 24, 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4075.

Argyll and Bute Council

KIRK ROAD, DUNBEG IMPROVEMENTS – PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENT

A public information drop-in event on proposals for improvements to Kirk Road in Dunbeg will be held on Thursday 1 June. It will take place in Dunbeg Primary School from 4pm to 7pm. The event will provide further information about the council's proposals to upgrade the road, such as design.

Interested parties are invited to drop in at any point during the three hours to meet the council team behind the project, find out more about what is involved, and ask questions.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

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Argyll and Bute Council

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

(QUEENS PARK PLACE, STATION ROAD AND RAILWAY STATION ACCESS ROAD, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

On Monday 29th May 2017, 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 10th June 2017.

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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Argyll and Bute Council

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES AND CHARGES) (ISLE OF MULL) ORDER 2017

NOTICE is hereby given that on Monday 29th May 2017, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under the relevant sections of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended. The Order, which comes into operation on 17th July 2017, introduces parking charges all year round in the long ferry off street car parks in Fionnphort, Isle of Mull.

A copy of the Order as made and plans relative thereto are available for inspection on the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk or can be viewed during normal office hours at the following locations:

- (i) Post Office, The Ferry Shop, Fionnphort, Isle of Mull;
- (ii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Breadalbane Street, Tobermory, Isle of Mull;
- (iii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmony, Lochgilphead.

Any person, who wishes to question the validity of the Order or any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that any requirement of that Act or any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, may, within six weeks from 2nd June 2017 apply to the Court of Session for this purpose.

Jim Smith, Head of Roads & Amenity Services 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

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Lochaber Fisheries Trust Ltd
SC:024490
Will hold their
A.G.M on Friday 23rd June, 2016
Torlundy Training Centre, Torlundy,
at 10.30am.

Proposed Let of a Croft

Mr David Craig is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at Lettershuna No1, Appin to Patricia Aimee Johnston of Lettershuna Lodge, Appin, Argyll, PA38 4BN.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail: info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of this advert. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.



THE HEART OF THE HERITAGE VILLAGE

NEW TOILET/SHOWER/LAUNDRY FACILITIES BUILDING WORKS

Tarbert Harbour will shortly issue tenders for the construction of a new toilet/shower/laundry facility at Tarbert Harbour. The proposed building has a floor area of 200 sq m and is single storey with a pitched roof. The works are due to start in August 2017 for completion in May 2018.

Expressions of interest are invited from reputable experienced contractors wishing to be included in the tender list.

Expressions of interest must be received by noon on Friday 9th June 2017. Tarbert Harbour's decision as to the applicants included in the tender list shall be final.

Expressions of interest should be sent in writing to: The Harbour Master, Harbour Office, Garval Road, Tarbert, PA29 6TR

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION

I MacLeod 29 Auchinahard, Kilfinichen & Kilveckeon 0.11 ha – Site for a dwelling house 79627

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 30/06/2017 – Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD APPLICATION TO CREATE A NEW CROFT

Kilfinan Community Forest Company, of Tighnabruich, Argyll, PA21 2BD is applying to create a new croft. Case no.79832

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Please specify your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 Amendment to layout of marine farm and addition of a cage, Quarry Point, Loch Fyne

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Salmon Company has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of amendment to layout of marine farm and addition of a cage at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Quarry Point, Loch Fyne		
Moorings Area	56° 08.170' N	005° 13.140' W
	56° 08.010' N	005° 12.830' W
	56° 07.680' N	005° 13.340' W
	56° 07.850' N	005° 13.650' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Lochgilphead Post Office, 46 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, PA31 8NE.

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: MCMS No. 04301

Scottish Salmon Company

www.highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
17/02370/FUL	Gallery	In The Glen, Glen Nevis, Fort William	Change of use of building from mortuary to studio/art gallery/shop (Class 1)
17/02392/FUL	Land 100M SW of River	Coe Lodge, Glencoe	Change of use of land for siting of caravan for holiday use, relocation of access, and associated ground works (amendment to application 16/02704/FUL)
17/02401/FUL	Land 110M NE of Tigh A	Chladaich, Glenmallee Road, Caol, Fort William	Installation of 2no static caravans
17/02433/FUL	Antler Bar, Nevis Road,	Kinlochleven	Change of use of bar and shop to 4 apartments
17/02458/FUL	113 - 115 High Street,	Fort William	External seating area (Renewal planning permission 12/02919/FUL)
17/02462/FUL	Building 15M SW of The	Pharmacy, Mallaig	Demolition of vacant shop and erection of house (amendment to planning permission 16/04022/FUL)

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: epanning@highland.gov.uk

Argyll and Bute Council PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
17/01257/PP	Variation to condition 3 relative to planning permission 14/00526/PPP (amendment to occupancy restriction)	Barns West Of Dallachulish House Barcalaine Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1SQ	Sub Post Office Connel
17/01258/PP	Variation of condition 3 relative to planning permission 03/01834/DET (amendment to occupancy restriction).	Land North East Of Dallachulish Barcalaine Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1SQ	Sub Post Office Connel
17/00943/PP	Extend existing tower from 18 metres high to 30 metres high, removal of 4no antennae, replaced with 3no antennae, installation of 1 900mm dish and associated ancillary works.	Dalavich Telecommunications Mast Dalavich Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmaily
17/00817/PP	Erection of extension to existing shed.	Auchnaclach Ballygrant Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA46 7RB	Sub Post Office Port Askaig
17/01336/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 14/01309/PPP (Site for the erection of a croft house)	Croft 1 Kilvaree Connel Oban Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Connel
17/01337/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 14/01311/PPP (Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse)	Croft 7 Kilvaree Connel Oban Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Connel

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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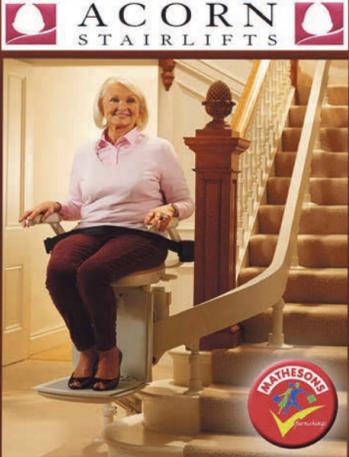
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ENGAGEMENTS

MACLEOD - PALMER - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Rebekah, youngest daughter of Ivor and Anne Macleod, Bunessan, Isle of Mull to Alan, youngest son of Tom and Morag Palmer, Portree, Isle of Skye.

MILTON - McCALLUM - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement between Sara, younger daughter of Angela and the late Sandy to Cameron, elder son of Nessie and the late John.

BIRTHS

CAMPBELL - BOYLE - Born to Jennifer Campbell and Stuart Boyle on May 18, 2017 at Larbert Hospital, twin boys, Jack Campbell Boyle and Callan James Boyle. All doing well. Proud grandparents Iain and Janet Campbell, Tobermory and Jim and Audrey Boyle, Bearsden.

DEATHS

FYFE - Peacefully at home on May 30, 2017, Ian Fyfe (Clan MacDuff Hotel), aged 97 years. A loving husband of Faith (Fay) and a much loved father and grandpa. Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday June 7, 2017 at 12 noon in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church, Fort William, all welcome to attend; thereafter private family interment.

MACDONALD - Charles Alisdair Elphinstone of Inniemore Lodge, Carseaig on March 9, 2017, aged 47. A much loved son and brother. Funeral service at Suie Cemetery, Bunessan, at noon on Wednesday June 14.

MACPHAIL - Peacefully after a short illness on May 19, 2017, Betty MacPhail of Tobermory, Isle of Mull, aged 83 years. Dear wife of the late Tommy, loving mother and granny, companion and partner of Jimmy. Sadly missed. Funeral service was held at Tobermory Parish Church on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 thereafter to Tobermory Top Cemetery.

McCALLUM - William (Bill), in his 88th year, peacefully at home in Muasdale, Kintyre, after a brave battle. Dearly beloved husband of Colleen Scott and loving and proud father of Andrew, James, William and Kirsteen, loved grandfather of Finn, Corran, Misha, Kelsi, Jamie and Daisy, much loved and respected big brother to Andrew, Margaret, Eleanor, Elaine and the late May, dear father-in-law and loving uncle, and good friend and neighbour to so many over the years. Service in A'Chleit Church, on Saturday, June 3 at 1.00pm. A retiral collection will be held in aid of the Campbelltown District Nurses and Macmillan Nurses, Kintyre Locality. Family flowers only please. A cremation service will take place in Cardross Crematorium, on Monday, June 5 at 3.15pm. All friends are respectfully invited.

ROSS - Jimmy (James), passed away peacefully at Moss Park Care Home, Caol on Thursday May 25, aged 67. Husband to Bridie, father to Allan and Papa to Livia and Harris. There will be a service in the Duncansburgh Church, Fort William on Thursday June 1st 1pm followed by a service in Inverness Crematorium on Friday June 2 at 10am.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GIBSON - The family of the late Douglas Campbell Gibson express their deep gratitude to everyone who supported dear Douglas and enabled him to end his days peacefully on his beloved Isle of Luing. In particular we offer our thanks to all the staff at Easdale Medical Practice for their thoughtful, dedicated care; to his neighbours the Morgans for their day-by-day support; to all his carers from Carr Gomm, Carers Direct, and Marie Curie, and especially to Sarah; to his friends and neighbours and the whole of the local community where too many to name showed their love of Douglas in practical ways and kindnesses; to the Rev. Ken Ross and the parish of Kilbrandon and Kilchattan. Our thanks to everyone who attended Douglas's funeral and burial, and to all who made it such a fitting celebration of a life well lived. We are grateful for contributions in Douglas's memory to Mary's Meals (current total £788.00) and to Hamish Hoey and Son for their thoughtful and efficient arrangements.

MACKINTOSH (Roy Bridge) - Following the sad passing of Joan, James, Catriona and Rhona would like to sincerely thank all staff and doctors at the Highland Hospice in Inverness, for the fantastic and compassionate care that Joan received whilst in their care. They would also like to thank the Rev Richard Baxter for his very kind and compassionate service at the church, to all who attended at the church and at the Crematorium, to Louise Thomson for the beautiful floral tributes, to Ian and staff at the Glenspean Lodge Hotel, Roy Bridge, for the lovely funeral teas. Thanks also goes to James's brother John, and the staff of John Ross Funeral Services for their unfailing attention and compassion at a very difficult time for the family.

MELDRUM - Cathy would like to thank all friends and relatives for their sympathy and support following Willie's passing. Special thanks to the doctors, nurses and carers for the exceptional care they gave to Willie. Sincere thanks to Morag McKintosh for her support to Cathy during this difficult time. Thanks to Rev. Morag Muirhead and Scott Greenlees at John McLellan Funeral Directors for their care and compassion with the funeral arrangements. Finally, thanks to those who paid their last respects at the church and graveside and whose kind generosity raised £940.80 in aid of Lochaber Macmillan Nurses.

WELLS - The family of the late Iain Wells would like to express their sincere thanks and gratitude for the many kind expressions of sympathy and support, cards and flowers received in their recent and sudden bereavement. Many thanks also to the staff at A & E, Oban, the air ambulance crew and ICU staff at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow for their valiant effort with Iain's care. Special thanks to Donald MacKinnon for his kind words and comforting service and to Ian MacInnes and all at D&A Munn for their care and professionalism. Thanks also to the Royal Hotel for their catering and to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside.

MEMORIAMS

CURRIE - In loving memory of our dad Archie, who passed away June 1, 1998. Remembering you is easy We do it every day Missing you is the heartache That never goes away. - Mairi, Allan, Gillian and family.

GILLIES - In loving memory of our mum Tina, who passed away June 1, 2000. Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts. - John and Charlene xx

HUNTER - Linda 3-6-2009. I hide my tears When I say your name But the pain in my heart Is still the same Although I seem carefree There is no one who misses you more than me. - Your sister Monica xxx.

HUNTER - Precious memories of Mary, a much loved and very special lady who passed away June 3, 2005. Forever in our thoughts. - Alasdair and Margaret x

MACINTYRE - Loving memories of Kenny, who died May 30, 1999. Inspirational dad and steadfast husband much loved and missed by all. Always in our thoughts. - Elizabeth, Kenny, Colin and families

MACINTYRE - Fondly remembering Angus, died May 26, 1986 and Kenny, died May 30, 1999. In a troubled and confusing world we miss your candour, humour and steadfastness. - Inserted by Angus, Lorn, Eric and the whole extended family.

MACKAY - In loving memory of Rosemarie (Rosie), loving wife, cherished mum and granny. Forever in our thoughts and sorely missed. Mo Chaoin Chailin - Jackie and family

McLAREN - In loving memory of my beloved husband Donald, who died June 1, 2014. It broke my heart to lose you You did not go alone Part of me went with you The day God called you home Love you always. - Cressia Ann.

Parish visit to Germany

The Oban Times was read last week in Germany by the Rev Dugald Cameron and Rev Chris Fulcher of Oban Parish Church.

A group of 26 parishioners accompanied the ministers to Stuttgart, Bad Urach and Esslingen, for one week.

The Germany/Scotland link goes back to university days when Rev Cameron and Pfr. Christoph Bauerle, now located in Esslingen, became friends.

The mixed group from Oban enjoyed glorious weather, explored the town and countryside, sampled

the wonderful food and made new friends from Christoph's church, the StadtKirche.

On the last Sunday at church a gift was handed over to the Pfr. Christoph and his congregation - a beautiful canvas print of Oban Bay.



Left to right, Pfr. Christoph Bauerle, the Rev Dugald Cameron and Alex Clark.

Christian Aid UK chief says poverty 'is an avoidable scandal...that diminishes us all'

IN a powerful speech to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland Loretta Minghella OBE chief executive of Christian Aid UK (pictured below) said ending poverty meant changing attitudes here at home as well as in the world's poorest countries. 'Never has there been a more important time to connect the local national and global pictures: to challenge the devastating myth of them and us,' she told an audience that

included HRH The Princess Royal. Identifying climate change and discrimination against women as two of the key causes of global poverty, Ms Minghella, sister to the late film director Anthony Minghella, said Christian Aid was empowered by its transformational partnership with the church. 'We are your international development agency and it is your unflinching commitment that drives

our work forward,' she told the Assembly.

'We share your belief that poverty is an avoidable scandal that robs people of their dignity and diminishes us all. We believe that each person is made in the image of God, gifted with life and created to flourish.

'Our firm faith statement: "We believe in life before death" calls us into transformational partnerships that let the changes begin in us.'



Thought for the week

So, are you gripped with election fever? Can't wait for the next leaders' debate? Devouring every word of the party manifestos? Or more likely, you are asking, what on earth is going on?

How many more elections/referenda can we take? Maybe Jeremy Corbyn will be our next prime minister. After all we voted to leave the EU, America elected Donald Trump. Who knows?

On June 8, millions of voters will be making their choice. Whether we will vote with the conviction of the party faithful or the weary resignation of something we ought to do, surely we all recognise

that the authorities at every level have an extremely difficult task.

We are often critical of our elected representatives, sadly sometimes with good reason. But I believe there is something more positive we can do.

That is to follow the advice one early Christian leader Paul gave to his younger colleague Timothy and pray for all those in authority.

It surely can't do any harm!

James Beaton
Oban Free Church

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Lochavullin Industrial Estate,
Crannog Lane, Oban,
PA34 4HB
Tel: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001
www.obantimes.co.uk

Editorial

Chief reporter
Louise Glen
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

Senior reporter
Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
Elle Forbes
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
David McPhee
dmcphoe@obantimes.co.uk

Newsdesk
Oban 01631 568060
Fort William 01397 703003
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising

Director of Advertising
Nicky Murphy
nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising supervisor
Nadine Ross
nross@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising executive
Rhona McKillop
adverts@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising executive
Stephanie Dunstaffnage
sdunstaffnage@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising executive
Julie Baird
jbaird@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices

Fort William
Tel 01397 703003

Lochgilphead
Tel 01546 602345

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Oban and Lorn tag rugby festival



P4/5 trophy winners were Lochnell.



Taynuilt were the winners of the P6/7 trophy. Photos: Stephen Lawson

MORE than 200 primary school players from across the area took part in last week's Oban and Lorn tag rugby festival at Glencruitten. The annual event, which has been delivered for the past seven years, acts as a fantastic end to the season for the area's primary schools that

have been taking part in tag rugby sessions with local rugby development staff, teachers and volunteers.

This year's festival was organised by Oban High School's SRU modern apprentice Ellie MacNiven, who was supported by OLI cluster Active Schools

coordinator Gillian Walker along with rugby development officer Allan Wright.

Also in attendance were Scottish Rugby's education manager Paul Kesterton as well as an external verifier to the modern apprentice programme who were invited along to view

Tag rugby

The standard of play throughout the day was fantastic with some very entertaining and high-scoring matches. This year's winners were Lochnell P4/5s winning a close game 3-2 against Taynuilt P4/5s. Taynuilt P6/7s were victorious in the P6/7 age group, winning an end to end game 6-4 against Easdale. The winning teams were presented with their shields and medals along with the runners-up by special guest and SRU vice-president Dee Bradbury, who is also the honorary president of Oban Lorne RFC.

The day was topped off by an appearance of the International World Series Trophy from the London 7s that Scotland lifted at Twickenham recently. All the schools had an opportunity to be photographed with the trophy throughout the tournament.

Hopefully, the day will encourage more youngsters to take up the game of rugby, both at Oban Lorne RFC and neighbouring Etive Vikings RFC.



Taynuilt in possession.



Action from the Easdale v Dunbeg game.



Active Schools event organiser Ellie MacNiven with the HSBC Rugby Sevens Trophy which was won by Scottish Rugby at Twickenham recently.



Left to right are Willie Arthur, Ronnie Robertson, Alan Brown, Willie McDermott, 'Fru', Richard Deane, George Lynn, Iain Diamond and Robert Currie.

Deane wins after shoot-off

THE DUNOON and District Clay Target Club welcomed members and visitors to the spring open shoot for the J C Lamont Trophy. A field of 17 seniors, one lady and one junior competed in a day of mixed weather.

Iain Diamond and Richard Deane both returned a score of 136 points. The resulting shoot-off was won by Richard Deane, last year's runner-up, who took

Shooting

the J C Lamont Trophy. In third place was George Lynn, on 129.

The open competition winners were all from Bute. High gun for the day was Alan Brown with 142 points, followed by Willie McDermott on 130. Ronnie Robertson was third on 128.

Scotland call-up for Bradbury brothers

Rugby

FERGUS Bradbury (20) has been called up to the Scotland U20 Squad for the Junior World Cup in Georgia which started on Wednesday.

Scotland will play their pool matches in this prestigious competition in Kutaisi. They are placed in Pool B alongside Ireland, New Zealand and Italy. If they progress through the pool stages, further matches are to be played in Tblisi.

Fergus, a prop who can play at either loose or tight head, is currently studying Marine Biology at Stirling University and is a BT Academy player, playing in the Premier League with Stirling County RFC.

His brother Magnus (21) has been recalled into the full national squad for Scotland tour in June. They will play Italy in

Singapore, Australia in Sydney and then Fiji in Suva. The back row player earned his first full international cap against Argentina last autumn and has fully recovered from a knee injury. Magnus has recently committed to a further three-year contract with Edinburgh Rugby.

At the end of season with Edinburgh Rugby, Magnus was honoured with two awards from the club, namely best young player and most improved player.

Both started their rugby with Oban Lorne RFC and Oban High School, before moving to Merchiston Castle School in Edinburgh.



Fergus and Magnus Bradbury.

Oban bowling Bowling

THE LAST Saturday in May brought teams from afar to contest the Oban Invitational Triples, but local knowledge meant that the final would be contested by two Oban teams.

David McLaren, ably assisted by brother John and Ian MacMillan, made steady progress to the last stage, but they were aware that the strength of the opposing team in the final would be a major hurdle, with skip Andrew Forbes assisted by mother Donna and gran Helen, and so it proved, with early shots leaving a mountain to climb after just five ends.

On Sunday, Oban Bowling Club travelled to Tarbert for the penultimate game in the West Argyll League. After a hard-fought match Oban came out on top by 7-3.

Vikings secure sponsorship from fish farm company

A TAYNUILT-BASED children's rugby club has secured sponsorship for equipment and match strips from a local fish farming company, ensuring children have everything they need to improve their game.

Etive Vikings RFC, a mini rugby club based in Taynuilt for P2-P7 players with around 40 players attending each weekly training session, have received a total of £1,500 in sponsorship from Dawnfresh, the UK's largest producer of farmed trout with six sites in Scotland, including three in Argyll.

Greig McPhail, seawater production manager for Dawnfresh Farming, visited a recent training session of Etive Vikings in Taynuilt to see the new strips being worn and the new balls, cones and other

equipment being used. The company made the award as part of its commitment to supporting the communities around its farming operations.

Commenting on the presentation, Alison Hutchins, farming operations development manager for Dawnfresh, said: 'Because most of our team are from the area, we feel a deep connection to the community. We are always exploring new ways we can help support community organisations.'

'Greig McPhail and his team of volunteer coaches at Etive Vikings provide an invaluable service to the local community by giving up their time to allow children to take part in healthy and fun games of rugby. 'Dawnfresh Farming is delighted to support this activity and wish the team all the

Youth rugby

best in the games they will be playing over the summer.'

Greig McPhail, coach of Etive Vikings, added: 'It is vitally important that children are given the opportunity to take part in sport to help their physical and mental health. Given our location, this can sometimes be difficult if people have to travel longer distances to other towns so with Etive Vikings we are trying to provide this activity in the local area.'

'The funding from Dawnfresh has been vital in ensuring we have the right strips and equipment available to make sure the training sessions are as fun for the children as possible and I would like to thank the company for their support.'



Greig McPhail, seawater production manager for Dawnfresh, with Greig McPhail, one of the volunteer coaches at Etive Vikings RFC and the children from Etive Vikings.

Obanites run to raise funds to beat cardiovascular disease

PEOPLE of all ages did their bit to beat cardiovascular disease recently by taking part in an annual run organised by an Oban charity.

The event, which is organised by Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD), consists of two routes – one for children and another for adults.

The adults route is a 10k, while the children's run is one kilometre.

All the money raised goes towards providing medical equipment for the NHS,

financing training, where NHS funding is not available, and supporting a wide range of projects aimed at improving cardiovascular health, such as sporting events.

Alfie MacKenzie, run co-coordinator, said: 'It's going very well. Everyone gets a banana, a bottle of water, a Mars bar, a T-shirt and a medal, so they all go home quite happy with a medal they can pin up on the wall.'

'I just want to say thank you to everyone who has given us their time, to J M Breck-

Charity run

enridge for the donations of bananas, and a big thank you to all the runners.'

ABCD was set up in 2000 and it is run by a group of volunteers. Since it started, the charity has raised more than £100,000.

To find out about future projects, visit www.abcd-oban.co.uk or search Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease on social media.



The adult runners set off from Oban Lorn and Islands Hospital on the 10km run.



Some of the youngsters who took part.



New gear for the Jags

SOUTH Lochaber Thistle manager Alan Gray was presented with a new strip by Iain Rodger, above, owner of Sunny's Bar, who sponsors the team.

Second strips were sponsored

Football

by Iain Dunleavy of Howdens Joinery and tracksuit sponsors were Marine Harvest, which were presented by Andrew Martin and David Forbes.



Strips presented by Iain Dunleavy of Howdens Joinery to manager Alan Gray. Photos: Abridgeside Photography.



Tracksuit sponsored by Marine Harvest was presented to Alan by Andrew Martin and David Forbes.

Fort youngsters win national tournament

A LIVELY squad of 20 youngsters representing Fort William Football Youth Development (FWFYD) headed down to Ayrshire on Friday morning and, by Sunday afternoon, had won their section, competing against 15 other teams from Scotland and Ireland.

The pool of under-13 players had been invited to take part in the 40th Ayr International Scotland Cup competition. They travelled south by minibus and in a fleet of family cars. The Ayr International Scotland Cup is the oldest grassroots tournament in the UK and the third oldest in Europe. Danny Conlon, head of

FWFYD, advised: 'This is a very prestigious tournament, embracing 140 clubs throughout the UK. It gave our lads an insight into how other clubs operate and play – as this was a first-off involvement for us.'

'Much of the financing of the trip was made possible by the Youth Development's own fundraising, and by generous donations from the Rotary Club of Lochaber and Marine Harvest.'

The Under-13s won the Ayr Trophy which is competed for by 16 youth teams from Scotland and Ireland. They beat Moyra FC, their Irish counterparts, 3-1 in the final,

lifting the trophy and the accompanying medals.

This tournament comes hard on the heels of FWFYD's annual presentation of awards at Fort William Golf Club. And, after the trophies and medals had been handed out, a race night was held which raised a splendid £2,235.

Rotary Club president Paula Ross congratulated the Under-13 team in winning the Under-13 Trophy and bringing honour to Lochaber.

Paula added: 'We had no hesitation in awarding funding to help FWFYD attend this important event. We support the aims of developing skill and

Youth football

participation in sport, fostering friendship while having fun and enjoyment.'

Under-10 Player of the Year Ryan Hunter, Most Improved Ben Britton, Under-11 Player of the Year Connor Cameron, Most Improved Angus Thomson, Under-13 Player of the Year Robbie Rydings, Most Improved Ben MacDonald and Alec Morrison, Under-15 Player of the Year Kyle Dignan, Most Improved Hector MacLean, Under-17 Player of the Year Steven Neil and Most Improved Calum MacLean.



Oban Saints Under 15s along with coaches, friends and family with the League Cup.

Oban Saints youth teams lift the silverware

Oban Saints Under-15 and Under-16 teams both lifted their respective League Cups at Millburn Park, Vale of Leven, last weekend. The Under-15s defeated Dumbarton United Yellow 6-1 with goals from Lennon Campbell (four), Craig Millar and Aidan MacPhee. The Under-16s made it a League Cup double for the Oban club when they defeated Ardencaple 4-0 on Sunday. Netting for Saints were Keir MacLean, Kenny Black, Scott Mossman and Ben Smith. The Under-16s face a tough task on Sunday when they take on Sygenta Juniores at Ochilview Park, home of Stenhousemuir FC in the final of the Regional Cup.



Glencruitten

NEIL Carmichael won the Isis Trophy at Glencruitten at the weekend with scores of 66, 62 = 128. Steven O'Rourke was runner-up with a score of 65, 65 = 130. Colin Campbell won the Captain of Dunstaffnage Trophy with scores of 70, 66 = 136. Ian Cameron was runner-up with scores of 72, 65 = 137.

In the ladies' section, Loretto Cup best of two rounds scores were Diane Colewell 68, 67 = 135, Mary Plunkett 62, 73 = 135 and Kirsty MacKenzie 64, 73 = 136.

On Saturday the first round of the handicap championship and senior championship take place, with the Rotary Club of Oban Am Am on Sunday.

Killin

MIXED open: Saturday May 28: Handicap - 1 Brian Stock (Crieff) and Jean Faichney (Killin) 65.5; 2 Allan McHenry and Liz Stevens (Killin) 66; 3 Alex Gordon and Arlene Gordon (Dunning) 67.

Scratch - 1 Ken Milligan and Rhona Milligan (West Lothian) 79 BIH; 2 John Freeman and Una Woodburn (Crieff) 79; 3 Andrew Wallace (Glenrothes) and Jackie Wallace (Dunnikier Park) 82.

Best Killin (Bill Mitchell Salver) - Allan McHenry and Liz Stevens 66. Best Overall (McRobert Thistle Cup) - Brian Stock (Crieff) and Jean Faichney (Killin) 65.5. Best Overall Scratch (Glen Ogle Trophy) - Ken Milligan and Rhona Milligan (West Lothian) 79.

Nearest the in: ladies (14th) - Hazel Johnson (Aberfeldy); gents (11th) - Glenn Marshall (Kirkcubbin). In three (9th and 19th) John Freeman and Una Woodburn (Crieff).

Taynuilt

CATHERWOOD Trophy second round played on Sunday May 28 - 1 Calum Munro 69-9=60; 2 Kevin Mills 76-16=60; 3 Kenneth MacGregor 78-15=63. Overall results: 1 Calum Munro 66+60=126; 2 Allan Stewart 61+68=129; 3 Richard Bergant 69+63=132. Ladies; section: Childline Trophy - 1 Grace Petrie 30 pts; 2 Anne MacCalman 29 pts; 3 Sandra Elliot 27 pts.

Tobermory

MEN'S Section: first round of the Centenary Trophy - 1 Alastair MacLeod 82-19-63; 2 Paul Brown 73-07-66; 3 Donald Brown snr 77-07-67. Gents' nine-hole Stableford - 1 Calum MacLean 17 points; 2 Dave Honeyman 16 points; 3 Alastair MacLeod 16 points.

Islay

RESULTS: summer league played Wednesday May 24 - 1 S Currie 40 pts, 2 R Shaw 39 pts, 3 B O'Neill 39 pts. C.Ss 68. Loganair Trophy played Sunday May 28 - 1 R Johnston 74-7 = 67 net; 2 D Logan 79-11 = 68 net, 3 B.O'Neill 81-12 = 69 nett. C.Ss 71.

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Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

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SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Cammanachd Cup: Newtonmore v Kyles Athletic is tie of the round

INVERARAY, Kilmallie, Kyles Athletic, Newtonmore, Skye Camanachd and Strathglass all made it safely through to the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter-finals whilst Lovat and Glenurquhart and Oban Camanachd and Kinlochshiel will have to replay their ties following the shinty action last Saturday.

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup – Second Round

Kinlochshiel 0 Oban Camanachd 0

The tie of the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup second round looked to be at Kirkton where Kinlochshiel and Oban Camanachd played out a goalless draw.

Injury ruled out 'Shiel trio Gordie MacDonald, Oliver MacRae and Paul MacRae whilst Oban Camanachd duo Willie Neilson and Gary McKerracher recovered from knocks picked up in the previous week's draw with Kyles Athletic with the former starting on the bench.

This tie could have gone either way and a draw was probably a fair result as it would have been harsh on either side to have lost out.

Both defences were on top throughout the game which restricted the number of clear-cut chances and keepers Scott Kennedy and Gavin Stobbart comfortably dealt with anything that came their way.

Referee Graham Cameron sent-off Kinlochshiel full forward John MacRae for two yellow cards and he will miss the replay between the sides.

Oban Camanachd's Andrew MacCuish had a great chance to win it a couple of minutes from time but his shot went just the wrong side of the post from around 15 yards out.

With Mossfield hosting Oban Live, the replay will take place at the Taynuilt Sports Field this coming Saturday.

Oban Camanachd defender Scott McKillop will be a doubt for that game after suffering a bad knock to the shin.

Fort William 1 Newtonmore 3

Holders Newtonmore survived a

first half set-back to make it into the next round.

Fort William's Lewis Clark served the second match of a two-game suspension whilst 'More's Jamie Robinson was able to take a place on the bench.

A powerful Graham Campbell strike gave Fort William the lead with just three first-half minutes remaining.

However, when referee Robert Baxter awarded Newtonmore a penalty on the stroke of half time, Steven MacDonald stepped up to score.

Fraser MacKintosh gave the visitors the lead just three minutes after the restart and Glen MacKintosh rounded off the win when he made it 3-1 on 76 minutes.

Skye Camanachd 2 Kingussie 1

Marine Harvest National Division leaders Skye Camanachd beat Kingussie, second in shinty's top flight, 2-1 in their 3pm throw up at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Skye were missing full centre Gillesbuig MacDonald whilst Steven Morrison remained sidelined through injury. Danny Morrison hurt his back in the lead up to the game and was only able to take up a place on the bench. James Pringle returned to the starting 12 after injury.

Kingussie were missing James Hutchison so Lee Bain came into the defence at buckshee back with Robert Mabon going to full back. James Falconer and Martin Dallas remained on the Kingussie injury list.

Skye took an early lead with Jordan Murchison scoring after just three minutes. Iain Nicolson played in a high free-hit and Murchison found space at the back post and, from around 15 yards out, he crashed the ball into the roof of net to make it 1-0.

Craig Dawson made a fine save to deny Stewart Grant at the expense of a corner before the Islanders made it 2-0 on 14 minutes. Jordan Murchison beat a couple of defenders but his shot was going wide until Will Cowie managed to stop the ball with his feet on the edge of D and his strike went through the keeper's legs.

It was an outstanding first half from Skye but they were unable

to get what would have been a killer third goal.

The first half was Skye's, and they should have added to their tally, but Kingussie dominated for the second period.

It was a 'backs-to-the-wall' performance from Skye for the last half an hour of the tie and the Kings reduced the deficit on 75 minutes when referee Calum Girvan penalised Stewart Grant for a kick inside the D. Savio Genini didn't catch the spot-hit as cleanly as he would have liked but the ball took a vicious kick off the surface as Skye goalie Iain Macleod tried to keep the ball out with his foot.

Kingussie pushed Lee Bain forward and he hit the post whilst Chris Holleysong sent the ball over the top from a good position.

So despite their excellent start to their league programme, Kingussie have exited all three cup completions at the first round stage.

Glenurquhart 1 Lovat 1

Glenurquhart and Lovat will have to do it all over again this weekend after drawing 1-1 at Blairbeg.

Glenurquhart's injury woes eased as Fraser Heath, Connor Golabek and John Barr returned to the starting line-up with Barr at full forward. Daniel MacKintosh was also back, taking up a place on the bench. However, James MacPherson, David MacLennan and Callum Smith were all out. Lachlan Smith started at full back.

Lovat's Daniel Grieve, who was nursing a foot injury, served a one-match suspension for passing through the disciplinary points threshold but Craig Mainland returned, starting at buckshee back.

It was a largely uneventful first half in which Neale Reid failed to connect with a through ball on six minutes and Connor Golabek forced a Stuart MacDonald save on 13 minutes.

There was a water break on 25 minutes when the Glen took the chance to replace Arran MacDonald with Ally MacKintosh at full centre.

John Barr just managed to get past Drew Howie but sent his shot over the top in what was the final real chance of the half.

The tie did improve in the second half and Stuart MacKintosh had to be alert to keep out a Lorne MacKay strike from 35 yards out with the keeper saving with his legs.

With the Glen now playing towards the shop end of the ground, a powerful Neale Reid shot from a tight angle saw Stuart MacDonald throw himself to spectacularly turn the ball away for a corner.

It was ironic that with two of shinty's best keepers keeping the tie scoreless, it was former Ross County and Motherwell football goalie Michael Fraser who would break the deadlock a minute later. Finlay Ralston sent a corner to the edge of the D and the ball was knocked down to Michael Fraser who scored from close range to make it 1-0 with 61 minutes played.

Referee Archie Ritchie controlled the game well and on 71 minutes Greg Matheson was downed by Lachlan Smith but he still managed to get the ball to an unmarked Lorne MacKay at the edge of the D but the referee blew for the infringement, with the goal judge flagging, whilst Lovat claimed for advantage.

However, Lovat drew level just three minutes later. Lorne MacKay got a touch on a shy from the right, sending the ball goalwards, and Stuart MacKintosh was penalised for a kick as



Lewis MacKinnon, left, site manager, Tulloch Homes and Derek Keir, chief executive officer of the Camanachd Association, who made the third round draw on Monday. Photo: Neil Paterson

he made the save. Glen disputed the award but Greg Matheson expertly converted from the spot, smashing the penalty over the keeper's left shoulder to make it 1-1 with 74 minutes played.

Glenurquhart had been on top but the goal lifted Lovat and Stuart MacKintosh made good saves during the last 10 minutes, especially from a Lorne MacKay piledriver at the end.

Both keepers played well with Glen's Andrew Corrigan and Fraser Heath and Lovat's Drew Howie and Martin Mainland also catching the eye.

Glenurquhart's Finlay Ralston and Lovat's Scott MacKenzie are surely two fine players for the future.

Inveraray 5 Caberfeidh 1

Underdogs Inveraray upset the odds with a 5-1 win over Marine Harvest National Division rivals Caberfeidh at The Winterton.

Inveraray started with a strong back four whilst up front, a mix of youth and experience saw player/manager Ruairaidh Graham and Fraser Watt start in the half forward positions leaving the dominant duo of Allan MacDonald and Lewis Montgomery at full forward.

Caberfeidh's Martin MacDonald served a one-match ban for passing through the disciplinary points threshold but the Castle Leod side travelled with confidence with their only defeat of the season being a narrow 3-2 reverse against Newtonmore.

Inveraray showed their intentions from the throw up and they hit the front with only six minutes on the clock when captain Lewis MacNicol scored following a well-worked move involving the forward line.

The goal seemed to motivate Inveraray and Caberfeidh alike, upping the tempo of the game, but it was Inveraray again who managed to convert their chances into goals with two well-struck Allan MacDonald shots breaching the Caberfeidh defence on 15 and 33 minutes to make it 3-0.

With just more than five minutes remaining of the first half, Caberfeidh's Scotland U21 international Craig Morrison threw his side a life-line, taking advantage of some lenient

Inveraray defending, to make it 3-1 going into half time.

The pattern of play remained unchanged in the second half with Inveraray looking very hungry, leaving Caberfeidh struggling to show any composure on the ball.

In an effort to get back into the game, Cabers moved Kevin Bartlett into the middle of the park when Garry MacPherson had been dominating but the home side continued to hold the upper hand.

As the tie moved into the final third, Fraser Watt was rewarded for his continuous efforts as two quick snap-shots found the back of the net on 64 and 68 minutes to make the score 5-1.

this loss firmly behind them when they return to league duty against Fort William at An Aird in mid-June.

Kilmallie 5 Lochaber 3

MacTavish Cup finalists Kilmallie fought off a Lochaber come-back to win their tie 5-3 at The Canal Parks.

Kilmallie's Aaron Sandison and Innes Blackhall remained out through suspension and injury respectively but Craig MacIsaac was given a start in attack.

Lochaber defender John Sweeney was still out with a hand injury whilst Danny Delaney was also missing. There was a

he will miss the MacTavish Cup Final against Newtonmore at The Bught Park on Saturday 10 June 2017.

Neil MacDonald made it 4-2 on 80 minutes but when Martin Stewart set up Duncan Rodger, he scored his second, blasting an unstoppable shot into the back of the net, with just a couple of minutes remaining.

There was still time for Stuart Callison to make it 5-3 just 60 seconds later but Kilmallie go into the quarter-final draw.

Kyles Athletic 7 Glasgow Mid Argyll 0

Kyles Athletic beat an under-strength Glasgow Mid Argyll side 7-0 at Tighnabraich.

Callum Miller returned in defence for Kyles but GMA travelled without Duncan 'Ach' MacRae, Innes MacMillan, Ryan Harrison and keeper Robert Dunning.

An 11-minute Gordon Whyte goal was quickly followed by a Scott MacDonald effort just four minutes later to give Kyles a 2-0 advantage.

Roddy MacDonald made it 3-0 on 38 minutes and the Scotland forward nabbed a second five minutes into the second period.

Three late goals put gloss on the win.

Thomas Whyte added a fifth on 79 minutes and Robbie MacLeod made it 6-0 with five minutes remaining.

Thomas Whyte got his second a minute later, giving the Tighnabraich side safe passage into the next round.

Strathglass 2 Kilmory 1

Strathglass came from a goal down to beat Kilmory 2-1 at Cannich.

With both sides in maroon strips, there was some last minute improvisation which saw the hosts play in bibbed tops to avoid a colour clash.

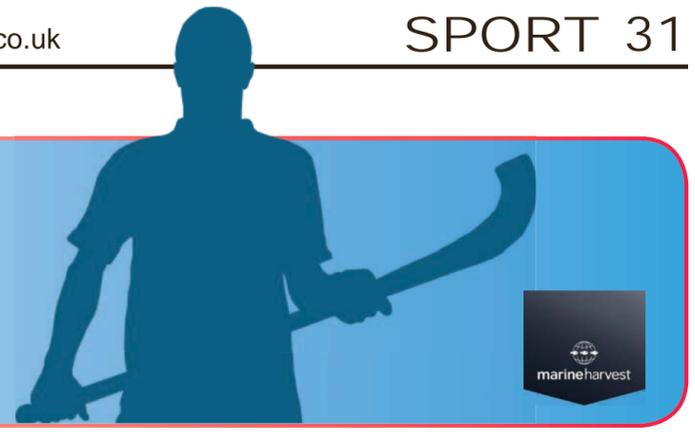
Kilmory started strongly. They took an athletic and motivated side north, knowing they had a great opportunity to progress in the Scottish Cup.

And they took the lead on 22 minutes with Alister MacArthur scoring a well-taken goal.

Josh Fraser equalised a couple of minutes before the break with a beautifully-worked goal but he then had to go off when he



Lochaber's Neil Macdonald and Kilmallie's Martin Stewart go for a high ball during last Saturday's Camanachd Cup tie which Lochaber won 5-3. Photo: Neil Paterson



Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

suffered a bad crack on the hand straight from the restart.

Fraser returned to the park with around 20 minutes left to set up the period of play which led to Donald Fraser out-foxing his marker to make it 2-1 with 78 minutes played, clinching a quarter-final berth for David Balharry's side.

Marine Harvest National Division

Oban Celtic 5 Inverness 3
The match between Oban Celtic and Inverness was originally scheduled for The Bught Park but was switched to Mossfield and Celtic took the chance to record their first National Division win of the season.

Oban Celtic went into the game still missing the experienced David MacInnes but turned in an improved performance than against Fort William a week earlier and they took their goals well.

Inverness welcomed Scotland U21 forward Charlie MacDonald back from injury but they travelled with just 13 players, losing one of them through injury early in the match.

The Oban Celtic defence were pretty much spectators for the first 20 minutes of this match with the home forwards creating a number of chances without testing the visiting keeper.

They were made to pay on 25 minutes when Inverness counter-attacked in a move brilliantly finished off by Charlie MacDonald, who rocketed the ball into the top corner of the net for what was to be the pick of the day's goals.

As frustration started to set in, Celtic they found themselves dominating play but unable to apply the finishing touch.

Inverness almost extended their lead on 35 minutes but it was Celtic who would draw level on the stroke of half-time when a Daniel Madej free-hit found an unmarked Connor Howe and he sent his shot low and hard into the net, bagging his first goal for his new club.

Oban Celtic manager Kenny Wotherspoon had asked more of his players following the Fort William defeat and his half-time outburst was taken on board with the hosts going on to score four more times during the first 20 minutes of the second half as they turned on the style.

Daniel Madej put Oban Celtic in front for the first time in the match a minute after the restart and Neil Carmichael made it 3-1 on 52 minutes.

Rory Bruce on 59 minutes and Ross MacMillan on 65 minutes extended Celtic's advantage.

The game wasn't pretty at times and Celtic made changes but the final two goals of the match were scored by Inverness through Padraig McNeil on 75 minutes and James Cameron on 87 minutes, making the final score 5-3. Referee John Wood flashed straight red cards for Inverness veteran Dougie Rankin and Oban Celtic's Ally McKerracher, who had an impressive game, following a late clash.

Robert Alexander turned in a

man of the match performance on his Oban Celtic debut.

The win takes Oban Celtic off the bottom of the table on goal difference at Inverness' expense. The Oban side have no game this coming Saturday which will allow the players carrying knocks some time to recover.

'More travelled with a strong squad with Evan Menzies included for the first time this season and Conor Jones and Chris Sellar both returning after injury.

In the end, Ewan Fraser and Alex Duncan scored for the students but doubles from Duncan Gorman, Evan Menzies and Conor Jones and strikes from Calum Stewart and Chris Sellar gave the reigning champions an emphatic 8-2 win.

Skye Camanachd 2 Glenurquhart 0

The Skye Camanachd colts go third after their 2-0 win over the Glenurquhart colts in their noon throw up at Paire nan Laoch, Portree.

After a goalless first half, Skye wing centre John Angus MacInnes, who came on as a substitute - missing the start of the game as he was working - hit a low 20-yard shot which bobbed along the hard surface and into the corner of the net to make it 1-0 with 62 minutes played.

Connor Gilpin made it 2-0 with a neat finish on 72 minutes. Gilpin's shot from just outside the D gave the keeper no chance.

Forward Martin Pringle had his best game yet for the Skye seconds whilst Calum Robertson can be more than pleased with his debut in defence.

Beaulieu 1 Fort William 4

The Fort William seconds returned from Braeview Park with the points after they defeated the Beaulieu seconds 4-1 in their noon throw up.

Scott Henderson put the Fort ahead on eight minutes but a 13-minute Peter Dickson counter made it 1-1 at the break.

Fort William pulled away in the second half and player/manager Neil Robertson put them back in front on 68 minutes.

Scott Henderson went on to complete his hat-trick, scoring on 72 and 74 minutes to lift Fort William to fifth in the division.

Marine Harvest South Division 1 Lochside Rovers 12 Glenorchy 0

Lochside Rovers stay out in front at the top of Marine Harvest South Division 1 with a comprehensive 12-0 win over Glenorchy at Mossfield.

Lochside were without Evan



Kinlochshiel's Finlay MacRae gets his block in on Oban Camanachd's Daniel Cameron.

Photo: Annie MacDonald

MacLellan, Jordan Kerr, youngster Lennon Campbell and Iain MacMillan, who was with the seniors.

Glenorchy's Kieron Gallagher was free of his one-match suspension. The visitors travelled with just 13 players and Duncan Smith was free to play but he will miss his side's next two matches as his booking against Aberdour a week earlier takes him through the disciplinary points threshold.

A quick-fire Craig MacDougall double on three and nine minutes was a sign of what was to come.

Lewis Buchanan made it 3-0 on 31 minutes. Daniel Sloss was fouled and he picked himself up to take a quick free-hit to Buchanan, who took a lovely touch before sending a good finish low into the net. Craig MacDougall completed his hat-trick a minute later. Craig Easton worked the ball forward to Craig MacMillan and he found MacDougall who scored from outside the D.

Lewis Buchanan converted a rebound off the keeper to make it 5-0 on 34 minutes and Craig MacDougall got his fourth a couple of minutes later to make it 6-0 at the break.

The message to the Lochside players at the interval was to maintain the tempo showed in the first half and Craig MacDougall did exactly that, adding his fifth a minute after the restart.

Craig MacMillan added his name to the scoresheet, making it 8-0 on 50 minutes and Lewis Buchanan took his tally to four goals with strikes on 63 and 64 minutes, the former of which was the goal of the match. Chrissie MacMillan played the ball to the back post and it bounced once before Buchanan volleyed it into the top corner of the net from a tight angle.

Michael MacQueen made it 11-0 on 75 minutes and Craig MacDougall completed a productive afternoon's work when he scored his sixth goal of the game just four minutes from time.

This was Lochside's seventh successive clean sheet and the side have no game this weekend as Mossfield hosts Oban Live.

An Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup quarter-final tie against the Bute seconds is in their sights with the match coming a week later.

Aberdour 5 Col Glen 1

Aberdour remain a point behind the leaders following their 5-1 win over Col Glen at Silversands.

A first half Roddy MacColl double on 32 and 39 minutes gave Aberdour an early cushion. Angus Thorburn made it 3-0 just 10 minutes after the restart.

Col Glen's Andrew MacVicar pulled a goal back on 70 minutes but a second from Angus Thorburn on 73 minutes and hat-trick goal from Roddy MacColl just a couple of minutes later completed the 5-1 win.

Ballachulish 1 Taynuilt 1

Ballachulish and Tayforth both improved their league standings following their 1-1 draw at Jubilee Park.

Lorne Brown gave Ballachulish ahead on the half hour mark but Steven Parr secured Taynuilt's point with a 65 minute goal.

Tayforth 0 Bute 1

Tayforth and Bute met at Levenhall Links and the teams looked set to share the points.

However Bute's Robert Walker popped up with what proved to be the winner just 8 minutes from time.

Bute remain bottom of the table because of their points deduction but it seems only a matter of time before they climb the division.

Marine Harvest North Division 2 Caberfeidh 3 Lovat 1

The Caberfeidh seconds came from a goal down to beat the Lovat seconds 3-1 on a very hot day at Castle Leod.

Raymond Rennie put the visitors ahead after 14 minutes but Jamie Matheson, making a substitute appearance after a hamstring injury, made it 1-1 with Calum MacKinnon the provider.

Goals from Jamie MacLeod, scoring after running onto a through ball, and Ruairidh MacKinnon, who netted following a Jamie Matheson free-hit, gave Cabers a 3-1 triumph.

Lochcarron 4 Kilmallie 0

A Crisdean Finlayson hat-trick helped Lochcarron to a 4-0 win over the Kilmallie seconds at Battery Park.

Crisdean Finlayson gave Lochcarron the lead on 22 minutes and Peter MacKenzie made it 2-0 just 4 minutes later.

Finlayson completed his treble with strikes on 35 and 40 minutes and the match was won before the break.

Lochaber 6 Strathspey Camanachd 1

The Lochaber reserves recorded a solid 6-1 victory over Strathspey Camanachd at Spean Bridge.

Sam Lees gave Lochaber a 15 minute lead but Connor Aubrey

levelled just three minutes later.

Ben Delaney on 32 minutes and Lachlan Campbell on 40 minutes made it 3-1 at the break.

Lochaber extended their advantage with three goals in the final 15 minutes of the match.

Lachlan Campbell got his second on 76 minutes and Harvey Allison made it 5-1 a couple of minutes later.

Lachlan Campbell completed his hat-trick on 87 minutes to round off the 6-1 win.

Lewis Camanachd W/O v Boleskine

Lewis Camanachd's wait for a first home match of the season continues as Boleskine were unable to raise a team for their encounter at Shawbost so the islanders were awarded the points.

This follows on from Lewis Camanachd's home match against the Caberfeidh seconds in early May which will be rescheduled and the previous week's game against the Lovat seconds which was called off due to the visitors' team-raising difficulties.

Glengarry W/O v Inverness

League leaders Glengarry were awarded the points when the Inverness second team were unable to raise a team for their match at Craighard.

Marine Harvest South Division 2 Oban Lorn 1 Inveraray 1

Table toppers Inveraray reserves and second placed Oban Lorn drew 1-1 in their match at Ganavan.

Oban Lorn's Shaun MacIver started a two-game ban following his red card against the Bute second team a fortnight earlier.

The goals came late in the game with Kenny Kirkhope putting the visitors ahead with just 15 minutes remaining.

Oban Lorn drew level a couple of minutes from time courtesy of an own goal, with the ball going into the Inveraray net off

David Robertson.

Dunoon Camanachd 0 Strachur 8

Strachur were too strong for Dunoon Camanachd, winning 8-0 at The Dunoon Stadium.

Kyles MacEwan started the scoring on three minutes and Ian MacLellan made it 2-0 on six minutes with Ian Wilson adding a third a couple of minutes later.

A second from Ian MacLellan on 34 minutes and an Angus Campbell goal on 37 minutes made it 5-0.

Angus Campbell got his second on 42 minutes to make it 6-0 at the break.

Ian Wilson got his second on 77 minutes and Angus Campbell completed his hat-trick a minute from time to lift Strachur to second in the table.

Bute P Glasgow Mid Argyll P

The Glasgow Mid Argyll colts were unable to raise a team for their trip to The Meadows to take on the Bute colts so the match will be rescheduled for a later date.

WCA Round Up

The ladies' shinty focus was on Marine Harvest Challenge Cup on Sunday May 28 2017.

National Division 1 Skye Camanachd P Lovat P

Lovat were unable to field a team for their meeting with Skye Camanachd at Paire nan Laoch, Portree. Lovat were docked a point and the game will be rescheduled for a later date.

Challenge Cup - Quarter Finals Glasgow Mid Argyll 4 Oban Lorn 0

The Glasgow Mid Argyll second team beat Oban Lorn 4-0 at Yoker.

Amy Harris scored twice whilst Evie Coultas and Catherine Mullen also netted.

Inverness 1 Glengarry 3

Glengarry beat Inverness 3-1 at The Bught Park.

Amber Mackay put Inverness ahead but a half-time change in formation from the visitors saw Elaine Cameron notch a double and Laura Mackay get the other to give 'Garry the win.

Ardnamurchan 1 Strathglass 1

Ardnamurchan won 3-2 on penalties)

It took penalties to separate Ardnamurchan and Strathglass at Strontian. The visitors took a first-half lead through Mattie Jones but Ardnamurchan's Annie MacDonald equalised on 68 minutes. With no further scoring after 20 minutes' extra-time; a penalty shoot-out ensued and goals from Rachel Ford, Annie MacDonald and Eilidh Ross for Ard cancelling out Kayleigh MacGregor and Sasha Pocock for Strath to put Ard through to the semis.

Cowal & Bute 3 Tayforth 2

Cowal & Bute beat Tayforth 3-2 in a close encounter.

The Marine Harvest Challenge Cup semi-final draw will take place at Oban Live this coming weekend.

Fixtures

Saturday June 3 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup 2nd round replays

Lovat v Glenurquhart
Martin MacLean - 3pm
Oban Caman v Kinlochshiel
Deek Cameron
(at Taynuilt)

Balliemore Cup 3rd Round

Skye v Fort William
Archie Ritchie

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 3rd Round

Fort William v Kingussie
Ronnie Campbell
Newtonmore v Glengarry
Iain Kennedy - Noon

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kyles Athletic v Kingussie
Ross Brown - 3pm
Newtonmore v Kilmallie
Evan MacRae - 3pm

Marine Harvest National Division

Beaulieu v Inverness
John Angus Gillies - 3pm
Strathglass v Inveraray
Andy MacLean

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Beaulieu v Aberdeen University
Andy MacLean - Noon
Kinlochshiel v Skye
Calum Girvan

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Ballachulish v Glenorchy
John Wood
Bute v Kilmory
Euan Pearson
Kyles Athletic v Col Glen
Lachie Wood - Noon
Tayforth v Aberdour
David Mitchell
(at The Meadows Festival, Edinburgh)

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Lewis v Lochaber
John Matheson
Kilmallie v Inverness
Willie MacDonald
Lovat v Boleskine
Scott McNeil - Noon
Strathglass v Strathglass
Steven MacLachlan

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour v Glasgow MA
Neil McDonald
Inveraray v Oban Lorn
Graham Fisher
Strachur v Bute
Des McNulty

(Throw ups 2.30 unless stated)

Results

Saturday May 27 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup second round

Fort William 1 v 3 Newtonmore
Skye 2 v 1 Kingussie
Kinlochshiel 0 v 0 Oban Caman
Glenurquhart 1 v 1 Lovat
Inveraray 5 v 1 Caberfeidh
Kilmallie 5 v 3 Lochaber
Strathglass 2 v 1 Kilmory
Kyles Ath 7 v 0 Glasgow MA

Marine Harvest National Division

Oban Celtic 5 v 3 Inverness

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Aberdeen Uni 2 v 8 N'tonmore
Beaulieu 1 v 4 Fort William
Skye 2 v 0 Glenurquhart

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Aberdour 5 v 1 Col Glen
Ballachulish 1 v 1 Taynuilt
Lochside 12 v 0 Glenorchy
Tayforth 0 v 1 Bute

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Caberfeidh 3 v 1 Lovat
Glengarry P v P Inverness
Inverness unable to field a team
Lewis P v P Boleskine
Boleskine unable to field a team
Lochcarron 4 v 0 Kilmallie
Lochaber 6 v 1 Strathspey

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Bute P v P Glasgow Mid Argyll
GMA unable to raise a team
Dunoon 0 v 8 Strachur
Oban Lorn 1 v 1 Inveraray



Ryan Balharry from Stathglass shields the ball from Kilmory's Bruce Johnston during last Saturday's Camanachd Cup match at Cannich. Stathglass won by the odd goal in three. Photo: Donald Cameron



Oban Lorn shinty club has a new women's team and have been sponsored by local businesses MacGillivray's Seafood and Aulay's Bar. The girls are pictured with their new strips.

Saints lose out in dramatic end to Marshall Trophy final

Easthall Star 2
Oban Saints 2
Jimmy Marshall Cup – final
Easthall win 3-2 on penalties

LAST Friday night at Fullarton Park, Tollcross, Oban Saints had the Scottish Amateur Football League Jimmy Marshall Trophy snatched from their grasp thanks to a 93rd-minute equaliser and a penalty shoot-out defeat to Premier Division One Easthall Star. Saints will lament a succession of missed opportunities to make safe a game which they dominated for the most part, however, the dogged determination of Star to take something from a season which saw them relegated for the first time in their 26-year history was not to be denied.

After struggling for numbers over the past few weeks, Saints manager Alex Craik's biggest problem was who to leave out as a full squad reported for Saints' fourth Jimmy Marshall Trophy final appearance in five seasons. After the traditional introduction of players and match officials to Scottish Amateur Football League President Matt Armstrong, Saints kicked off playing into the low sun and were given an immediate warning that they were in for a game. Star worked a throw-in from just inside their own half on the left quickly up to pacy left winger Colin Gilmour, who cut inside Matthew Kelly and flashed a low left foot shot across Thomas McCulloch and inches wide of the Saints keepers' left hand post.

From the goal-kick Saints moved the ball quickly up to Paul Carmichael wide on the left, who lifted an exquisite right foot shot into the postage stamp corner past a helpless Donald Grant. Assistant referee Steven Wylie was quick to raise his flag and referee Jimmy Litster disallowed the goal.

Saints continued their pursuit of a quick reply to the Easthall Star opener with Craig MacEwan and Paul Carmichael both having shots blocked by the Star defence. Paul's fifth minute blocked effort won a corner kick on the right from which Fraser

MacFarlane picked out the head of Dene Cassells nine yards out. Dene's classic downward header bounced just inside the six-yard box beating Donald Grant's right hand but crashing back off the crossbar to be thumped clear by Alec Gilmour.

Easthall Star took the lead in the eighth minute from a quick break on the right wing. Daniel Cameron outmuscled Myles McAuley in midfield and fired a low ball across the face of goal where Colin Gilmour nipped in ahead of Matthew Kelly to slam into the net.

The lead lasted just eight minutes before Saints deservedly restored parity through top scorer Craig MacEwan. Craig cut into the box from the left but was halted by a well-timed chal-



Donald Campbell is congratulated after giving Saints a 2-1 lead.

enge from Star central defender Martyn Hutchinson, who would go on to pick up the Man of the Match award for an accomplished defensive performance.

Fraser MacFarlane swung in the resulting corner kick from the left which was headed down by Paul Carmichael inside the six-yard box with Craig MacEwan reacting quickest to poke the loose ball into the net from four yards.

An injury for Martyn Hutchinson in the 19th minute caused a lengthy stoppage giving both sets of players an opportunity to take on water in what was an extremely warm Glasgow evening.

Star central midfielder Andrew Malcolm's long throw-ins provided his team with a useful weapon, however, the Saints defence remained untroubled coping well with the aerial

Football

danger. On the half hour mark referee Litster denied Saints a penalty kick when Star keeper Donald Grant appeared to have a hold of Craig MacEwan's right leg when the Saints striker had the goal at his mercy. MacEwan was sent sprawling eight yards from goal but Mr Litster was unmoved and waved play on.

Saints kept up the pressure with a quickly-taken Matthew Kelly throw-in on the right to Willie Gemmell. Willie's delivery into the box was glanced on by Myles McAuley seven yards out but unfortunately wide of the keeper's right hand post.

The visitors had another penalty kick appeal dismissed by Mr Litster in the 36th minute. Dene Cassells made a strong run out from the back but was dispossessed midway inside the Star half. With Cassells out of position Easthall looked to counter but Willie Gemmell dropped deep to cover and launched another Saints attack. Willie's long ball from the back picked out Donald Campbell wide on the right who sent a cross into the box looking for Myles McAuley.

Before he could get his head to the ball Myles took a boot to the face which somehow neither the referee or his assistant Mr Wylie considered to be dangerous play.

Saints kept pressing and rattled the crossbar for the second time in the 38th minute. Donald Campbell's right foot shot from 18 yards left Donald Grant rooted to the spot but came crashing back off the bar.

Saints failed to produce the flash of inspiration necessary to break down the resolute Star defence during the five additional minutes allowed by Mr Litster and survived a rare Star foray forward when Matthew Kelly slid in to take the ball away from Colin Gilmour as he raced into the Saints box on the left.

Saints gaffer Alex Craik resisted the temptation to make any half-time changes contenting himself with an appeal for an increased sense of urgency from his starting 11.

The long ball was giving the Saints rearguard serious prob-



Craig MacEwan, No 8, stabs the ball home from close range to make the score 1-1. Match report and photos: Derek Black

lems and on one occasion Daniel Cameron came in from the right wing to round Thomas McCulloch on the edge of his box and aim a shot on target which Dene Cassells somehow managed to get back to block the line.

Saints manager Alex Craik finally decided changes were necessary to regain the initiative and withdrew Fraser MacFarlane and Myles McAuley in favour of Ross Maitland and Brian Mackay just before the hour mark.

An incisive pass through the inside left channel from Willie Gemmell sent Scott Maitland in behind the Star defence but his tempting low cross along the six-yard line found no takers in navy blue.

Pushing forward in search of an opening, Saints continued to live dangerously at the back with Marc Maccallum having to make an important block to deny Craig Smith a clear run on goal.

An unfortunate 70th minute slip by Scott Maitland allowed second half Star substitute Ross Campbell to run in behind and fire in a fierce shot which Thomas McCulloch did well to parry at his near post. The big Saints stopper made it a double save by denying another of Star's second half substitutes, veteran striker John McDonald.

A flurry of chances came and went for Saints including Donald Campbell dinking a lob over Donald Grant which drifted just over the crossbar, and Craig MacEwan glancing a near-post header from a Ross Maitland corner kick also over the bar.

Saints finally got their noses in front in the 76th minute when Brian Mackay, Paul Carmichael and Craig MacEwan carved open the Star defence for Donald Campbell to slot a low finish past Donald Grant and into the bottom corner of the net.

Ross Maitland had an immediate opportunity to put some daylight between the teams but shot straight at Donald Grant when sent clear on the right by Donald Campbell.

With five minutes remaining Alex Craik made his final change sending on David McAr-

thur to replace Matthew Kelly at right back.

On the opposite flank Scott Maitland continued to support the attack and fired an 86th-minute left foot shot from a tight angle just over the crossbar.

Saints looked the more likely to add to the scoring and had a great chance to kill the game off in the 90th minute when Donald Campbell led a break-away from a Dene Cassells clearing header. Donald had Paul Carmichael and Ross Maitland in support, who worked a one-two, with Ross electing to try and lob the keeper when perhaps a return ball to Paul might have been the better option.

In the 93rd minute Saints conceded a free kick just inside their own half and 10 yards in from the right hand touchline.

Keeper Donald Grant ran forward to add his height in the Saints box for Martyn Hutchinson's delivery but it was late replacement Glen Gilmour who got his head to the ball ahead of Marc Maccallum and sent a looping header out of Thomas McCulloch's reach and into the net for a dramatic last gasp equaliser.

The Star players naturally celebrated wildly but had goalkeeper Donald Grant to thank for keeping his composure and remaining close to his line for the re-start to safely clutch Willie Gemmell's perfectly executed lob from the halfway line just underneath his crossbar.

Mr Litster brought the match to a close signalling the need for a penalty shoot-out to decide the winners.

Having won three penalty shoot-outs since their last defeat against Hillington in the 2013 Jimmy Marshall Trophy final Saints had every reason to feel confident, however luck was to desert them this time around.

Veteran Ross Maitland accepted the unenviable task of taking the first penalty but will most certainly not want to include this particular episode in his memoirs when he finally hangs up his boots at the end of this season. After successfully dumping Star goalkeeper Don-



Craig MacEwan has his right leg pulled back by Easthall keeper Donald Grant but no penalty was given.

ald Grant on his backside Ross sent his effort two feet wide of the post to get Saints off to the worst possible start.

Man of the match Martyn Hutchinson had some of the shine taken off his own excellent performance when Thomas McCulloch dived to his right to save the first Star penalty and quickly even the score.

Second half Saints substitute David McArthur left Donald Grant rooted to the spot to notch the first successful kick but Colin Gilmour immediately restored parity sending Thomas McCulloch the wrong way in the process.

Donald Grant guessed correctly for Willie Gemmell's effort but was beaten by pace as the ball crashed into the top corner past his left hand. Ross Campbell went to the opposite side where Thomas McCulloch made his second save to hand the initiative to Saints.

This season's top scorer Craig MacEwan also went to the keeper's right where Donald Grant produced the first of his vital saves. Late substitute Craig Stewart arrowed his effort low and just inside Thomas McCulloch's right hand post with too much pace and accuracy for the keeper who guessed correctly.

All square at two successful kicks each the shoot-out now effectively entered sudden death where Star drew first blood

when Donald Grant threw himself to his right to stop Donald Campbell's effort. The pressure was now all on Star left-back Dean Scott who retained his composure to tuck the ball low into the bottom corner past Thomas McCulloch's despairing left hand and seal a famous victory for Easthall Star.

Despite falling well short of the standards set in their march to a second successive Scottish Amateur Cup semi-final just six weeks ago, Saints will be deeply disappointed not to win a match which they dominated almost entirely.

Full credit must go to a determined Easthall Star side who dug deep to force a last gasp equaliser and held their nerves to prevail in the penalty shoot-out.

Scottish Amateur Football League President Matt Armstrong presented firstly Martyn Hutchinson with his Man of the Match award, both sets of players with their respective winners and runners-up medals and finally Easthall Star Captain Alec Gilmour with the Jimmy Marshall Trophy.

Oban Saints would like to express their sincere thanks to all those who sent messages of support and especially to the hardy band of supporters who made the 200-plus mile round trip to Glasgow's east end to lend their support in person.



Dene Cassells can only watch as his effort comes back off the crossbar.

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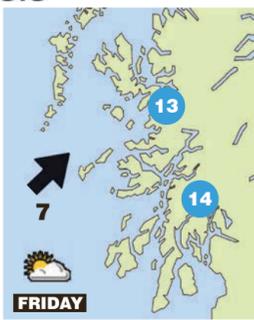
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WEATHER

Thursday	Heavy rain Winds moderate southerly Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.
Friday	Sunny intervals Winds light south westerly Temperatures 9°C to 14°C.
Weekend Outlook	Sunny on Saturday Heavy rain showers on Sunday Winds light south south westerly Temperatures 9°C to 15°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday May 18, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date		am		pm	
Thur	05.05	1.3	11.10	2.9	17.04
Fri	06.19	1.5	12.43	2.8	18.08
Sat	00.43	3.0	07.40	1.5	13.54
Sun	01.59	3.0	08.48	1.5	14.45
Mon	02.52	3.1	09.38	1.4	15.25
Tues	03.33	3.3	10.17	1.3	16.01
Wed	04.10	3.4	10.51	1.2	16.36

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

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Charity walk costs family their disability mobility car



The group walked from Fort William to Kinlochleven to raise money for Down's Syndrome Scotland. Picture Iain Ferguson The Write Image.

ELLIE FORBES
eforb@obantimes.co.uk

THE completion of a charity walk which raised more than £2,000 has resulted in a Kinlochleven family losing their mobility car.

For the past five years 13-year-old Mark McDuff, who has Down's syndrome, has put on a charity walk called Mark's Gangnam Style Walk, named after one of his favourite songs, to raise money for Down's Syndrome Scotland.

Mark, along with a group of his friends and family, travel from Kinlochleven to Fort William by minibus and then make the 12.8-mile journey home on foot.

This year's walk, which took place on Saturday May 27, saw 32 people take part, raising more than £2,000 for the charity.

But Mark's mum, Kay McDuff, has told the *Lochaber Times* the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) has taken the family's mobility car away as a result of Mark being able to complete the walk for the past five years.

Ms McDuff had a mobility Ford Focus for six years. But when she went to renew the

car last year, she was shocked to be told the car was going to be taken away because of Mark's ability to walk a certain distance.

Ms McDuff said: 'They [DWP] said that because Mark can walk a certain amount of miles, once a year, we don't need a mobility car.'

'I have never hidden the fact Mark has done that walk. And there is nothing to say he couldn't have done that walk if he had one leg.'

'It is a real struggle for him. In the pictures after we did it last year you can see Mark just sitting on a rock with his head in his hands - he was exhausted. But he pushed himself to do it because it's for charity, and all of his friends and family are there, doing it to support him.'

Ms McDuff described the grilling she was given when she tried to renew the car.

She said: 'I had to answer questions like how many times does he get up during the night, and how long is he in the toilet for and that is stuff you can't always remember - it's just ridiculous.'

Ms McDuff lodged an appeal with an independent tribunal



Inverlochry fun run raises almost £3,000

SCHOOLS around Lochaber have been hosting summer fun nights and fairs in the past few weeks, as the children get ready to finish for the year.

Inverlochry Primary School hosted its fantastic May fair on Friday May 12, with a slip and slide, bouncy castle, face

painting and much more. The school also put on a fun run which raised almost £3,000.

Pictured are the race winners - Ben Corner, middle, who secured first place, second was Daniel Parfitt, left, and Ben Britton came in third.

For more fun night pictures from across Banavie, St Columba's, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar, Spean Bridge primary schools and Stramash Nursery, turn to page four.

For a full gallery of events head to www.lochabertimes.co.uk

which has upheld the DWP's decision. Disability Living Allowance payments for higher rate mobility, where a person qualifies for a mobility car, are reserved for people who are 'virtually unable to walk'.

A DWP spokesperson told the *Lochaber Times*: 'Decisions are made after consideration of all the information provided by the

claimant - including any supporting evidence from their GP or medical specialist - and an independent appeal has upheld our decision in this case.'

Ms McDuff added: 'When I got the letter saying they didn't think I needed the mobility car for Mark, people in the village started writing letters complaining, because lots of them

have known Mark all his life, and seen him struggle, and they are worried about him.'

'He could walk over to the shop, but he would really struggle with it and he would get tired. Where it would only take me a few minutes to walk, it would take him much longer.'

'It's not even just about the car. We haven't had it for a year

now so we are getting used to it, but it's the principle of it. Thankfully we have a good support system of friends and family who help out, and give Mark a lift to school.'

'I have a great sister-in-law who takes time off work to take us places as due to his health issues Mark struggles to use public transport.'

Charged over library incident

A 26-YEAR-OLD man has been charged in connection with an incident last Thursday which saw Fort William library cordoned off after reports of a gunman.

Police officers and ambulances were dispatched to the High Street just after 10am and the library was evacuated.

A plastic BB gun was recovered from the scene.

Michael Kucera, of no fixed address, appeared in private on petition in Fort William Sheriff Court on Friday May 26 charged with theft by shipbreaking and opening a lockfast place, and two counts of breach of the peace. Kucera entered no plea and was committed for further examination. He was remanded in custody.

A police spokesperson said: 'Police Scotland can confirm that a 26-year old-man has now been arrested and charged in relation to an incident at the library in Fort William on Thursday May 25.'

Tributes to shinty star

TRIBUTES have been paid to a Kilmallie shinty player who has died aged 29.

Duncan Rodger, from Inverlochry, died in the early hours of Monday. He is survived by his wife Emma and son James, six.

Tributes poured in for the shinty star who made his name with the Fort William team, and played in several Camanachd Cup finals.

A player of huge talent and skill, Duncan rose to the top, playing at an international level.




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School project hits new milestone

AMBITIOUS plans are moving forward for a remote Lochaber community to build its own school.

A planning application for the first community-owned school in Scotland has now been submitted to the Highland Council.

Strontian Community School Building Ltd (SCSB), the company that owns the land adjacent to Ardnamurchan High School, hopes plans for the £750,000 school will be accepted by the local authority, enabling work to start at the end of July.

The Rev Donald McCorkindale, chairman of SCSB, said: 'We hope the planning permis-

sion will be granted without any problems in the next six weeks.'

The school will comprise two classrooms to accommodate up to 50 children. Currently the school roll stands at around 35.

Mr McCorkindale said a significant design feature of the school is that it is built 'around the footprint of four houses'.

'We have to future-proof this project, and we wanted to come up with something that will be an ongoing asset for the community,' he said.

'In 2027, the ownership of Ardnamurchan High School will revert back to the Highland Council, and when plans

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FW

Stornoway port masterplan revealed

THE FINAL version of the masterplan outlining a 20-year vision for the development of Stornoway Harbour has been published.

Community consultation over the draft proposals are said to have been 'positive'. The masterplan will now concentrate on three areas: the creation of a deep water port; development at Goat Island and Newton Basin; and leisure and amenity services around Cromwell Street Quay.

The deep water port is seen as essential for the long-term future of the port and a sustainable island economy. The multi-functional developments at Goat Island address the needs of a variety of business areas while development of the Cromwell Street Quay area is being seen as a potential asset for the community and for tourists.

The port authority has also published its annual report for 2016. The report stated 2016 saw a 49 per cent increase in cruise ships, compared to 2015, and a 64 per cent increase in cruise ship passengers.

There was also a 17 per cent increase in ferry passengers and 12,359 more cars travelled on the Ullapool to Stornoway ferry compared to the previous year. Turnover was almost £3.3million.

The port authority has set up a small funding mechanism to help island community groups and is inviting funding applications to be submitted by Monday June 19.

Youth organisations and marine-related groups based in Lewis and Harris will be given priority.



Stornoway Harbour.

Work starts on Criche Bridge

WORK has started to widen the carriageway on Criche Bridge, west of Glenfinnan, on the Road to the Isles.

So far five bridges have been renewed on the A830 in a £10m programme to improve one of Scotland's most scenic routes.

Work began on Criche Bridge, at Arieniskill, on Monday. It is being carried out by BEAR Scotland on behalf of Transport Scotland. A temporary bridge will be installed as a diversion, with temporary traffic lights and a 30mph speed limit in place.

The bridge spans an environmentally sensitive watercourse, which means the work needs to be carried out over the summer.

Dearg Bridge was the first structure to be completed in December 2014, followed by the replacement of Garbh and Utha Bridges in late 2015.

Ranochan and Arieniskill were the fourth and fifth structures to be completed in 2016.

Lochaber Times
01397 703003

Collaboration the key to success of Skye tourism

ELLIE FORBES

eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

THE DRIVING forces behind a boom in tourism in Argyll and Bute and Inverness and Loch Ness will impart their wisdom when they address a meeting in Skye.

The gathering, at the Aros Centre in Portree on Friday June 9, is the first of a series of meetings to identify and find solutions to the pressures on the Skye caused by increases in tourism on the island.

The meetings have been organised by constituency MSP Kate Forbes.

Carron Tobin, development manager for Argyll and The Isles Tourism Co-operative, will explain how visitor pressures were addressed in and around Loch Lomond, while Graeme Ambrose, chief executive of VisitInvernessLochNess (VILN), will touch on the need for collaboration.

Kate Forbes MSP said across Scotland businesses, community groups and public or third sector bodies work together to make the most of tourism.

She commented: 'So here in Skye, we may not have to invent the wheel but instead see what is happening elsewhere - in Argyll and Bute for example - and adopt good ideas.



Group meeting with Kate Forbes on Skye.

'Like many, I find it easy to list the many challenges facing businesses and residents on Skye but a lot more difficult to find sustainable solutions.'

In another bid to alleviate tourism pressure, a meeting was held in Portree on May 19 between Highland councillors, Ms Forbes and tourism group Skye Connect. Discussions took place

on various potential improvements to tourism infrastructure and how individuals could work together.

Ms Forbes commented: 'We clearly have a mountain of work to do and we must work together to accomplish that. I know Skye Connect has great ideas and has already done a lot behind the scenes.

'We discussed the importance of bringing people together and the priorities for Skye.'

Chairwoman of the destination group, Shirley Spear, said there is 'no easy fix or magic solution' to the issues faced by the community.

Ms Spear added: 'We are not the only destination having to deal with the extra increase in

the number of visitors coming to Scotland.

'Many influences have affected this upsurge, including improved air links with the country's main airports and the strength of the pound.

'Scotland lacks the infrastructure it needs to cope with the number of visitors coming to enjoy our beautiful countryside and other areas have been quicker to pick up on the work required to be more organised to deal with the needs of the public.

'We have a lot to catch-up with here in Skye and a great deal of work needs to be done, which requires funding. SkyeConnect should become the vehicle through which some of this national funding can be accessed. With a more professional structure and approach, we are working towards building future opportunities.'

Councillor John Gordon said: 'We all recognise the need for a collaborative approach in addressing the issues we face on Skye as a result of the growing tourism industry. The need for a robust tourism strategy and investment in infrastructure is vital to the ongoing success of Skye.'

Councillors and Skye Connect hope to meet again with Ms Forbes in August.

Increased capacity on bus route

CUSTOMERS on the Ullapool to Inverness coach route will once again benefit from extra capacity following an agreement between Western Isles Council, Scottish Citylink and the Highlands and Islands Regional Transport Partnership.

Scottish Citylink, which operates the service on a commercial basis without any public sector investment, cannot guarantee it can add extra vehicles to the route with less than 48 hours' notice unless the level of demand covered the operational costs.

But Citylink confirmed it does regularly deploy additional coaches when bookings for the service exceed the capacity more than 48 hours in advance and are said to put on extra Friday, Saturday and Monday services during the summer timetable.

CityLink has said it will work together to ensure this increased capacity would be used wherever possible when passengers made an advance booking.

Ensemble's Skye date

THE 45-STRONG Kelvin Chamber Orchestra will perform at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Skye, today (Thursday June 1) at 7.30pm.

The Glasgow-based orchestra forms part of the Kelvin Ensemble, a student-run symphony orchestra performing works chosen by the student committee throughout the year.

Kelvin performs two concerts a year within the university, providing students with the chance to both perform and socialise within a thriving music scene.

Members are expected to play to a high level and display the musicianship and dedication typical of a full symphony orchestra.

The programme for the evening includes Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture; Schubert, Symphony No.8; Rossini's Barber of Seville Overture; and Beethoven, Symphony No.6.

For tickets and further information from www.seall.co.uk or telephone 01471 844207.

Mallaig winner visits European Parliament

LOCHABER Rotary Club's essay competition winner Jasmine Humphrey has visited the European Parliament as part of her prize.

The Mallaig High School pupil was one of 24 Scottish students to benefit from a Rotary-funded trip to Strasbourg earlier this year, after impressing the club with her account of the issues involved in maintaining and supporting peripheral languages including Catalan and Gaelic.

Jasmine was this month's speaker at the club's lunch, giving a 'highly informative, entertaining and at times emotional presentation'.

To go on the trip candidates must have gained Higher French or another language at advanced level and they are encouraged to

participate and communicate in their second language during the event.

The pupils enjoyed exploring Strasbourg learning about its history, architecture and language.

They carried out a street survey asking locals what they thought about Scotland's position in Europe, participated in a fun quiz in different languages and met pupils from the other nations.

Jasmine said she was particularly intrigued by the fact visiting Germany involved simply walking over a bridge.

On the second day they were greeted by Scottish MEP Catherine Stihler and sat in on a session of the Euro Parliament.

The pupils followed the de-

bates with translations through headphones.

Jasmine expressed her thanks to the Rotary club and said the experience taught her the true meaning of solidarity.

She said: 'It was an absolutely amazing opportunity to see at first hand the work of the European parliament. We made many friends and it made us think of Europe as a whole - all working together - good communication between us is really vital.'

Jasmine finished her talk with a quote from former European Commissioner Maria Damanaiki: 'If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.'

On behalf of the club, past president George Bruce thanked Jasmine for her fascinating talk.



Sally Auty, teacher at Mallaig High School, Paula Ross, president of Lochaber Rotary Club, Jasmine Humphrey and Rotarian George Bruce.



Plockton Music School is gearing up to go on tour.

Music students hit the road

This year's concert tour by students of Sgoil Chiuil Na Gàidhealtachd (Plockton Music School) will see them head east to Royal Deeside.

The group will be heading to Braemar Village Hall on Saturday June 10, Deeside Community Theatre, Aboyne, on Sunday June 11 and Finzean Hall on Monday June 12.

Students will spending their days taking part in workshops

at Aboyne Academy, Banchory Academy and Braemar Primary School.

On their return to the West Coast, the band will perform their end of year concert at Plockton High School on Saturday June 17.

Charitable trust, Friends of Plockton Music School, provides financial support for the touring and recording activities of the centre.

Concerns mount about Skye health provision

THE Scottish Parliament's Public Petitions Committee is to again write to the Scottish Government over growing concerns about the redesign of health services in Skye and Lochalsh.

Constituency MSP Kate Forbes participated in the discussion session and highlighted the growing pressures on the provision of care and palliative beds.

Afterwards, the Skye MSP said it is loud and clear that both

the north and south of the island wants 'robust and dependable services'.

She said: 'I attended the Public Petitions Committee on behalf of Skye residents again because I know how much interest there is in the outcome of this petition.

'I am pleased that the cross-party committee spent so much time asking questions and discussing the petition.'

Ms Forbes added: 'Despite a recommendation to close the

petition, I made the case for it to remain open until we have assurances.

'I suggested that the committee invite the petitioners back to give evidence and there was also a suggestion about a round-table discussion with petitioners, NHS Highland and MSPs. However, neither of these options was agreed.'

It was said that MSPs are now going to write again to Shona Robison, the health secretary. Ms Forbes concluded: 'The

petition has been open for more than 18 months now, and letters have gone back and forth about expectations around emergency care, care beds and community engagement which don't always marry with the reality on the ground.

'I asked MSPs to make sure there is something tangible before they close the petition.'

'The committee needs tangible evidence about the process being followed correctly or services being provided.'



Kate Forbes MSP.

Conference success

NHS WESTERN Isles' Macmillan nursing team held a successful Lung Cancer Conference to update health professionals on the latest surgical and oncology treatments.

The event, at the Caladh Hotel, Stornoway, attracted more than 70 delegates.

Donna Parkes, NHS Western Isles Macmillan Nurse, said: 'We are delighted with the success of the event.

Feedback from the delegates was very positive and the speakers and presentations were excellent.'

Council apprentices

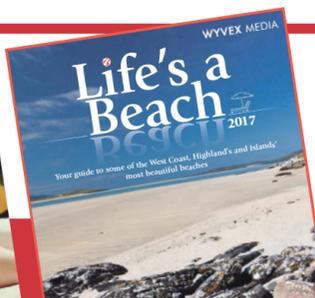
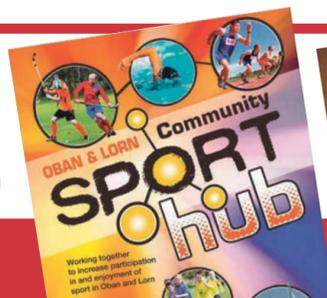
COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar and partners will publish a list of more than 40 apprenticeships which will see posts created from the Butt to Barra.

The posts will be in a range of sectors including business, childcare, human resources and sports.

The comhairle will be hosting community meetings throughout the Western Isles to provide full information on the above apprenticeships.

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FW



Elspeth MacLean, 3, on the bouncy slide at Stramash fun day. Abrightside Photography.



Archie Kennedy on the zip wire at Banavie fun night. Abrightside Photography.



Arran Smith and Sean Cann, both 10, on the bungee race at Banavie. Abrightside Photography.



Jack Sprag, left, with his friend Cameron Thomson at the Stramash fun day. Abrightside Photography.



Roddy MacInnes, eight, on the climbing wall at the Gaelic school. Abrightside Photography.



Isla Purvis, two, loved the bouncy castle at the Gaelic school. Abrightside Photography.

Lochaber has fun in the sun



Lads at the lemonade stall at Spean Bridge fun night. Abrightside Photography.

FAMILIES and friends have been welcoming the summer with fun nights and fairs at schools in Lochaber. Events were held at Inverloch, Banavie, Spean Bridge, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar and St Columba's Primary, as well as at Stramash nursery. More pictures at www.lochabertimes.co.uk.



Maddison MacMillan, seven, on the bouncy castle at Inverloch fun night. Abrightside Photography.



Flinn Wilson, five, has his face painted by fellow pupil at Inverloch primary, Shannon MacNeil. Abrightside Photography.



Pupils at Spean Bridge Primary School at the fun night. Abrightside Photography.



Lochaber High School band at the St Columba's fair. Abrightside Photography.



Left, Ben O'Sullivan, eight, and William MacLeod, 10, at the balloon stall at St Columba's fair. Abrightside Photography.

WHAT'S ON

JOIN in and help Nether Lochaber community be a better place to live, work and visit. The next Nether Lochaber Community Association event is Sunday June 4, with plans to clean up more of the shoreline - this time at Onich. There are also more flower tubs and planters to place around the area, fill and plant. After the hard work, volunteers will be rewarded with a barbecue or refreshments at the village hall. All welcome. Come for the day or just an hour or two. Meet at Onich Village Hall at 10am.

THE Lochaber and District Canine Society dog show will be held on July 4 at the Nevis Centre. This year's chosen charity for the event is Canine Partners. Entry is £1.50 a class, with rosettes awarded to fourth place and trophies for first. Competitions in the pedigree classes will include puppy, junior, gun dog and novelty classes hosting crossbreed, waggiest tail, best condition and much more. Doors open at 6.45pm and judging starts at 7pm. For more information, call Sarah Holroyd on 01855 821277.

LOCHABER Schools Pipe Band and friends will be in concert at Lochaber High School on Wednesday June 7 at 7pm, with special guests the Lochaber Gaelic Choir. Tickets are £5 for adults and £2 for children, with tea and coffee included. Tickets can be bought from Lochaber High School and band members.

LOCHABER Environmental Group has teamed up with Off Beat Bikes to offer a free two-hour workshop on bike maintenance and repair on Tuesday June 13 from 7pm to 9pm at its store on the High Street. If you would like to book a spot, call the LEG office on 01397 700090 and info@lochaberenviron.org.uk or on Lochaber Environmental Group's eventbrite. Spaces are limited and booking is essential. Take your bike along.

THE Kilmallie Community Centre is hosting another community gardens clean-up. The group is calling for gardeners and volunteers to help with the restoration of the site. The clean-up will start at 10am on Saturday June 17. For more information, contact Sarah Kennedy on 07768 805040.

BALLACHULISH Community Association is hosting a cuppa and a cupcake day on Friday June 16. The event is in aid of Alzheimer Research Scotland. Entry to the Ballachulish Village Hall event will be £2, and it starts at 11am to 3pm. There will be a raffle and music.

ART LOCHABER is gearing up to host its annual exhibition. The art will be on show at Ben Nevis Distillery until Wednesday June 7, from 10am to 6pm. Entry is free.

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View from the Chamber



THE next UK government will have a crucial task ahead in constructing an industrial strategy that will deliver for all of the UK and which will deliver the skills and talents that Lochaber businesses need to succeed.

Calling for an integration of the strategy at a Scottish and UK level, Lesley Benfield, chief executive of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, said: 'All of the political parties going into the general election talk about a new industrial strategy as a key part of their economic agenda for the next parliament.

'If this is pursued on a UK basis, then it is vital that it takes full account of the devolved settlement and that action is co-ordinated by the Scottish and UK governments to ensure that Lochaber firms can take full advantage of a national focus on the key drivers of business success.

'Our businesses need an environment that enables them to identify opportunities and respond to them in an agile manner. We need a national industrial strategy to set out measures to improve our infrastructure and connectivity, to widen our access to key skills and talents, to identify actions to incentivise and reward positive behaviours and to ensure that we have the most competitive environment to do business.'

OAP's trial is adjourned

A RETIRED police officer has denied six charges, including denying a chainsaw with its engine running while staring at neighbours, uttering threats and shouting offensive remarks, and staring at the head teacher of the village primary school in an intimidating manner, which all allegedly took place after a family falling-out.

Thomas Allan Kirsop, 76, of Brudair, North Ballachulish, also denies engaging in conduct which caused a husband and wife fear and alarm by following the wife's car, pulling alongside; banging into her at the village primary school; sending an anonymous letter containing a newspaper clipping; placing signs with an offensive slogan on a boundary fence.

The offences are alleged to have taken place between January 1, 2015 and May 29, 2016.

Kirsop also pleaded not guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner on September 7, 2014, outside an Onich address by shouting, swearing and uttering offensive remarks towards the

householder; repeatedly parking outside a local village store and staring at the occupants in an intimidating manner, and on August 28, 2015, in Glenahulish, shouting, swearing and uttering offensive remarks to a man who lived there.

During the jury trial the husband told the court that Kirsop had turned against them after another member of the family 'accused me of pinching a child's go-kart seat'.

He said an anonymous letter arrived containing a newspaper clipping about a buggy stolen from a course.

'My wife recognised the handwriting,' he said, adding that 'it was probably trying to relate something to do with a go-kart'.

The man, who lives in the property adjoining Kirsop's, said he found a sign on the boundary between their homes which read: 'keep out snakes, lying rats and slugs'. He said: 'I wanted to take it down before my son saw it. I pulled it off with a crowbar'.

When cross-examined by Clare Russell, Kirsop's solicitor, the

man admitted that during one of the confrontations he had 'gently pushed' Kirsop.

'A lot of what you have told us is assumption; you are assuming he put the sign up. You are assuming he sent the letter,' she said.

Kirsop did not give evidence at the trial but his wife and daughter did.

Mrs Mairi Kirsop said that relations between the two families had been 'very convivial' at first but 'there was a family dispute over a go-kart and the relationship changed completely'.

The couple's daughter said the incident where her father allegedly banged into the woman - who is her sister-in-law - did not happen in the way that had been stated. She said: 'She lunged across the pavement and rammed into my dad's shoulder. I was horrified. Speechless.'

Kirsop's wife spoke of 'a continual onslaught [from the other family] which is affecting us so badly'.

When police called at their home about the chainsaw, she said: 'I was stunned because of

the allegations made against him; that he was brandishing a chainsaw. I was in the garden close to him.' She told the court that her husband had been cutting down overgrown shrubbery.

A woman who visited the couple with her young child told the court she saw Kirsop 'facing into [their] garden just holding a chainsaw with it running. He was just stood at the hedge. I looked and I waved but he didn't acknowledge.'

She said: 'I knew there was animosity between the two families. It didn't seem right what Mr Kirsop was doing. I thought he might be doing it to try and annoy them.'

The head teacher of St Bride's Primary in North Ballachulish also gave evidence at the trial. She told the court: 'When a child doesn't feel confident enough to walk out of the school gate and go home it is worthy of note and I took a professional decision the police should be notified of this.'

The court heard that Kirsop had been waiting outside the school to collect another pupil but did not

leave and stood staring when the other child came out.

Watching from inside the school, the head teacher said: 'The child was standing still and seemed anxious. He was looking at Mr Kirsop and Mr Kirsop had focused on the child.' She went outside to ask the child to go home. She said: 'He was not for moving; he was not going home.'

The child stepped slightly behind her and Kirsop continued to stand and stare at them both. As Kirsop left, he kept turning round and looking back. 'I stood my ground at the gate,' she said, adding that this was the 'culmination of months and months' of staff having to monitor and make sure there was a gap between the times pupils left the school.

But Kirsop's solicitor said he had been reading the school notice board and talking to the child he had collected.

Sheriff William Taylor QC has now heard the prosecution and defence cases; the trial was adjourned until June 12 when each will give their closing submissions and he will give his verdict.



Kevin and Jayne Ramage will open Highland Bookshop.

New bookshop set to open in High Street

FORT William will be getting a new addition to the High Street this summer with the opening of a bookshop.

In what is said to be a 'major boost' to the High Street of the Outdoor Capital of the UK, the Highland Bookshop will be opening in early July.

The shop is the brain child of owners of the Watermill Bookshop in Aberfeldy, Kevin and Jayne Ramage.

Watermill has previously won UK independent bookshop of the year.

Kevin Ramage said: 'Being in a large premises, the bookshop will have a positive impact on the whole of Fort William town centre. As well as selling books and stationery, we will hold

regular events and be a venue for reading and writing groups, and we hope that the shop will become a cultural and social hub for Lochaber.'

The shop will have an extensive stock across all subject areas, serving the community as well as the large number of visitors who come to the town.

Lochaber-based author and entrepreneur Angus MacDonald is collaborating with the couple on the independent bookshop.

Angus, author of *Ardnish Was Home*, said: 'Having grown up in the area, I'm very excited about being able to open a new and upmarket business in the High Street which will be great asset for the town.'



Members of the Fort William branch of Legion Scotland at their clean up of the war memorial on the Parade. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

Fort Legion hopes to clean up in Best Kept competition

MEMBERS of the Fort William branch of Royal British Legion Scotland are hoping the town's war memorial can pick up a top prize in the RBLS 2017 Best Kept competition for a third year.

The war memorial has won the Highlands and Islands area competition the past two years and now the group's 70 members are going for the treble.

In the past, the memorial has been marked down in the national stage of the competition due to mildew on the statue, and so it was decided that this year it would get a spring clean.

A group of 12 volunteers have been hard at work cleaning up the memorial to get it ready for judging this month. Chairman of the Fort William branch

Kevin Lane said he has his fingers crossed they can win the area competition this year and progress to the nationals.

He said: 'The clean-up went extremely well and the monument looks immaculate. It was a real community effort.'

'I would like to thank David Brady who organised the work, Campbell Plant Hire for the loan of the elevated work platform

(EWP), the Garden Stop for their very kind donation of white chipped granite stones, the town team for the work that they will now do to complete the floral displays, Dean Kennedy and his work party for the loan of the pressure washer and Callum Ross, who is not a branch member, but freely gave of his time to support us and who operated the EWP.'

U-turn welcomed over A82 summit

LOCHABER MSP Kate Forbes has said community councils in the north and south of Fort William will be invited to next month's A82 summit.

Last Tuesday, May 23, there was outcry from Lochaber communities following a letter from Transport Scotland stating CCs would not have a seat at the table in discussions.

Fort William and Ardnachan councillor Andrew Baxter raised concerns that communities would be excluded from the meeting in Crianlarich on June 23.

With the 167-mile A82 covering different local authorities, organiser Transport Scotland had said not everybody involved in the A82 could be invited.

However, Ms Forbes has ensured there will be representation of community councils after raising the matter personally with Transport Minister Humza Yousaf.

She said: 'To make tangible progress, it's clear that not every single person who lives or works

on the A82 network can be invited to a meeting but I agree that there should be local representation.'

'I have represented the views of community councils and spoken to Humza Yousaf and to Transport Scotland, who considered my views.'

Mr Baxter told the *Lochaber Times*: 'The government clearly saw a traffic jam ahead following its decision to exclude community councils from the A82 summit and has now executed a speedy U-turn.'

'There was widespread disappointment and anger among community groups that they were being prevented from having their say direct to the transport minister. I hope the government genuinely listens to local opinion.'

Iain Jenner, on behalf of the Association of South Lochaber Community Councils, said: 'It is reassuring that they [the government] have embraced the spirit of the Community Empowerment Act, 2015, in being inclusive in this way.'

Captain impressed with Fort William

MORE than 900 passengers descended on Fort William last Thursday with the arrival of the Braemar cruise ship.

The Fred Olsen ship anchored in Loch Linnhe for its first visit to the town after travelling from Southampton on Sunday May 21.

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times* from aboard the ship, captain Jens Gulowsen said he was impressed with Fort William.

He said: 'Coming through the Corran narrows, it was quite foggy, and this is the first time I have been here, but once the fog lifted we could see the lighthouse and it was quite beautiful.'

The Norwegian captain, who has been on cruise ships since 2004, said that the business has run in his family. Captain Gulowsen first got a taste for the sea when he was in the navy.

He was captain of the *Boudicca* before the Braemar, and said it was a 'whole different kind of ship'.

'I am glad I had the chance to be in charge of the *Boudicca* first,' he said.

Captain Gulowsen said he usually stays on board the ship when passengers go ashore. He



Councillor Naill MacLean and Braemar captain Jens Gulowsen exchange plaques to mark the ship's maiden trip to Fort William. Picture: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

said: 'I sometimes get off but you want to keep the lady safe.'

'I'd like to see Fort William very much, especially in this weather.'

He said he would like to see the Braemar make a return to the town at some point.

Newly-elected Fort William and Ardnachan councillor Niall McLean presented the

captain with a plaque on behalf of the Highland Council for the inaugural visit of the Braemar to Fort William.

Passengers enjoyed a host of activities put on in the town during their visit before heading off to Ireland for the next part of their journey.

And the *Boudicca* made a

return visit to Fort William on Saturday during a five-day cruise that saw her go from Glasgow to Ullapool and the Small Isles.

After her previous visit to the town on May 10, it was said that on average each passenger surveyed spent £35 in the High Street.

Court bid to confiscate money from former hotel owner

MOVES are afoot to confiscate money from the former owner of a hotel near Appin who was jailed for three years for human trafficking.

At Fort William Sheriff Court last week, Sheriff William Taylor QC set the date of Au-

gust 17 this year for a proof of confiscation to be heard against Shamsul Arefin, former owner of the Stewart Hotel.

Arefin was found guilty in July 2015 of breaches of the Asylum and Immigration Act between 2008 and 2010. The court heard

then that he had brought four people from his native Bangladesh to work at the hotel and that they took out loans to pay him for working at the hotel.

It was described at his trial as 'a clear case of modern-day slavery'.

Last week the court heard that on release from prison after serving his sentence, Arefin had been sent to a Home Office detention centre but had been released from there in late April to care for his seriously ill wife who lives in the UK.

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Plockton

PLOCKTON'S community telephone directory has been updated and proceeds from its sale donated to three good causes.

Sales of the directory, which is produced by Mary Golan and Hugh MacQuarrie, raised £600 which has been split evenly between a prostate cancer charity, Kyleakin Connections and Plockton Badminton Club.

Plockton and District Community Council met in Plockton Hall on Tuesday May 2.

Among the items discussed was the poor state of Innes Street. Highland Council had promised two years ago it would move the Plockton sign at the entrance to the village to the south side of Burnside, but this has never been done. It was also noted bridge improvements opposite the high school have not been carried out.

Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust (KLCT) also met this month. A representative from Plockton and District Community Council, along with three representatives from Plockton Harbour Community Interest Company, attended the meeting where it was confirmed that KLCT articles of association include the Plockton district and the whole of Lochalsh.

However it was noted no consultation was undertaken with Plockton and District Community Council prior to its formation. As a development officer is currently being recruited, it was pointed out that part of their role should be to increase engagement with the rest of the community councils in Lochalsh, not only Kyle. The next meeting of the group will be the AGM on Tuesday June 13.

In April, Plockton saw 3.5 inches of rain with only eight dry days. The warmest day was 14°C and the coolest was 0.9°C.

Fort William



Cameron receiving the trophy from Willie MacKillop's son Keith and club chairman Alasdair Macdonald.

Cameron hits all the right notes at club

ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD Cameron MacIssac has been crowned Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club's most improved young player of the year, taking home the top prize from the club's final show.

The club welcomed a great turnout at its final night of the season earlier this month when Cameron received the Willie MacKillop Memorial Trophy.

Around 45 people attended the event, with 10 musicians taking turns on the stage to play.

Cameron started playing when he was seven and has been attending the club for three years. This was the second year Cameron has won the award.

Andrew MacDonald from the club told the *Lochaber Times*: 'It was a very good evening with a lot of positive comments for the local players.'

'We host the club the first Tuesday of the month from October to May with a guest band playing each month, except the last month where we just have a night of local musicians.'



Punters enjoy a laugh at the Lochaber Sensory Care Race Night in the Volunteer Arms last Friday night. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Sensory care race night raises £835

A CHARITY which helps the visually impaired and hard of hearing has raised more than £800 at a race night.

Lochaber Sensory Care held the successful event in the Volunteer Arms, Fort William. More than 30 people attended and helped the group raise £835.

The money will go towards the day-to-day running of the charity.

The group was established in the 2006 and is based at offices in Caol Shopping Centre.

A group spokesman said: 'Everyone at the Lochaber Sensory Care centre in Caol is delighted to have raised

£835 at their race night last Friday, May 19.'

'Thanks go to David Smillie at the Volunteer Arms, Fergie Ferguson and Sean McCartney and the bar staff for all their help and generosity and to everyone who supported the fundraiser.'

Pupils' project earns Unicef certificate

KINLOCHLEVEN High School's eco committee is making its mark in the Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA).

The award, run by Unicef UK, encourages schools to place the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at the heart of its ethos and curriculum.

Unicef works with schools in the UK to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive.

The Kinlochleven RRSA embeds these values in daily school life and gives

children the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and to be responsible, active citizens.

Kinlochleven youngsters have volunteered to be a part of a Unicef club, which meets every Wednesday lunchtime. They have completed a survey and created an action plan which they presented at the second community meeting for the refugee resettlement as well as at a school assembly.

To acknowledge their hard work and dedication, they have been rewarded with a Recognition of Commitment certificate, the first step towards the full Rights



Fiona Janzen, Ben Green and Connor Maclean, all in S2, show off their Unicef certificate.

Respecting School Award. Head teacher Rebecca Machin said: 'I am very proud of the commitment of these young people. The United Nations Charter for

the Rights of the Child is a wonderful document but hard to fully get to grips with. These pupils have done a sterling job at getting us all started. Well done.'

Re-Act Lochaber sets up shop in Caol



Brian MacInnes of Jewsons visited the Re-Act base in Caol to see how his donation of wood for shelving had been used. Lorraine Wheelen, centre, Sandra Smith, left, and Gay Anderson thanked him for his help. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

RE-ACT Refugee Action, Lochaber and Argyll, has moved into new premises in Glenlyon Street, Caol.

The not-for-profit humanitarian aid project provides vital support to displaced people all over Europe.

In the last three years, the group has filled three 7.5 tonne lorries with aid which has been distributed to camps in Greece, Calais, Lebanon and Syria.

Lorraine Wheelen told the *Lochaber Times*: 'We needed shelves so we could sort donations.'

A Lochaber businessman donated the time of two

of his joiners to make the shelves and Jewsons, Fort William, gave the charity the materials it needed.

'Re-Act thanks Brian MacInnes at Jewsons and the local businessman who wishes to remain anonymous. We could not have done this without you,' said Lorraine. Re-Act Lochaber has grown to encompass south Lochaber and Argyll, with drop-off points in Kinlochleven, Ballachulish, Duror, Appin and Oban.

The group is also looking for a storage unit. Anyone who can help should contact Lorraine 07470 219328.

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Volunteers came together to tidy the gardens in Kilmallie. Photograph: Iain Ferguson The Write Image.

Second tidy up planned for gardens

GREEN-FINGERED volunteers have given Kilmallie community gardens a new lease of life.

Kilmallie Community Centre (KCC) was awarded £1,860.57 from Foundation Scotland's Express Grants, in particular the Forbes Fund, £250 from Volunteering Matters Action Earth Grant and £100 from Scotmid in vouchers for Semichem which were raffled off at the KCC coffee morning in April raising £90 which was split between KCC and the garden project.

The gardens were originally opened by Princess Anne on October 14, 1999, but have fallen into disrepair. But on Saturday May

20 the gardens were revitalised by a group of volunteers. Sarah Kennedy, who is co-ordinating the KCC project, said: 'Everyone can get involved. The gardens are a shared resource and a shared responsibility. From the smallest individual action to a national campaign, every contribution helps.'

'We are a small community centre run by volunteers passionate about our area. It would be so nice to bring these wonderful gardens back to life for everyone to enjoy.'

The group will hold a second clean up on Saturday June 17 at 10am.

Anyone able to help should contact Sarah Kennedy on 07768 805040.

RETRO Roamer

More mid 1980s roamer items

THE ALL Weather Centre now looks like being the 'All Whether Centre' or, as I heard it described recently, the All Wet White Elephant Centre. Now roll on the two cinemas to provide a long-lacking town amenity.

Meanwhile, I wonder if someone in the local authority will see fit to provide local residents with a visual or perspective view of what Cameron Square will look like when all its holes are filled in. Then we – the common five eighths – might be able to appreciate what the future holds there. It would be nice if an artist's impression of the piazza, terrazza, or whatever could be displayed on a panel or hoarding in the Square, thus emulating the days when we knew what was happening locally thanks to the beautifully signwritten notice boards which were always attached to the railings in front of the Kennedy Monument.

Word reaches me from the terminus of the West Highland Line of high jinks with a telly. It appears that when a couple of youngsters knocked the family TV off its stand, their uncle took it into Seagull City to be sorted. As Mallaig is such a homely place, an arrangement was made whereby the repaired telly could be picked up from the boot of the fixer's car parked in his driveway. Uncle goes along to where the car is parked, opens the boot – and out falls the TV with a clatter. The TV is duly fixed – again – and, apart from a few dents and scratches on the screen, is working. It is delivered, firmly, into the living room from whence it had come. Repairer has told uncle if it breaks down, or breaks out, again, it will be the subject of the first £1,000 TV revival job.

Tales of the West Highland Line abound and another couple of stories are worth recalling. One was an incident involving the British Rail (BR) chairman – you may remember his letter to our railway friend in 'Wallace Road, Glasgow, Fort William'. It seems the BR boss really took the strain when he opted to travel by sleeper from the Fort to the real Glasgow. During the trip he was awakened three times by a faulty fire alarm. At 5.30am he was flung to the floor of his first-class couchette when a broken brake pipe forced the train into an unscheduled stop at Tamworth, Staffordshire. There his sleeper coach was uncoupled and he had to dress and move to a lower-class seat. The train arrived at Euston 90 minutes late and the chairman made straight for his office without having had the chance to change. I would like to have seen the internal memo of this episode which, no doubt, he would have compiled for 'lower authority'.

Aye, well, that's the Fort William telephone exchange switchboards silent after almost a century.

The splendid service by our local operators will be greatly missed. I hear one of them was more miffed than missed because she received a retirement certificate instead of a thank you scroll from BT.

So you folks who simply had to pick up the phone and ask to be put through to Marion Weir's or the Pulp Mill Club, that was okay up until 11pm last Thursday. Now you have to be somewhat more specific when speaking to the Inverness exchange.

One of the most humorous episodes in the changeover – and there were many – came when a person, not unconnected with switchboard operating in the Gearasdan, phoned through to 192 and asked for the number of 'Johnny Fish's Taxis'. After a pause, the response was that there was no-one listed under 'Fish' who had a taxi business. 'Well then,' pursued the caller, 'can you get me Leek's Taxis?' Sic transit...

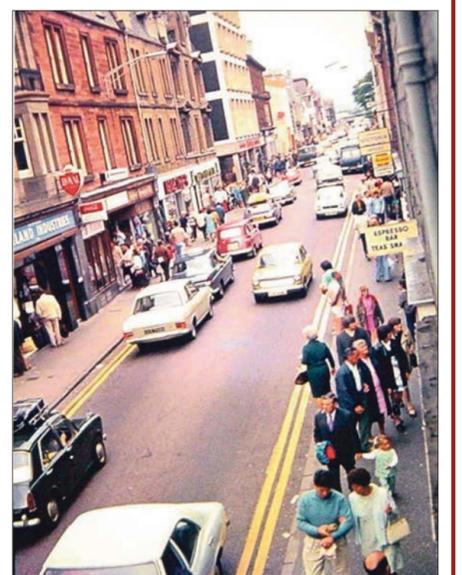
Have you tried the new High Street card game? It puts the Irish three card trick, or pontoon, in the shade. You simply insert your cheque card into a bank dispenser and press a few buttons. Then you wait for a couple of minutes. Next you have to go into the bank, which you've avoided doing in the first place, to get your card back. We used to play a similar game to that in Viewforth. It was called 'Face or a Blank.' Now it's 'Face to the Bank'.

A wee bit of mumping and moaning at the planning committee meeting. And quite a lot of stir, stir and dig, dig. Ah, but the collective eyes lit up when there was a suggestion of a site visit to find out how the New York freeways operate.

If it takes four council operatives and a metal detector all of one morning in Claggan to locate a stopcock and another squad of four men all day to put up a notice stating 'No dumping of rubbish', what do you get by high noon? Answers – water, water everywhere and the notice pulled down and dumped in among the rubbish that's not supposed to be dumped.

High jinks last week with the re-decanting of tenants from caravans back into their Lochside houses. It appears the amount of notice given by Lochaber District Council to those moving out and those moving in was anything but sufficient. Consequently some tenants got into a right burach. And they were none too pleased with officialdom. In fact, one occupier, taking the air from his temporary caravan home, found his own house key sticking out of his front door. And not a workman nor bureaucrat in sight.

Meanwhile one of our elected custodians of the public purse railed against the arrival in Mallaig of three district council officials – in three cars. And they didn't even take any surplus refuse back to the Fort.



A busy Fort William High Street in years gone by.

Vital service is cut from Lorn and Islands Hospital

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

PEOPLE with bladder problems will now have to travel further for specialist care after clinics in Oban were moved to Paisley, Alexandria or Glasgow hospitals. Urology is no longer offered at Lorn and Islands Hospital after city consultants said they were moving the clinic and closing the unit in town.

For some patients, of which there are believed to be at least 300 in the area – including at least 40 patients on Mull alone – it will mean a whole day of travelling for a 15-minute appointment.

A meeting of Oban Community Council on Monday evening was told that members were unaware of the service closure.

Even the chairman of the local health and social care partnership, Councillor Keiron Green, appeared to be completely in the dark about the move.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, who is the newly appointed Argyll and Bute representative to NHS Highland, said she had been inundated with complaints about the situation, adding: 'It is no laughing matter – this is an incredibly serious issue.'

'Nobody knew that this essential service was moved to Glasgow and people are genuinely concerned that they will not get the support they need.'

Urology is the branch of medicine that focuses on surgical and medical diseases of the urinary tract and male reproductive organs and genitourinary surgery.

Ms Devon continued: 'It is disgraceful that as a councillor I have to find out what is happening in Oban hospital from constituents.'

'One of them has tried four times to get to an appointment and there was no patient transport available and she hasn't made it.'

'Travelling for an hour to Oban and back is quite different from travelling a whole day for a five-minute appointment.'

'There is no joined-up thinking, there is no patient transport. So how are people going to get to their appointments?'

'People should be encouraged to claim every single penny for travel costs to the hospital. That might make them think again.'

'I don't think we are being told the truth about the hospital. The clinic has been in the hospital since it opened and surgery has always been done in Oban. That is no longer the case. The nurses, the equipment and everything is there – but it is not going to be used.'

'I have no idea why no-one in this room knows that the service is gone.'

Chairwoman of Oban Community Council Marri Malloy said: 'You will not believe this ... I am on the communication group for Lorn and Islands Hospital – and I don't even know about it.'

'To say I am furious is an understatement. We have been told lies.'

'There is no way this has just happened. This has been part of longer term planning by consultants in Glasgow. But no-one seems to have remembered to have told us.'

'I am going to say this very simply – we have been fed a load of lies by the hospital managers, and so have the staff in the hospital. We can see that bit by bit they are taking away all the services from the hospital.'

'If people at the hospital don't



Oban Unsigned winners are ready to go live

Excitement is now at fever pitch for the imminent Oban Live. Among those taking to the stage at Mossfield are the winners of Oban Unsigned, the competition organised by *The Oban Times* and Oban Live to let a local act perform for the masses. The big break was won by K9 Kev (aka Kevin Irvine) and Rory O'Brien (O'Brien). K9 and O'Brien will be performing with a backing band made up of local musicians Alastair Robertson, Mike Henderson, Ruairidh Galbraith, Andy Bruce and Chaz MacKenzie.

tell us the truth, then we will need to have another public meeting and take matters into our own hands.

'If councillors don't know about it, who is fighting for us against the health boards cuts?'

Former councillor Neil MacIntyre told the meeting: 'This is a problem being faced throughout the country. Consultants cannot be found for anywhere, so these doctors have got together and said, "I am not getting any more money for going to Oban, so let's just get them here where I can see more patients in the same time".'

'The only answer,' he continued, 'is to re-nationalise the health service.'

Community councillors have arranged a public meeting on Tuesday June 13 at 7pm in the Corran Halls.

After the community council meeting Councillor Elaine Robertson confirmed that she knew about the plans on May 23. Her understanding was that urology had been discussed at a public meeting held by the community council back in January.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care

Partnership said: 'Due to the national shortages of consultant urologists, we have been unable to recruit a replacement lead urologist to support the local outreach and diagnostic service for more than two years. Therefore, we jointly planned and agreed with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde that urology services for the area could only be provided in Glasgow by NHS GG&C's team of urologists, as this would ensure we would have a safe and sustainable service which meets clinical governance standards. 'Urology is a specialist clinical

service and NHS GG&C is unable to support the continuation of the hybrid service model which had operated in Oban with a general surgeon and a urology nurse providing a basic diagnostic and follow-up service. All other aspects of the urology service have always been provided in Glasgow. 'However, patient safety is our priority, and therefore for the foreseeable future basic urology diagnostics and follow-ups are now carried out in Glasgow. This has been in operation since January and we have confirmed this on a number of occasions.'

Reprieve for Glasgow Islay Association

THERE may be a last minute reprieve for a 155-year-old charity after some volunteers have come forward to take vital positions in the organisation.

Last week, columnist Robert Robertson broke the news that the well established Glasgow Islay Association would need to fold if new volunteers didn't come forward.

But at an AGM tonight, Thursday, in Partick Burgh Hall at 7pm, office bearers will be sworn into the roles of secretary, treasurer and chairperson.

The group runs various events throughout the year, including the annual Glasgow Islay Gathering, a pre-mod ceilidh, and a senior citizen's dinners.

As a charity, the association has supported a long list of pro-

jects on the island to the tune of tens of thousands of pounds, including all primary schools and various projects to enhance the island over the years.

In a letter to all 700 members of the association, the current chairwoman Janette MacArthur wrote: 'It is with great sadness I have to write this to you. For a number of years now the Glasgow Islay Association has been struggling to attract committee members to assist in the general running of the association.'

'Two years ago we were delighted to welcome several new young members to our committee but due to work/university/lifestyle duties, they are now unable to fully commit. This now brings me to the reason for

this letter – unless we gain some new committee members willing to offer their services and attend meetings (7-9pm on the first Tuesday of each month), the Glasgow Islay Association will have to be wound up after 155 years!

'The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday June 1 at 7pm in the Patrick Burgh Halls – please make every effort to attend and give us your support. Should any member be unable to attend the AGM but are willing to assist please contact either myself or Katherine McNaughton.'

Membership is open to people who belong to Islay, have lived or have married someone from the island.

After the letter went out, Ms

MacArthur received emails of support from all over the world. She continued: 'I have been at the helm for 12 years and it is time for me to retire along with my fellow committee members.'

'We need someone younger to take a turn. While we are leaving the posts we will still be around to support the new committee and help them get into the jobs.'

'There is an overwhelming support for the association, but for the charity side of things we need to make sure there is a committee to take things forward.'

Glasgow Islay Association meets tonight, Thursday, in Partick Burgh Halls at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

All are welcome.



Russell Dods from West Coast Motors.

Bus company starts new services and tours

A BUS company is expanding its Oban tours and services.

West Coast Motors, which operates City Sightseeing Oban and other bus routes in the town, is introducing three new Oban tours.

Until September 24, City Sightseeing Oban will operate Oban to Altantic Bridge, Oban to Connel Bridge, and Oban to Connel and Easdale.

Ranging from one hour to two hours and 35 minutes, the tours not only capture the bustling town and its harbour, but also provide the opportunity to discover and explore some of the West Coast's most breathtaking countryside and seascape.

The tours will operate daily with a newly refurbished open-top double decker vehicle.

The company has also in-

creased the frequency of its service 5/405 Oban to Dunbeg. The route takes in a number of local attractions, including Dunstaffnage Castle and Ocean Explorer Centre.

West Coast Motors is hoping the additional tours and summer service will encourage more people out of cars and ease the town's traffic congestion.

Russell Dods, Oban and Mull area manager, said: 'During the summer months we experience an increase in the volume of cars on the roads in and around the town.'

'Our enhanced route and tours, which are serving the areas main attractions and locations, should hopefully encourage both visitors and local people to ditch the car and hop on the bus.'

Fusion Marine moves offices to Dunbeg

FUSION Marine is moving its administration office from Barcaldine to new modern facilities at Malin House at the European Science Park in Dunbeg.

Fusion Marine will continue its manufacturing operation at Barcaldine and is in the process of recruiting an additional two staff for that site.

Moving the office premises will also benefit the local economy by freeing up space at Barcaldine for the new Scottish Sea Farms hatchery which is being developed there.

Stephen Divers, managing

director of Fusion Marine, said: 'This is great news for Fusion Marine and the European Science Park as it will aid the process of creating a cluster of marine expertise and knowledge at the site.'

'It also means that we will still be very close to our manufacturing base at Barcaldine by Loch Creran, where we are looking to expand the workforce further.'

The company currently employs 21 staff, with eight of those moving to the new office in Dunbeg at the end of June.

Council celebrates double recycling wins

ARGYLL and Bute Council has won two UK awards for recycling.

It has scooped gold in two categories, beating councils from across Britain.

In one month, the council collected the most waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) per head of population.

And its community recycling centre in Oban has been named as the most improved month-on-month WEEE collector.

Jim Smith, the council's head of road and amenity services,

said: 'We are delighted that Argyll and Bute is leading the way in recycling electric and electronic waste.'

'Thank you to local residents and businesses for playing their part in helping to grow recycling rates across the area.'

'This double gold award shows just how committed the council is to recycling, and how the people of Argyll and Bute are supporting this.'

For full details on how and where you can contribute to recycling in Argyll and Bute, see www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/bins.

Bike to School Week rolls out

FAMILIES across Scotland are being encouraged to take part in Sustrans' Bike to School Week from June 5 to 9 and discover the benefits of cycling, scootering and walking.

Bike to School Week is also a time to celebrate the good work already being done in schools to inspire more children and their parents to cycle, scoot or walk to school.

Run by Sustrans Scotland, the free event is open to schools across Scotland and, to celebrate, Sustrans has produced a series of teaching resources helping explore the benefits of travelling by bike, scooter and on foot.

Activities range from planning the school journey to conducting a traffic survey, learning about the effects of activity on the heart and carrying out simple checks on bikes and scooters.

Cecilia Oram, Sustrans Scotland Smarter Choices co-ordinator said: 'We hope as many schools as possible get behind Bike to School Week. It is a great opportunity for parents to encourage their children to be more active in their journey to school.'

'Cycling, scootering and walking form part of the solution to many of today's challenges - from air pollution to congestion, childhood obesity and physical inactivity. The average primary school journey is 1.6 miles - a distance that can be cycled, scooted or walked as an easy way of building more physical activity into our busy lives.'

Ask your child's school to take part in Bike to School Week. For more information, visit www.sustrans.org.uk/bike-school-week.

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Supporting Fort William Football Club



The competing teams at the Lochaber youth rugby tournament held at Banavie. Photos: Abrightside Photography

Rugby youth section holds successful tournament

LOCHABER Rugby Club youth section hosted an end-of-season seven-a-side and 12-a-side tournament at Banavie at the weekend.

Descended
Teams coming from Caithness and Ross Sutherland descended on Fort William on Saturday (May 27) to compete. Players competed in the S1/S2 age

group and also the under-17 teams, Ross Sutherland finishing worthy winners in both age groups.

A special mention to John Clark and Angus Moss, two young Lochaber players who have come up through the minis to play their final game for Lochaber before moving to pastures new next season. A spokesperson for the rugby club

said: 'Some really entertaining rugby was played with all teams giving a good account of themselves.'

Future
'And we wish John and Angus all the best in their future playing careers. 'The S1/S2 and our U17 teams enjoyed an end-of-season dinner and awards ceremony following their seven-a-side and

Youth rugby

12-a-side matches against Caithness and Ross Sutherland.'

At the awards ceremony Fraser Davis was crowned S1/S2 player of the year and Jack Hamilton took home the award for S3/S4 player of the year.



S1/S2 player of the year Fraser Davis and S3/S4 player of the year Jack Hamilton.

Lochaber men's team finish third in Scottish Championship Athletics

LOCHABER Athletics Club's Finlay Wild saw great success at a recent championship.

Fourteen LAC members took part in the third Scottish Championship event recently, at Brodick on the Isle of Arran.

LAC's Finlay came in a close second in 1:13:35, just one minute 24 seconds after the winner. It was almost a second course record win for Finlay in the space of a few days following his win in Keswick, but Murray Strain (HBT) was even faster and now holds the new record.

The Lochaber men's team finished in third place, John Yells, Stuart Crutchfield and Richard MacLeod backing up Finlay. Other LAC runners taking part were Stephen Monk, Gavin Macmillan, Ali Kennedy, Alan Lamont, Niall MacBeath, Suzy Devey, Robert MacLean, Susan Jane Ross, Jim Hamilton and Ray Murdoch.

A spokesperson for LAC said: 'Thanks to Shettleston Harriers for organising the event, Arran Mountain Rescue on the hill and the catering crew for the fine spread.'

Fort reserves swing into action Cricket

WITHOUT a first-team fixture this weekend, it was time for the Fort William Cricket Club reserves to step forward in the Reserve Cup.

Batting first against the strong looking Inverness-based Northern Counties, captain Daniel Davidson led from the front with a fine 36 retired. Big hitting from DJ Duncan and Lewis Gibson took Fort up to 138-7 from their 30 overs.

In reply, Counties made a good start, and were ahead of the asking rate after 15 overs. But Davidson and Shepherd, with two wickets apiece, pegged them back and they had no answer to the pace of Duncan who was the pick of the bowlers taking four for three. Counties fell from 71-3 to 89 all out, with Fort winning by 49 runs.

Winning lottery numbers Lotto

THERE were no winners in the Caol Community Centre bingo lotto draw on May 28. Winning numbers were 2, 16 and 20. The draw is now up to £400 for this Sunday.

Winning numbers for the Caol regeneration lotto draw on Thursday May 25 were 2, 3 and 16. There were no winners, so the draw is up to £200 for today (Thursday June 1).

Fort William Golf Club lotto draw numbers for May 25 were 5, 11 and 19. There were no winners so the jackpot is up to £300 for today's draw.

There is £1,000 up for grabs in the Ballachulish shinty lotto draw on Sunday. May 28 winning numbers were 9, 10 and 18.



Fort William Table Tennis Club winners. Photos: Abrightside Photography

Table tennis club hosts end of season awards

FORT William's Table Tennis Club held their annual end-of-season presentation evening at the Innseagan House Hotel recently following the final week's matches.

Club chairman John Grant announced the winners and runners-up, and the prizes were presented by Angus MacDonal.

Following the presentations, members and their partners enjoyed an excellent buffet that was made available by the hotel.

In Division 1, Steven Crook

proved too strong for his opponents and he again remained unbeaten to retain the championship. As in the previous season, Monte Bleasdale claimed the runner-up spot.

In Division 2, Aileen MacFadzean claimed the title for the first time as she remained unbeaten, with Stuart Steele taking the runner-up spot.

The open singles competition was again won by Steven Crook when he beat surprise finalist Fiona Clarke.

In the final of the doubles



Second division winner Eilidh McFadden with Steven Crook, first division winner.

Table tennis

competition, John Grant and Aileen MacFadzean overcame Monte Bleasdale and Neil Cameron to claim the trophy.

A spokesperson for the club said: 'We had a very successful night on Saturday at Innseagan Hotel. The buffet served was enjoyed by the club members and families, bringing a very good season to an end.'

'The best newcomer award went to John Steel. We are also delighted that our top player Steven Crook has been selected to play for Scotland. Now we are all looking forward to our new season starting Monday October 2 and would welcome new members who would like to join our club.'

The club have again enjoyed a successful season despite the loss of some of last season's players. New players are always welcome, as no matter what their existing skill level is, coaching is always available from the more experienced players to those who consider themselves to be beginners.

Lochaber Phoenix boxers travel to Motherwell

LAST Sunday three Phoenix club boxers travelled to Motherwell for a show organised by Forgewood Boxing Club.

Fifteen-year-old Cameron Whyte came through a wild shoot-out with Northwest Boxing Club's Declan Smith and collected a unanimous decision victory for his efforts.

Smith, from Kilmarnock, is known for being a powerful, aggressive boxer and, with Whyte, was never slow to engage in a firefight. This bout had excitement written all over it before the opening bell had even rung.

As expected, Smith came out throwing bombs. What the Lochaber coaches didn't expect was Whyte to forego any thoughts of defence and stand and trade with abandon.

Both boys planted their feet and transferred their body weight with each punch and it was easy to forget it was only 15-year-old bantamweights exchanging punches, such was the ferocity of the shots.

Thudding blows
After a very close opening round, Whyte started to utilise his defence more which enabled him to create space to land some thudding blows in combinations. While always looking in control, the Lochaber boxer always had to be wary of his opponent's shots as Smith always comes to win.

In the final round, Whyte was in full flow as he negotiated the minefield that was Smith's punches and his own heavier shots were now making a distinct impression on Declan.

The tiring Smith was now falling into the trap of some outrageous feints by Cameron and at the final bell, although it had been a hugely competitive

contest, Whyte was clearly a deserving winner.

Twelve-year-old Max Derbenovs had a very competitive rematch against the home club's Andrew Sneddon, who had edged Max at the Lochaber club's own home show a fortnight previously. It looked like Derbenovs had learned a great deal from the first encounter when he completely bossed the Forgewood boxer at the beginning of the first round, coming forward behind multiple jabs and landing his overhand right cross while fielding nothing in return. Whether it was a combination of Max taking his foot off the gas or Sneddon adjusting his tactics is uncertain but by the round's end the Forgewood boxer was competing on at least even terms.

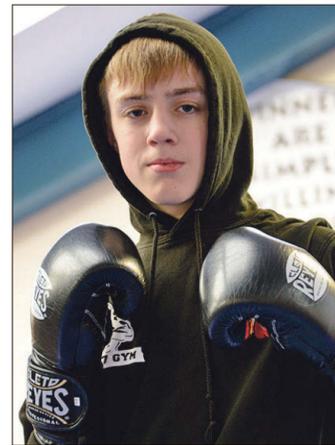
A feature of Max's improvement this season has been the work he has put into his defence but in this contest it was seen only fleetingly as for spells he would be caught apparently off guard due perhaps to lapses in concentration. These were the spells that clinched victory for Sneddon. Although Derbenovs showed his customary determination, defence is the area he will work on during the close season to try to make sure next season he puts a few more Ws on his record.

Ten-year-old Josh Diegano took part in a very worthwhile exhibition against the smaller Lloyd Delaney of Forgewood. Exhibitions are an important

Boxing

part of a boxer's education as it enables the boxer to showcase the skills he has been working on in the gym in a competitive environment without the pressure of attempting to 'win' the bout, instead concentrating on technique in front of a large crowd.

This bout was exactly that as Josh worked on range, tactics and self-discipline as he attempted to box to instruction, using clever movement and long-range punching. Exhibitions can on occasion be boring for a watching audience but this was an exception as both boxers showed exceptional skills for 10-year-olds. Josh showed why he was voted Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club's most improved boxer of the season and is one to watch for when the new season begins in September.



Cameron Whyte. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

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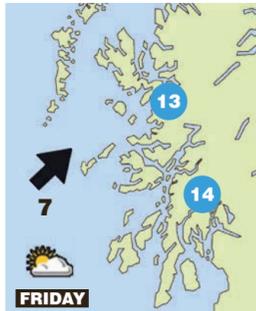
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WEATHER

Thursday Heavy rain
Winds moderate southerly
Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.

Friday Sunny intervals
Winds light south westerly
Temperatures 9°C to 14°C.

Weekend Sunny on Saturday
Outlook Heavy rain showers on Sunday
Winds light south south westerly
Temperatures 9°C to 15°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday May 18, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm									
Thur 05.05	1.3	11.10	2.9	17.04	1.2	23.10	3.1	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri 06.19	1.5	12.43	2.8	18.08	1.4	** ** *	**	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat 00.43	3.0	07.40	1.5	13.54	2.9	19.17	1.4	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun 01.59	3.0	08.48	1.5	14.45	3.0	20.24	1.4	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon 02.52	3.1	09.38	1.4	15.25	3.2	21.22	1.3	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues 03.33	3.3	10.17	1.3	16.01	3.4	22.09	1.3	Ferry Crossings/Sea States			
Wed 04.10	3.4	10.51	1.2	16.36	3.5	22.49	1.2	Oban to Barra/South Uist		Moderate	
								Oban to Coll/Tiree		Moderate	
								Kennacraig to Islay		Moderate	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)