

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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5 PAGES OF
OBAN LIVE COVERAGE



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bonnie babies



Heroes run into building as blaze rips through flats

LOUISE GLEN

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AT LEAST three people were rescued from flats on Oban's George Street after a fire spread from the chip shop below on Tuesday morning.

Acting quickly when he heard about the fire, Alasdair McBurnie the manager of a neighbouring shop, and a taxi driver who was a resident of the building, helped sleeping shift workers escape the blaze.

Mr McBurnie, manager of Timpson's shoe repair, key cutting and engraving shop across the road, said: 'I was talking to Dave the bin man when a customer came up to us and said it looks like that building is on fire.'

'It looked like there was smoke starting to come out of the top of the building. I knew there was no way that this could be a chimney fire.'

'I ran to the back of the building and it was then that I shouted for someone to phone the fire brigade.'

'I turned round and started battering the close door and pressing the buzzers.'

'My next worry was that there were people in the building - there are a number of flats up there, and people work shifts.'

'When I finally managed to open the door, smoke came pouring out.'

'I was waiting to let it clear when a taxi driver [Tom Mackay], who stays in one of the flats, came up behind me. He said, "There is a man in there who was on night shift and is still sleeping".'

'He ran straight in. I knew I had



Charred debris lies on the George Street pavement as emergency services tackle the fire.

to make sure there was no-one in the building so I went inside and I started banging the flat doors.'

Mr McBurnie found a number of people who were still in bed as they had been working night shifts. He told them to get out.

In one flat he found a woman who was banging on the door trying to get out. Mr MacIntyre said the room was 'full of smoke'.

The men made their way through the three-storey building making sure everyone was out of the building.

Mr McBurnie continued: 'People were in bed and sleeping. At one door I didn't get any reply and I don't know what made me do it but I just opened the door. Inside there was a young man sleeping.'

He said: 'In no time at all the fire brigade were there and checked the building fully. It was lucky it happened during the day or it might not have been spotted so quickly.'

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was onsite for a number of hours while the police worked

to re-open the road, managing traffic which was backed up for at least two miles to the cemetery at Pennyfuir.

A police spokesman said: 'People who live in the flats above were evacuated for most of the day.'

It is believed residents were allowed to return home in the early evening.

Eye-witnesses said there was extensive smoke and fire damage to the homes. Some debris from the buildings was thrown onto

the street by firefighters.

The police spokesman confirmed that no-one was injured in the fire and inquiries are ongoing into the cause.

A spokesperson for the SFRS said: 'Firefighters were in attendance at a fire in commercial premises in Oban.'

'Four fire appliances were mobilised at 11.20am on Tuesday June 6 to the incident in George Street. Both appliances from Oban attended, as well as an aerial appliance from Clyde-

bank and an appliance from Inveraray. They used powerful hoses on the fire and worked at the scene until just before 5pm.'

'I believe it was the extraction system in the ground floor at the chip shop. It had spread to the first floor flat.'

'Crews cut away parts of the building to make sure the fire hadn't spread.'

'We have received no notification of any casualties.'

Taxi driver Tom Mackay said he was glad everyone was safe.

Crowds flock to Oban Live

MORE than 8,000 people flocked to Mossfield stadium in Oban over Friday and Saturday for a hugely successful Oban Live.

The festival-goers were treated to two days of top musical entertainment from the headliners Skerryvore and Skipinnish, backed by big names such as Toploader and Hue and Cry.

But among the highlights for many fans was the set performed by the winner of the Oban Unsigned competition: K9 Kev and Rory O'B - otherwise known as Kevin Irvine and Rory O'Byrne.

The Oban rappers went down a storm on Saturday afternoon.

Oban Live managing director Daniel Gillespie said: 'The weather was unbelievable and the turnout was phenomenal. We had over 8,000 people from all over the world. K9 Kev and Rory O'B were amazing.'

Don't miss our unrivalled coverage with pictures and reports on pages 11-15.

Mòd proves huge draw

HUNDREDS of people packed the various venues for the Oban and District Provincial Mòd on Friday and Saturday.

Performers from across Argyll and the Isles competed in the various categories at venues that included the Corran Halls and Oban High School.

Reports, results and pictures on pages 4, 16 and 17.



Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Lochgilthead 10 - 11 June
Tiree 12 - 13 June

Beauty and the Beast (PG) 129 mins
Live action re-make sees Emma Watson perfect as the wee charmer, Belle, "a pleasure to watch" Herald
10/06 at 5.30pm, 12/06 at 5.30pm

Their Finest (12A) 117 mins
Sparkling, romantic war-time drama starring Gemma Arterton and Bill Nighy.
"big hearted and witty drama" The Observer
10/06 at 8.30pm, 11/06 at 2pm, 12/06 at 8.30pm

Pirates of the Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge (12A) 128 mins
Captain Jack Sparrow finds the winds of ill-fortune blowing even more strongly. "We're promised the usual spectacle (zombie sharks!)" Empire
11/06 at 5.30pm, 13/06 at 5.30pm

Whisky Galore! (U) 98 mins
Remake of the 1949 Ealing classic, starring Gregor Fisher and Eddie Izzard. "The gentle subversive wit of the 1949 version has been left intact" The Times
13/06 at 8.30pm

Scotland's Far North: prior to screenings of *Their Finest* and *Whisky Galore!*, we will be screening a photo presentation of work from the 1970s and 80s, which provides a unique insight into Scotland's remote landscapes, islands and people. This presentation complements a major exhibition at Street Level Photoworks, Glasgow, 24/06 to 27/08. So please arrive 15 mins prior to scheduled start times to be sure of catching this.

Book at: www.screenmachine.co.uk. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults. Concessions £5.50.



Probe into sinking is adjourned

A FAMILY grieving for their dead son and brother will have to wait longer for a fatal accident inquiry - but this time at their request.

Scott MacAlister, 30, died after his boat foundered in April 2013, though his body was never found.

A fatal accident inquiry was due to begin on Monday (June 5), but will now take place on September 25, with a preliminary hearing in August.

At the hearing the family were due to represent themselves, but Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC encouraged the family to reconsider their plan and said they should have made an application for legal aid to pay

the costs of being represented in court.

Sheriff Anderson said: 'My job is to simply to hold the inquiry and make findings in fact.'

'This is a fact-finding exercise for all the evidence surrounding the case to be heard. I will then make recommendations.'

'I remember Mr Ham QC saying, "When people are in difficult situations they are allowed to change their minds".'

'This should have been sorted out long before this morning, but as the family now believe legal representation is the right thing to do, it is only fair that they be given the time to appoint a representative.'

Solicitor Gary Thompson opposed the postponement of the FAI saying his client, the owner of The Speedwell, the boat that Mr MacAlister was on when it foundered, had waited many years for the inquiry. He also claimed Peter MacAlister had previously sought advice from an Oban solicitor.

He said his client had only known of the inquiry for four weeks and had managed to instruct a solicitor and claim emergency legal aid.

Sheriff Anderson said: 'A grieving family have the right to change their mind.'

'First, they decided they were not coming to the hearing, they are now here and realise that

they will be best represented by a solicitor in these matters.'

Procurator fiscal David Glancy said: 'There will be areas of this investigation where we will be at one and areas where we will be at odds. I will not always be acting in the best interests of the family.'

After the hearing, Peter MacAlister said he felt 'much clearer' about the inquiry, adding: 'We will get a bit more done with a solicitor and we will get a better result.'

'I am grateful to Sheriff Anderson for the time afforded to us this morning. We certainly got the advice we have been seeking for some time. If it had happened before today it would have saved us all quite a bit of time.'

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OT

New Kintyre gin provides perfect rural tonic for jobs

MARK DAVEY
editor@obantimes.co.uk

GIN produced at Torrisdale is set to add six full-time jobs to the Kintyre economy.

Beinn an Tuirc distillery, based in renovated outbuildings, at the estate near Carradale is nearing completion and the fully-flavoured spirit should be on sale next month.

Estate owner Niall Macalister Hall secured £24,276 from Highlands and Islands Enterprise and hopes to create jobs in distilling, sales, operations and tour guides.

He has already recruited Su Black as distillery manager. Su is a graduate under the Scot-Grad scheme, operated by HIE. She formerly worked in the oil industry and has just completed a master's degree in brewing and distilling.

Su said: 'The gin is hand-crafted from start to finish with 12 botanicals including sheep soral and Icelandic moss which are unique to the Kintyre product.'

'The still can make 250 70cl bottles per batch and we are aiming for 12,000 bottles in the first year of production.'

The gin will be sold in bottles bought from northern France and initially 5,000 have been ordered.

Mr Macalister Hall said: 'It is important the bottle feels as good as the product inside.'

It is truly a family affair, as his brother Kenny, who runs Offshoot Design in Glasgow, has created the labelling which is



Neil Macalister Hall, Su Black and Eilidh Maxwell with the German Muller still.

screen-printed onto the bottles.

On Monday, a second temporary employee started. Eilidh Maxwell, who is studying international business and modern languages, has come to Kintyre Gin on a 12-week placement to help with marketing.

Mr Macalister Hall said: 'We are really excited about the impending launch of the gin.'

'We have planning consent for a shop and cafe which will be a great add-on to the distillery.'

'It has taken a lot of hard work to get this far, and we wouldn't be where we are without the advice, training and funding from HIE, as well as its support with the export market. We can't wait to get started.'

The distillery, which will

include a viewing area and tasting facility, will add to Kintyre's tourism offering, which is supported by the nearby Kintyre Way.

Beinn an Tuirc, the summit above Torrisdale, meaning hill of the boar, will be the first distillery of its kind to be powered by an onsite hydroelectric scheme, which was completed

last February. The company plans to use a percentage of its profits to create a new charitable foundation.

This will award funds to individuals or organisations based in Kintyre for projects particularly focused on new business start-ups.

Liza Moran, business growth account manager with HIE,

said: 'Argyll and the Islands is renowned for its food and drink, as well as tourism offerings. We expect Beinn an Tuirc distillery to be a significant contributor to this growth sector.'

'By creating valuable rural employment opportunities the company will also help strengthen resilience among local communities.'

Hectic spell for Mull's lifeboat

IT HAS been a busy fortnight for Tobermory RNLI's volunteer crew with seven call-outs, an exercise with a Royal Navy warship ... and a pub quiz to raise funds for the charity.

In total, £1,273 was raised for the life-saving Tobermory lifeboat through its 'Mayday' campaign.

Tobermory High School helped to raise £380, while street collections brought in £713.

The final event took place on June 4 - a pub quiz in the Mish-nish Hotel, which raised £178.

Tobermory RNLI lifeboat operations manager Sam Jones said: 'This has been a very busy period for all of our volunteers at the station, not only for the crew and lifeboat launch authorities but also for our fundraising and shop volunteers.'

'Our crew members are ready to respond to their pagers 24/7 but they are only able to launch the lifeboat to assist people in difficulty because of the efforts of our fundraisers and shop volunteers, and the generosity of those who donate to the RNLI.'

The Oban lifeboat Mora Edith MacDonald was called out last week (Tuesday) to go to the aid of a yacht near Kerrera.

The incident happened while the RNLI vessel was out on a routine training exercise just off the south end of Kerrera.

The Coastguard in Stornoway requested assistance shortly before 7.30pm.

A 14-meter sailing boat with five people aboard had broadcast a 'pan pan' reporting a fouled propeller in Loch Melfort.

The lifeboat proceeded to the area to find the yacht had been able to sail back and forth across the wind to hold off from any navigational dangers.

On scene by 8.10pm, the lifeboat quickly established a tow with the vessel and proceeded to the safety of Craobh Haven Marina.

With the vessel safely alongside by 9.15pm, Oban lifeboat was free to return to station and was made ready for service again by 10.35pm.

New Arran ferry named

THE new ferry to run between Ardrossan and Brodick on the Isle of Arran has been named MV Glen Sannox after a public vote.

The MV Glen Sannox was a landslide winner among a shortlist of four names, beating Goatfell, Glen Iorsa and Hut-ton, receiving nearly 50 per cent of the votes in a competition organised by Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL).

The original MV Glen Sannox, which launched in 1957, was a car ferry built on the Clyde for the Arran route, and later served Wemyss Bay, Gourrock, and Mull, before being sold for service in the Red Sea, where she ran aground at Jeddah and sank in 2000.

The new 102-metre MV Glen Sannox is the first of two dual fuel vessels being built by CMAL at the Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd shipyard in Port Glasgow. The ferry will be capable of operating on liquefied natural gas (LNG) and marine gas oil (MGO).

Kevin Hobbs, CEO at CMAL, said: 'We are delighted with the public's choice. Glen Sannox reflects Arran's history and heritage, bringing back to life the name of the first purpose-built car ferry that serviced the Isle of Arran.'

'Thank you to everyone who took part and voted and congratulations to Mairi Brown, who won our naming competition. We look forward to welcoming her to the ferry launch later this summer.'

The vessel is expected to enter service in the second half of 2018.

A competition to name the second ferry, Hull 802, will be launched later this summer.



AN CÙRSA COMAIS GAELIC IMMERSION YEAR

'S e cùrsa cànan air fad a th' anns a' Chùrsa Chomais a tha deasaichte airson luchd-ionnsachaidh eadar-mheadhanach leis an amas a bhith fileanta sa Ghàidhlig. 'S e adhartachadh sgilean labhairt is sgrìobhaidh prìomh amas a' chùrsa, ach thèid cuspairean eile a thoirt a-steach mar a thèid an cùrsa air adhart. Nì oileanaich trì seachdainean de ghreis dhreuchdail ann an Gàidhlig an lùib a' mhodail Greis-gnìomhachais.

Tha e na chùrsa fad bliadhna làn-ùine aig a' Cholaiste is tha e co-ionnan ris a' Chùrsa Adhartais a tha ga teagasg air astar fad dà bhliadhna. Ma shoirbhicheas le oileanaich anns a' Chùrsa Chomais bidh cothrom aca airson gluasad gu dàrna bliadhna prògram a' cheuma.

An Cùrsa Comais is an intensive language learning course designed for intermediate level learners whose aim is fluency in the language. The major focus is on language skills, both speaking and writing, but other subjects will be introduced as the course progresses. Students on An Cùrsa Comais undertake a three week work placement within a Gaelic setting as part of the Greis-gnìomhachais module.

The course is a one year full-time course at the College that is the equivalent to An Cùrsa Adhartais that is taught over 2 years long distance. If students successfully complete the Cert HE Cùrsa Comais they have the opportunity to progress to the second year of the degree programme.

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Graham Logan explains the distilling process to eager whisky fans.

Dram fine festival visits Jura

JURA Distillery manager Graham Logan guided dram lovers around the copper stills in the island's only whisky distillery during last Thursday's Jura Festival.

The event was part of the annual Feis Ile, which attracts whisky fans from all over the

world to distillery open days on Islay and neighbouring Jura each year.

For one day the Craighouse distillery threw open its doors to host 'all-terrain' whisky tastings, live entertainment in the cooage, including music from legendary Scots trad band

RURA and Coaltown Daisies, and 'the Jura long table' in the grainstore for guests to 'dine with the Diurachs' over local produce paired with a dram of single malt. Mr Logan said it was 'all in all, a very successful year at Feis Ile, and we're looking forward to next year'.



The mobile cinema has been given re-upholstered seating and a digital projector.

Mobile cinema is back on road

SCOTLAND'S mobile cinema - the Screen Machine - is back on the road following a major refurbishment.

Owned and operated by Regional Screen Scotland, the 80-seater HGV has been constantly on the road since it launched in 2005, bringing the magic of Hollywood and independent movies to communities from Barra to Bettyhill.

As well as having its hydraulics completely overhauled - essential for a vehicle that spends so much time on ferries and by the coast - the new and improved Screen Machine will boast a state-of-the-art digital projector and screen, newly re-upholstered seats and a striking new livery by Highland-based designer Tristram Woolston.

To celebrate its return to the road, the Screen Machine will be in Brodick on the Isle of Arran from Tuesday June 6-8, showing *Pirates Of The Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge*, *Beauty And The Beast*, *Moonlight*, and *Daniel Radcliffe in Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* from the National Theatre in London.

Dunbeg urged to resist build

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DUNBEG residents are being urged to rise up in peaceful protest to stop any of the masterplan's 600 houses being built before Kirk Road is upgraded. Trust seems to have broken down between villagers and Argyll and Bute Council, which held a public information event at Dunbeg Primary School last Thursday to explain its designs to upgrade the busy, single-lane, unlit road running from the 1,000-population village to new homes at Marine Court, offices at SAMS and the European Marine Science Park, and Dunstaffnage Castle.

In April, councillors approved the Dunbeg Corridor Masterplan envisaging 605 houses and shops on vacant land north of the A85 between Dunbeg and Ganavan, with Link and West Highland Housing Associations already completing the first 75 homes. But residents argue that Dunbeg's infrastructure cannot cope with any more houses, unless Kirk Road is upgraded, the near-capacity primary school is expanded and a roundabout replaces the junction on the A85. Last Thursday, the council's infrastructure designers explained their plans to widen Kirk Road into a two-lane route for 550m from the Lorn Road junction to Marine Court, with streetlights,

a cycle- and foot-way, a 'yet-to-be-finalised' 20mph limit, and five pairs of 'speed cushions' to replace 'troublesome' chicanes. Extending the upgrade beyond Marine Court would form a second, separate project, they said. Design technician Nigel Button explained there were three hoops the council had to jump through – first, the design, then a tender process to get a price, and then a funding application to the Scottish Government. He said: 'It is quite complex. It is all about funding. It may happen.' Fergus Murray, the council's head of economic development and strategic transportation, said: 'We are trying. We are wanting to take forward the first stage of

this masterplan to upgrade this road. There is a small number of houses that could be built without improvements but we are close to that number. We have designed it past the junction of the houses. With that, we can take forward the limit of houses.' Once that limit is reached, he added, the roundabout will increase the limit of houses again, adding: 'This is the only way we can improve Kirk Road to the standard that the community want to see. We hope to get the application in soon, but we hope they will make a decision over the summer. It is in the hands of the Scottish Government.' Lorn Arc project manager David Gunn said that if successful,

work could begin on Kirk Road this winter, but the roundabout it still far off. He said: 'Transport Scotland's opinion is the present junction is fine as it is, and that is what we are proceeding with.' One 'fed up' resident, Donald Clark, said: 'We were told before the last set of houses there would be a bigger road, then they built the houses. We have been lied to and lied to. I do not believe anything they say. It is chaos.' He urged residents to join him in a non-violent protest to stop lorries travelling down Kirk Road to service the building of more houses until it is widened. A Dunbeg Primary parent said: 'It is unbelievable that they are not putting in a roundabout.

Does it have to take a fatality before they change their minds?' Community councillor Bill Harvey, a former chairman, said: 'This is just a joke. What we are scared of is people dying. We cannot go on like this.' 'You get four buses in the morning going out there, you get people coming into work, into school, and you get the same in the evening, and you get cars doing 60mph going down that stretch [of A85] without a roundabout. There will be people killed.' 'There are lots of angry people in the village. The council are not listening. If they are saying Transport Scotland have passed it, then we need to go to the minister and the Scottish Parliament.'

Driver survives plunge into loch

A DRIVER has escaped serious injury after his car plunged into Loch Creran near Barcaldine on Tuesday. Police were called at around 12.30pm after reports of a car in the sea loch off the A828 north of Oban. When the emergency services attended, the driver was out of the water, having climbed to safety without serious injuries. A police spokeswoman said: 'Emergency services were at the scene. The male occupant of the car managed to get out. There are no serious injuries.' Police inquiries continue.

Electors may vote tactically

AS ARGYLL and Bute residents take to the polls today (Thursday), a poll has revealed one in five may be voting tactically. When asked by the Electoral Reform Society whether it would be voting for a candidate or party best positioned to keep out someone they disliked, 20 per cent say they would, compared to 58 per cent saying they will be voting for the candidate or party they most prefer. It compares to a figure of just nine per cent for a similar question asked in the run up to the 2015 election.

Oban Times
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Children go Wild about Scotland

CHILDREN at St Columba's Primary School in Oban have been busy planting tree saplings in their grounds as part of a national campaign by the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland. Pupils at St Columba's were visited by the Wild about Scotland bus and given 15 trees to plant. Wild about Scotland educates the next generation of conservationists about the importance of protecting Scottish wildlife. The bus visited schools throughout the week to teach pupils about Scottish native species, their habitats and environments and what they can do to protect them. It is hoped more than 420 trees will be planted across the country over the next 12 months. An estimated 60 trees are required to grow in order to offset the Wild about Scotland bus's carbon footprint as its mobile education centre tours the country.



The youngsters from St Columba's Primary School, Oban, learned about the need for conservation to protect wildlife.



Health board claims public were aware of transfer of urology service to Glasgow

THE locality manager Of Oban, Lorn and the Isles has written to *The Oban Times* in response to an article concerning urology services that featured in last week's newspaper. The letter from Annie MacLeod claims the public were told about the loss of the urology service in January 2017. Ms MacLeod said: 'First of all, we feel it is important to highlight that the local community in Oban has a fantastic facility right on its doorstep with Lorn and Islands Hospital, which provides a wide and varied range of inpatient and outpatient services for the people of Oban, the islands and surrounding areas. 'Staff in the hospital, and also those in the community, are dedicated to their roles and work extremely hard to ensure that they deliver a high standard of health and social care services for the public. 'We are treating more and more people locally at the hospital and in the past year more than 16,300 people were seen at the hospital, which is an increase of three per cent on the year before. 'This is good news for the hospital and good news for the local community. We have also built on the skills of the staff that



we have and a wider range of services such as cardiology and enhanced diagnostic services are now being provided locally which means many people don't have to travel to Glasgow for investigations and treatment. 'In short, the hospital provides more services than it did five years ago. 'It is also important to highlight that there is a recognised national shortage of specialist consultants, so unfortunately we are unable to provide a full range of consultant-led services from Oban. 'We have been advertising for over two years but have been unable to recruit a replacement lead urologist to support the service locally and therefore members of the public will have to travel to Glasgow to access

some specialist consultant-led services such as urology. 'We have worked closely with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to provide a safe service in Glasgow for those individuals with complex needs or suspected cancer and this totals approximately 80 patients per year. 'This decision was taken on the basis of the safety of our patients and clinically was the right thing to do. We do, however, continue to provide some services locally through our specialist urology nurse at the hospital where it is clinically appropriate to do so. 'The change to the urology service was discussed at the Oban Community Council public meeting in January 2017 as well as in the future planning group of Lorn and Islands Hospital. 'Urology services were also

discussed at the Health Care Forum and all GP practices were notified of this change at the end of last year to try to ensure that we used multiple ways to communicate the change of service. 'In relation to some of the comments made in the paper [reported from the community council meeting], we do not think it is appropriate to debate in public individual cases but if anyone does have any concerns then please contact us and we will happily discuss it with them. At the same time, we will also continue to work and inform the local community. 'We do fear, however, that constant criticism of the hospital with incorrect information as reported last week does no-one any good and only damages the reputation of the facility and also the morale of our staff. 'It also makes it increasingly difficult to attract potential staff of all disciplines who may be thinking of moving to the area. 'We would, therefore, urge everyone concerned to think of what we can all achieve for the local community if we all work together and recognise what a great hospital and community health and social care team we have in Oban.'

Dancing in the sunshine and moonlight

WELL, that was some weekend, writes *Bid4Oban ambassador Kay MacDonal*. Even the thunder and lightning added that wee bit extra excitement, but maybe that's because I was lucky enough to be indoors when it happened. I hope everyone enjoyed their weekend as much as I did. I got to dance in the sunshine and moonlight, sang myself hoarse and met some lovely people. On Thursday night I met a French couple trying to find accommodation who were loving their trip but couldn't believe how busy it was on the West Coast. They'd tried to go to Islay when the whisky festival was on, arrived here in time for Oban Live and the Waverley visiting, and were heading for Fort William which had the mountain biking world championships ... they were loving it all.

On Friday, we had two lovely Danish ladies in the office asking about tickets for Oban Live who were delighted with how friendly the people in Oban were and, on Saturday, I met three German visitors when I was having a wee dance at the Oban FM roadshow in Station Square. One of the ladies said the view coming into the town was so beautiful she wanted to cry. They were heading to Oban Live, too, as they'd heard Skerryvore playing in Germany and loved it. Well done, Oban, and the fantastic team at Oban Live ... and here's to next year. This weekend is Oban and Lorn Lions Charities Day – always a big event in the local calendar and so well supported every year. The carnival atmosphere that it brings to the town centre is fun and it does

so much to raise the profile and funds of the many small charities Oban so generously helps (and it's an excuse to get my face painted). If you're not going already, then tonight is the concert by our own Gaelic Choir with guests in the Corran Halls at 7.30pm, exploring the riches of Argyllshire Bardachd, which sounds great. There always seems to be something going on at this time year. Next up we'll have the Lorne Games on June 25 with schedules available in the Bid4Oban office in Stevenson Street for the produce and crafts tent. Let's all just pray for a sunny summer. Last week's photo was outside Superdrug, most people don't normally look up, but this week's photo is a newer piece of wall. Let's see how observant you are.

WHERE IS THIS?



Picnic tables, benches, and so much more made from tough recycled plastic!

Fusion Marine's outdoor furniture range made from recycled plastic offers a much longer lasting yet environmentally friendly alternative to wood.



The Barcaldine based company supplies a range of durable outdoor products, including picnic tables and benches, decking, fencing and boardwalks, which are ideal for private users or for commercial operators such as holiday parks, nature reserves, visitor centres and other outdoor areas.

Especially popular are the company's memorial benches, which are a marvellous way of paying tribute to a loved one and for giving something back to the community. And because they are made from tough recycled plastic, they will last for much longer than a wooden bench.

Or have you ever considered using decking made from recycled plastic? No longer required are the tiresome frequent treatments to preserve the wood or

the constant cleaning to prevent the build-up of slippery algae. Fusion Marine's decking planks made from recycled plastic look great and will last for a very long time.

The tables and benches are available in colours that blend in naturally with the environment.

The advantages of recycled plastic for such outdoor products include:

- Tough and durable
- Decay resistant
- Low maintenance
- Environmentally friendly
- Slip-resistant surfaces
- Will not crack or split

- Non-toxic and inert
- Weather resistant
- Impervious to water
- Resistant to micro-organisms
- Better chemical resistance
- Will not leach chemicals into the soil.

Fusion Marine also manufactures marine pontoons that provide convenient access for small craft. These pontoons are incredibly versatile as they can be sited on tidal shores, providing convenient round-the-clock marine access.

These pontoons are ideal for a wide variety of business and leisure applications and have the capability to transform a shore location. Typical uses include: hotels looking to attract leisure craft; mooring associations and yacht clubs; community associations; outdoor activity centres; country estates; angling and leisure boat operators; and private homeowners in waterside locations.

www.fusionrecycledplastic.com



Judges praise standards at Oban Provincial Mòd

SANDY NEIL
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ORGANISERS are celebrating following another successful Oban and District Provincial Mòd last Friday and Saturday. One of the first contests, the girls' solo singing for ages 11-12 in the Corran Halls on Friday morning, was won by Laura Robertson of Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar, followed by Shauna MacLeod of Bun-Sgoil Achadh na Creige and, thirdly, by Ealasaid MacLean of Lismore. One judge, Kathryn Callender, told them: 'You are a work in progress. You are aiming towards [the national Mòd in] October. You have made a great start.' The other, Joy Dunlop, added:

'I was really impressed. Singing is hard and singing in front of people is really tricky.' The boys' solo singing competition for ages 11-12 was won by 11-year-old Dunbeg Primary School pupil Andrew McPhail. His delighted mum Catriona said: 'He put lots of effort into it. He is very passionate about his music and Gaelic. He has done local and national competitions. They take the constructive criticism from the last competition. It is encouraging for them.' At noon, Bun-Sgoil Achadh na Creige took top prize with their action song *Einnsean, Tractar agus Bhan*. Judge Martin Wilson praised the young performers in all three entries, saying: 'It was enjoyable and entertaining. It is

the effort and enthusiasm that is important, and that is what you gave us.' Meanwhile, in Oban's Pipe Band Hall, 14-year-old piper Ross Connor of Campbeltown Grammar took first prizes in both the under-15 March and Strathspey and Reel competitions. Ross, a grade two member of Islay Pipe Band, who won the Duke's Gold Medal at the last Argyllshire Gathering, said: 'There were six pipers including me. It was a really close competition. Everybody's playing was really good.' There was not much in it between the 15-18-year-olds in the MSR competitions either, according to judge Iain Hurst, but in the end Emma Hill came top in both.

In the choral singing for under-13s, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar came top, followed by St Columba's Primary School, Oban, then Bun-Sgoil Achadh na Creige. Choir judge Kathryn Callender added: 'We had a lovely unison competition. Everybody singing as one voice, that is what you are striving for.' Reflecting on the first day, one Mòd organiser Moira Dunlop said: 'It has been very busy. There have been five- to six-year-olds doing solos, instrumentals, choirs and a very challenging play. The adjudicators have worked hard to keep it moving. I have not seen anyone cry - including the teachers! It has been a happy day.' Saturday saw the senior competitions at Oban High School,

where Shona Keith from Lochgair sang *Eilean Gorm Mhuile*, finishing an equal second with Sandaidh NicDhòmhnaill Jones behind Julie MacFadyen in the senior solo singing. 'I got through it,' Shona said, relieved. 'Mòds are difficult because I do not have the Gaelic but I really enjoy performing.' Eight ladies competed in the solo singing competition, won by F Ann MacLean of Lismore, followed by Janet H Campbell of Mull in second, and Rena Gertz of Prestonpans in third. Judge Seonag Anderson appealed for more male singers. She said: 'If you know of any man, get them up and singing at the Mòd.' ■ **Two-page special with results and pictures - pages 16 and 17.**

Rockfield Centre gets ready for charities day



AN INVITATION is extended to everyone attending Oban Charities Day this Saturday to the Rockfield Centre stall where Rhona Dougal, Solveig Craig and other members of the Oban Communities Trust team will be available for a chat about what's been happening and what's to come, and to get feedback on all activities. The Rockfield Centre team continues to work hard pulling together all the reports required for funding applications for the main building. Submissions are due in August with initial results expected towards the end of the year. This is a major step forward for the Rockfield Centre and will require the community's continued support. Once a full funding package is confirmed, work will commence on the main building project, which is expected to take a year to complete, breathing new life into the building, ready to open the doors for use by the community. An 'Oban blether' took place last week at the community huts when the centre's Heritage Hunters organised an afternoon of viewing old Oban slides and chat. Eleanor MacKinnon, who organised the get-together, said it had been a rewarding event where the old photographs provided a series of memories about the town. Some of these will be recorded and added to the archive ready for use in the planned heritage space at the centre. With better weather setting in, a call is being put out for volunteer painters for both

inside and outside the community huts and to help refurbish the railings around the centre. The Oban Communities Trust team is keen to hear what the community think of the new colour of the second community hut. Instead of the bright red, it is sage green. The team is keen to hear what everyone prefers. The centre continues to grow as a hub of activity and creativity, with a variety of groups meetings and making use of the space for activity and events. New activities include the fiddle workshop sessions each month while the popular monthly scratch choir nights continue to be a favourite. Meanwhile, voting continues in Tesco's stores both in Oban and Lochgilhead for the Rockfield Centre as one of the Tesco's 'Bags of Help' charities. Bags of Help is Tesco's local community grant scheme where the money raised from the 5p bag charge is used to fund local community projects. Oban Communities Trust is encouraging everyone to support the Rockfield Centre. All information on events and activities on www.obancommunitiestrust.org or the Rockfield Centre Facebook page.

Pets honour for chalets

COLOGIN chalets is runner-up in pet-friendly self-catering accommodation awards. The Lerags establishment has been acknowledged for its friendly approach towards guests bringing animals. The Cologin Country Chalets and Lodges (CCCL) came in second place in the Pet Friendly Self-Catering Accommodation Awards - being pipped at the post by Mains of Taymouth. Linda Battison of CCCL said: 'This is the inaugural Paws for a Break award from Embrace Scotland [the Association of Scotland's Self-Caterers] and we're thrilled to be a runner-up - beaten by a worthy winner.'



Retiring after 42 years

After 42 years working for the same company, Tom Dalgaty has retired from Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE). 'It is a huge thing to be leaving,' he reflected. 'It was a huge part of my life. Working in Oban has been great. The people have been very helpful and supportive.' Tom plans to continue building a house at Bonawe, to buy a bigger boat and try to keep out of the way of his wife, Ann.



Back: Steven Gallagher, Amanda Robertson, Kirsty Brown, Laura MacKintosh, Jim Gallagher, Anita Erikson, Jonathan Sayer, Colin Kupris, Steven Hand, Suzi Billing, Claire McGrandles. Front: Andy McEwan, Georgie MacKenzie, Celine Kimplin, Iain Floyd, Chris Floyd.

Triathlon festival raises more than £35,000

A TEAM of triathletes from Argyll and the Highlands helped to raise more than £35,000 at the Scottish Sea Farms Triathlon Festival at Stirling University at the end of last month. Teams of Scottish Sea Farms' employees, customers and suppliers from Shetland,

Orkney, and Argyll and the Highlands, all took part, having trained for months prior to the event. SSF employees selected the charities that would benefit from the £35,000. They include the Beatson cancer charity, Glasgow children's hospital, Cancer Research

UK, Brain Tumour Research, Samaritans Scotland and the UK Sepsis Trust. The idea for the festival came about as staff wanted to train together and enter an event suitable for all levels so they devised a triathlon festival, which would be open to all employees, customers and suppliers.

They think it's all over ... it is now!



OBAN'S Glencruitten Hostel bid a fond farewell to its 2017 leavers by hosting their annual farewell party and awarding the Glencruitten Hostel cup. The Glencruitten Hostel cup is given to a young person who has shown good citizenship and been a positive role model during their residency. This year Cara Morrison, from Mull, was awarded the cup

and it was presented to her by Morven Gage, guidance teacher of Clan Diarmid at Oban High. The leavers chose Kebabish to host their meal. Leaving the school hostel were Ross Cook, Cara Morrison, Lauren MacArthur, David Cameron and John Prentice. Missing from the photograph is Lewis Kirsop and Nadia Nicholson.

Charity reaches landmark birthday

THE life-changing charity Addaction marked its 50th anniversary with an open day in Oban's Rockfield Centre on Saturday May 27. Visitors were able to chat to staff, get their nails painted, while children received 'tattoos' and got their hair styled. There was also a buffet for

all to enjoy from 11.30am until 2.30pm. Pictured manning the stalls were Jayne Donn, left, and Margaret McQuade. Addaction specialises in helping people overcome drug and alcohol problems, as well as helping those with mental health issues. For more information, visit www.addaction.org.uk.



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MACLEOD

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WHITE VAN Man

I DID never think I would ever be writing about two young girls from Barra, who left the island to go and enjoy an event in Manchester and were caught up in one of the worst terrorist attacks in the UK.

It was so far from the peace and tranquility of their beautiful Hebridean island, and such a shocking tragedy to be brought home to the West Coast.

How could any human being mingle among children, teenagers and families knowing he was about to kill and injure so many? He was a coward.

Many people will say it is to do with his religious beliefs - I myself have beliefs but certainly cannot follow the current situation. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the families of both Eilidh MacLeod and Laura MacIntyre (who remains ill in hospital), and I pray that Laura will make a full recovery.

It is only now that Theresa May ends another speech with the quote: 'Enough is enough.' But what is her plan?

We have all seen the cowardly way terrorists operate using bombs, vehicles, knives and so on. So what is the answer?

I think it is time to bring back capital punishment for terrorists, and anyone found to be involved in supporting terrorism should be instantly deported.

I will have upset the civil rights organisations with my comments but it is time to rid this country of terrorists.

Finally, the one thing that worries me is that if the government does not act promptly with this situation that various extremist militant groups in this country will take the law into their own hands by attacking innocent people, many of whom may be Muslims who deplore this situation.

That must not happen.

Island bids sad farewell to Eilidh



Eilidh's casket, draped in the Barra flag, is carried across the beach at the island airport.

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

ON A beautiful Barra beach in the presence of family and friends, the body of 'fun-loving and bubbly' Eilidh MacLeod was carried home, having been flown back from the city of Manchester.

Eilidh lost her life in the terror attack following the Ariana Grande concert in Manchester Arena on May 22, having enjoyed the 'weekend of her life' in the city.

While music was still ringing in her ears, she was caught up in the chaos of terrorism, something that before that day was unimaginable.

Why? was the question on the lips of the 1,000 mourners who attended a mass at the Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Castlebay. The service started shortly before 11am on Monday (June 5).

Loudspeakers were fitted in the adjacent community hall for the huge number of people who attended the funeral.

Eilidh's coffin was covered in the green and white flag of the island of Barra, and her forebears.

Her coffin was brought to the island by a small aircraft from the mainland. Local men carried it along the beach and into a hearse.

The funeral service was led by the parish priest, Father John Paul MacKinnon.

In his introduction, Father MacKinnon said: 'Eilidh was taken from us at such a young age - and we are hurting and in pain with the loss of Eilidh from our lives.'

He reminded mourners: 'In 14 years, Eilidh packed a lot into her life - 14 happy years. That's so important for us to remember today. Eilidh was a happy girl. She had 14 happy years and in the last few days of her life she was the happiest you could ever imagine.'

'The last thing in Eilidh's life was happiness - she had spent a wonderful weekend away from the island, going shopping, going to nice cafes, going to

the cinema and then going to her pop idol's concert - Ariana - she was the happiest she had ever been - and that's what we hold onto today: the happiness of Eilidh's life.'

'Those memories of Eilidh will live on in all our hearts. Every year of her life was precious to us and we thank God for blessing us with her precious life.'

'The family have been overwhelmed by the great generosity and love that they have received ever since they lost their Eilidh.'

Eilidh's grand-uncle Donald Manford moved the mourners, saying: 'In contrast to the hate that took her life, Eilidh's life was and now stands as a testament forever in the world of love, innocence, goodness, kindness and faith. We will look after each other - we will love one another.'

During the service the congregation heard a pipe recording of *Both Sides of the Tweed*, played by Eilidh, who was a member of Sgoil Lioncleit Pipe Band. The Gaelic choir also sang. And as the mourners left, Ariana

Grande's song *My Everything* was played.

The congregation also prayed for Laura MacIntyre, who was seriously injured during the tragic events.

Father MacKinnon said: 'We pray for Eilidh's good friend Laura, who is in hospital in Manchester. We pray to our Lord Jesus to bring strength and healing to Laura in her recovery and to give strength and peace to her parents and family at this time.'

Prayers were offered for all those affected.

Father MacKinnon added: 'We pray for all who have been affected by the Manchester attack; for all who have been injured, for all who have died, for all who feel pain and hurt. May the Lord Jesus unite us together as God's children and help us all to live in God's love and peace.'

Laura remains in hospital with 'serious head and leg injuries'. In the silence of the Isle of Watersay graveyard, Eilidh was laid to rest.

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

About 4pm on Tuesday May 30, on Drumore Road, Oban, a man aged 22 was stopped and searched by police. The man was allegedly found to be in possession of diamorphine and morphine sulphate. The man was charged with the offences and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

About 12.15am on Saturday June 3, at a pub in Oban, a man aged 22 was arrested for allegedly refusing to leave the bar. The man then allegedly resisted arrest and behaved in an abusive manner. The man was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

About 3.40pm on Wednesday May 31, on Dalintart Drive, Oban, a man aged 27 was arrested after allegedly running away from police and obstructing officers from searching him. The man was charged and a report will be sent to the procurator fiscal.

About 12.40am on Sunday June 4, in Shore Street, Oban, a 44-year-old man was arrested and charged with allegedly assaulting another man. The man was charged and held in custody for court.

About 9pm on Sunday June 4, in Aird's Crescent, Oban, a man aged 18 was arrested for the alleged theft of a car, driving without Insurance and failing to provide a breath specimen. The man was charged and held in custody for court.

About 2.40pm on Friday June 2, following a report of a disturbance at a house in Columba Court, Oban, a 22-year-old man was arrested, he was later charged with abusive behaviour and issued with a recorded police warning.

Between 9am on Thursday June 1 and 7.30pm on Sunday June 4, a house at Lerags, Oban, was broken in to an alcohol stolen.

Between 8am and 5.30pm on Friday June 2, at Marine Court, Dunbeg, a black Mazda car, was damaged by having the paintwork scratched. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

Police are investigating the above incidents and are appealing for any anyone with information to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Speedboat cup returned after 40-year gap

A MAGNIFICENT speedboat trophy last awarded more than 40 years ago before a speed limit was imposed in Oban Bay is looking for a new sporting home.

Donnie McLeod, an 83-year-old retired TV engineer from Oban who recently moved to Glasgow, was the last winner of the MacDonald Cup before the speedboat race was cancelled.

The trophy, Donnie said, was donated by *The Oban Times* and passed from winner to winner each year, before it was left in finally in his hands - and he's now hoping it can live again in another competition.

The silver cup, sporting two fish-shaped handles and an engraving of two racing yachts, was first awarded to Frank Lawrence in 1962 and 1963, and then to Duncan MacKenzie in 1965, according to the inscribed roll of honour.

Boatman Donnie, who won his speedboat in a London competition and was taught how to handle it by an Oban Distillery manager, became the next winner.

'But there was never another winner,' he explained. 'They put a speed restriction in Oban Bay, including for the CalMac steamers. So there was no point in having a speedboat race with a speed limit. It was sensible: you have to think about safety. I thought I should return it and *The Oban Times* may use it.'

The Oban Times has since spoken to Oban Sailing Club to offer it the trophy. The sailing club's Billy Forteith said it would be delighted to award the trophy in connection with the annual Round Mull Race.

Strong results for HIE

DESPITE uncertainties around the future of the Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), end-of-year reports show a strong performance by businesses and communities supported by the development agency.

Investments by HIE during 2016/17 across the region created or retained 1,688 full-time equivalent jobs in the region, 169 of them in fragile areas.

Turnover among these firms is forecast to increase by £120.4 million.

The Scottish Land Fund, administered by HIE and Big Lottery on behalf of the Scottish Government, was extended to all communities across Scotland, and in 2016/17 the fund awarded more than £4 million to 54 projects, 31 of which were in the Highlands and Islands.

Oban Times newsdesk
01631 568000



Puffin numbers have suffered serious decline.

Oban 'Puffarazzi' wanted to help conservation bid

CALLING all 'Puffarazzi' - the RSPB is asking visitors to puffin colonies to photograph the vulnerable birds in order to find out what they feed their young.

Puffarazzi is part of Project Puffin, which launched earlier this year with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund Scotland.

The project aims to find out more about what puffins feed their chicks, where they go to find food and how their numbers are changing by combining the latest technology with citizen science.

Puffin numbers have plummeted in recent years, across the UK and Europe, leading to the species being declared vulnerable to global extinction.

Dr Ellie Owen, who is leading Project Puffin, said: 'Puffins are facing huge declines over the next 50 years.'

'It's estimated their numbers will go down by between 50 to 70 per cent by 2065 - so it's really important that we act now to help them.'

'Anyone can take part in Puffarazzi. There are some easy steps to follow to ensure that the information being gathered by the images submitted is scientifically robust, and that puffins, and other wildlife, aren't disturbed while the photos are taken.'

For specific guidelines and to find out more about the project, visit www.rspb.org.uk/projectpuffin.

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OT

Benderloch

THE turning circle in Benderloch is to be resurfaced after numerous requests over many years. The issue of ownership caused the delay but it has finally been established that Transport Scotland owns the land.

This is a well-used turning circle that is also used to access the recycling facility. BEAR Scotland will carry out the work in July thus removing this long-standing item from the agenda of the Ardhattan Community Council.

■ GUITAR star Adrian Nation returns to the West Coast for a short tour this month. The Sky Arts channel star will be playing Easdale, Iona and Mull, as well as Benderloch's Victory Hall. Adrian opens his tour of the West Coast at the Easdale Island Community Hall tomorrow (June 9) with concerts to follow in Benderloch on Saturday (June 10), Iona Library on Thursday June 15, and in Creich Hall on Friday June 16.

Glensanda



Best of friends – a cat and a deer in Glensanda have struck up an unlikely friendship. Ian Henry sent in the picture.

Fort Augustus

DRIVERS are being warned of traffic disruption on the A82 trunk road between Fort Augustus and Invermoriston.

BEAR Scotland, working on behalf of Transport Scotland, is to carry out essential carriageway maintenance works on this section of the road commencing yesterday (Wednesday June 7).

The works are expected to be completed by Friday June 30.

The carriageway will be subject to a 10mph convoy management system between the hours of 7pm to 5am each night.

HGVs will be diverted through Glencoe via the Connel Bridge during this period.

Connel

THE testing of a floating tidal energy platform will take place in Connel during September and October of this year.

Sustainable Marine Energy Limited, a company based in Edinburgh, with an office in Orkney, is a developer of tidal renewable energy platforms and anchoring solutions.

John McGlynn, Orkney project manager, hosted two public information events in the Connel Village Hall on Tuesday May 31.

The presentations demonstrated how the platform operates and what it looks like above and below the

water. A buoyant platform that will be taut-moored to the seabed using a unique anchoring solution overcomes the installation and maintenance costs involved with the usual approach of building units similar to wind turbines and planting them in the seabed. The proposed site for the platform is to the south-east of Connel airport.

Local residents and stakeholders had an opportunity to register any comments or concerns at the event and later on at the Connel Community Council meeting.

Visit sustainablemarine.com for further information.

Connel

FLY-TIPPING along Loch Etive is causing concern to residents.

The latest incident is the result of people fishing and leaving their rubbish behind. Signs are displayed at popular fishing spots but a minority of people ignore them

and spoil the amenity for everyone. The council website has a section of reporting incidents of fly-tipping and the public are encouraged to use it so that the rubbish can be removed and that the scale of the problem can be assessed.

Western Isles

Complaint is not upheld

THE Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland has not upheld a complaint against seven councillors or former councillors on Comhairle nan Eilean Siar in connection with a decision not to open Lewis Sports Centre on a Sunday.

The complaint, on behalf of the Families Into Sport and Health (FISH) group, had alleged a contravention of the councillors' code of conduct.

It alleged that a number of respondents failed to register an interest in respect of church membership in their Register of Interests, in contravention of section four of the Code of Conduct (Registration of Interests).

It was also alleged that, at a meeting of the full council on October 5, 2016, all sev-

en of the respondents failed to declare a non-financial interest, namely their membership of certain churches.

Their membership and their religious beliefs were said to have influenced them to vote against Sunday opening of the Ionad Spòrs Leòdhais (ISL).

On October 5, 2016, the policy and resources committee met to discuss a report by the chief executive of the comhairle which considered the feasibility of opening the ISL on Sundays for a 12-month trial period. That meeting, by a vote of nine to two, recommended to the full council that it was not operationally feasible for the ISL to open on a Sunday.

At a full council meeting later that day, it was agreed by a majority vote of 19 to

nine (with one abstention), to accept the recommendation.

All seven respondents voted with the majority not to proceed with opening of the ISL on a Sunday.

All the respondents, in their responses to the commissioner, stated that they voted against Sunday opening of the ISL due to employment, operational and financial considerations, budget considerations or due to the views of their constituents, together with the views expressed in the chief executive's report.

The commissioner's findings stated: 'I do not consider that there has been sufficient evidence presented to show that they acted in accordance with their own religious beliefs or that their decisions were determined by their

membership of a religious organisation.

'My conclusion is, therefore, that the allegations outlined in the complaint did not involve a breach of the Councillors' Code of Conduct by councillors Gordon Murray, Charlie Nicolson, Catherine Macdonald, Angus Morrison, Donald Crichton, Iain Mackenzie and John Mackay, and I find accordingly.'

THE comhairle was scheduled to advertise the 2017 apprenticeship programme this week and to commence community meetings throughout the Western Isles beginning the week of the June 5, 2017. Given recent events, it has been decided to postpone both the recruitment and the meetings until further notice.

Isle of Muck

A MAJOR £100,000 project has transformed the jetty area at the Isle of Muck.

Marine Harvest has laid 1,600 square metres of concrete to tidy up the surface around the jetty and improve the experience for visitors arriving on the island, as well as for the local community.

At two miles long by one mile wide, Muck is the smallest of the Small Isles. Passengers visiting the island take a one hour, 40 minutes ferry journey from Mallaig to land at the island's only jetty.

But the existing jetty is fairly restricted in size and surrounded by farmland which gets very boggy underfoot when there are a lot of passengers disembarking, so the improvements will make arriving on the island a lot less hazardous.

But it has not been a straightforward job, as Marine Harvest Scotland's construction manager Stephen McCaig explained.

He said: 'It involved moving 650 tonnes of material and we couldn't rely on bringing concrete from the mainland because of potential weather conditions. We did all the concrete batching on-site with the materials all brought across in one-tonne bags, so it's been a fairly difficult and lengthy operation.'

'We're pleased to have been able to make these improvements which have been welcomed by the local community. It's always good to be able to give something back to the communities who host our operations and it will make it easier for us to transport materials back and forth in the future.'

Mull

MULL Otter Group and children from Lochdonhead, Ulva, Dervaig and Lochaline primary schools celebrated World Otter Day in style on May 31.

Lochaline P6 and P7 pupils joined a day-long Isle of Mull Wildlife Expeditions tour donated by one of Scotland's most experienced wildlife guides, David Woodhouse. Their day included sightings of sea eagles, hen harriers, golden eagles and a male otter which had caught a huge conger eel.

At Craignure Bunkhouse, 23 children, P1 to P5, had a fun-filled day of otter activities organised by the Mull Otter Group. They learned how to spot otter signs and found out how to care for an injured animal.

Comar's Andi Stevens led story-telling and movement with an otter theme and



Otter face painting.

Glasgow University zoology student Laura Penny helped the children find out about otter bones.

With local artist Faith Holmes, they made a collage of an otter scene.

After Imogen Mouldsdales turned them into otters with her face-paints, children wrote postcard messages otters would like to send to humans. Donald Trump, Theresa May and others... you'll be hearing from them.

Mull



The children certainly had fun at the 'messy play' session.

CHILD Health and Homestart held their first 'messy play' session in Salen Church Hall last week.

It was a great success and the children certainly had fun. The group plans to run fu-

ture sessions in Tobermory and Salen – so look out for posters. For further information,

contact Annabel at annabel.macleam@nhs.net or Sarah at homestartmull@gmail.com.

Dunoon

DUNOON Grammar School is looking to bring the community together to speak about mental health.

Over the past year the school has become one of the most active schools in Scotland in improving attitudes to mental health. It is one of six pilot schools for the brand new 'What's On Your Mind?' pack from national anti-stigma programme See Me.

The school has been

working with See Me over the past year to pilot and test the pack which supports teachers and pupils to develop skills to tackle stigma and discrimination. As part of its work, the school is holding a Walk a Mile event around Dunoon tomorrow (June 9).

MALLZEE, the Scottish-born and -based fashion shopping app, is today celebrating its millionth

download, cementing its position as the UK's leading multi-retailer fashion app.

Founded in Edinburgh in early 2013, Mallzee, commonly dubbed the Tinder for fashion, has pioneered the m-commerce consumer experience – by bringing together hundreds of high street retailers making it easy for shoppers to find, compare, save and buy clothes, shoes and accessories.

Mallzee founder and CEO Cally Russell, from Glendaruel, said: 'One million people downloading Mallzee – it's a huge number.'

'It's 100 times the population of my home town of Dunoon, it's two times the population of sunny Edinburgh, it's 20 per cent of the population of Scotland and it's one 60th of the population of the whole of the UK.'

Oban



The dance school put on a show to raise funds.

A LOCAL dance school, Blacklaw Dance Company, held a showcase recently to raise money for Oban Guides and to give the public a taste of its talent.

More than 60 adult and children dancers showed parents what they had been working on.

Dance teacher Sarah Blacklaw said: 'As I rent the guide hall to teach my classes, I decided to raise money for the Girl Guides.'

'It was a donation bucket that was available for the audience to donate whatever they pleased. The total money raised was £123.'

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Pointless inquiry

IT IS impossible not to feel sympathy with the MacAlister family, whose son and brother Scott died when the fishing boat he was working on, the Speedwell, foundered and sank in April 2013.

Scott's father, Peter, and brothers, Andrew and Glen, have been campaigning since to have a meaningful investigation into the circumstances that led to the tragedy. They could have been forgiven for thinking they had achieved just that when it was announced that a fatal accident inquiry (FAI) was to be held.

They have, quite rightly, slammed the hearing – which began on Monday of this week – for being futile.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) said before a shred of evidence was examined that the owner of the vessel would be given immunity from any potential prosecution.

Quite how any investigation can set such parameters before it has even started is beyond me.

The MacAlisters have also been told that no attempt will be made to recover the Speedwell to see if there were safety or seaworthiness issues which could have contributed to its sinking.

Again, surely that should constitute an essential part of any probe into what happened?

The MacAlisters had spoken of



Scott MacAlister died when the fishing boat Speedwell sank.

boycotting the FAI, believing it to be a smokescreen to blame Scott for what happened and thereby draw a line under the events that took place that day.

As I said, I find it impossible in the circumstances not to agree with that sentiment.

Brilliant Oban

WHAT a fantastic weekend it was in Oban. There was simply so much going on that it was hard to know what to focus on.

The town was absolutely buzzing – as it has been, in fairness, for weeks, despite not yet being the high season – with the fabulous Oban Live festival, the Oban Provincial Mòd and the Rotary Club Am-Am golf

competition. I have to confess that I did not make it to any of the Mòd events but I was at Oban Live on both Friday and Saturday, and played – like a three-legged donkey – in the charity golf day.

But the joy wasn't limited to just the organised big-ticket events. All over Oban there was live music, with hotels and pubs hosting impromptu as well as scheduled gigs, as well as al fresco performances in the streets.

The atmosphere was amazing, even if the weather was a little less than we might have wished for.

As ever, these splendid occasions could not have happened without the incredibly hard work of a select band of people. I tip my hat to them all. You could not have done it any better.

Campaign push

AS READERS will know, we have been campaigning hard for most of this year for improved safety on the A85.

If ever this urgent need was evident, it was thrown into the sharpest relief last week when there was a serious accident at Achnacloch, followed by another near Kilmore and then a third at Connel bridge.

All we have asked for is easily done and is three-fold: double

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white lines between Oban and Connel, a reduction in the speed limit to 50mph on that stretch and the creation of a proper lay-by at Pennyfuir cemetery to allow for the safe drop-off and pick-up of people visiting graves.

The view has been put forward that the road itself is not inherently unsafe but that accidents are caused by bad driving.

That may be so but – and it is especially manifest during the tourist season – stopping dangerous overtaking manoeuvres is the single most effective way to prevent the carnage continuing.

Yes, some drivers will continue to be idiots but most will adhere to the lower speed limit if it is clearly displayed, and most understand that double white lines are not to be crossed.

None of the drivers involved in the trio of incidents last week was killed, though one has suffered multiple injuries (and I wish him a full recovery). However, it was only down to sheer good fortune that no-one died.

The option of doing nothing is not acceptable.

What do you think?

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

Why figureheads are naked women and cats good news

Dave Cochrane, founder of FindaFishingBoat.com, explains sacred seafaring superstitions

EVERY profession has its superstitions, traditional customs and strange beliefs but mariners – specifically fishermen – have more than their fair share.

Most are associated with bad luck and are portentous of ominous weather, tragedy or poor fishing. From the notion of women on board being a distraction, to whistling on the bridge inciting a storm, there are dozens of ways in which misfortune can be wrought upon a vessel or voyage ... if you believe in that kind of thing.

Strange as it may seem, a lot of these customs are still observed even in the modern-day marine age. Of course, most sailors and seamen today know that these beliefs are all bogus but they can still pervade the daily lives of those who take to the sea.

Whether these myths are a romanticised hangover from another era or based in some foundation of fact, we look at the history of some traditional folklore that still exists today.

Unlucky Friday

Friday is considered an unlucky day in many walks of life and remains prevalent even in today's modern seafaring world. Though most commercial vessels wouldn't delay a voyage that was due to start on a Friday, there are still plenty of fishermen who prefer to stay on dry land at the end of a week.

The belief is thought to be linked to the fact that Christ was crucified on a Friday and voyages destined to leave for sea would have an unlucky trip. In the same vein, Sundays are a good day to set sail as Jesus was resurrected on the Sabbath.

Forbidden words

Just like the theatre, certain words have been known to be banned on board any vessel. From the early days of shipping, wishing anyone 'good luck' or merely saying 'goodbye' were thought to bring misfortune on the crew.

Speaking of goodbyes, it was considered bad luck to watch a vessel until it was out of sight as all on board would be drowned – which is another one for the banned list. The word 'drowned' was also thought to have been forbidden for fear of tempting fate.

If the words 'good luck' were uttered on board a boat, then the only way to reverse the 'curse' was to punch someone (usually the person who'd said it) and draw blood.

Cats and the sea

The humble cat has links to many superstitions and probably dates to Ancient Egyptian times when cats were revered creatures. As the species were domesticated across Europe they became the unofficial guardians of the home. This association with security and safety



A fishing boat works the waters off the island of Eigg but her crew might be ultra superstitious.

is the origin of most superstitions relating to cats.

In the nautical world, cats feature a lot and particularly with fishermen. Any fishermen heading off to sea would be only too pleased to attract the attention of a cat; one that purrs before a launch is said to bring a bountiful haul as will one that rubs itself against the ankles of the crew. The reasoning being a sound one: cats can smell the fish a mile away.

The infamous black cat was thought to be a good omen if it ventured on board a vessel of its own free will. However, the cat that licks its fur the wrong way has been blamed for causing storms.

The association between the sea and cats can also be found in the way sailors refer to the water with 'cat's paws' being a term for the small ripples on the ocean's surface and 'cat's skin' referring to a big disturbance in the sea.

Naming vessels

Naming a ship even today is a big deal and often has something of the ceremonial about it, even if it isn't the QE2.

The tradition of blessing a ship to bestow good luck upon all who sail in it goes back thousands of years. Evidence has shown that the Babylonians in around 3000 BC were performing naming rites on their vessels and even sacrificing cattle as part of the ceremony.

The Vikings continued in this vein with the spilling of blood as an offering to the Norse gods. Though the blood has been replaced by wine (or a bottle of Champagne) we still perform celebratory rites

when christening a vessel today.

A part of the cultural tradition demands that a woman performs the baptism as a way of ensuring prosperity and good luck for the vessel.

Women and bad luck

Given the fact that a woman's touch was deemed to be good luck during a naming ceremony for a boat, why, then, was having a woman on board considered to be bad luck?

Sadly, there's no fantastical yarn about this one – it's simply a case of distraction. Until recent times, the marine industry was a male-domi-

history, including Anne Bonny, Grace O'Malley and Lady Elizabeth Killigrew.

Interestingly, the enduringly charming curse, 'son of a gun' is derived from the activities of sailors who failed to stay focused on their activities. The practice of consummating an affair on board was often done so on the gun deck, sometimes resulting in a child born out of wedlock – the son of a gun. And it wasn't just females of our own species that were purported to have a distracting effect on history's mariners. Mermaids were also renowned for luring vulnerable sailors to their doom.

Contrarily, seafaring folk believed that nude women were actually a calming influence on the sea which is why so many figureheads on old sailing ships are of naked women.

Increasing catch

Customs and traditions pervaded all areas of sea life and things such as dropping a cake of ice overboard would ensure a big catch. Spitting into the mouth of the first fish you catch was also believed to improve the haul of the day. But, speaking of spitting, it was generally held to be true that letting the skipper spit into the water ahead of him would drive the fish away.

Bananas on board

Weird as it may sound, bananas were thought to be terrible bad luck for a vessel.

The superstition resulted from observations that vessels carrying bananas as cargo befell some strange and unusual fates. Some ships simply disappeared while

others suffered outbreaks of mysterious illnesses among the crew resulting in sickness and sometimes death.

There is evidence to suggest that the rapidly decaying fruit which gives off ethylene oxide could have accounted for this. Another theory is that the bunches of exotic fruit bound from South America and the West Indies to Europe could have contained poisonous spiders.

Whatever the cause and whether it was associated with just those ships carrying bananas is irrelevant – the fruit quickly became a bad omen to have on board.

Influencing the weather

The popular phrase, 'whistling up a storm', derived from the commonly held belief that whistling while on the bridge would result in the onset of strong winds. Clapping, too, could also be blamed for inciting lightning and thunder, and throwing a penny overboard would bring a favourable wind.

Dave Cochrane has more than 35 years' experience in the fishing industry having worked as a skipper and commercial fisherman since 1980, owning a boat and running his own crew fishing for prawns and scallops. He then retrained as a paramedic and enjoyed 12 years working with the ambulance service every second week in Strontian, western Lochaber, where he and his wife, Eileen, live. Still a keen fisherman, Dave continued to head out to sea in the weeks he was off work and the decision to buy himself a new boat resulted in the birth of FindaFishingBoat.com 19 years ago.

“The only way to reverse a curse was to punch someone.”

MORVERN lines

A rare Highland brooch

LAST week I referred to the Rev Alexander Stewart, the Church of Scotland minister of Ballachulish who collected information on the natural history, legends and folk-lore of the West Highlands which, without his interest and foresight, would have been lost.

Scotland owes another debt to this man for ensuring that one of the Highlands most beautiful and valuable 500-year-old objects found its way into the Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh, now called the National Museum of Scotland, from a most unlikely place.

In October 1881, an Appin shepherd was taking a breather a few yards below the summit of Beinn a' Bheilthir (Gaelic, the mountain of the thunderbolt), a 2,500ft hill above Ballachulish on the south side of Loch Leven, when idly poking into the moss beside him with his cromach, he turned up the shoulder brooch shown in the accompanying drawing.

The brooch, of solid silver, measures three and a half inches in diameter and would have been attached to a cloak or outer garment by a pin, or tongue, which is missing probably because it was of iron, bronze or silver gilt which would have rusted away.

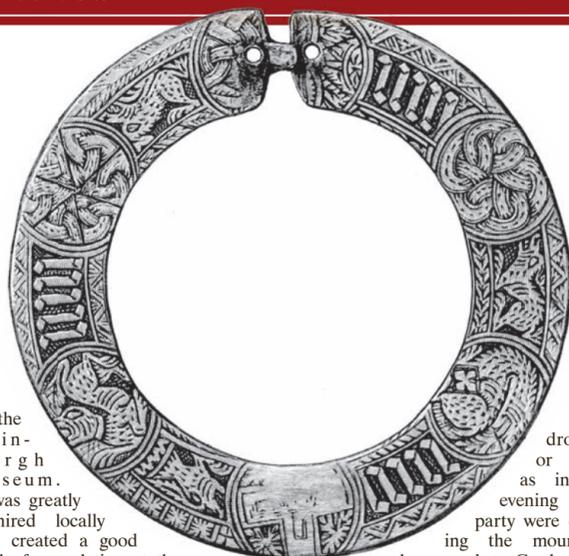
The brooch, however, is as fresh and striking as it must have been on the day when it was lost or hidden where it was found. It is engraved, on one side only, and shows strange beasts and ornamentation typical of the period but in the highest style of medieval Celtic art.

Evidently the nameless shepherd who, on knowing of Mr Stewart's interest in such objects, must have taken it to him for an opinion and was persuaded to sell it

to the Edinburgh museum.

It was greatly admired locally and created a good deal of speculation at the time. Whom had it belonged to and how did it come to be on the top of a remote hill in Appin where it was recovered?

We will never know but Nether Lochaber offered some thoughtful opinions. 'We know that Appin was at one time so famous for its stags and wild-fowl, that two at least of the Stuart kings, James IV and James V, frequently visited Duncan Stewart, the chief of the clan in his stronghold of Castle Stalker, for the purpose of hunting and hawking. We may easily fancy a hunting party, consisting of James IV and a score of favourite gentlemen, attended by the Chief of Appin, following the stag in Glen Duror and Glen-a-Chaolais, and the brooch being



dropped or lost, as in the evening the party were crossing the mountains homewards to Castle Stalker.

The Chief of Appin himself may have lost the brooch; for it is an article not likely to have belonged to anyone of meaner birth, or, for that matter of it, may not this beautiful brooch have adorned the royal shoulder of the king himself?

Perhaps this rare artefact will one day be repatriated to Lochaber where it rightly belongs – in the same way as the complete set of Lewis chessmen should rest in Stornoway. The trustees of the West Highland Museum in Fort William, should act to acquire what is now known as the Benvarre Brooch either permanently or on loan for an extended period.

If the Rev Alexander Stewart had been alive today, I feel sure he would

have been fascinated by a small group of Corran Ferry users who, unlike the usual daily commuters, have taken up residence aboard for a few weeks. I am referring to several pairs of black guillemots who have not only been hitching a lift across the Narrows and hopping off midstream when it takes their fancy during operating hours, but have actually nested aboard.

It all began some years ago when a small colony of these attractive black and white birds decided the reinstated old Ardour Estate pier adjacent to the slipway and which acts as a windbreak for the ferry tender, would make an ideal home during the nesting season. Bored, perhaps, waiting for their sitting partners to produce young, the males began flying to and from the ferry in the evening until, eventually, throwing caution to the wind or taking a shine to the ferry crew, began alighting on the moving car deck and upper structure where some of their partners, not to be outdone, elected to lay their eggs under some pieces of equipment preferring a bare deck to a nest.

The black guillemot belongs to the auk family and in many ways differs from the common species and is not so widely distributed. It is contained to Scotland, the northern half of Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Scottish islands. The birds are usually black all over except for a broad white bar across the wing. In winter, however, it is white, with black patches and on the wings. It lays two eggs and prefers to lie on them instead of standing over them and probably eats more crustaceans than fish. Unlike most other divers, it is said to use its feet when swimming under water and not its wings.

Iain Thornber
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#MeetTheCairns



Oban Charities Day 2017

Fun for all at biggest street fair of the year

ROLL UP, ROLL UP! Thousands of merry makers are set to descend on the heart of Oban for its biggest street fair of the year as Oban and Lorn Lions Club presents Charities Day on Saturday June 10.

The Lions Club took over the town tradition in 1990 and since then has helped dozens of charities and community organisations raise an estimated half a million pounds. With upwards of 40-50 stalls, Lions members hope to help local organisations raise more than £20,000 this year.

'It's really the town's day,' said Lions Club public relations officer Jim Edge.

'It can be difficult for small groups to raise funds on their own and they could never draw the numbers of people that Charities Day does. We are honoured to be the catalyst for these small groups to help them raise much-needed money.'

The focus of the day is, of course, on these community groups that have stalls around Station Square.

Each will have displays and information about their organisation and offer a chance win a prize or buy something.'

To add to the festive air, there will be activities for the youngsters, food and entertainment. As always, the radio personalities of Oban FM will be providing tunes and banter.

Oban FM station manager Laura Johnston said the generosity of local residents never fails to amaze her.

'Charities Day brings together a lot of the hard working charities in the area and gives the public a better understanding as to why these charities work tirelessly-not just for a day but all year round,' said Laura.

'The team at Oban FM has always enjoyed meeting people at Charities Day and a great day out is had by everyone who attends. Oban and Lorn Lions Club does a fantastic job in pulling the event together for us all to enjoy.'

Argyll Animal Aid have been attending Charities Day for more than 20 years and it's one of their favourite events.

'The money raised by our tombola stall goes towards the animals we help throughout the year, but equally important is the interaction we have with our supporters in the town during this fun day,' said chairperson Jean

Sutherland. The fun kicks off at 1pm as Oban Pipe Band leads a parade of local schoolchildren and other groups from the Corran Halls to Station Square.

The best stall presentation will be held at 2pm at the Oban FM stand.

Lions Club members work on Charities Day all year long and start next year's planning as soon as this year is done.

'There is a lot of work involved, but we are fortunate we get a lot of help from generous individuals and businesses,' said Jim.

'Each element is working hard and somehow it all comes together each year for a brilliant day that the people of Oban look forward to.'

Special thanks go to Oban taxi drivers as the event would be a lot harder to organise without their co-operation and support. Thanks also to the police and Argyll and Bute Council for their help in making the event run smoothly and safely. Stallholders can start setting up from 11am and all vehicles must leave the square by 12.15pm. The road will be closed to all traffic from this time till the end of the event.



HOME-START believes that children need a happy and secure childhood and that parents play the key role in giving their children a good start in life and helping them to achieve their full potential. We deliver one-to-one support, friendship and practical help to young families.

Home-Start deliver one-to-one support, friendship and practical help to young families and the schemes are rooted in the communities they serve. Managed locally, by a friendly and knowledgeable team, but supported by the national organisation: this offers direction, training, information and guidance and ensures consistent and quality support for parents and children wherever they are.

Home-Start Lorn, Queens Building, George St, Oban, PA34 5RZ E: homestartlorn@btconnect.com homestartmull@gmail.com T: 01631 566749, during office hours Mull enquiries: 07746 831918 Aileen, Sarah or Linda will be happy to provide any further information about our work.

Come and visit us at Oban Charities Day to find out more

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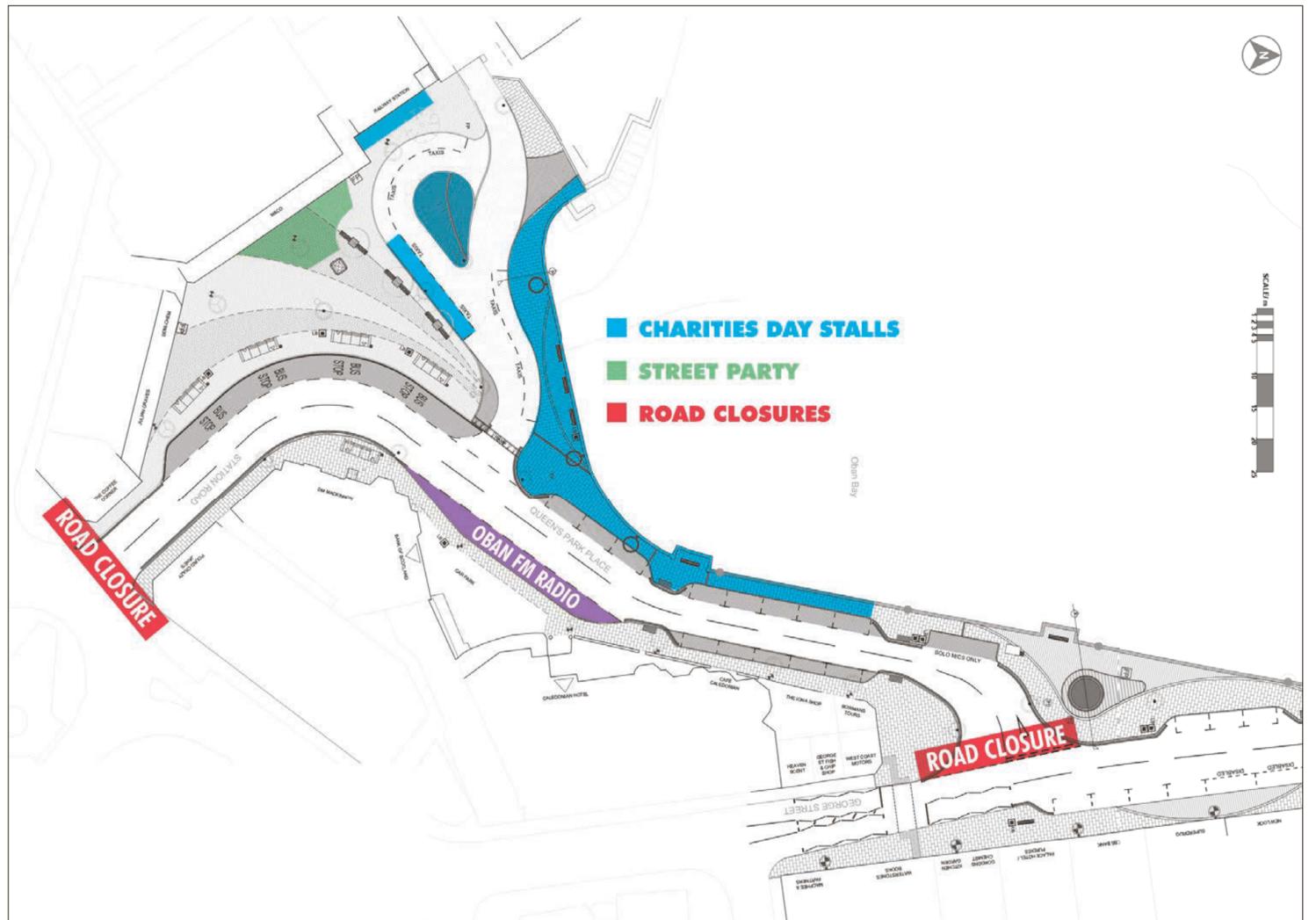
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CHARITIES DAY 2017 STALLS

SEA WALL	12 Rockfield Centre	24 Oban Community Skate Park	TAXI RANK (Bus Stop Side)
1 Oban Mountain Rescue	13 Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre	25 Spotlight Musical Theatre Group	34 Youth with a Mission
2 Argyll Animal Aid	14 Breathe Easy	26 Oban Riding for Disabled	35 Schools Out Oban
3 Argyll Beats Cardiac Disease	15 Friends of Anthony Nolan	27 Oban Lorn Shinty Club	36 Friends of Kilbride
4 Lorn Home Start	16 Sailors Society	28 Inner Wheel Oban	37 Comann Nam Parant an t'Obain
5 Oban and Lorn Dementia Support	17 Soroba Young Family Goup	29 Cancer Research UK	38 Seed For Life
6 British Legion Oban Branch	18 Small Paws Rescue	30 Oban Sea Cadets	39 Oban and Lorn lions
7 Hope Kitchen	19 Rotary Club of Oban		40 Oban and Lorn Lions
8 St Columba's School	20 Fishermans Mission	TAXI RANK (Station)	
9 St Columba's School	21 Lorn Quilters	31 Oban Community Sensory Garden	Oban FM
10 Diabetes UK: North Argyll Support	22 North Argyll Careers	32 Mens Shed	MacQueens Charitable Trust
11 Friends of Oban Hospice	23 Alzheimer Scotland	33 Lorn Model Engineering Club	



Rainbow Games bring sunshine in the rain



IT WAS Achaleven Primary's turn to organise sports day this year for its own pupils as well as Barcaldine, Kilchrenan, Lismore and Strath of Appin schools.

Appin offered its facilities for the day and, as the schools are a collection of linked primaries, Achaleven decided on a collection of colours for a theme – and called them the Rainbow Games.

The pupils from Achaleven designed all the games and an active warm-up to get everyone ready. Although there was a bit of rain, it didn't dampen spirits and lots of fun was had and friendships made – after all, you can't have a rainbow without a little rain.

Thanks were offered to Achaleven Parent Council for a wonderful spread of refreshments and goodies to keep everyone going.

The afternoon saw some very competitive races being held. There was a flat race, skipping, potato and spoon, and then an obstacle race. It was a tight battle but in the end the orange team were victorious. However, the true victory was in seeing the smiles on everyone's faces – they all had a great day.



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Viewpoint



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

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

It seems on the surface to be self-evident that the proper social infrastructure should be in place before embarking on any major public developments, especially when they are to take place in rural environments.

That is why we have considerable sympathy with the views put forward by residents of Dunbeg about the putative masterplan that proposes the construction of more than 600 new houses in the 'corridor' between the village and Ganavan.

Quite frankly, the roads in the area, particularly Kirk Road, are simply not suitable for even the traffic using them at present, let alone after the addition of hundreds

of new homes. Residents are, understandably, up in arms – despite a consultation exercise held last week to reassure them otherwise – at the prospect of hundreds of additional vehicles clogging the single-track Kirk Road and attempting to exit Dunbeg onto the already congested and accident-blighted A85.

Then there is the issue of the provision of school places. Dunbeg Primary is already close to capacity and could be swamped once the new homes are occupied.

If Argyll and Bute Council and its partners are serious about their proposals, it is essential that the infrastructure is in place before another step is taken.



Days gone by – 1996

Looking very smart back in 1996 were the competitors at the Mòd from Rockfield Primary School.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
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THIS week's article is a response to a submission on the letters page of the latest edition of *An Tirisdeach* (the local Tìree newspaper).

In it, the authors, James and Linda Laikie from Gourrock, protested against the fishing operations of a boat recently bought by Coinneach MacKinnon of Hillcrest, Tìree.

The arrogance and ignorance of the content, coupled with the supercilious tone in which it was delivered, places this letter as a shining example of the very worst traits of anti-fishing lobbyists, and a good indicator as to why there is such deep distrust of environmental groups by the fishing industry.

The issues created by such strong opinions based on lack of knowledge are, of course, not limited to Tìree, but are a threat to populations across all fishing communities.

Conservation of stock and stewarding of marine resources is in everyone's interests, but bystanders willing to devastate fishermen's livelihoods on the whim of passionate ignorance are a danger to fragile coastal communities.

One of the main reasons why I object to any proposals for creating protected areas of sea and coastline, such as MPAs and SPAs is that once they are designated, it gives this type of person with an unbalanced and uneducated perspective a high degree of direct control over economies and populations in which they have no anthropological interest.

Social media

We asked the questions on Facebook last week: Parking – are you struggling to find a space? What do you think the problems and the solutions are in Oban? And the issue prompted a lively response.

Morven Hunter suggested: 'Should have a park and ride before you get into Oban between town and Pennyfuir and stop campers coming in unless going to a campsite, this is what they do in Canada and it works well.'

David Livingstone wrote: 'Campers? There is at least two always parked near the War Memorial!'

Colline Mackiggan explained: 'Was in Oban last week and managed to get a space in High St (there was a few). Probably because the rain was that heavy no one came out. Being local most of my life I know what it's like especially in summer. Having been on holiday in Harrogate and other English resorts they have a park and ride, we had a motor home and we parked up

The worrying truth is that there is an alarming number of this type of individual – and numbers mean political power and political power means influence. They would happily oversee the depopulation of islands like Tìree if it satisfied their positions of moral posturing on environmental issues they do not understand, but feel so very strongly about.

I fully admit to being biased in this. The man among all for whom I hold the greatest respect was at one time a scallop fisherman. It is relevant to convey to the Laikies that the scallop ground fished by that man, my uncle, Iain Skipinnish in the 1980s and 1990s, and also fished by countless other boats from all over the country at that time, before that time and until the present day is exactly the same ground that Coinneach MacKinnon is making a living from now.

Analogies of cutting down a forest to catch a parrot, as quoted in their letter, is the type of ridiculous, sensationalist nonsense that kills the credibility of the marine science industry in the eyes of fishermen and makes it more difficult for all sides to work together in the interests of the sea and the fruits it bears.

Certainly, scallop dredging can cause damage to certain types of seabed in certain places and this should be managed sensibly and, in some cases, closing specific areas may be the best action. Progress on this will not be made, though, by extreme views and ig-

norance the like of which was displayed in the letter being discussed.

I suggest to James and Linda Laikie that there are far more damaging industries adversely affecting the world's oceans than that which can be inflicted by a 37ft, four dredge-a-side scalloper towing on flat gravel and sand beds that have been fished in this way sustainably since scallop dredging began in the area more than 60 years ago.

They should turn their energies against big industry filling the seas with plastic, heavy metals and other waste, and refrain from demonising a young man doing his best to make a modest living on a remote and fragile island.

I hope the next time the Laikies of Gourrock are visting Milton Harbour they happen upon the ghost of my father. Along with others, he worked hard to have the original and the newer pier built, and he would be immensely proud of the thriving fishing fleet now operating from there. He would be very proud of Coinneach, a young energetic man who has taken a considerable risk in investing in growth and diversification to build a stronger future for himself, his family, the fishing industry and the island of Tìree as a whole.

I, too, am very proud of Coinneach and I hope he will not allow his career to be adversely affected by the narrow-minded sniping of people who clearly do not understand the damage their ignorance can inflict on an already weak island economy.



and jumped on the bus ,great idea.'

Rebecca Neilson posted: 'Have a daily rated car park, no business is able to get out every couple of hours to put a ticket on. A fair daily rate (like the train station do) would be fantastic. Still making money but less hassle for workers wether living in or out of town. **Allan Strang Jnr** lamented: 'Parking been an issue for too long now. It'll never be sorted in this generation. Park and ride failed long time ago as more and more cars are around now and it won't be lessening any time soon.'

Christine MacDougall wondered: 'Would it be feasible to build a multi storey at old gas works.'

Colin Martin posted: 'Considering that we are trying to attract people to the town, we need to vastly increase the amount of free parking places.'

Steve Letford wrote: 'Those who use the hospital car park as a park and ride should be ashamed of themselves and should be fined heavily.'

Peter Miller offered: 'multi car park would be great.'

Margaret Menassa agreed: 'Definitely more spaces required a multi story would be easiest option.'

Hannah Karpinski proposed: 'Even just making George St free for first half an hour would be beneficial.'

Christine Houghton asked: 'How about opening school playgrounds in the holidays?'

Tom Smith urged: 'Use a bike.'

Sharon Stenhouse said: 'Need a simple, unified parking payment system. It's currently so random and hard to understand. I would hate to be a foreign visitor trying to work it all out.'

Rebecca Barnham Smyth posted: 'FREE park and ride or long stay parking in town is desperately needed, not only for visitors but for commuters too. **Lorna Wylie** wrote: 'Needs a multistorey car park and a long stay car park. Long stay would be better situated out of town.'

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.

End discrimination in favour of Europeans

Sir,
I refer to the letter from Ken MacColl (*The Oban Times*, May 25).

The Home Secretary has to deport a large number of non-Europeans because we cannot have totally unlimited immigration, and EU law does not allow us to deport Europeans.

It is not discriminatory to want to redress the imbalance of present and past discrimination. As soon as we leave the EU in 2019, we must have new immigration laws that provide equality between Europeans and non-Europeans by ending the special privileges provided to Europeans under EU laws. We must put an end to discrimination against non-Europeans.

There are some non-EU European countries that have freedom of movement agreements with EU. We must not be one of them because it amounts to discrimination against non-Europeans. I am very consistent in my views.

I am totally opposed to discrimination of any kind.

SNP, Lib-Dems and Greens all support the special privileged position of Europeans. If there were a UKIP candidate in my area, I would vote for them but, since there is not, I am unsure who to support.

It is unlikely that I will support Labour because Jeremy Corbyn has said he will introduce additional UK-wide public holidays on St Andrew's Day, St David's Day, St George's Day and St Patrick's Day. This is not acceptable because they are all Christian Saints and we already have an abundance of holidays linked to Christianity.

The four new holidays should be on days that are connected to Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism. When the time comes to add a fifth new holiday, it should be linked to Sikhism.

It is unlikely that I will vote Conservative because of the way they discriminate against disabled people by, for example, stopping unemployment benefits for severely disabled people on the grounds that they are not trying hard enough to find work.

David Gallant, Oban.

Thanks to kind duo who helped after fall

Sir,
In the course of a sailing holiday, I was walking through Oban on May 14 this year when I tripped and hit my head.

Two people, a man and a woman, immediately came to my aid. They were outstandingly kind. When they had assessed the situation, the young man, who was wearing an Oban High School top and clearly had some knowledge of first aid, first reunited me with my wife.

She was shopping separately from me and in my dazed condition I would have had difficulty in finding her. He then took charge of us and got us to Oban hospital, where I received first-

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



DISATHAIRNE SEO CHAIDH bha mi ann am Port Rìgh nam bhritheamh Mòd airson a' chiad turas am-bliadhna, agus abair gun do chòrd an turas agus an tachartas rium.

Mar a bhiodh dùil aig an àm seo den bhliadhna, bha an t-àite air chrith le luchd-turais far feadh an t-saoghail agus tha mar-thà aithrisean air daoine air am bheil e air faireachadh àite-fuirich a lorg aig amannan. Tha cùisean air atharrachadh thaobh a' ghnìomhachais thar nan deicheadan mu dheireadh saoilidh mi is daoine a' tadhal air a' Ghàidhealtachd fad na bliadhna a-nise, seach an suidheachadh a bh' ann uaireigin far an robh fèist aig luchd-aogheachd tron t-samhradh agus gort a' chuid eile den bhliadhna.

Dh'fhaodte a ràdh le cinnt gum bheil deagh cothromach an lùib obair turasachd a-nise gus dreuchd beatha phroifeiseanta a thogail na lùib. Air feadh na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eileanan an iar air fad tha eachdraidh, cànan, agus dualchas na Gàidhlig mar shàr annalann a ghabhas libhrigeadh dha luchd-tadhail agus ged a tha beagan den sin a' tachairt, saoilidh

rate overnight monitoring. At the time I was not really in a condition to thank these two very kind individuals adequately for all they did for me.

My wife and I very much appreciated the help we received, and I write this letter in the hope that they will learn how much it was appreciated.

I have made a small donation to an Oban charity. When there is so much bad news around, it is welcome to be reminded that there are also so many good people.

Walter Reid, Beaulay, Bridge of Weir.

Grateful to people for public spirit

Sir,
I wonder if I could through your columns, express my gratitude for the kindness of two unknown people in Oban recently.

On Thursday May 25 I parked my car at Pulpit Rock prior to going for the Craignure ferry. I fell on the path linking Pulpit Hill with the main road and sustained a nasty injury, being treated by the doctor at Bunnassan later.

Before leaving Iona, I discovered that my car keys were missing (my wife had a spare) and deduced that I had dropped them on the path.

When I reached Pulpit Rock I noticed that someone had taped a plastic cover over the side window of the car (I had left it open on a hot day) to protect it from the rain.

I knocked on various doors to express thanks but no-one was at home. I then recovered the keys at the police station. I was therefore unable to express gratitude to either of the kind persons who had assisted me. At a time when we are tempted to be cynical about public spiritedness, it was very welcome to see such acts.

Rev Dr Iain Whyte, 14 Carlingnose Point, North Queensferry.

MP has represented constituents well

Sir,
I read D Johnson's letter (*The Oban Times*, June 1) with interest.

While I agree with some points, I was puzzled at the comments about Brendan O'Hara, who has served for two years as an SNP MP for Argyll and Bute. I quote 'a novice MP adept at claiming expenses'. What does this actually mean?

The claiming of expenses is very closely scrutinised so what is D Johnson insinuating? If D Johnson has any evidence expenses were claimed in an irregular fashion, I think the authorities need to know.

Argyll and Bute is a very large constituency and travel needs careful planning. Mr O'Hara was elected to serve everyone in Argyll and Bute at Westminster so is D Johnson saying that we should elect someone to represent us and they never return to speak to constituents, hold surgeries, visit businesses and charities?

This is nonsense and wouldn't be

democratic. Mr O'Hara has visited Islay a number of times over the past two years supporting local industry, visiting groups as well as a range of local people. This to me is democracy at its best.

We can question our representatives and give them an up-to-date picture of what is happening in the constituency. Perhaps D Johnson would like to expand his or her view of what democracy means to them.

A Pilley, Islay.

Feeding the seagulls is a very bad idea

Sir,
As an Oban taxi driver, I frequently see people (mainly tourists) feeding seagulls along the seafront.

This seems like a harmless and amusing way of disposing of food scraps, although I have seen some bring whole loaves of bread to feed the gulls.

Anyone who has been to St Ives in Cornwall, as I have, or any number of other seaside resorts, will understand why this is a very bad idea. The seagulls attack you in these places, ripping the food from your hand, terrorising children and adults alike.

Now I have seen this happen in Oban for the first time. A mature couple were sitting on one of the benches by the taxi rank, eating a sandwich, when a gull swooped low over them and snatched some of the man's food from his hand.

The couple were clearly disconcerted by this behaviour, unsure as to what to do with the remains of the sandwich which the gull had despoiled.

I think it is an urgent requirement that visitors and residents alike are warned not to feed the gulls to discourage this and prevent the attacks reaching the epidemic proportions suffered elsewhere.

Peter Mallinson, High Street, Oban.

We must act to put stop to atrocities

Sir,
When will politicians admit we are fighting a war of survival in the UK and Europe against those perverting Islam, a religion of peace?

The West must immediately introduce measures, including banning people entering Europe and the UK from countries which are hostile towards us. Those planning terrorism, and MI5 say there are 23,000 suspects in the UK, should immediately be interred.

Those who commit or plan terrorist attacks and hold British passports are guilty of treason. Foreign terrorists should be similarly treated.

I am certain these actions would be welcomed by millions of real Muslims in Europe who follow their religion of peace and are shocked that their religion has been tainted and disrespected by these monsters.

Clark Cross, Lintlithgow.

Ailean Caimbeul

gridh, agus gun siubhail iad dhachaigh le cuimhne bhàth air na thachair agus air a' chànan a bha na adhbhar air. Tha brithreamhan cothromach onarach nan cuid breithneachaidh ach tha iad cuideachd faiceallach gum bheil iad a' misneachadh seach a bhith a' cronachadh fharpaisich.

A rèir na chunnaic is na chuala mise, rinn na bha a' gabhail pàirt ann am Mòd Ionadaid an Eilein Sgitheanaich fìor mhath am-bliadhna a-rithist is bha iad nan deagh theisteanas air na bha iad nan cuideachadh. Tha mi glè thoilichte aithris gum faca 's gun cuala sinn taghadh math de thobar dualchais.

COMPETITORS at last week's Skye Provincial Mòd demonstrated the positive influence of Gaelic Medium Education on the linguistic fluency of the area's young people.

They clearly enjoyed their Mòd experience and the event was also a pleasure for the audience and adjudicators alike.

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

Press policy

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

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

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

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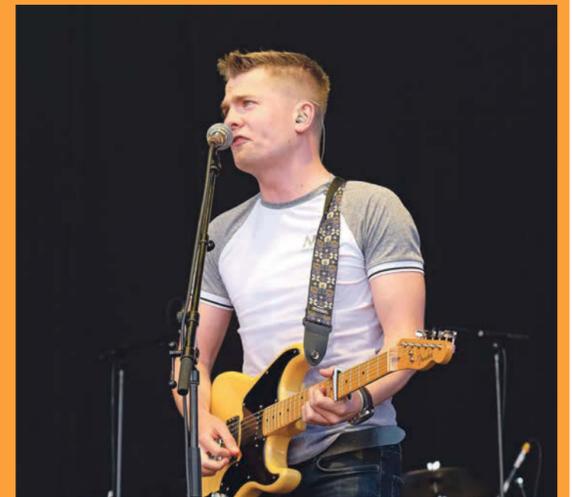
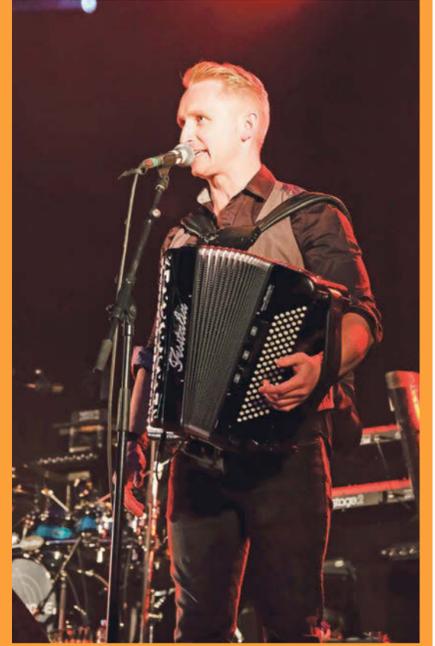
Your letters

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

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

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

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



Oban is alive to the sound of music, fun and new friendships. Oban Live promised to be the biggest and best festival in Argyll - and by all accounts it over achieved in its ambitions. Two days and nights of some of the best Scottish music of all time - chart toppers, old timers, banjo players, not to mention the thrill of having two of our own on stage.



Images by Ronnie Cairns Photography, David McPhee and Louise Glen

FOR MORE OBAN LIVE PHOTOS VISIT: WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK

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Oban Live rocks Mossfield and reverbs around Scotland

Oban Unsigned set the stage for day two of Oban Live



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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

CHARITIES DAY STREET FAIR AND PARADE
SATURDAY
10TH JUNE
12-4PM
PARADE 1.00PM
FROM CORRAN
HALLS
Another event organised by Oban and Lorn Lions Club



A' cur 's a' Buain

Listings for Thursday 08 June - Thursday 15 June 2017

DIARDAIN 08 ÒGMHIOS
THURSDAY 08 JUNE
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.10 **Iomall nan Tonn** (rpt)
19.35 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **UR | NEW: Cearcall** - Look back through 80's programme, Cearcall - Ep12
21.00 **UR | NEW: Air a' Chanàl** - Calum MacAulay & Niall Iain MacDonald exploring Scotland's canals
22.00 **UR | NEW: Belladrum 2016** - The Darkness
22.30 **UR | NEW: Dhan Uisge**
22.40 **Henry Ford** - Ep2/2 (rpt)
23.40 **Sgeul Seòlaidh** - Navy Stories (rpt)

23.50 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)

DIHAOINE 09 ÒGMHIOS
FRIDAY 09 JUNE
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
18.35 **Machair** (rpt)
19.00 **UR | NEW: An Taghadh** - Election result opinions
21.00 **A gu U: Glaschu** - Catriona MacPhee introduces us to Glasgow (rpt)
22.00 **Opryan Iùir** (rpt)
22.50 **Dhan Uisge** (rpt)
23.00 **Corp & Anam** - Irish Drama (rpt)
23.50 **Binneas** - Na Trads (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 10 ÒGMHIOS
SATURDAY 10 JUNE
16.00 **Camanachd Beò** - MacTavish Cup Final - Live Shinty
18.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Machair** (rpt)
19.25 **Binneas** - Na Trads (rpt)
19.30 **Craic** - Women's panel discussion (rpt)

20.00 **Ceòl aig a' Chaisteal** - Fiddle Music (rpt)
20.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
20.30 **North Coast 500** - Le Anne London - S1, Ep4 (rpt)
21.00 **Opryan Iùir** (rpt)
21.50 **Dhan Uisge** (rpt)
21.55 **Camanachd Beò** - MacTavish Cup Final - Live Shinty (rpt)
24.00 **Corp & Anam** - Irish Drama (rpt)
24.50 **Binneas** - Na Trads (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 11 ÒGMHIOS
SUNDAY 11 JUNE
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
18.30 **Seachd Là** - News Review
19.30 **Alleluia!** (rpt)
20.00 **Fuine** - Biscuits (rpt)
20.30 **Cearcall** - Look back through 80's programme, Cearcall - Ep12 (rpt)
21.00 **Farpaisean Chon**-chaorach (rpt)
22.00 **Opryan Iùir** (rpt)
22.50 **Dhan Uisge** (rpt)
22.55 **Henry Ford** - Ep 2/2 (rpt)

DILUAIN 12 ÒGMHIOS
MONDAY 12 JUNE
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Binnean nam Beann** (rpt)
19.25 **Binneas** - Na Trads (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **An Lot** - The Croft (rpt)
21.00 **Trusadh** - Faram nam Bròg - A trip to Canada in search of the origins of Step Dance (rpt)
22.00 **Hòro Gheallaidh** (rpt)
22.30 **Dennis Nilsen** - Gràdh a Bhàis? (rpt)
23.30 **Fonn mo Bheatha** (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 13 ÒGMHIOS
TUESDAY 13 JUNE
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.05 **Iomall nan Tonn** - The Edge of the Waves (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **Puirt-adhair** - Highland Airports (rpt)
21.00 **Farpaisean chon**-chaorach (rpt)
22.00 **Trusadh** - Faram nam Bròg - A trip to Canada in search of the origins of Step Dance (rpt)
23.00 **Craic** - Women's panel discussion (rpt)
23.30 **Alleluia!** (rpt)

DICIADAIN 14 ÒGMHIOS
WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.05 **Binnean nam Beann** (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **UR | NEW: Fuine** - Seasonal Fruits
21.00 **Robert Black** - Coigreach Gun Chogais (rpt)
22.00 **Fonn Fonn Fonn** - Music Quiz (rpt)
22.30 **Hòro Gheallaidh** (rpt)
23.00 **Air a' Chanàl** - Calum MacAulay & Niall Iain MacDonald exploring Scotland's canals (rpt)

DIARDAIN 15 ÒGMHIOS
THURSDAY 15 JUNE
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.10 **Iomall nan Tonn** (rpt)
19.35 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **UR | NEW: Cuimhneachan** - Songs and poetry about World War 1
21.00 **UR | NEW: Air a' Chanàl** - Calum MacAulay & Niall Iain MacDonald exploring Scotland's canals
22.00 **UR | NEW: Belladrum 2016** - Keston Cobbler's Club
22.30 **UR | NEW: Dhan Uisge**
22.40 **UR | NEW: Amish at the Altar**
23.25 **Eadar-chluich** (rpt)
23.35 **Ceòl aig a' Chaisteal** (rpt)
23.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)

OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA

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Friday 9 – Thursday 15 June

ANOTHER MOTHER'S SON | 12A | 123 MIN

Fri: 18:45, Sat: 18:00, Sun: 19:00, Mon, Tue, Wed: 18:45, Thu: 18:15
The drama is set during World War II on the Nazi-occupied island of Jersey. Lou took in an escaped Russian POW and hid him over the war's course.

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL | U | 120 MIN

Fri: 16:00, Sat: 13:45, Sun: 16:15, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 16:00
Greg convinces his family to take a road trip to attend his great grandmother's 90th birthday as a cover for what he really wants: to attend a nearby gamer convention.

KIDS CLUB - THE BOSS BABY | U | 120 MIN

Sat: 11:30
The Boss Baby is a hilariously universal story about how a new baby's arrival impacts a family, told from the point of view of a delightfully unreliable narrator, a wildly imaginative 7 year old named Tim.

MAD TO BE NORMAL | 15 | 125 MIN

Tue: 20:30, Wed: 18:15
Silver Screening: Sun: 14:30
Mad To Be Normal reveals the story of R.D. Laing, the famous psychiatrist and one of Scotland's greatest ever minds. Working out of Kingsley Hall in East London throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Laing performed various daring experiments on people who were diagnosed as mentally disturbed.

NT LIVE: PETER PAN | TBC | 170 MIN

Sat: 14:00
All children, except one, grow up... When Peter Pan, leader of the Lost Boys, loses his shadow, headstrong Wendy helps him to reattach it. In return, she is invited to Neverland, where Tinker Bell the fairy, Tiger Lily and the vengeful Captain Hook await.

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: 18:15, Sat: 11:00, Sun: 11:45, Mon, Tue, Wed: 16:00, Thu: 16:30
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, escape from the Devil's Triangle bent on killing every pirate at sea—notably Jack.

SNATCHED | 15 | 120 MIN

Fri: 21:00, Sat: 20:30, Sun: 16:45, Mon: 20:30, Tue, Wed: 21:00, Thu: 20:30
After her boyfriend dumps her on the eve of their exotic vacation, impetuous dreamer Emily Middleton persuades her ultra-cautious mother, Linda to travel with her to paradise.

THE BOSS BABY | U | 120 MIN

Sun: 11:45
The Boss Baby is a hilariously universal story about how a new baby's arrival impacts a family, told from the point of view of a delightfully unreliable narrator, a wildly imaginative 7 year old named Tim.

THE HANDMAIDEN | 18 | 175 MIN

Fri: 21:00, Sat: 20:30, Sun: 18:30, Mon: 21:00, Wed: 20:30
1930s Korea, in the period of Japanese occupation, a new girl (Sookkee) is hired as a handmaiden to a Japanese heiress (Hideko) who lives a secluded life on a large countryside estate with her domineering Uncle (Kouzuki). But the maid has a secret.

WHISKY GALORE! | PG | 118 MIN

Sat: 18:15, Tue: 18:15
During World War II, the tiny Scottish island of Today 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.

WHYTE: SCOTTISH TOUR 2017 | GB | 180 MIN

Thu: 20:00
Gaelic ambient electronic duo, WHYTE embark on their 2017 Scottish tour following the release of their debut album Fairich. The performance will feature accompanying projected visuals.

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MONDAY: 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 09:00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11:00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 13:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drivetime, 18:00 Drivetime, 19:00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20:00 John McLuckie's Show, 21:00 David Cullen Show, 23:00 station close, midnight Clyde 2
TUESDAY: 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 10:00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13:00 Macky on FM, 15:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 19:00 Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers, 20:00 Elaine Lamb, 22:00 Northern Soul with Gordon Cove, midnight Clyde 2.
WEDNESDAY: 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 09:00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10:00 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 11:00 Comfort Zone, 12:00 Comfort Zone, 13:00 Clyde 2 15:00 Elaine Lamb, 17:00 Drivetime, 17:30 Drivetime with Campbell Cameron, 19:00 Country Meets Rock & Roll with Len & Ken, 21:00 Gordon's Grooves, midnight Clyde 2.
THURSDAY: 08:00 Breakfast with Laura, 10:00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13:00 Elaine's Time Capsule, 15:00 Gordon Covey, 17:00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19:00 Christine's Collection, 21:00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22:00 Margo till midnight, midnight Clyde 2.
FRIDAY: 08:00 Breakfast with Laura, 10:00 Teeny and Tiny, 13:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 18:45 Sports View, 19:00 Country meets Country with Jackie Craig, 20:00 Lewis Binham.
SATURDAY: 08:00 Breakfast show with Archie Darling, 10:00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Cosher, 13:00 Clyde 2 18:00 Sports View with the Dream Team, 19:00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20:00 Dave Lewis, 22:00 Margo till midnight, midnight Clyde 2.
SUNDAY: 09:00 Sunday morning with Breege, 11:00 Sunday Morning with Archie, 12:00 Sunday Brunch, 13:00 Clyde 2 16:30 Archie Darling, 18:00 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 19:00 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 21:00 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott, 23:00 Station close, midnight Clyde 2.

Scottish hip-hop, 1980s legends, 'noughties' household names, traditional Celtic music stars and emerging artists united last weekend for an unforgettable second year of Oban Live 2017 – the biggest live music event in Argyll, west of Scotland, writes Louise Glen.

The event took place at the Mossfield shinty ground in Oban on Friday June 2 and Saturday June 3.

The event achieved a rise in footfall this year with more than 8,800 attendees over two days including visitors from as far away as Russia and the USA travelling to the west coast town for the event, which has a population of 8,180.

Friday kicked off in the sunshine

with live music from traditional music stars including Ceol an Aire and the Argyll Ceilidh Trail, Trail West, Manran, closing with a phenomenal performance from trad-chart topping headliners Skipinnish. The event was opened by special guest, 13-year-old internet piping sensation Gregor MacDonald from Oban High School.

Toploader, best known for their 2000 hit *Dancing in the Moonlight*, delivered a flawless set.

Saturday saw Gaelic singer and rising star Kim Carnie from Oban, Tide Lines, who launched their debut album *Dreams We Never Lost* at the event, Roddy Hart and the Lonesome Fire, global artists and Irish quartet We Banjo 3, 1980s legends Hue And Cry, who at one point gave the audience a taste of hip-hop, and Celtic-rock headlin-

ers Skerryvore. I felt like a proud mum standing slap bang centre in front of the stage. It was Saturday, it was 4.30pm and K9 Kev and Rory O'B were about to come onto the stage.

I had on my blue waterproof, held a bottle of Blue WKD in my hand and was surrounded by good Oban folks to celebrate the achievement of Oban's own Kevin Irvine.

K9 must be one of the kindest men in the world.

At first I thought I was there to support them out of a sense of loyalty.

But once they kicked off (supported by the backbone members of many bands from Argyll) my loyalty fell away to awe. These boys were exceptional.

Scottish hip hop rap is

a fairly new phenomenon to me. It likely is to many people who were at Argyll's biggest traditional music event.

In no time at all the crowd were singing along to tracks from the band's new ep *Vocal Heroes*. And to be truthful the tunes are still ringing in my head.

K9 and Rory were the perfect start to the second day of Oban Live. They brought on stage Lora Macleod who stunned everyone with her exceptional deep and soothing voice. Signal Fire's Andy Bruce led the vocals on the other tracks and he was in fine voice.

If you are wanting something to cheer you up buy their new ep - £5 from Kev on Facebook. It is truly something. I have no doubt we will shortly be hearing great things about K9

and Rory. They are my favourite Scottish hip hop artists and I want them to be yours as well.

Daniel Gillespie, managing director for Oban Live, said: 'At Oban Live 2017 we achieved exactly what we set out to do which was to celebrate that infectious west coast spirit and culture and welcome people from all over the world to experience and enjoy that with us.'

'It was amazing to see even more local people from Oban and the surrounding area of Argyll attend this year too. The local backing was incredible. Unsurprisingly, the Oban community itself has again been amazing hosts, showcasing everything that is great about Argyll whilst bringing their wild sides and brilliant craic to the event.'



More photos available online
OBANTIMES.CO.UK

Great days out aboard Waverley!

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Sailing from **CAMPBELTOWN**

Redbay SUNDAY June 25 Leave 12.30pm back 7pm
Cruise Antrim Coast Fares: Visit Redbay £31 SC £29 Cruise Antrim Coast £33 SC £31

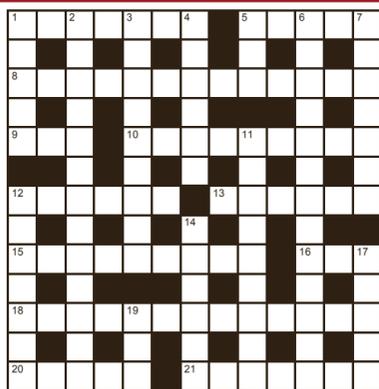
Cruise Sanda Isles SUNDAY July 16 Leave 2.30pm back 5pm
Fares: Cruise Sanda Isles £23 SC £21

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or book at Campbeltown & Tarbert Tourist Information

THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



Across

- Crying (7)
- Melodious sound (5)
- Unfeasible (13)
- Weeder's tool (3)
- Promise of satisfaction (9)
- Have covered (6)
- Tub for fruit (6)
- Thatching rod (9)
- Unwell (3)
- Supplier for liner (5,8)
- Latin dance (5)
- Coloured cloth with many shades (3-4)

Down

- What one? (5)
- Type of painting (13)
- Marking the beginning of a new series (9)
- Fancy cake (6)
- Raincoat (3)
- Of ample amount (13)
- Lenient disposition (7)
- Plentiful (9)
- Demands (7)
- Result (6)
- Sensational (5)
- Relaxing treatment (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Arena

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

Tide Lines - 'two pints and a vodka and Coke'

As we signed copies of our debut album immediately after our launch gig, one confused gentleman arrived at the head of the cue and asked for two pints and a vodka and Coke, writes Robert Robertson.

The poor chap had waited for a considerable time to get to the

bar - only to realise he had been standing in the wrong queue and had, in fact, reached the merch tent! For us, it had been an equally mind-boggling sort of day.

We had awoken in Glasgow that morning to find our debut album, *Dreams We Never Lost*, in the top 20 of the UK download charts and

trending on iTunes, but our subsequent optimism soon turned to dread as the weather began to deteriorate.

On reaching Connel, flashes of lightening, roars of thunder and torrential rain brought about a silence in the van as we all considered the likelihood that

our album launch was going to be a washout.

We arrived at the festival site to find the artist area engulfed in a deluge of rain water.

As I sat in the artist tent re-stringing my guitar, however, it suddenly occurred to me that the deafening noise of the rain battering off the roof of the tent had begun to ease.

To my elation and total disbelief, I emerged from the tent into beautiful sunshine. The thunder storm had cleared the air and the dark clouds were disappearing into the distance.

K9 Kev and Rory O'B got the audience buzzing from the stage. The party was on and we were soon looking out onto a sun-kissed and packed Mossfield.

The crowd was raring to go and after all the preparation and a morning of weather-induced panic, Oban Live, thanks to the enthusiastic festival goers, turned out to be the ideal album launch.

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.



WIN Back, Neck & Shoulder Massage or express Facial

Isle of Eriska
Hotel, Spa & Island



The Stables Spa at Eriska is set in the former stables building and accessed by a path through the Spa Garden, offers five treatment Rooms, three to connect you to the natural land, plants and wood, and two connecting you to the cleansing sea and tranquil shores that surrounds you.

Our natural products *ishga* and *ESPA* have been chosen to create refreshing treatments, to infuse the mind, allowing your body to be cleansed with every breath harmonising you with the island.

To enter our competition, answer this simply question:
Q. What is the name of the spa?

For your chance to win, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to The Oban Times, Isle of Eriska Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Tuesday 20th June.

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

Terms and conditions: Closing date for entries is midnight, Tuesday 20th June. Wyvex Media and any agencies connected with the competition and their families are not eligible to enter. The prize is as stated. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is also open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications. Digital subscribers can enter by printing this page and submitting their entry along with a letter explaining you are a digital subscriber (please provide your email address). The prize must be taken by Friday 30th June.

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

What's on at **The Nevis Centre**

Superbowl
open everyday from
12 noon until 10pm

SPECTRUM

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

The Nevis Centre An Aird, Fort William
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malt of the month

SPONSORED BY
Ben Nevis Distillery
(Fort William) Ltd.



Highland Park whisky
40% abv

My bank manager encouraged me into drinking Venom...this is true.

Avid readers of my column (in fact avid reader Morvern's Craig Lindsay) will be well aware that I do try to avoid alco pop type drinks.

It seems they make me fall over. Perhaps something to do with the sheer volume of alcohol and the ease with which I have the ability to drink them.

Venom is the opposite of a single malt - loud, brash, un-discerning and frankly far too drinkable.

However, under the bright sun on the second day of Oban Live I decided to give it a go. I don't regret it. While it cannot be considered a health drink, it did make me jump about just a wee bit more than normal. Four days on and my body is still feeling muscles that are new to me.

In contrast, my colleague Sandy was enjoying a Highland Park - after attending the equally brilliant Oban Mod. And three of my lovely Pearson girls, from Oban, were visiting the distillery itself in Orkney.

Both alco pops and a fine single malt whisky have their place. But the older I get the harder it is to ignore the enjoyment I have in front of the fire with a newspaper and a Highland Park - one of Scotland's finest whiskies that can still be bought for under £40.

I spent way more than that when I was at Oban Live - but at least my bank manager now knows where all my money goes.

Louise Glen, hic.

Louise Glen

Fringe - Oban Live - Oban alive

The town was buzzing as thousands of people emptied on a high on both Friday and Saturday nights into Oban.

We can not underestimate the quality of the trad bands who played at Oban Live and the bonus for Oban was that most of them went onto play elsewhere in the town.

In many pubs and venues there were other bands that joined in so those people who mistakenly decided against a day or two at Oban Live were instead treated to some great parties in the town.

Friends and I even managed to get a sing song going in the Lochavullin - starting with the Flying Pickets and ending with In the Jungle. There was live music everywhere.

The 'official' after party was in Skipinnish - Oban's only proper nightclub. To be honest it was more like a wed-

ding dance than an after party with so many good friends out and about in the town in a great atmosphere.

Special mention must be made to mine host Claire MacDonald and the exceptional Duncan Campbell on the door. Claire manages the Skipinnish as though she is letting people into her living room, a warm smile curating the suitability of revellers who come through the door.

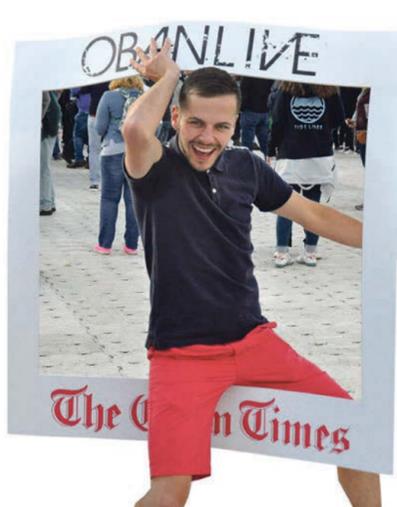
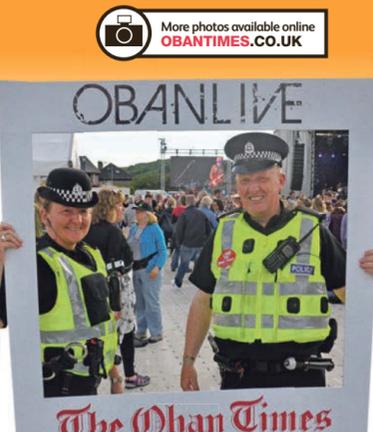
Sadly the old legs didn't get me to the Oban Inn, or anywhere else for that matter, but I understand staff did a similar job in welcoming guests into the town's oldest and newest public house and music venue.

What a party Oban - we did ourselves proud and we can't wait until next year.

Speaking with Daniel Gillespie from Skerryvore and one of the

organisers of the event - it might not be too long until next year's dates are announced. But more about that next week.

Oban Live - Oban alive.



Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



The Saw Doctors rock the O2

WHILE it is always great to look forward to a gig and experience the build-up of anticipation as the evening approaches, often it is the last-minute, unplanned shows that turn out to be the real gems.

I have always been a massive fan of the Saw Doctors but had never had the opportunity to see them live until last Friday when the opportunity fell into my lap.

Having spent Thursday evening in the company of Anthony Thistlethwaite, saxophonist of the Saw Docs and founding member of The Waterboys who plays on two tracks of our debut Tide Lines album, and having



The Saw Doctors created a wonderful atmosphere.

rehearsed with the Tide Lines boys all day on Friday for our album launch at Oban Live the following day, a couple of us managed to make it along to the O2 Academy to see Anto in action with the band.

We arrived just in time to catch their opening number and to see a quiet, mingling audience of 2,500 people instantaneously erupt and turn into a wild and noisy crowd of rock'n'rollers. The electric atmosphere continued as the band and the crowd fed off each other from the first song to the last.

My original plan had been an early night in bed. But it was wonderful to hear songs I have listened to most of my life performed live in what was gen-

uinely one of the greatest atmospheres I have ever experienced.

Mull and Iona AGM postponed

THE MULL and Iona AGM has unfortunately been postponed for two weeks - date pending.

Contact themullandiona@gmail.com for more details or keep an eye on their Facebook page where the rescheduled date will be posted in due course.

Glasgow Islay holds promising AGM

AFTER reading the Glasgow Islay Association's request for

more committee members on social media, I was happy and relieved to read on Facebook last week that their plea was answered.

A post from their official Facebook page read: 'I am delighted to say that, after a hugely successful AGM last night, we have decided to continue to keep the association alive.'

'A big thank you goes to everyone who has offered help and support, and a massive welcome and thank you to our new committee members. Long may it continue. Also, on behalf of the association, a huge thank you and farewell to our president Janette MacArthur, previous secretary Liz Campbell and treasurer Sheila Loach who,

over the past few years, have dedicated a lot of their time and efforts to keep the association going.

Here's to the next 155 years!'

What's on

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

Pub scene
Park Bar:

Friday June 9: Nicky McMichan.

Saturday June 10: Scott Harvey.

Sunday June 11: Trail West.

Islay Inn:

Friday June 9: The Keelies.

Saturday June 10: The Raggaeals.

Sunday June 11: The Calum Macphail (from Hò ro) Duo.

Summer dining

Manor House Hotel - Georgian elegance on beautiful Oban Bay

Summer is a wonderful time to celebrate at The Manor House Hotel in Oban.

Built around 1780 as a dowry house for the Duke of Argyll, The Manor House is a four star, deluxe boutique hotel and fine dining experience. Set on the southern side of Oban Harbour, with stunning views of the town, McCaig's Tower and the isles, it's a lovely and tranquil setting in which to enjoy a special meal. The fine linens and tableware create a traditional,

yet relaxed, atmosphere, perfect for dining à deux, or celebrating a special occasion.

The menu changes daily, featuring the freshest ingredients from Scotland's abundant larder. The menu is offered as a five-course prix fixe, but those with smaller appetites can choose from the a la carte menu. Head chef Gerard, who has been at the Manor House for six months, shows an incredible knowledge and understanding of fine foods and maintains

Manor House Hotel & Restaurant



More than just beautiful seafood!

Gallanach Road 01631 562087



high standards in preparation and presentation of his creative dishes. In addition to local seafood and meats, Gerard always has a vegetarian dish on the menu. And be sure to leave room for a special dessert or a coffee and selection of petit fours. Drop in for lunch at Nelson's Bar to enjoy daily special sandwiches, salads and entrées in addition to standard favourites. Call 01631 562087 to reserve a table at The Manor House.

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An Comunn Gàidhealach



Bun Sgoil Chreignis's action song, Bratach Bana, described all the cargo carried on a longboat.



Bun Sgoil Achadh na Creige came first in the choral singing under 13 class.

Oban and District Provincial Mòd



Ard Sgoil an Obain pupil Maria Clark, 14, took gold in the prescribed song 13-15 years.

2017 Oban & District Provincial Mòd results

Boys – Solo Singing Own Choice Song 11-12 years Learners: 1. Andrew McPhail 2. Benjamin MacAllister
Girls – Solo Singing Own Choice Song 11 – 12 years Fluent: 1. Laura Robertson 2. Shauna MacLeod 3. Ealasaid MacLean
Boys & Girls – Solo Own Choice Song 5-6 years Fluent: 1. Alasdair MacLean Fleming
Boys & Girls – Solo Own Choice Song 5-6 years Learners: 1. Michael MacLean 2. = Evie Fraser, Aisling Flavin
Action Song Under 18: 1. Bun-Sgoil Achadh na Creige 2. Bun-Sgoil Chreignis 3. Bun-Sgoil Srath na h-Apaine
Choral Singing – Unison – Two Own Choice Songs Under 13 years: 1. Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar 2. St Columba's Primary School 3. BunSgoil Achadh na Creige
Choral Singing – Puirt-a-Beul – Own Choice Under 13 years 1. Bun-Sgoil Achadh na Creige 2. Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar: 3. St Columba's Primary School
Choral Singing – 2 Part Harmony – 2 Songs Own Choice 13-18 years: Coisir Og Dhail Riata

Choral Singing – Puirt-a-Beul – Own Choice 13-18 years: 1. Coisir Og Dhail Riata
Boys & Girls – Own Choice Song 7-8 years Learners: 1. Feorlin Renton 2. James MacRaild 3. Erin Mairi Convery
Girls Solo – Own Choice Song 11-12 years Learners: 1. Tilly Cunningham 2. Isabel Potter 3. Isla Berry
Boys & Girls – Own Choice Traditional or Unpublished Song Primary: 1. Annie MacNeil 2. Laura Robertson
Boys & Girls – Solo Singing – Own Choice 7-8 years Fluent: 1. Bethan Neil 2. Mia Grant 3. Caillean Jennett
Duet Singing – Own Choice Song Under 13: 1. Rosie Day & Iris Bevan 2. Ruth Neville & Lily Walsh = Suzanna Whittle & Sophie Smith 3. Olivia Gage & Islay Berry
Folk Group – 2 Gaelic Songs – Own Choice Under 13: 1. Bun-Sgoil Achadh na Creige 2. Bun-Sgoil Chreignis 3. St Columba's Primary School
Prescribed Poetry 7-8 years Learners: 1. James MacRaild 2. Eliza Moffat 3. Riona MacInnes
Prescribed Poetry 7-8 years Fluent: 1. Owen Stevenson 2. = Bethan Neil, Rose MacInnes 3. =

Marco MacGregor, Mia Grant
Prescribed Poetry 11-12 years Learners: 1. Charis Simpson
Gaelic Storytelling 7-8 years: 1. Bethan Neil
Gaelic Storytelling 9-10 years: 1. Scott MacA'Phi 2. Rhys Neil
Prescribed Poetry 11-12 years: 1. Laura Robertson 2. Ealasaid MacLean 3. Clara MacDonald
Prescribed Poetry 5-6 years Fluent: 1. Alasdair MacLean Fleming
Gaelic Conversation 7-8 years: 1. Rose MacInnes 2. Bethan Neil 3. Owen Stevenson
Gaelic Conversation 5-6 years 1. Dylan Ross 2. Esmé McLeod 3. Aisling Flavin
Prescribed Poetry 5-6 Learners: 1. Lola Weir 2. Jaime MacIntyre 3. Seoras Neil
Gaelic Conversation with an Adjudicator 11-12 years: 1. Annie MacNeil 2. Marsaili Colthart 3. Eilidh MacFadyen=Laura Robertson
Gaelic Storytelling 5-6 years: 1. Seoras Neil
Gaelic Storytelling 11-12 years: 1. Ealasaid MacLean
Fiddle – Beginners Under 13 years: 1. Meredith Kiemer
Fiddle – Slow Gaelic Air, March, Strathspey and Reel 13-18 years: 1. Iona Keys 2. Alex MacPherson

Clarasach – Two contrasting pieces of Gaelic origin Advanced: 1. Meredith Kiemer
Accordion – Beginners - Set of three Gaelic waltzes Under 13 years: 1. Alexander MacDonald
Accordion – Set of three Gaelic waltzes Under 13 years: 1. Donnie MacCorquodale
Accordion – March, Strathspey and Reel Under 13 years: 1. Donnie MacCorquodale
Accordion – Set of three Gaelic waltzes 13-18 years: 1. Emma MacPhee 2. Isla MacCormick
Accordion – March, Strathspey and Reel 13-18 years: 1. Calum MacDonald 2. Isla MacCormick 3. Emma MacPhee
Girls – Own Choice Song 9-10 years Learners: 1. Ashley MacDougall 2. Olivia Gage 3. Katie MacLennan
Boys – Own Choice Song 9-10 years Fluent: 1. Owen MacRaild 2. Shane O'Rua 3. Arran Stephen = Scott MaA'Phi
Girls – Prescribed Song – 9-10 years Fluent: 1. Erinn Higgins 2. Emma MacColl 3. Ceitidh Garvin
Boys – Own Choice Song 9-10 years Learners 1. Calan McGuigan
Girls – Own Choice Song 13-15 years: 1. Brodie Crawford 2. Eilidh Graham

Boys – Own Choice Song 13-15 years: 1. Angus McLean
Duet Singing – Own Choice 16-18 years: 1. Holly Renton & Brodie Crawford
Girls – Prescribed Song 13-15 years: 1. Maria Clark 2. Eilidh Graham 3. Brodie Crawford
Boys – Prescribed Song 13-15 years: 1. Angus MacLean 2. Calum Garvin
Boys & Girls – Own Choice 16-18 years: 1. Hollie Renton 2. Ross McLeish 3. Jenny MacIntyre
Conversation 9-10 years: 1. Ceitidh Garvin 2. Owen MacRaild 3. Erinn Higgins, Finlay Cameron
Prescribed Poetry 9-10 years Fluent: 1. Ceitidh Garvin 2. Owen MacRaild 3. Scott MacA'Phi
Prescribed Poetry 9-10 years Learners: 1. Abbey MacCorquodale 2. Mya MacCormick 3. Duncan Cameron
Group Verse Speaking – Own Choice Primary Schools: 1. Achadh na Creige 1
Prescribed Poetry 13-15 years Fluent: 1. Calum Garvin 2. Niamh Cameron 3. Kelly MacGillivray = Iona Keys
Conversation 13-15 years Fluent: 1. Calum Garvin 2. Maria Clark = Rhona MacLeod 3. Calum McLuckie



Boys and Girls Solo Singing (5-6 years) winner Alasdair MacLean Fleming.



Choral Singing Male or Female Voices – Coisir Ghaidhlig an Obain (Mnathan).



Choral Singing Male or Female Voices – Coisir Ceann an Tuirc.



Laura Robertson of Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar again took first in the girls' solo singing competition (11-12 years fluent).



Bun-Sgoil Srath na h-Apaine performed Aig an Taigh for the action song contest.



Left to right, Ceann Loch Gilp pupils Millie Jane Fyfe and Ella Fyfe sang in the solo contests for 7-8 and 5-6-year-olds respectively.



Campbeltown piper Ross Connor, 15, came first in the March and Strathspey and Reel.



Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar celebrate winning the choral singing (unison) under-13s.



Oban's St Columba's Primary School choir came second in the choral singing under-13s.



Third place in the choral singer under-13s went to Bun Sgoil Achadh na Creige.

– a celebration of all things Gaelic

Gaelic Storytelling 13-15 years fluent: 1. Kelly MacGillivray Chanter Own Choice Under 13 years: 1. Calan McGuigan 2. Roan MacColl
Piping - March Under 15 years: 1. Ross Conner 2. Gregor MacDonald 3. Innes Munro
Piping - Strathspey and Reel Own Choice Under 15 years: 1. Ross Conner 2. Gregor MacDonald 3. Innes Munro
Piping - March - Own Choice 15-18 years: 1. Emma Hill 2. Stuart Campbell 3. Kate MacPherson
Piping Strathspey and Reel - Own Choice 15-18 years 1. Emma Hill 2. Kate MacPherson 3. Stuart Campbell
Piping - Ground of Piobaireachd Under 18 years: 1. Innes Munro 2. Erin Byers 3. Laura Robertson
Piping - Piobaireachd Under 18 years: 1. Gregor MacDonald 2. Emma Hill 3. Ross Conner
Poster Competition Primary 1-3: 1. Marsaili Colthart 2. Eva McColl 3. Scott Mac aPhi
Primary 4-7: 1. Alysse MacDonald 2. Kaïden Fair 3. Esme Carmichael
Reading at Sight a Piece of Prose selected by the Adjudicator Fluent: 1. F. Ann MacLean 2. Sandaïdh NicDhomhnaill Jones

selected by the Adjudicator Learners: 1. Margaret MacDonald Bell Reciting from Memory - Prescribed Piece of Poetry Fluent: 1. F. Ann MacLean
Reciting from Memory - Prescribed piece of Poetry Learners: 1. Margaret MacDonald Bell Reciting from Memory - Prescribed piece of Prose Fluent: 1. F. Ann MacLean
Gaelic Speech Fluent 1. F. Ann MacLean Solo Singing - Female Voices Own Choice: 1. F. Ann MacLean 2. Janet H. Campbell 3. Rena Gertz
Solo Singing of Puirt-a-Beul Own Choice: 1. Shona Keith 2. Donna Dugdale 3. Sandaïdh NicDhomhnaill Jones
Solo Singing of one of the Prescribed Songs - Confined to Former Winners of Pendant: 1. Sandaïdh NicDhomhnaill Jones 2. Rena Gertz 3. F. Ann MacLean
Solo Singing of Song written by an Argyll Bard Own Choice: 1. Shona Keith 2. F. Ann MacLean 3. Sandaïdh NicDhomhnaill Jones
Quartet Singing of an own choice song: 1. Largs Gaelic Choir Quartet Choral Singing Mixed Voices in Four-Part Harmony of Two Songs Own Choice: 1. Coisir Ghaidhlig an Obain 2. Coisir

Ghaidhlig Loch Abar 3. Coisir Ghaidhlig Thaigh an Uillt Choral Singing Male or Female Voices of Two Songs Own Choice: 1. Coisir Ghaidhlig an Obain (Mnathan) 2. Coisir Ghaidhlig an Obain (Fir) 3. Coisir Ceann an Tuirc
Choral Singing - Puirt a Beul - Mixed Voices in Four-Part Harmony: 1. Coisir Ghaidhlig an Obain 2. Coisir Ghaidhlig Loch Abar 3. Coisir Ghaidhlig Thaigh an Uillt
Solo Singing of one of Prescribed Songs Male or Female Voices: 1. Julie MacFadyen 2. Shona Keith = Sandaïdh NicDhomhnaill Jones
Solo Singing of a song chosen by the competitor Male Voices 1. Alasdair MacLean 2. Billy MacKenzie
Duet Singing - Own choice song: 1. Linda MacCallum & Colin Fisher 2. Donna Dugdale & Natalie Livingstone
Traditional or Unpublished Song Own Choice Male or Female Voices: 1. Donna Dugdale 2. Sandaïdh NicDhomhnaill Jones 3. Billy MacKenzie
Solo Singing of one of the Prescribed Songs: 1. F. Ann MacLean 2. Julie MacFadyen = Rena Gertz 3. Janet H. Campbell

Literature Primary 4: 1. Cailleann Jennett 2. Erin Higgins 3. Rufus Hughes
Primary 5: 1. Daniel Grant 2. Ceitidh Garvin
Primary 6: 1. Marsaili Colthart 2. Rhys Neil 3. Finlay Cameron
Primary 7: 1. Shauna MacLeod 2. Lauren MacLeod 3. Eilidh MacFadyen
Donald Morrison Memorial Cup: Ceitidh Garvin
Comann nam Parant an Obain (Oral) Laura Robertson
Comann nam Parant an Obain (Poetry) Michael MacLean
Etive Trophy Bethan Neil, Annie Lindsay
MacLellan Cup: Laura Robertson
Silver Pendant (Boys): Angus MacLean
Silver Pendant (Girls): Brodie Crawford
South Lorn District Council Cup: Coisir Og Dhail Riata
Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy: Bun-Sgoil Achadh na Creige
Iseabal Scott Memorial Trophy Shona Keith
Silver Pendant (Male): Alasdair MacLean
Silver Pendant (Female): Julie MacFadyen
Irene MacCowan Medal: Sandaïdh NicDhomhnaill Jones

Anne M. MacDougall Memorial Salver: Coisir Ghaidhlig an Obain Hugh MacPherson Memorial Quaich: Coisir Ghaidhlig an Obain
Robin Banks Memorial Salver: Coisir Ghaidhlig an Obain
Comunn Gaidhealach an Obain Cuach: Coisir Ghaidhlig an Obain, Inbhir Leacainn Cuach: Bun-Sgoil Achadh na Creige
John MacCorquodale Files Memorial Trophy: Iona Keys
George McHardy Trophy: Meredith Kelmer
Robert MacLennan Memorial Challenge Shield: Emma Hill
Beaton Cup: Ross Conner
Beaton Challenge Shield: Emma Hill
Beaton Cup (Piobaireachd): Gregor MacDonald
Duncan Ferguson Memorial Trophy: Calan McGuigan
Comann nam Parant an Obain (Conversation): Calum Garvin
Comann nam Parant an Obain (Folk Group): Bun-Sgoil Achadh na Creige
Argyll & Bute Council Cup: Feorlin Renton
Comann nam Parant an Obain (Literature): Shauna MacLeod
■ For more pictures, go to www.obantimes.co.uk.



Boys' solo singing (11-12 years) winner Andrew McPhail, from Dunbeg Primary School.



The Mòd's nine-year-old Gaelic language champ Ceitidh Garvin of Rockfield was congratulated by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.



Choral Singing Male or Female Voices - Coisir Ghaidhlig an Oban (Fir).



Rockfield pupils, left to right, Bethan Neil, 8, won the solo singing (7-8 years) and the Etive Trophy, while Ceitidh Garvin, 9, took the Donald Morrison Memorial Cup for the highest Gaelic marks.



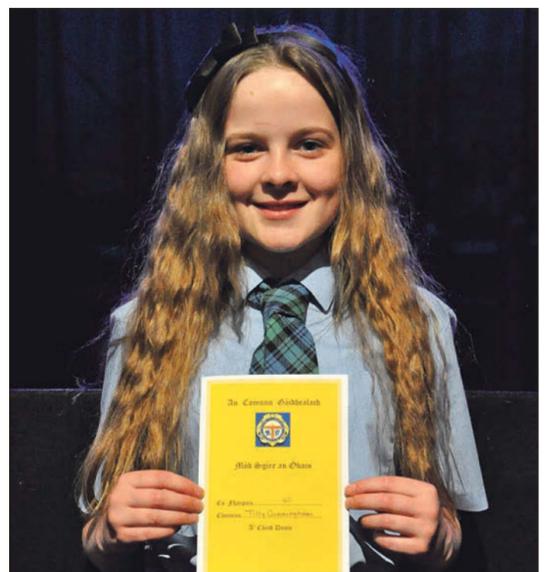
Choral Singing Mixed Voices - Coisir Ghaidhlig an Obain.



Riona MacInnes of Bun Sgoil Achadh na Creige came third in the well-contested prescribed poetry (7-8 learners) competition.



Choral Singing Mixed Voices - Coisir Ghaidhlig Loch Abar.



Tilly Cunningham of Ceann Loch Gilp came first out of 13 competitors in the girls' solo 11-12 years.

LAST CHANCE TO VOTE FOR YOUR

WINNER

bonnie babies



065

 Harlow Davie Rae
 16 months Oban

088

 Amelia Macmillan
 7 months Oban

091

 Olivia Fisher
 14 months Tobermory

093

 Eachann Brown
 2 years Oban

111

 Cole Collins
 15 months Portree

119

 Calleigh Kennedy
 23 months Fort William

149

 Donny Kerr
 2 years Oban

163

 Calum Alexander Brown
 2 years Tobermory

170

 Ruairidh Cameron
 7 months Ardrishaig

179

 Jessica Grieve-McCaffrey
 2 years Caol

The winner will receive **£500** of Tesco vouchers!

2nd place £100 (Tesco vouchers)
 3rd place £50 (Tesco vouchers)

TESCO
 Every little helps

CLOSING DATE FOR VOTES IS 10AM, MONDAY JUNE 12, 2017

Congratulations to our top 10 babies and toddlers, as voted by the public.

The winner will receive a whopping £500 of Tesco vouchers. Tesco vouchers will also be awarded to those in second place (to the value of £100) and third place (to the value of £50).

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!

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

I would like to vote for:

Baby number*:

Baby's name:

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

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

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

You may send in multiple voting coupons in one envelope.

bonnie babies competition 2017

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.

Votes counted from each round are carried over.

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Estates shortlisted

ESTATES in Lochaber and Skye have been shortlisted for the Golden Plover Award for moorland management.

The award, presented annually by the Heather Trust and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust to recognise progressive, practical and sustainable moorland management in Scotland, is open to estates, farms, individuals and syndicates which have 'gone the extra mile for our hills'.

Among the three finalists are Ardnamurchan, a 10,000-hectare sporting estate with 'a balanced approach to deer management, agriculture and tourism', and Fearann Eilean Iarmain, 'a stunning estate on the isle of Skye which links traditional land management with crofting, a distillery and support for a thriving Gaelic culture'.

The result will be announced on June 30 at the GWCT Scottish Game Fair at Scone Palace.

Beach clean

HELP clean up Oban's beaches every Wednesday morning from 10.30am.

For further information and to find out how you can help contact Janie on 07530 314127 or just go along and meet at Hope Kitchen.

Shock study shows third of eagle deaths 'suspicious'

ALMOST a third of golden eagles being tracked by satellite died in suspicious circumstances, scientists have found.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) research discovered the majority of cases were where land is intensively managed for driven grouse shooting.

The findings have prompted environment secretary Roseanna Cunningham to set up an expert group to look at managing grouse moors sustainably and within the law and advise on the option of licensing grouse shooting businesses.

The report studied the movements of 131 young golden eagles over 12 years and found more than 40 had disappeared in suspicious circumstances.

It also found there was no link between fitting satellite tags and the disappearance of the birds of prey and ruled out any connection with the position of wind turbines.

Roseanna Cunningham said: 'The findings of this research are deeply concerning and will give rise to legitimate concerns that high numbers of golden eagles, and other birds



This satellite-tagged golden eagle was found poisoned on an Angus grouse moor in 2013. Photograph: RSPB Scotland.

of prey, continue to be killed in Scotland each year. There is every reason to believe similar levels of persecution affect tagged golden eagles, as well as those we are able to track via satellite tags.

'We have already targeted wildlife criminals and those who sanction such crimes by introducing measures such as vicarious liability and restrictions on the use of general licences.

'But Scottish ministers have always said they would go further, if required and that is what I am doing today.'

She added: 'The continued kill-

ing of protected species of birds of prey damages the reputation of law-abiding gamekeepers, landowners and the country as a whole.

'Those who carry out these crimes do so in defiance of the will of Parliament, the people and their own peers. That must end.'

Director of RSPB Scotland Anne McCall welcomed the independent inquiry and report, saying it provided a clear, factual, if very worrying, picture of the scale of illegal persecution.

Scotland's protected birds of

prey continue to be illegally and systematically killed in significant numbers, primarily in areas where intensive grouse moor management dominates the landscape'.

RSPB Scotland's head of investigations Ian Thomson said: 'This report is a damning indictment of Scotland's driven grouse shooting industry. The irrefutable evidence in this report, demonstrating the scale of systematic, organised criminality, is shocking and it is likely none of this would have come to light had these birds not been fitted with satellite tags.

'When you add to this the disappearances of satellite-tagged white tailed eagles, red kites, goshawks, peregrines and hen harriers, not included in this review, and consider that satellite-tagged birds form a very small proportion of the populations of these species, the overall numbers of eagles and other protected raptors that are actually being killed must be staggering.'

A spokesman for The Scottish Gamekeepers Association (SGA) said: 'Losing, on average, four tagged eagles per year

across Scotland is unacceptable. The illegal killing of any eagle is condemned wholeheartedly by the SGA and all law-abiding gamekeepers.

'Although this study assimilates 12 years of evidence and makes difficult reading, it acknowledges recent improvements in some grouse moor areas previously associated with suspected persecution.

'The SGA does not believe the report adequately tackles the threat wind farms pose to raptor species as there is a significant amount of published data from other countries which show a negative correlation between bird survival and turbine strike.

'Problems clearly still exist in some hotspot areas and, in our view, this can only be tackled by all partners having access to the same telemetry data to arrive at shared and targeted solutions.'

The Wildlife Trust's director of conservation Susan Davies added: 'This is further proof of the need of a licensing system for driven grouse moor management to address wildlife crime and encourage more sustainable stewardship of these areas.'



Hamish Trench.

New land commission appoints chief exec

THE NEWLY formed Scottish Land Commission has announced the appointment of Hamish Trench as its permanent chief executive.

Mr Trench will join the Scottish Land Commission from the Cairngorms National Park Authority. He will be responsible for the strategic leadership and operational management of the organisation and supporting commissioners in fulfilling their functions.

Mr Trench will assume the role on July 31, taking over from the commission's interim chief executive Hilary Pearce, who is currently seconded from the Scottish Government.

Mr Trench said: 'I am delighted to have been appointed chief executive of the Scottish Land Commission. Working in such a new and exciting organisation and being part of driving land reform forward is a unique opportunity.'

'It is a privilege to lead the commission at this important time and I look forward to working with commissioners, staff and other partner organisations.'

Chairman of the Scottish Land Commission Andrew Thin said: 'I am very pleased Hamish is joining the commission.'

'He has extensive knowledge and experience in land issues, as well as enthusiasm and drive to lead the organisation forward in developing and implementing our strategic plan.'

'I would like to thank Hilary for all of her work over the last few months in setting up the organisation and supporting commissioners.'

The establishment phase of any new organisation is always tricky and Hilary has created a solid foundation for Hamish to build on.'

Land Reform Secretary Roseanna Cunningham said: 'I would like to congratulate Mr Trench on his appointment as chief executive of the Scottish Land Commission.'

'As a chartered surveyor with extensive experience in the public and private sectors, he will bring leadership and focus to land reform issues, shaping future developments and ensuring land continues to play a major part in helping communities across Scotland realise their potential. I wish him success with this crucial work.'

Abandoned seal pups – what to do if you find one

THE SCOTTISH Sea Life Sanctuary, near Barcaldine, rescues as many as a dozen injured, sick or abandoned seal pups every year.

A rescue normally begins with a telephone call from a member of the public. Staff at the centre will try to gather as much information from the call as possible by asking questions about the location, size and condition of the pup.

They will also ask whether there are any adult seals nearby as sometimes the mother is just off-shore waiting to come and collect her pup once the people have left the area. From these questions, staff try to work out if the pup is in trouble or if it has just hauled out for a rest.

Often they advise the caller to leave the pup alone for a number of hours and to check on it later. If the pup is still there after 12 to 24 hours the seal care team will go and check the situation themselves. If the pup requires care it is brought back

to the centre's seal pup nursery.

Isolation unit

The isolation unit is an area of the nursery separate from the main nursery where new arrivals are put till they are stabilised from their journey.

On their arrival at the centre, the pups are given an initial assessment to establish what is wrong with them. The seal care team records their weight, temperature, sex, make sure they have no infectious diseases that could be passed on to other pups in the nursery at the time and agree on the programme of treatment. The pup then receives its first feed which is normally rehydration fluids.

Sometimes the pups that come in are very weak or very young and will need fed every four hours, at least five times a day.

Nursery pens

As the pups get bigger and stronger, the team gradually cuts down the number of feeds so that normally after three or four weeks the pup receives its last

feed at 9pm. The team normally starts work at 8am, checking all seals in the nursery followed by the first feed. The newest arrivals are given a formulated seal milk called multimilk or a special fish soup (liquidised herring and rehydration fluids).

As the seal gets stronger staff can reduce the frequency of feeds and increase the quantity of food. Solids are then introduced in the form of a small amount of whole herring. Gradually the pups are weaned off the fluid feed and switch on to a full-time diet of herring.

Weaning pool

Once the pups are hand feeding on whole herring, they can be moved to the weaning pool (2.5m by 4m) which has a haul out area and is quick to drain and fill. Here the pups learn to eat herring by themselves without the seal care team hand-feeding them.

It is good for the pups to be in the weaning pool because at last they have access to water,

which encourages them to swim and build up their muscles.

Outside seal pools

When the pups reach 20-25kgs and are able to feed on whole herring proficiently they are moved outside to the main seal pools with the resident adult seals and any other seals in the process of being rehabilitated.

They are now only fed twice a day and have to compete for food with other seals in the pool, which means they build up their swimming strength and speed.

The seal care team monitors the weight of the pups carefully and checks how much they have gained each week. The target weight is 35kgs for a common seal and 45kgs for a grey seal. When the pups reach this they are ready for release.

During their stay in the centre the pups are tagged. This is done so that if the pup was found in difficulty after its release the team would know its history. However, the team has never

had any of its seal pups found in trouble after their release.

The release day

This is a very exciting day for the seal care team.

The seal pool is drained first thing in the morning to allow them to catch the pup. They normally try to release the pups in pairs or threes.

The seals are loaded into the back of the van for the journey to the release site. Every so often, the staff stop to douse the pups with seawater to prevent them from overheating.

A suitable seal release site should be near an existing seal colony, be in a reasonably sheltered location, have no fish farms close by and be isolated from human interference.

Once they get to the release site, they lift the pups to the shore's edge in their carrying cage, lift the gate and let the pup flop into the water by itself.

When two pups are released at once they sometimes stick close together but, invariably,

after a while, go their separate ways. Staff always stay to see how the pups get on. Some pups take their time and investigate everything, while others make a beeline for the open sea and don't look back.

Do's and don'ts

■ Do keep your distance. The mother will only return to feed her pup when she thinks it is safe to do so. If there are people close by she will not come ashore.

■ Don't attempt to handle the pup. The mother may reject her pup if it is handled. It is a wild animal, it may bite and can carry infectious diseases.

■ Don't attempt to put the pup back in the water. It may be out of the water for a good reason.

■ Don't ignore the situation. If the pup is thin, injured or seems unwell (noisy breathing, runny nose, coughing) it needs help.

■ Do tell an appropriate organisation. Call the SSSL on 01631 720386 or contact the nearest SSPCA officer.

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 club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email enquiries@nevishillwalking.club.

Sunday June 11

Beinn Dearg Mor – Big Red Hill – (709m) and Beinn na Caillich – Hill of the Old Woman – (732m), Isle of Skye.

Take the path from the B8083 which leads to Coire-chat-achan, then head NW up the steep hillside to the summit of Beinn na Caillich.

Follow the ridge west to Beinn Dearg Mhor and continue S around Coire Gorm to Beinn Dearg Bheag.

Descend the E ridge, cross the Allt Beinn Deirge and return to Coire-chat-achan and the path back to the road.

The walk is 11km, with an ascent of 1,020m. Suggested and co-ordinated by Andrew Gilbert.

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

Today (Thursday June 8)

Drimnin to Kinlochteacus by Doirinn, Lochaline. This is a through route, mostly on good tracks, with extensive views of the Sound of Mull, Loch Sunart, the Ardnamurchan Peninsula and Loch Teacus.

Start from the end of the B849 at Port nam-Freumh, NM 557539, where limited parking is available. Head N in to the estate by the track with a public footpath sign and follow it to the gates of Drimnin Ho.

Turn right and follow the track N and E above Auliston Point and continue E to Doirinn, passing the deserted villages of Portabhata and Sornagan.

Head SSE on rough ground in deciduous woodland to reach a path EX at NM610579. Follow

it S, over a fence, into a mixed woodland plantation. Soon after crossing the Allt Ghleann GudaEX the path joins a forest track. Follow the track SE, forking left to cross the river Barr on a bridge at NM619559.

Turn E and continue on the track, which leads SE close to the shore of Loch Teacus just after Ard an Tiobairt.

Fork left to exit the forest at the head of Loch Teacus and reach the end of the public road, NM656541. Transport required.

This is a moderate walk of 19km, with a climb of 400m.

Meet at Corran Ferry slip for 9.15am sailing. Start of walk at 10.30am.

Leader Andrew Gilbert can be contacted on 07808 924722.

Saturday June 10

A'Bhuidheanach Bheag and Carn na Caim – Drumochter. A high-level route on the boundary of the Cairngorms National Park, with access mainly on tracks.

Start from the layby S of the snow gates on the E side of the A9, NN639823. Follow the A9 S for 200m and turn E onto a track.

Climb SE up the track to a junction just before a summit, 902m.

Take the right fork and head S on the track EX which by-passes the summit of A'Bhuidheanach, 879m, to reach a WP at NN6583478839 at the end of the track. Alternatively, head directly over this summit to reach the same WP.

Climb the slope S on a faint path to the summit of A'Bhuidheanach Bheag, 936m.

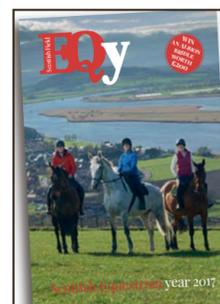
Retrace steps to the junction at the 902m summit. Take the right fork and follow the track EX NNE, over a summit at 914m, to its end at another summit, 914m EX, NN668816.

Turn NE and head for the summit of Carn na Caim, 941m. Head directly W from the summit, down steep slopes, across the Allt Coire Uilleum, back to the A9. Alternatively retrace steps to rejoin the track back to the junction and descend NW to the A9.

This is a moderate walk of 18km, climbing to a height of 803m.

Meet at Fort William Woollen Mill NN112742 at 9.20am, with the walk starting at 10.30am.

Leader is Toril Frantzen, who can be contacted on 07788 264007.



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Generating debate about what future has in store

GARY MITCHELL, vice-president of the National Farmers' Union of Scotland, says the Highland Show is a platform for farmers to ask themselves: 'What generation of farmer are you?'

ONLY three weeks to go until the Royal Highland Show, Scotland's biggest agricultural event, and I always look forward to this.

From an NFU Scotland perspective, it provides a great opportunity to connect with our members and share with them what we are doing and what we are hoping to achieve over the next 12 months.

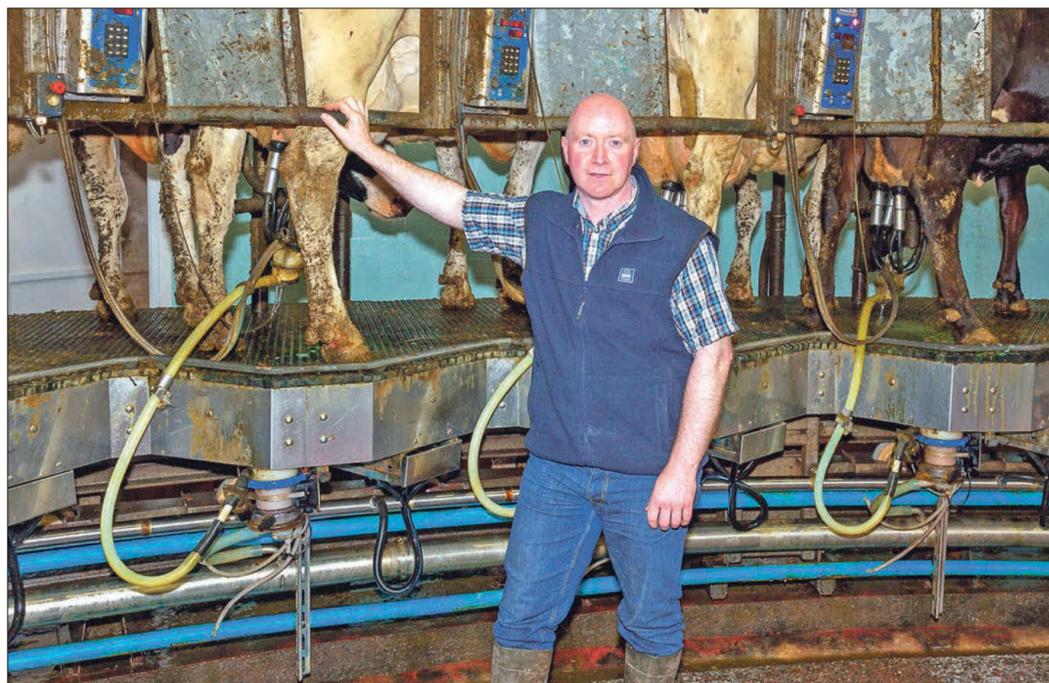
This year we plan to have a few extras on the stand, with two information points.

The first information point will relate to modern apprenticeships: How do I find one? How can I become one?

We will be looking for farmers who are seeking a modern apprenticeship and also young people seeking a career in agriculture. To back this up, on the Friday afternoon of the show we will be holding a seminar on how this all comes together at farm level.

We will also highlight how Scotland's farmers are now connecting with schools through the Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) programme, which aims to better prepare our children and young people for the world of work.

Also, our partners NFU Mutual will be explaining the liability cover required by farmers who employ people and the risk assessments which



Gary Mitchell wants to explore the possibility of bringing shareholders into the business.

need to be carried out to make sure we are all complying with current regulations. I believe some vouchers entitling you to a free risk assessment may even be on offer – plus our legendary strawberry tarts if you are feeling peckish.

The second information point will be all about NFU Scotland's New Generation Working Group, which brings me to the question I want our visitors to ask themselves: 'What gener-

ation are you? Are you new, current or mature?'

I believe you can't put age ranges on these categories but as a 47-year-old farmer myself, I believe I would be in the 'current' category. I write this as a single man with no offspring to inherit the debt. I know many other farmers in the same position, so what's the plan?

I think there is a real opportunity here to bring shareholders into our businesses, whether

through building up livestock numbers or machinery provision. We need to get 'buy in' to these kinds of ideas or we will all end up grumpy old farmers, stressed out and ready for the grave.

I have heard some positive stories of share farming happening around Scotland and if you are reading this and you are one of these farmers, please do come and speak to us and share your experiences,

as we need to get a template for this kind of succession plan.

If you are in that 'new' generation category then come and share your aspirations with us and see if we can point you in the right direction to make it happen.

My question to any farmers in the over-50 bracket with no-one to follow in your farming footsteps is: what do you want from your business in the next 20 years?

UA sets date for opening auction

UNITED Auctions has promised to reinvigorate sales at Oban Livestock Centre, after shareholders endorsed its bid to replace Caledonian Marts as its operator.

The decision was made at the Upper Soroba centre's AGM held on May 30.

The centre's chairman, Duncan Buchanan, said: 'Given the challenges faced by the industry in the future, we are pleased to work with United Auctions and hope that our centre prospers for the benefit of our shareholders.'

George Purves, managing director of United Auctions, said: 'We are delighted to be the new operators of Oban mart and are committed to enhancing Oban Livestock Centre and the local economy for the

farmers and crofters in the West of Scotland and the islands.

'Our priority is to reinvigorate the sales to make them more effective and well attended. We believe competition comes from a large ring of buyers and we will use our extensive customer network, experience and marketing expertise to attract more buyers to the sales.'

'Our permanently-based staff in the west, including Raymond Kennedy, will be supported by our senior management team and our cattle and sheep teams as required. We will also work with existing staff at Oban to operate the sales and the day-to-day running of the operation.'

The first sale to take place with United Auctions running the auctioneering service will be on Tuesday June 13.

Scotland achieves lowest risk of BSE

SCOTLAND has achieved the lowest risk level status available for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

Notification of the classification upgrade to negligible risk status was confirmed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in Paris.

The OIE has recognised that the official BSE risk status of both Scotland and Northern Ireland is at the safest level, a move expected to help open international market access for beef exports. England and Wales continue to be recognised as having controlled risk BSE status.

Rural Secretary Fergus Ewing said: 'This is a significant achievement that has been many years in the making. Scotland has had no cases of BSE since 2009 and this announcement

is testament to many people's tireless efforts.'

'With Scotland already being recognised as officially TB-free, this decision further vindicates our reputation for supplying beef products of the highest quality, produced to the highest standards in the world.'

Frank Clark, president of the Scottish Association of Meat Wholesalers, added: 'Scotland has lived with BSE since 1986 and the farming and meat industries have made massive efforts to manage and eradicate the disease.'

'Today's decision frees our industry to make full commercial use of Scotland's high-health status on behalf of producers, processors and wholesalers, opening the door to fresh marketing opportunities around the world.'

Around the markets

DALMALLY – Saturday June 3. United Auctions held their annual June Sale of all classes of cattle and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart. 226 cattle and 856 sheep were sold. All classes met a firm trade with a large turnout of buyers present from throughout the country. In the store cattle section, bullocks sold to average 266 pence per kilo selling to a top of 324 pence per kilo for Limousin crosses from Garraron and £1080 per head for Hereford crosses from Clachan, Tیره. Heifers averaged 248 pence per kilo, selling to 295 pence per kilo for Limousin crosses from Garraron and £1100 per head for Saler crosses from East Hynish, Tیره, and £1100 six times for Hereford crosses from Clachan, Tیره. Breeding cattle sold to £2100 for heifers with calf from Barguilean. Cast cows sold to £1100 from Achnacone.

In the sheep section, ewes with lamb at foot sold to £152 from Strathorchy, Dunnans and Ellary Estate. Hogs from Glenbeg to £82 and cast ewes from Brae Road fetched £98. Principal lots and prices. Top prices per head
Bullocks
Charx: £900 – Braglenmore : £840 and £800 (2) – Barnakill.
Herx: £1080 – Clachan, Tیره.
Limx: £1040(2), £960 and £830(2) – Ardchatten Home Farm.
Salx: £860 and £830 – Feall Farm, Coll.
SHx: £790 – Glencreeran Estate.
Simx: £930 – Craigmore Farm : £800 – Ellary Farms : £790 – Glencreeran Estate.
Heifers
AAx: £720 – Blain, Moidart.
BRBx: £700 – 3 Balevullin, Tیره.
Charx: £820 – Braglenmore : £780(2) – Barnakill.

Herx: £770 – Laggan Farms.
Limx: £780 – Garraron & Melfort Farms: £780 and £770 – Ardentraive Farm.
Salx: £1100 – 19 East Hynish, Tیره : £860 – Ardchatten Home Farm.
SHx: £730 – Barnakill Farm.
Simx: £770 – Laggan Farms.
Top prices per kilo
Bullocks
AAx: 301p (2) – Blain, Moidart.
Charx: 278p – Auchlyne Farm : 271p(2) – Barnakill Farm : 239p – Braglenmore : 220p – Barnakill Farm.
Herx: 299p and 258p – Keilbeg.
Limx: 324p(3), 319p(4), 312p(4) – Garraron and Melfort Farms : 280p – Ellary Farms : 274p – Garraron and Melfort Farms : 271p – Kinlochlaich Farm : 264p – Glencreeran Estate : 259p(2) – Ardchatten Home Farm.
Salx: 256p – Feall Farm, Coll.
SHx: 284p – Glencreeran Estate : 270p(3) and 266p – Ellary Farms.

Simx: 290p(2) and 284p – Glencreeran Estate : 263p – Ellary Farms.
BGx: 311p(7) – Kilvaree Farm. Heifers
AAx: 258p(2) – Blain, Moidart.
Charx: 282p(3) and 262p(2) – Barnakill Farm.
Herx: 257p(2) – Keilbeg.
Limx: 295p(4) – Garraron and Melfort Farms : 280p – Kinlochlaich Farm : 279p – Ardchatten Home Farm : 274p(2) – Garraron and Melfort Farms.
Salx: 286p(4) and 278p – Feall Farm, Coll : 276p – 19 East Hynish, Tیره : 267p – Barnakill Farm.
SHx: 267p – Barnakill Farm.
Simx: 283p – Glencreeran Estate : 268p – Boorach Beg.
Breeding cattle
Heifer at foot
£2100, £2020, £2000(2) and £1650 – Barguilean Farm : £1550 – Laggan Farms : £1480 – Ledcharrie : £1420 – Laggan Farms.
Bull calf at foot
£1980 – Barguilean Farm : £1650 – Ledcharrie Farm : £1600 – Laggan Farms : £1550 – Ledcharrie Farms : £1520 – Laggan Farms : £1500(2) and £1420 – Ledcharrie Farm.
In calf heifer
£1200 – Myretonhill.
Bulling heifers
Herx: £1100 (6), £980 and £940 – Clachan, Tیره.
Ewes with twin lambs at foot
Texx: £152 and £145 – Strathorchy : £142 – Glenbeg : £135 – Brae Rd, Ardrishaig : £128 – Birchfield.
Chevx: £152 – Strathorchy, Dunans and Ellary Farms.
Cross: £132 – Clachan, Tیره : £130 – 83 Borve, Barra : £122 – 92 Borve, Barra : £122 – Balliemore, Kerrera : £120 – Shielling, Barra.
BF: £137 – Ellary Farms : £135 – 24 Balepethrish, Tیره : £130 – Clachan, Tیره : £120 – Birchfield : £120 – Ballygown : £110 – Gallanachmore.

Ewes with single lambs at foot
Texx: £120 – Brae Rd, Ardrishaig : £115 – Strathorchy : £110 – Brae Rd, Ardrishaig : £102 – Birchfield.
Chevx: £122 – Dunans : £112 – Maam & 83 Borve, Barra : £111 – Gallanachmore : £110 and £106 – 17 St Brendan Rd, Barra.
Cross: £128 – Ellary Farms : £110 – 17 St Brendan Rd, Barra : £106 – Clachan, Tیره : £104 – Balliemore : £102 – Dunans and 83 Borve, Barra : £100 – Shielling, Barra.
Mule: £116 – Barnakill.
BF: £106 – Ellary Farm : £98 – Clachan, Tیره : £84 – Glenbeg : £82 – Maam : £80 – Barnakill and Ballygown.
Gimmers with twin lambs
BF: £146 – Ruaiq, Tیره.
Gimmers with singles
Texx: £108 – Glenbeg.
Chevx: £145 – Dunans
BF: £115 – Ruaiq, Tیره.
Hoggs
Texx: £79 – Hillcrest, Tیره.
Suff: £68 – Hillcrest, Tیره.
Chevx: £56 – 15 Ardmhor, Barra.
Cross: £82 – Glenbeg : £66 – Craig Farm : £65 – Balliemore, Kerrera.
BF: £76 – Kilvaree Farm : £60 and £54 – Achnacone Farm.
Cast ewes
Texx: £98 – Brae Rd, Ardrishaig : £80 – Hillcrest, Tیره.
Chevx: £68 – Balliemore, Kerrera : £66 – Strathorchy.
Cross: £74 – 15 Ardmhor, Barra : £61 – Kiloran Farmers, Colonsay.
Mule £68 – Hillcrest, Tیره.
BF: £57 – Ruaiq, Tیره : £56 – Stroneskar : £52 – Kiloran Farmers, Colonsay : £50 – Silvercraigs, 6 Leanish and Scallasaig.

A larger show of cattle to that of last week would once again be dearer.
Prime Bullocks Averaged – 210p
Prime Heifers Averaged – 221p
Young Bulls Averaged – 205p
Beef Cows Averaged – 137p
Dairy Cows Averaged – 105p
Cast Bulls Averaged – 130p
Bullocks sold to 242ppkg from W Dandie and Sons, Learielaw, Broxburn purchased by T Johnston, Butcher, Falkirk and to £1795 from C Smith, South Flanders, Kippen.
Heifers sold to 245ppkg from A S Hay, Mains of Cultmalundie, Tibbermore to M/s Connor, Butchers, Troon and to £1573 from J Watson, Candermain, Stonehouse to H A Black and Sons, Butchers, Lanark.
Young Bulls to 215ppkg for a Limousin from I W Brisbane and Son, South Woodlane, Blairdrummond, to Charles Kirkpatrick.
Leading Prices:-
Bullocks p/kg: 238p West Woodlane and Brockwoodlees 235p Blackhill, West Woodlane & Brockwoodlees 232p Meikle Seggie & Faskine 230p Seggars-dean, Faskine & Brockwoodlees 225p Dullomuir, Todhall & Rathillet 222p Candermain
Heifers p/kg 242p Todhall, Learielaw, Mains of Cultmalundie & Candermain 240p Brockwoodlees 238p Meikle Seggie & Rathillet 235p Candermain, West Woodlane & Rathillet 235p & 232p Brockwoodlees 230p Faskine & Annfield 225p Priestside
Bullocks per Head
£1696 South Flanders £1555 Greencraig £1547 West Woodlane £1543 Learielaw £1498 Rathillet
Heifers per Head
£1543 Todhall £1516 Brockwoodlees £1514 Learielaw £1489 Brockwoodlees £1485 Mains of Cultmalundie
Also forward were 70 Cast Cows and Bulls.

All classes of cows very scarce and a lot more could have been sold to sellers advantage.
Beef cows averaged 137ppkg selling to 178ppkg for a Blonde from J & M Campbell, 42 Forthview, Mannerston, and to £1420 for a Limousin from W Dandie & Sons, Learielaw, Broxburn.
With a poorer show of quality for dairy cows averaged 105ppkg selling to 120ppkg twice from M/s Hamilton, Roughwood, Beith, and from P Johnston & Son, Glenrigg, Falkirk, and to £790 again from M/s Hamilton, Roughwood, Beith.
Bulls averaged 130ppkg selling to 159ppkg for a Limousin from J McAdam, Callendoune, Helensburgh and to £1640 for a British Blue from A Brodie, Gartness, Chapelhall.
Other Leading Prices:-
Beef cows per head: £1380 Forthview £1290 Stockbridge £1270 Burnhead £1250 Forthview £1120 Knockhouse & Burnhead
Beef cows p/kg: 174p Forthview 173p Learielaw 167p & 166p Knockhouse
165p Stockbridge 164p & 156p Burnhead
Dairy cows per head: £780 Roughwood £750 Hillend £710 Ardgate £670 High Crewburn £650 Roughwood
Dairy cows per kilo: 119p Roughwood 114p Ardgate (twice) 111p Roughwood 110p Hillend (twice)
Bulls per head: £1500 Callendoune £900 Auchlyne
Bulls per kilo: 138p Gartness
A smaller show of 10 calves both beef and dairy, more could have been sold with current demand.
Top price of the day was £350 for a Lim X Angus Bull calf (6 weeks) from T Miller, Glenhead, California.
Leading prices
Ayrshire Bull Calves (one month): £95, £85 & 50 Badenheath Friesian Bull Calves (one month) £90 & £80 Nyadd

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SFHA launches Housing Apprentice Action Plan for Scotland

The Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA) has launched an ambitious plan for apprenticeships.

The Housing Apprentice Action Plan for Scotland 2017-2020 aims to increase the amount and range of Modern Apprenticeships available. It aims to help build a motivated workforce and ensure the housing sector is viewed as an attractive employment destination for young people looking for a fulfilling career.

The action plan aligns with the Scottish Government's commitment to growing and widening Modern Apprenticeships across Scotland, with the aim of increasing equality and diversity by addressing issues around gender, additional support and complex needs and minority group participation including BME young people.

The Housing Apprentice Action Plan for Scotland 2017-2020 builds on SFHA initiatives since 2014 to highlight the importance of apprenticeships. One such initiative was the award-winning Apprentice Challenge, a competition for young workers, which ran for three years.

A steering group, led by SFHA, and consisting of Skills Development Scotland, Chartered Institute of Housing Scotland, Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers, SHARE, EVH, Construction Industry Training Board and PATH Scotland helped to inform the plan. The SFHA also received support



and input from representatives from housing associations and local authorities as well as recent and current apprentices.

The SFHA's chief executive Mary Taylor retires at the end of June.

Mary started her career in the housing sector as a trainee with Scottish Special Housing Association (SSHA).

She said: 'Now coming to the end of my career, having started out as an unemployed graduate in the late 1970s, I cannot imagine how I might have got a foothold in housing without the chance of a traineeship with SSHA.'

'At that time, our predecessors recognised the importance of a skilled, qualified and motivated workforce - graduate and non-graduate - to bring in

fresh blood and vigour to drive change and renewal in a variety of housing roles.

'The SFHA wants to see a thriving housing sector that continues to provide sustainable and affordable homes in Scotland, however, evidence demonstrates there is still more we can do to support workforce development across housing.'

'One of the main aims of this action plan is to ensure resources and investment are made in the housing workforce to protect succession management and guarantee a skilled and diverse workforce that can provide sustainable services to people across Scotland.'

'We would like all housing organisations, regardless of size, to consider Modern

Apprenticeships as part of their recruitment strategy and build a human legacy for the housing movement.

'We would like to see flexible funding raised through the new apprentice levy to address current and future skills gaps and grow apprenticeships of all levels and disciplines.'

'Many of today's leaders would have struggled to get started without traineeships and apprenticeships. Now it's our turn to develop the next generation.'

Case studies

Megan Morrison, Housing and Admin Trainee, Fyne Homes, and winner of the Apprentice Challenge 2016:

'I was Fyne Homes' first apprentice and finished

my year-long Modern Apprenticeship last August. On completing my apprenticeship, I was offered a full-time, permanent position in the housing department. What really appealed to me about an apprenticeship was that I would be learning on

the job, gaining work and life experience. I would be getting paid, educated, qualified and trained.

'I shadowed colleagues within the different departments of the organisation and, every day, I was given more responsibility and tasks, which was challenging at times, but very rewarding.'

'I learned something new every day, which I believe was building and strengthening my self-confidence.'

'Working in this environment gave me real insight into the housing sector.'

'This is why I believe it's really important the housing sector increases the number and types of Modern Apprentices it employs, as you are giving a young person, like me, a chance of becoming successful.'

'My apprenticeship has helped me decide on the career path I wish to pursue. I really hope I can encourage young people to apply for apprenticeships, as you can gain great success, just like mine.'

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PROPERTIES FOR SALE & TO LET

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 Buchannan, 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.

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.

DUNOLLIE ROAD, OBAN

- Delightful detached bungalow
- 3 bedrooms/ 1 bathroom
- Convenient location
- Garden to front and rear
- Excellent Family Home
- EPC Rating - D61

OIRO £195,000

A unique opportunity to purchase a sizable family home within in easy walking distance of Oban's local amenities. The property comprises a cosy lounge with wood burning stove and patio doors out onto a large covered to the front of the house, ideal for sitting and enjoying the view or even drying washing on those showery days! Adjacent to the lounge is a bright and generous dining room, perfect for family meals and entertaining guests.

GLENCRUITTEN ROAD, OBAN

- Detached House
- 4 Bedroom/2 Bathroom
- Easy walking distance to the town
- Off road parking
- Large Conservatory
- EPC Rating - F

Guide price £200,000

Fair Haven is a well-proportioned family home located only a short walk from all of Oban's amenities. The ground floor comprises a large conservatory which is currently used as a bright lounge area which benefits from patio doors which lead out to the garden area. There is also a large dining room, well-appointed kitchen and double bedroom on the ground floor. Upstairs there are a further three double bedrooms (1 ensuite) and a family bathroom.

11B 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.

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 with the property is off the main road in a secluded area. Council Tax (E) and Utilities (Oil heating) not included in the rent.

7 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.

CRAIGARD ROAD, OBAN

- One bedroom flat
- Unfurnished
- White goods included
- Town centre location
- EPC Rating: E49
- Landlord Registration: 440359/130/08551
- AVAILABLE NOW

£460 PCM

Cosy one bedroom flat in Oban Town Centre. This property comes unfurnished with white goods and a large standing double wardrobe in the bedroom. It is freshly painted and has carpets throughout. The property is within walking distance to Oban's sight seeing attractions, the leisure centre and local shops. Electric Heating Throughout. Deposit and references required. EPC - E(49). Council Tax Band B.

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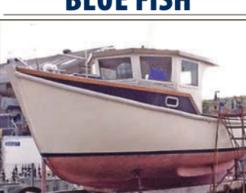


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NISSAN'S 'GRAND DETOUR' DELIVERS UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TROPHY AND EXCITEMENT

- Nissan stages bold 'Grand Detour' social media activation ahead of UEFA Champions League final.
- Did driver get lost while transporting iconic trophy to the stadium?
- #TOOEXCITEDTO reflects fans' inability to focus on anything but football on match day.

in the world. However, events took a slight detour ... as the excited fan took the trophy to the wrong stadium – Cardiff City!

Realising their mistake and with only minutes to get the trophy to the correct location, Nissan came to the pair's rescue, with a mad dash in a Nissan GT-R supercar, the new X-Trail crossover and a helicopter!

The broadcast of the Grand Detour was hosted on the Nissan Excitement FC Facebook page, UEFA.com and Goal.com.

The Facebook Live broadcast used in-car cameras, plus others on motorcycles and attached to the helicopter itself. The action left fans wondering if this was staged or if the driver was simply #TOOEXCITEDTO?

The new Nissan X-Trail was the star of the show, having only been unveiled to media the day before the final at an exclusive preview event in nearby Newport.

On sale from July 2017, the new X-Trail features a robust new exterior design, higher quality interior materials, new practicality for owners and additional Nissan Intelligent Mobility technologies.

It's the perfect car for family adventures, including days out at football matches.

Jean-Pierre Diernaz, vice-president, sales and marketing, Nissan Europe, commented: 'Nissan wanted to celebrate the pre-match excitement of the UEFA Champions League final in a bold way.

'By involving the iconic Nissan GT-R and the new Nissan X-Trail crossover in a dramatic dash across Cardiff, we have certainly done that.'

An edited version of the Grand Detour can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/jO3hi5afyMU>.

CARDIFF, Wales (June 5, 2017) – When you are a football fan, UEFA Champions League match days are THE time when you're simply 'too excited to' concentrate on anything other than the big game.

That was the simple premise behind #TOOEXCITEDTO, Nissan's bold social media campaign and specific activation linked directly to the arrival of the UEFA Champions League trophy ahead of last Saturday night's final.

As official automotive partner of the UEFA Champions League, a Nissan vehicle is used every year to carry the iconic trophy from the Champions Festival to the stadium.

Keeping true to the idea that Nissan brings fans closer to the excitement, Nissan selected a fan to drive the trophy in a Nissan e-NV200, the brand's 100 per cent electric van. To further add excitement to this journey, he was accompanied by none other than football legend Edgar Davids, a former UEFA Champions League winner.

Facebook Live was the innovative platform used to broadcast this event to the millions of UCL fans #TOOEXCITEDTO concentrate on anything else on day of the final. This helped further ensure the global fan base could experience the excitement wherever they were



BMW 3 SERIES PROVES POPULAR AS MAY'S FASTEST SELLING CAR

- 2016 BMW 3 Series saloon petrol manual is the UK's fastest selling used car in May taking an average of just 14 days to sell.
- May's fastest selling cars features no diesel fuel types.
- Ford and Vauxhall dominate regional fastest sellers.
- i-Control users enjoy 52 per cent improvement on stock turn.

June 6, 2017 – London: Data from Auto Trader, the UK's largest marketplace for new and used cars, revealed the BMW 3 Series (petrol manual) was the UK's fastest-selling used car in May. It's the first time a premium brand has topped the national fastest-selling used car list since September 2016, when BMW stalemated the 1 Series prevailed as the nation's fastest seller.

The Skoda Fabia and Ford Mondeo were both second fastest for leaving UK forecourts in May, taking just 16 days on average to sell. Both of these fastest-selling contenders were petrol automatics and registered in 2016. Following closely behind in third place was the 2016 Ford Kuga SUV petrol manual, which took just 17 days to sell.

Petrol fuel types dominated May's fastest-selling national top 10, leaving no room for diesels. The top 10 list featured nine petrol cars in total and one electric hybrid, the 2013 Toyota Prius (automatic), which placed as the 10th fastest-selling car in May, taking 20 days to leave the forecourt.

Mirroring similar results in April's fastest-selling data, the humble hatchback performs strongly again in May, taking up six spots in the national top 10 and topping eight out of 11 regional fastest-selling lists. For car brands, May proved to be a popular month for both Ford and Vauxhall, the two brands topped four regional fastest-selling tables each – revealing seven hatchback regional fastest-sellers and one SUV, the 2016 Ford Kuga, which was fastest to leave the forecourt in the East Midlands last month.

Hitting targets will always be determined by how quickly a dealer can turn their stock around and using data is the key to speeding it up. Users of i-Control, Auto Trader's data management solution, took an average of just 30 days to sell a car in May, compared to a market average of 63 days – a 52 per cent improvement in stock turn. Karolina Edwards-Smajda, Auto Trader retailer

and consumer products director, said: 'The BMW 3 Series becoming the fastest-selling used car for retailers in May proves that premium models with higher price tags can leave the forecourt as quickly as average used cars by following the same retail practices.'

'Matching the 14 average days to sell of April's fastest selling car, the Toyota Prius, it's clear that practices such as the effective use of data, pricing to the live retail market and stocking the cars desirable to your region are paramount to turning stock quicker, regardless of the car brand or premium price.'

ABOUT I-CONTROL:

i-Control is Auto Trader's data intelligence solutions, which tracks live market movements, recommends what stock to buy, where to find it, how much to pay for it, and how much to sell it for taking into account regional differences in desirability – and is proven to improve stock turn, as we've seen, by 62 per cent.

Using a combination of daily guide prices from more than 4,500 dealer websites, the 500,000-plus ads on Auto Trader and price data from all major auctions, fleet and lease companies and manufacturers, i-Control provides accurate valuations ensuring retailers' stock is competitively priced from day one.

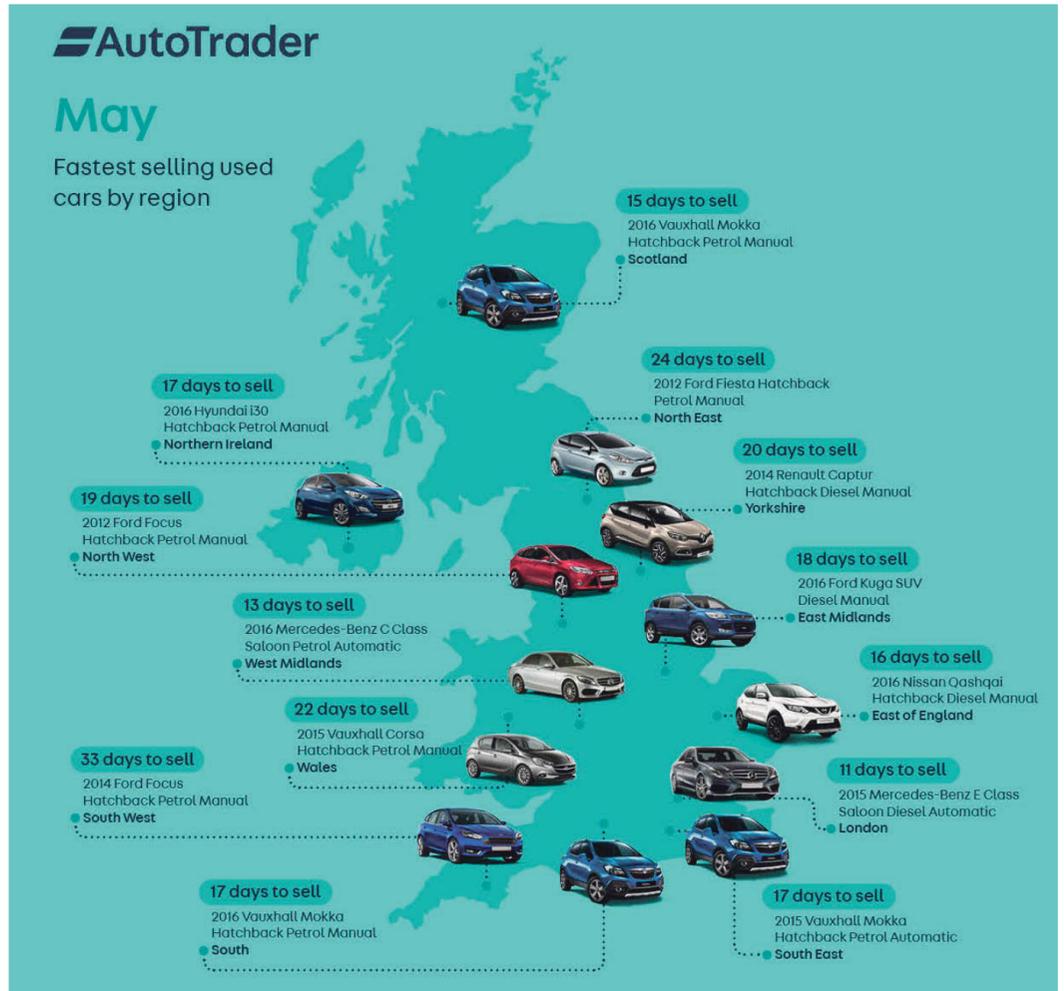
About Auto Trader

Auto Trader Group plc is the UK and Ireland's largest digital automotive marketplace. Auto Trader sits at the heart of the UK's vehicle buying process and its primary activity is to help vehicle retailers compete effectively on the marketplace in order to sell more vehicles, faster. Auto Trader listed on the London Stock Exchange in March 2015 and is now a member of the FTSE 250 Index.

The marketplace brings together the largest and most engaged consumer audience. Auto Trader has over 90 per cent prompted brand awareness and attracts an average of 60 million monthly cross platform visits a month, with circa 70 per cent of visits coming through mobile devices.

The marketplace also has the largest pool of vehicle sellers (listing more than 470,000 cars each day). Over 80 per cent of UK automotive retailers advertise on autotrader.co.uk.

For more information, please visit <http://about-us.autotrader.co.uk>.



	AVERAGE	DAYS TO SELL	RETAIL VALUE	PRICE POSITION
1	2016 BMW 3 Series Saloon Petrol Manual	14	£19,118	99.44%
2	2016 Skoda Fabia Hatchback Petrol Auto	16	£12,302	99.46%
3	2016 Ford Mondeo Hatchback Petrol Auto	16	£20,090	98.56%
4	2016 Ford Kuga SUV Petrol Manual	17	£17,865	99.64%
5	2014 Mazda CX-5 SUV Petrol Manual	18	£15,215	100.26%
6	2014 Hyundai ix20 Hatchback Petrol Auto	19	£8,507	98.90%
7	2013 Honda CR-V SUV Petrol Auto	19	£16,024	99.86%
8	2015 Vauxhall Mokka Hatchback Petrol Auto	20	£12,842	99.48%
9	2014 Vauxhall Mokka Hatchback Petrol Auto	20	£11,777	98.86%
10	2013 Toyota Prius Hatchback Electric Hybrid Auto	20	£12,895	99.03%

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SUBARU FORESTER Fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km): Urban 25.2-39.8 (11.2-7.1); Extra Urban 40.4-57.6 (7.0-4.9); Combined 33.2-49.6 (8.5-5.7). CO₂ Emissions 197-148g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months road fund licence and first registration fee. With Subaru Personal Contract Purchase you have the option at the end of the agreement to: (1) return the vehicle and not pay the Final Payment. If the vehicle has exceeded the allowed mileage a charge per excess mile will apply. In this example, 10.5p per excess mile up to 4,999, or for excess mileage of 5,000 or more, a charge of 21.0p will apply to each excess mile above the allowed mileage plus VAT. If the vehicle is in good condition and has not exceeded the allowed mileage you will have nothing further to pay. (2) Pay the Final Repayment to own the vehicle. (3) Part exchange the vehicle subject to settlement of your existing finance agreement; new finance agreements are subject to status. Credit is available to UK residents aged 18 years and over. Credit available subject to status. Excludes motability and fleet sales. Available at participating dealers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Offer is only available through Subaru Finance provided by International Motors Finance Limited, St William House, Treillian Terrace, Cardiff, CF10 5BH. We may receive commission or other benefits from introducing you to Subaru Finance. We can introduce you to Subaru Finance and a limited number of other lenders to provide funding. Please consult your local Subaru dealer for an exact quotation. Offer Ends 31st March 2017. †Every vehicle marketed by Subaru (UK) Ltd, excluding WRX STI, is covered by a 5 Year/100,000 mile (whichever comes sooner) Limited Warranty which comprises of a standard 3 Year/60,000 mile (whichever is sooner). Manufacturer's Warranty (bumper to bumper, excluding clutch driven plate) and an Extended Warranty (applies to powertrain only) provided by the importer. Vehicle shown is the Subaru Forester 2.0D XC, OTR price of £28,440 plus special paint finish at £550. Prices correct at time of going to print.

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Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.



We currently have 2 fantastic opportunities available for the right individuals to join the Fyne Homes team.

Technical Services Officer
Kintyre – based Campbeltown with some travel to Mid Argyll, Bute and Cowal

You will be an enthusiastic, customer focused professional skilled at property management services. To be successful in this role you will have experience of delivering high quality, cost effective work through managing delivery of cyclical and reactive maintenance plus, delivery of our exciting capital investment programme. You will have credibility with customers and contractors, to make sure that performance indicators are achieved and delivered within the relevant Health and Safety guidelines.

Applications are welcomed from individual with or working towards, a relevant professional qualification or demonstrable equivalent working knowledge and experience in the property maintenance/building sector. Generous benefits including 40 days leave and salary starting at £29,840.00 for a 35 hour working week await the right person. Closing date for applications is noon on **Monday 3rd July 2017** and interviews will be held on **Wednesday 12th July 2017**.

Maintenance Operative
Lochgilthead – covering Mid-Argyll and Kintyre

You will be a self-motivated, customer focused and Health and Safety aware person with excellent practical skills to carry out general maintenance, routine repairs, inspections and cyclical gardening duties in mid-Argyll. Duties will include upkeep and reactive maintenance ensuring that customers receive a prompt and courteous service. There will also be a need to carry out painting and decorating (internal and external) and other maintenance duties as well as lifting and moving furniture and domestic goods within empty and tenanted homes. Your skills will include holding a full UK driving licence as you will have access to – and be responsible for – a Fyne Homes vehicle.

A starting salary of £18,160.00 for a 35 hour week, plus excellent benefits, including 40 days leave will be available to the successful applicant. Closing date for applications is noon on **Monday 3rd July 2017** and interviews will be held on **Tuesday 11th July 2017**.

Each of these roles provide critical customer facing services for Fyne Homes and it is vital that we attract responsible and conscientious applicants to fit with our ethos and values.

About Fyne Homes

Fyne Homes Ltd is a charitable, community based, Registered Social Landlord owning and managing 1500 homes in Bute, Cowal, Mid-Argyll and Kintyre. Fyne Homes is also a registered Property Factor and provides factoring services to around 400 homes. It also has an active capital development programme.

If you believe you have the aptitude, skills and relevant knowledge for either of these roles, please access our website www.fynehomes.org.uk to download an application pack or contact;

Fyne Homes Ltd, 81 Victoria Street, Rothesay, Isle of Bute PA20 0AP
Tel: 0345 6077117
Email: postmaster@fynehomes.co.uk

Fyne Homes believes in promoting equality and diversity and is a member of the Living Wage Foundation.
Registered Scottish Charity number SC0009152
NO AGENCIES PLEASE



Chartered Surveyor - Oban
Long term partnership prospects

Diverse opportunity to take over the management of a private client base. Responsibilities will include day to day management and giving advice on a wide range of rural property issues, including valuations, sales, acquisitions and development opportunities, all dependent on client needs.

Self-motivated individual required, MRICS, commercially focussed, able to lead a team and develop existing and new client relationships.

Contact **Helen Astill** on **07721 437 085** or by email to helen@astresolutions.com

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DARLOCHAN YARD, CAMPBELTOWN,
ARGYLL PA28 6NT
01586 820 258

We are looking to recruit either fully qualified or apprentice mechanics in both our Cairnbaan and Strachur workshops. You would be carrying out repair work and safety inspections on our fleet of HGV's, trailers and timber cranes.

If not fully qualified the appropriate candidate would have the opportunity to attend a college course over three years.

If interested please send your CV to the address above, e-mail petermckerrall4@gmail.com or phone Peter on the number provided.



MEDICAL PRACTICE

Qualified Dispenser Required
Taynuilt Surgery

We have a vacancy for a reliable, organised and efficient dispenser to work at our Taynuilt branch surgery. The successful candidate will be responsible for the running of the dispensary.

Four days per week.

For further information please contact **Janice McGhee, Practice Manager** on **01631 710229**.

Closing date for applications (by CV and covering letter)
Monday 19th June 2017.

Lochfyne Langoustines Ltd.

Financial Accountant/Administrator
A full time (permanent) exciting opportunity has arisen for Book keeper/Administrator within a fast-growing shellfish company in the rural village of Tarbert, Loch Fyne on the west coast of Scotland.

The ability to demonstrate a good operational knowledge of SAGE Accounts and SAGE Payroll software is essential.

Responsibilities will include the day to day running of the office, payroll administration, book keeping including maintaining the nominal ledger.

The role will also involve producing monthly management accounts and other financial information to assist the growth of the business and working with others in the team to develop real-time stock accounting systems (using either SAGE or bespoke systems). The successful candidate will be responsible to the Director of the company and will be based in its facility in Tarbert.

Salary is negotiable depending on experience.

Interested applicants should contact us including your CV by 29th June 2017, to lochfynelangoustines@hotmail.co.uk



We are now recruiting throughout Argyll for part time tutors in the following subject areas:

Engineering, Social Care, Childcare, Aquaculture, Horticulture, and Rural Skills.

Please visit www.argyllcollege.ac.uk/vacancies for full job descriptions and to apply.

Argyll Bakeries Ltd

Campbeltown

Require a full time baker to work in our craft bakery.

Some experience required with further training available if necessary.

Pay above the SAMB rate and will depend on experience.

Please apply in the first instance to **Alex Russell** on **01586 553635** or email argyllbakeries@hotmail.co.uk

RECRUITMENT

VIEW ALL JOBS AT hijobs.net



Assistant Hatchery Manager
Recirculation Unit – Lochailort

Salary £26,942 to £29,394
plus overtime and alarm payments

Marine Harvest (Scotland) is the largest Aquaculture Company operating in Scotland. Our marine and freshwater sites are located throughout the West Coast, Outer Isles and Argyll.

Due to the current incumbent moving to another post within the Company, a role now exists for an Assistant Hatchery Manager at our Recirculation Unit in Lochailort.

The candidate will assist the manager in the day to day running of the site and deputise in his absence. The successful candidate will ideally have experience working within a freshwater recirculation facility. The recirculation unit will operate with the highest level of biosecurity in order to protect the very large number of fish being produced. The assistant manager will be expected to be fully aware of the importance of this and be actively involved in maintaining these measures.

Applicants must demonstrate a strong knowledge of recirculation processes and the various elements which need to be maintained in order to ensure the correct water quality environment to promote healthy, thriving fish. In addition they would be expected to demonstrate a good understanding of general hatchery production and all that is involved in farming from egg to smolt.

The chosen applicant will be part of a large team so must be self-motivated and have good communication and planning skills. A high degree of computer literacy is also essential. The working pattern is any 5 days from 7. In addition they will be expected to be part of a weekly alarm rota and be required to stay on site providing 24 hour call out cover. On site accommodation could be provided for the successful candidate if required.

If you are interested in applying for this vacancy please submit an application in writing, by the closing date of Friday 16th 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

Pupil Escort
(Term-Time, Part-Time, Permanent)

£14,044 - £15,356 (pro-rata)

Lochgilthead Ref: CTF01190

☎ 01546 604334

Closing date: **Friday 16 June 2017.**
To apply visit our website



www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs



• **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

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

For more information please contact Lynne Stokes 01546 605 834 lynne.stokes@ahfa.co.uk

Interviews will be held in Inveraray on 30th June.

Closing Date for both posts: 12 noon Friday 16 June 2017.

For further details and to apply visit the recruitment section of our website www.acha.co.uk

If you cannot access the website please contact the recruitment team: 01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

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Scottish Sea Farms
Scottish Sea Farms are an internationally recognised farmer of superior quality Scottish salmon. We pride ourselves in providing industry leading and highly personal development paths which build into fulfilling professional careers. If you are committed to developing our industry and are driven to put your strengths to work we would very much like to hear from you.

Modern Apprenticeship - Engineering
Location: Barcaldine, Argyll
Salary: £14,000

This is a 4 year programme consisting of a combination of theoretical learning and practical 'hands on' experience. The Modern Apprenticeship is delivered in partnership with Inverness College UHI. The successful candidate will attend college on a block release basis in the first year. Throughout the programme you will build a comprehensive portfolio and will be monitored through continuous assessment. Upon successful completion of the apprenticeship you will be awarded an NC in Engineering Practice, SVQ 2 and SVQ 3. To be successful for this role you will hold Scottish National 4 Grades in English, Maths and a Science.

Marine Husbandry Staff
Location: Sound of Mull & Loch Nevis
Salary: £18,275 - £21,500

Experience Husbandry + W/E Payments & Training Increments
Applicants applying for our experienced husbandry roles should have at least 2 years' practical salmon farming experience. You should be able to demonstrate competence across a wide range of farming disciplines including: fish health monitoring, stock appetite assessment, boat handling skills, feeding system and boat maintenance whilst being proactive in health and safety.

Trainee Husbandry
Salary: £17,700 - £18,275 + OT Payments

Applicants are also invited by candidates looking to begin their career in the Aquaculture Industry. We are looking for ambitious individuals who are team players, proactive in health and safety and who have high expectations for themselves and of their employer. In return, we will provide you with a Mentor who will guide you through your first months of employment and a detailed training plan that will enable you to kick start your fish farming career.

Processing Operative Staff
Location: South Shian, Argyll
Salary: £17,576 + OT Payments

Duties focus on the processing and preparing of our product for despatch to our customers on average five days per week. Full training is provided including, health and safety, hygiene and food safety plus all relevant training on machinery if required. Applicants should be able to work as part of a team that has high standards with a good work ethic and will be required to work shifts on a rotational basis.

In return Scottish Sea Farms will offer an attractive remuneration package, dependant on experience along with pension scheme, life cover, occupational health support, subsidised gym membership and cycle to work scheme.

To find out more please contact **Angela Hand, Recruitment & HR Coordinator** on 01786 445521 or email angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com for an application pack.
Closing Date: Wednesday 14th June 2017

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED
T Bryson
65 Ormsaigbeg, Craigard, Ardnamurchan & Sunart 78205
0.15 ha
Reason - Proposed new development
Condition - Fencing
R Murray & P Ramsden
Killean, Lismore & Appin 77902
0.09 ha
Reason - Existing house site
Condition - Fencing
Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

First Registration of a Croft
Mrs Rhona Murray and Ms Phillipa Clare Ramsden have registered their croft Killean, 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 Cuiluaire, Ardchattan & Muckcairn 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.

First Registration of a Croft
Dugald Cameron has registered his croft 40 Banavie (Share) Banavie, Kilmallie on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by February 22, 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4071.

Argyll and Bute Council
Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 9th June 2017 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 1.30pm - 4.00pm. He can be contacted by email - Roderick.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567854.
Councillor Kieron Green (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)
Councillor Green will be holding a surgery on Friday 16th June 2017 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm. He can be contacted by email - Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 562 444.

Oban Times **Oban Times**
PUBLIC NOTICES **PUBLIC NOTICES**

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
17/02271/FUL	Land 150 M NW of Ardshealach Lodge, Acharacle	Erection of house
17/02551/FUL	Land to South West of Glen Lochy Guest House, Nevis Bridge, Glen Nevis, Fort William	Erection of house, parking and ASHP
17/02582/PIP	Land 45M S of West Highland Hotel, Mallaig	Erection of 2 houses - renewal of planning permission 14/01515/PIP

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Argyll and Bute Council
PLANNING
These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
17/01382/PP	Installation of telecommunications cabinet	Land South Of Automatic Telephone Exchange Appin Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Port Appin
17/00983/PP	Improvements to junction and access	Land Opposite Ferlum Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 10S	Sub Post Office Connel
17/01142/PP	Change of use of pavement to form outside seating area	Royal Hotel 3 Argyll Square Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4BE	Oban Area Office
17/01394/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle 14/00436/PPP (Site for the erection of 4 holiday chalets, formation of new access and installation of sewage treatment plant).	Land North Of An Tigh Dearg Kilchrennan Tainuill Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Tainuill
17/01328/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and single storey store building, including formation of access and installation of septic tank and soakaway.	Land South Of Number 3 Heanish Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute	Tiree Area Office
17/01386/PP	Change of use of office to form salon	16 Airds Crescent Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5SJ	Oban Area Office
17/01432/PP	Erection of extension	Kilmore Village Hall Kilmore Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4XT	Oban Area Office
17/01370/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land East Of Oakview Tainuill Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Tainuill
17/01123/PP	Removal of Condition 2 relative to planning permission reference 14/00125/PP in relation to the access	Land South West Of Glenmore Farm Kilmelford Oban Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
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 Tainuill
17/01384/PP	Erection of four holiday units, improvement of existing access and installation of private drainage system	Land West Of Achoras Lerags Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
17/01438/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 1 Heron's Rest Inverfolla Appin Argyll And Bute PA38 4BA	Sub Post Office Port Appin
17/01439/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 2 Heron's Rest Inverfolla Appin Argyll And Bute PA38 4BA	Sub Post Office Port Appin

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.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A87 TRUNK ROAD (BRIDGE STREET, PORTREE) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) ORDER 2017
THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 temporarily prohibiting traffic on that length of the A87 Invergarry - Kyle of Lochalsh - Borve - Uig Trunk Road from its junction with the A855 Bridge Road, Portree north westwards to its junction with the B885 Struan Road, Portree, a distance of 475 metres or thereby.
The Order, which is required to facilitate the running of the Skye Half Marathon will be in operation from 10th June 2017 to 11th June 2017. Restrictions on the trunk road will only be in operation for a period of up to 20 minutes to facilitate the start of the race at 10.30 am. The Order does not apply to vehicles while being used in an emergency for fire service, coastguard, ambulance or police purposes or to acts done with the permission or upon the direction of a police constable in uniform but will only have effect in relation to such length(s) of road as indicated by the appropriate traffic signs.
ALTERNATIVE ROUTES
Alternative route for traffic is not required.
A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>
For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk
J W HINDSHAW
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, Glasgow

Benderloch & North Connel Drama Club
AGM
Monday 19th June 2017
7.30pm
Club Hut, Keil Farm, Benderloch
All welcome

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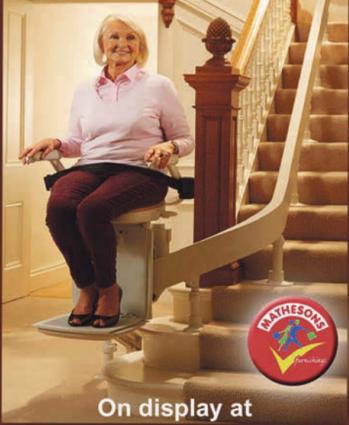
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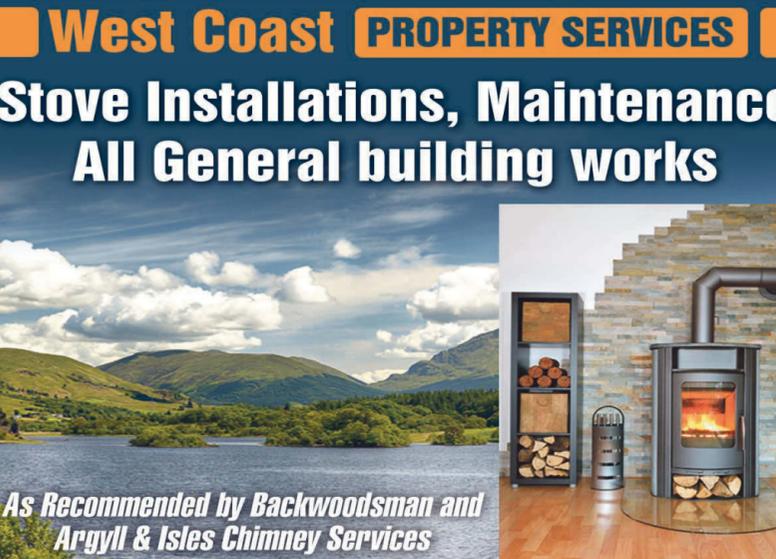


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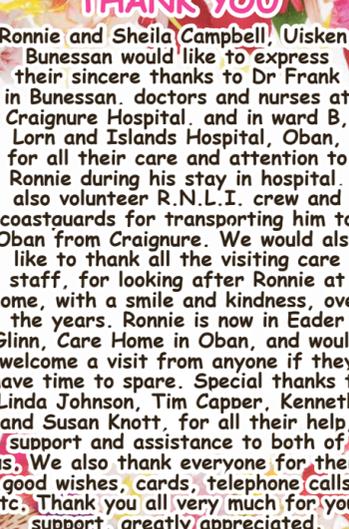
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PERSONAL NOTICE



THANK YOU

After working in MacKays garage for 50 years and the owner for 35 years, I have decided to retire. Joanie and I would like to thank most sincerely our loyal, hard working staff and to our customers for their continued support and custom over the years. From June 17, 2017, Lewis and Aileen Gallagher will be the new owners. We wish them all the best in their new venture.
John MacKay



THANK YOU

Ronnie and Sheila Campbell, Uisken, Bunessan would like to express their sincere thanks to Dr Frank in Bunessan, doctors and nurses at Craignure Hospital, and in ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, for all their care and attention to Ronnie during his stay in hospital. Also volunteer R.N.L.I. crew and coastguards for transporting him to Oban from Craignure. We would also like to thank all the visiting care staff, for looking after Ronnie at home, with a smile and kindness, over the years. Ronnie is now in Eader Glinn, Care Home in Oban, and would welcome a visit from anyone if they have time to spare. Special thanks to Linda Johnson, Tim Capper, Kenneth and Susan Knott, for all their help, support and assistance to both of us. We also thank everyone for their good wishes, cards, telephone calls etc. Thank you all very much for your support, greatly appreciated.

DEATHS

KATZ - Peacefully on May 31, 2017 at Raigmore Hospital, Janette Katz, née Robertson (Jetta), aged 91 years. Loving mother to Johanna and granny to Sylvia, Christine, Herbie, George, Hannah and Charlie. Funeral service to be held at Strontian Parish Church on Monday 12 at 11.00 a.m. Thereafter to Drimnatorran Cemetery.

LIPP - Peacefully at home at New Selma Croft, Benderloch on May 31, 2017. Marie (née Chessor), aged 89, wife of the late Dr Kenneth Lipp, mum of Jo and Mo and the late Sheila and Fiona, granny and great-granny. A celebration of her life will take place on Monday June 12 at The Argyllshire Gathering Hall, Oban at 1 pm. Family flowers only please. A retiring collection will be for the National Osteoporosis Society and Cancer Research.

MACDONALD - Ronnie. Peacefully at the Belford Hospital, Fort William on June 2, 2017, dear husband of Kathleen, much loved dad and papa to the family. Funeral service on Tuesday June 13, 2017 at 1pm at St Mun's Church, Ballachulish, thereafter to Duror Cemetery.

MACKINNON - Peacefully, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on June 5, 2017, aged 78 years, Mary MacKinnon, of "Kirkapol", 16 Morvern Hill, Oban, dearly beloved wife of Donald MacKinnon and much loved mother of Donald and Alasdair, mother-in-law of Katie and grandmother to Lucy and Sam. Funeral service will be held on Friday, June 9 at 1.00 p.m. in Oban Parish Church and thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only. Gus Am Bris An Latha.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CARTER - Chrissie, Alec and family and Flora would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours and former colleagues from the Northern Lighthouse Board for their sympathy and support following Murdo's passing. Thank you all for the lovely flowers, many sympathy cards and Mass cards which we received. Thanks also to all who came to the church and graveside. Thank you to Dr. MacLennan at the Lorn Medical Centre and the staff in Ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban for their care and attention to Murdo. Thank you to Rt. Rev. Mgr. James Canon MacNeil for a lovely service and kind words, to Hamish Hoey and Son for funeral arrangements and to the Oban Bay Hotel for catering. The sum of £432 was raised for Mary's Meals.

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS Oban Times

MEMORIAL SERVICE

BROLLY - The Brollly family will be holding a memorial service for Joachim Brollly on Wednesday, June 14 at Torran Bay Hostel, Ford at 2pm. The family would like to invite those who came to know Joachim during his 59 years of life to join them in remembering him by sharing memories of a life cut short but full of colourful moments and achievements.

MEMORIAMS

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of a dear auntie, Marie, who died June 8, 1989. Memories of you are fondly kept. Someone so special to ever forget - Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families

DOWNIE - In loving memory of our dear mam and nana Aggie, who died June 7, 2001 and our dear dad and granpa George, who died May 28, 1968. There are not tomorrows for us to share. But yesterday's memories are always there.

- Inserted by Betty, Auriol and families, Fort William, Inverness and Edinburgh.

GILLIES - Archie passed away June 7, 2016. Remembering you is easy. We do it every day. But missing you is a heartache. That never goes away. - Dad, Mum and family.

GILLIES - In loving memory of a much loved brother and uncle, Archie. We think about you always. You're always in our hearts. You have never been forgotten. Since we've been apart. - DJ, Maggie, Dean, Megan and Marion.

LANGLEY - Precious memories of Stewart, much loved husband of Ann and dear father of Craig, who passed away on June 12, 2011.

Always in our thoughts. - Inserted by Ann, Tirie and Craig, Exmouth

MACCALLUM - In loving memory of Donnie MacCallum, who passed away on June 9, 2005. Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts. - Elizabeth and family

MACDONALD - In fond remembrance of Angus, a dear husband, father, grandfather and brother who passed away at Inverness on June 11, 1993, aged 67 years. Gar cuimhneachadh is gar h-ionndrain an-còmhnaidh - Inserted by Katie and family, 4 Torlum, Benbecula

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of Sarah (née Black), a wonderful mum, granny and great granny who passed away June 5, 2016. Deep are the memories. Precious they will stay. No passing of time. Shall take them away. - Catherine, Helen and families.

MACNEILL - Michael, June 16, 2007. Always with me. - Maree x

MACPHERSON - In loving memory of a dear husband and father Gordon, who died June 16, 1990. Also a dear son and brother, Royal Marine Commando, Gordon Cameron, killed in action during the Falklands conflict, June 12, 1982.

Although we smile and make no fuss

You're deeply missed by all of us. Memories are a gift to treasure. Ours of you will last forever - Dorothy, David and Jean

STEWART - Precious memories of my dear husband Bob, who passed away June 11, 2016.

Loved and remembered every day. - Love Fiona xx

STEWART - In loving memory of Bob, a dear brother and brother-in-law, who passed away June 11, 2016.

Always in our thoughts. - Bill and Violet, Balforn.

STEWART - Remembering Bob, who passed away June 11, 2016.

Sorely missed. - Ken and Delia, Australia.

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MSP Swinney supports latest Boys' Brigade campaign

THE FORMER Boys' Brigade member and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills has shown his support of the BB's latest campaign to increase participation in physical activity.

MSP John Swinney, a former member of the 13th Edinburgh BB Company, met BB director John Sharp and Niall Rolland, the organisation's PR and development officer, during the organisation's parliamentary exhibition.

The five-day exhibition is part of a campaign to see more children and young people participate in regular physical activity, focusing on a joined-up approach involving youth work, schools and sporting bodies.

Mr Swinney heard about how they plan to increase

sports and play opportunities for children and young people.

Mr Swinney said: 'Youth work provides young people with a safe and nurturing environment where they can share their talents and skills, have fun and learn new things.'

'We are committed to supporting this good work through the implementation of the national Youth Work Strategy.'

'It is fantastic to see youth organisations such as the Boys' Brigade carrying out such excellent work and addressing issues such as childhood obesity.'

'I was extremely impressed by the proactive work they are doing to achieve a more team-based approach to tackling barriers to participation in sport.'

'I used to be in the BB myself, so understand firsthand the opportunities the organisation gives a young person.'

'The skills and tools you learn within organisations like the BB, help set you up in life, something I personally feel helped me achieve what I have done so far in my own career.'

'It is very important that as a society we continue to empower young people both inside and outside the classroom.'

Deputy First Minister John Swinney MSP and John Sharp, director for Scotland of the Boys' Brigade, at the Scottish Parliament.



Former Boys' Brigade member and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills has shown his support of the Boys' Brigade.

Tales of galleys, sheilings, and a reckless blunder

THREE new island books have become available this month, starting with *The Historic Sheilings of Paìre* by John Randall.

If you walk the remote loch-studded moors of the Paìre area of Lewis today, you may unexpectedly come across old ruins on green patches of land, often in evocative locations but usually no more than a tumble of rough stones following a roughly circular ground-plan. What are they, and how, when and by whom were they used?

John Randall sheds light on and brings to life the vanished shieling culture of Paìre, based on historic maps, traditional folklore, and tramping the moors.

Also now available is *An Enormous Reckless Blunder - The Story of the Lewis Chemical Works*, by Ali Whiteford.

Described as being 'one

of the most enchantingly bizarre episodes in Scottish industrial history', the full story of the Lewis Chemical Works is told in this book for the first time.

James Matheson, who purchased the Isle of Lewis in 1844, became interested in ways to exploit the abundant natural resources of his new acquisition, and financed the Lewis Chemical Works, which produced lighting oil and paraffin from peat.

The story of the works is one of hope, drama and pathos and is inhabited, not only by the curious gentry, but also by academics, scoundrels and the men of Lewis, some of whom moved in unexpected circles. It is a tale of toil and strife, of success and failure, of the adventure of enterprise, but, above all, a tale of man's quest to improve both himself and society.

A third book, coming out on June 30, is *Castles and Galleys - A Reassessment of the Historic Galley Castles of the North Atlantic Seaways*.

Travel by water was, from pre-history until the 18th century, quicker, easier and cheaper than travel by land. Most of the castles on or near the Norse-Gaelic seaways were close to the sea - some, like Kisimul - on small islands.

Their main means of transport were galleys - open boats with oars and sails, descendants of Viking ships.

The papers in this volume, delivered at a conference on Barra in September 2015, describe castles on Scotland's western seaboard, the Isle of Man, Orkney and Ireland and ask whether galley-castles can be identified elsewhere within the Norse-Gaelic seaways.

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Thought for the week
'Return to me, and I will return to you'
RELATIONSHIP counsellors often hear the expression 'not compatible'. People's attitudes and ways can be so different they feel they have nothing in common. And one of them walks out or tells the other to leave. Once that has happened not many people try to make it up.
Transfer that thought to our relationship with God. It's been a long time since western society (by and large) told God to leave. Our attitudes to ethics were incompatible. Our attitude to him made cooperation impossible.
It has given a feeling of being free from his ethical constraints. Equally, we have forfeited his commitment to care for us. The last thing we expect is to hear him say, 'Return to me, and I will return to you.'
It was the Prophet Malachi who penned these words, probably around 400 BC. He was writing to people who had turned their back on God, reminding them they could no longer expect his protection. 'Where was God when ...?' was not a valid complaint. Nevertheless God was saying to them, 'Return to me, and I will return to you.'
It is a word for today. And there lies our hope when we face extraordinary challenges.
It's true for the individual; it's true for society. In human relationships returning involves contacting the other person, listening to what they say, perhaps changing our ways. It involves taking time and being willing to do whatever is necessary.
It's the same with God. So let's read his Bible, listening, and following his ways. Through Christ Jesus he has opened his door for us.
If we return to God, he will return to us. Then we will be compatible, and know his care, guidance and support.

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Saints come from two goals down to dump league champions at Duntocher

St Joseph's FP 2
Oban Saints 4
SAFL Premier Division

OBAN Saints made their penultimate away trip of a long and arduous season last Wednesday evening when they travelled to Duntocher to face Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division champions St Joseph's FP.

Saints returned home with an excellent 4-2 win under their belts which will go a long way to repairing the pride so severely dented after the previous Friday night's surprise Jimmy Marshall Trophy final defeat to Easthall Star. Worthy champions St Joe's had dropped just five league points all season and went into their final fixture of the season unbeaten in the league since their opening day defeat to close neighbours Goldenhill.

The Duntocher men, who recently crowned a very successful first season in charge for new management team Ajie McCall and Gary McGroarty with the

capture of the Centenary Cup, would have been desperate to notch home and away victories over their old rivals. However, it was Saints who showed steely determination to fight back from two goals down and claim a deserved victory.

Manager Alex Craik saw Thomas McCulloch, Myles McAuley, Paul Carmichael, Kerr Newbigging and Dean Smith drop out from the previous Friday's squad, with Graham Douglas, Daniel Croarkin and the gaffer himself coming in as more than capable replacements.

Difficult

Hosts St Joseph's FP kicked off on a poor William Street surface which West Dunbartonshire Council had forgotten to cut and line, making for a difficult evening for both sets of players and referee John McQuilter.

A diagonal ball over the top from left-sided midfielder Cameron Harkins gave the Saints defence its first test which Dene Cassells answered

Football

well, matching the run of striker Gregor Cree to cut out the danger.

Saints' first attempt on goal came in the sixth minute from a Willie Gemmell throw-in on the left which Craig MacEwan back-headed inches wide of the base of the keeper's left-hand post.

The early sparring continued with both sides having efforts just off target within a minute of each other.

The unpredictable surface almost caught out Saints keeper Graham Douglas in the 16th minute when trying to deal with routine pass-back. 'Sugar' couldn't get the ball under control quickly enough and was quickly closed down by Ryan Halpin, who charged down the attempted clearance. Fortunately, the ball spun away from goal, allowing a rather relieved Douglas to safely gather.

Jamie Graham's refusal to give up on what looked like an over-hit 19th-minute David McArthur pass on the right set up captain Ross Maitland, who beat Fraser Murray before sending in a cross which was cut out by Kieran Boyce with Donald Campbell and Craig MacEwan waiting in the middle.

The deadlock was broken in the 29th minute when Saints gave too much space to St Joe's marauding right back Craig Cameron. Cutting inside Scott Maitland, Cameron sent a low cross along the six-yard which Gregor Cree gratefully tucked away at the back post.

Saints responded well to the setback and came within inches of an equaliser just two minutes later. Ross Maitland won a throw-in on the right level with the 18-yard line which, instead of the anticipated long throw, Willie Gemmell took short to Brian Mackay. Brian's return ball was whipped in at pace where Willie to the back post where Craig MacEwan got in front of Craig Cameron to flash a head-



Brian MacKay tucks away Saints' fourth goal against St Joseph's at William Street last Wednesday. Match report and photos: Derek Black

er inches wide of Sean Gibbons' right-hand post.

The remainder of the fairly even first half passed by without significant incident, leaving Saints feeling slightly disappointed to be behind.

The Oban side kicked off the second half playing down the gentle William Street slope and were quickly on the attack with Jamie Graham making good progress on the right and Donald Campbell blazing a David McArthur cut-back over the bar from 18 yards.

Disaster struck for Saints after just four second half minutes when Graham Douglas dallied too long on a Dene Cassells pass back and was robbed by Ryan Halpin just inside the 18-yard box. He then had the simplest of tasks to roll the ball into the unguarded net, doubling the hosts' advantage.

Spectacular

Saints hauled themselves back into the match in spectacular fashion in the 58th minute from a sweetly struck Scott Maitland 30-yard effort which arched into the roof of the net, giving Sean Gibbons no chance.

After 60 minutes Marc MacCallum made way for Matthew Kelly, who took up his accus-

tomed right back position, with Jamie Graham moving into the middle to fill the space vacated by MacCallum.

It was very much game on in the 62nd minute when a neatly threaded David McArthur pass picked out Donald Campbell's run from midfield. With the home defence caught square, Donald raced through the middle and passed the ball precisely into the bottom corner past the left hand of Sean Gibbons.

The visitors completed the turnaround in the 67th minute from another Graham Douglas clearance. Craig MacEwan held off the attentions of Craig Cameron on the Saints' left and played the ball infield to Donald Campbell. Donald's perfectly weighted pass sat up invitingly for Brian Mackay to stroke the ball into the bottom corner just out of reach of the advancing Sean Gibbons.

Manager Alex Craik added some fresh legs in the 69th minute when Ross Maitland made way for Fraser MacFarlane.

A terrific cross-field pass from Donald Campbell in the 71st minute saw Saints come within a post's width of adding a fourth when Brian Mackay hit the outside of Sean Gibbons'

left-hand post after pulling down Donald's pass from wide on the Saints left.

St Joe's were unbeaten in 17 home league and cup fixtures and were in no mood to meekly surrender this proud record to their old rivals.

Good cross

When St Joe's did threaten in the 80th minute, Dene Cassells made a good block to stop Kieran O'Brien with the ball breaking out to the left from where Cameron Harkins delivered a good cross which Ryan Halpin headed just wide of Sugar's left-hand post.

Willie Gemmell turned the clock back several years with an 86th-minute lung-bursting run for a Fraser MacFarlane pass which Kieran O'Brien read well to beat Willie and turn out for a throw-in.

Willie took the throw-in quickly to Craig MacEwan, who turned away from Kieran Boyce and raced into the box, sending a cut-back to Brian Mackay who fired a first-time effort wide of Sean Gibbons' right-hand post.

Mackay was, however, not to be denied his second goal of the evening with Craig MacEwan and Willie Gemmell again both

heavily involved in the build-up. Willie's 88th minute ball up the left for Craig MacEwan saw Saints' top scorer turn provider, tricking his way past Kearn Docherty and clipping the ball over Sean Gibbons and Martin McComish in the six-yard box for Brian Mackay to side-foot home at the back post.

Daniel Croarkin came on to replace Donald Campbell for the closing stages, making his first appearance since recovering from a long-term injury.

Saints comfortably saw out the three additional minutes allowed by Mr McQuilter to seal a deserved victory over this season's league champions.

Manager Alex Craik was delighted with the performance. He said: 'We played some great football on a very tricky surface. I was a bit disappointed with the two goals we lost, but once we got into our stride there was only going to be one winner.'

The Oban side make their final away trip of the season this Saturday when they head to the tail o' the bank to face Inverclyde on the 3G surface at Battery Park, Greenock, with a noon kick-off so the boys can get back to Oban to watch the Scotland v England game.



Donald Campbell takes on Kieran O'Brien.

Under-16s boys secure double

OBAN Saints under-16s travelled to Millburn Park, Alexandria, recently to take on old rivals Ardencape for their second final in as many weeks in the 2001s League Cup final.

After the disappointment of the previous week's last-minute goal against their older club mates, expectations were high for the 16s to put that behind them and give the large travelling crowd a good performance.

Unfortunately, the first half went rather disappointingly for all as, despite having the majority of possession, Saints too often squandered chances and didn't make the most of their opportunities.

Although never looking in danger, the overall performance was somewhat disappointing for the supporters and coaches.

A frank and honest half-time team talk and shuffling of

positions saw the Oban lads come out fired up and it wasn't long before top scorer Keir MacLean fired Saints into the lead.

A few minutes later, an excellent cross from MacLean was met by Kenneth Black at the back post to make it 2-0.

Saints were now playing at the level expected by the supporters and were moving the ball around more freely which nearly led to a third goal by Sol Smith.

However, as the ball was heading across the line, substitute Ben Smith helped it along after being in an offside position and the 'goal' correctly chalked off.

The Oban side were soon rewarded with goal number three when lively sub Mossman beat the Ardencape keeper.

With Saints on track to win their first League Cup at their third attempt, the coaches had

Youth football

the luxury of being able to use all the players in the 16-man squad.

All the players now looked eager to get on the ball and a fine run down the left side and cross by Black was met by Ben Smith to head home goal number four.

After the final whistle, captain Kenneth Black was presented the League Cup.

The boys were also presented with the league championship trophy which they won a few weeks ago.

Unfortunately, the 2001s missed out on a silverware treble when they lost in the final of the Central Regional Cup last Sunday, going down 5-1 to the impressive Syngenta Juveniles at Ochilview Park. Cameron Kerr scored Saints' goal.



Oban Saints Under-16s pictured with the League Cup and league championship trophies which were both presented to the team at Millburn Park after the League Cup final victory.



Ladies competing in the Rotary Club's Am-Am competition.

Lochaber Rotary AmAm raises more than £60,000 to date

THE ROTARY Club of Lochaber has now raised more than £60,000 in its annual Am-Am golf competition.

Twenty-one teams teed off for the 17th year of the competition recently. The main sponsors this year's event were Marine Harvest and John McLellan & Co, Funeral Director.

Rotary president Paula Ross said: 'We are extremely grateful to our sponsors and to the golf club for allowing us to use their course for this annual competition.'

'It is a major fundraiser for our charity programme and enables us to support numerous good causes in Lochaber.'

'I would like to emphasise that, thanks to our own members donating their time and organisational skills, we have no administrative overheads

and that every single penny is used for local charities and worthy causes.'

Paula added: 'In a magnificent gesture, both the ladies' and men's winning teams donated their prizes to the club for use for local charities. Our raffle alone raised more than £500 and, taken altogether, we have now raised over £60,000. This tournament just goes from strength to strength.'

Results were as follows: overall winners - Inverurie Locals (P Laing, Davie Laing, Derek Laing, J Ferguson). Ladies - 1 Left Overs (R MacIntyre, A Lovatt, K Leitch, I Cameron); 2 Wattsman Wanderers (J Wattsman, M Kerr, B Gribben, I Fyfe); 3 Stewards Inquiry (J Duncan, A Overend, I Robertson, G Worsdall).

Yellow Ball - Le Grande

Golf

Fromage (D Matheson, D MacInnes, N Young, E MacColl). First Visitors - J Rosie's Guests (D Lingard, G Waterstones, D Donaldson, G Rees).

Nearest the pin at third hole - Marc MacDonald. Nearest the pin at sixth hole - Rosie MacIntyre. Nearest the pin at 12th hole - Gareth Rees. Nearest the pin at 16th hole - A Overend.

Longest drive: ladies - Ann Lovatt; men - Padraig McNeill.

After the prizes had been presented, past-president Donald Young said: 'On behalf of the club I would like to thank all committee and members of the golf club for their terrific support over the years.'

Eala of Rhu clinches top spot at Scottish Series

TARBERT once again played host to four days of fiercely competitive sailing for the 43rd Silvers Marine Scottish Series. Congratulations are due to Jamie McGarry, Colin Moore and the crew of Eala of Rhu who not only won class one, but also won the coveted Scottish Series Trophy and the Scottish IRC Championship. Having been a very close contender in previous years, they are fitting winners this year in a hotly contested class. After finishing on equal points with Irish boat Forty Licks, McGarry counted four firsts to three for Forty Licks, winning Eala of Rhu the class.

On winning the Scottish Series Trophy, Jamie McGarry said: 'After coming so close in previous years, I am delighted with the performance of the boat and the supreme effort put in by the crew to win the trophy.' Jamie McGarry has also been the headline sponsor of Silvers Marine Scottish Series for the past three years, and commented on how much he had enjoyed the series and being part of its continued growth. He continued: 'I'd like to give a special mention to the warm welcome and hard work put in by the Tarbert Enterprise Company to make the shore side

Sailing

part of the event such a huge success, greatly contributing to the overall success of the whole event.' Scottish Series event chairman David Denholm reflected on the championship: 'The Clyde Cruising Club is delighted that the Silvers Marine Scottish Series enjoyed some champagne sailing in stunning Loch Fyne off Tarbert. Jamie McGarry and Colin Moore's Eala of Rhu were without doubt worthy winners of Silvers Marine Scottish Series 2017 and the Scottish National IRC Championship.'



Winning crew on board Eala of Rhu. Inset: Jamie McGarry holding the Scottish Series Trophy with some of his crew. Photos: Marc Turner



Fort William

ON TUESDAY May 16 the Campbell Homes medal was played with the following result: 1 Marc MacDonald net 67 (82 - 15); 2 Henry MacDonald net 73 (84 - 11); 3 David MacPherson net 77 (83 - 6). Captain's Prize: Saturday May 20 - 1 Davy Laing net 59 (76 - 17); 2 Dougie Duncan net 61 (71 - 10); 3 Graeme Worsdall net 64 (79 - 15). Three clubs and a putter stableford: Sunday May 21 - 1 Martin Kerr 28 points; 2 Alex Stewart 26 points BIH; 3 John Ferguson 26 points. Campbell Homes medal: Tuesday May 23 - 1 Neil Young net 68 (79 - 11); 2 Scott Lawrie net 75 (81 - 6); 3 Keith Duncan net 76 (85 - 9). Alcan Foursomes: Saturday May 27 - 1 Brian Gillespie and David Martin net 62 (77 - 15); 2 Stewart Duncan and Ian Robertson net 65 (78 - 13); 3 Rusty Duncan and Willie McCann net 66 (79 - 13). Campbell Homes Medal: Tuesday May 30 - 1 Alan Overend net 69 (81 - 12); 2 Peter Stewart net 73 (86 - 13); 3 David MacPherson net 74 (80 - 6). Ladies: On Tuesday May 23 a 12-hole stableford was played with the following result - 1 Ann Lovatt 22 points BIH; 2 Iona Cameron 22 points; 3 Kathleen Leitch 20 points.

Double up for Etive Vikings

OBAN Lorne RFC hosted the final mini rugby Dalriada Festival of the season recently at Glencruitten. Players from Oban Lorne, Etive Vikings, Mid Argyll and Highland visitors Lochaber took part. Scores from the day were as follows P4/5: Mid Argyll 0 Etive Vikings 5 Lochaber 1 Oban 5 Etive Vikings 5 Lochaber B 0 Oban 5 Mid Argyll 0 Lochaber B 0 Oban 5

Mid Argyll 7 Lochaber 5 Etive Vikings 5 Oban 0 Lochaber 7 Lochaber B 4 Etive Vikings 5 Lochaber 1 Lochaber B 1 Mid Argyll 5 P6/7 Mid Argyll 3 Oban 3 Lochaber 0 Etive Vikings 5 Oban 1 Etive Vikings 5 Etive Vikings 5 Mid Argyll 1 Oban 3 Lochaber 6 Well done to Etive Vikings who ran out as winners at both the P4/5 and the P6/7 age group.

Mini rugby

Oban Lorne RFC used the day as an opportunity to officially launch their new mini rugby playing strips kindly sponsored by the Real Food Café in Tyndrum. This Dalriada signals the end of the season for the area's mini rugby clubs after a successful season of Dalriada festivals and other friendly fixtures.



Oban Lorne mini rugby players in their new kit sponsored by the Real Food Café in Tyndrum.

Profile of Senshi Do kick boxing and Wullie Rodger

THE ORIGINS of Senshi Do kick boxing started when Wullie Rodger began his training in Kado freestyle karate which was based on Tae Kwon Do. At the age of 14, Wullie went along to keep a school friend company and instantly fell in love with martial arts. At that time he was training under David Shaw and then James Young after David moved away from Oban. It was then at the age of 19 that he passed his 1st dan black belt under the chief instructor of WUMA Richard ('Deadly Dickie') Hopkins in Cheltenham. James Young then had to move from Oban for his job and that's when, at the age of 20, Wullie took over Oban freestyle karate along with Mark Gowdie.

Before and after that transition Wullie and Mark, along with Michael France, Vincent Baxter, George MacKenzie, Andy Bruce and Iain MacInnes, were taking the freestyle tournament circuit by storm winning trophies all over the UK and, for Wullie, Mark and George, the USA too. Wullie decided he wanted to move into the full contact kick boxing scene so with the help of some of the others he trained up for his first fight, back then it was mainly high kick/American rules with no kicks to the legs same name (Senshi Do translates from Japanese to 'warrior way'). All the while Wullie was ranking up under WUMA to his present grade of 6th dan black belt, which was presented to him after his completion of his second 100 Man Kumite, which is where the person attempting it faces a fresh fighter every minute in bare knuckle full contact fighting until 100 fights have been completed. Current club members are winning trophies at points tournaments and full contact events throughout the country and club member Craig MacLachlan even represented the club at the World Knockdown Karate Championships in Japan. Sessions are on for juniors on a Wednesday at 6.30pm and Sunday at 11am, seniors are on Wednesday at 7.30pm. Beginners are always welcome, if you want more details call Wullie on 07588 513 618 or email shihanwill@gmail.com.

like you see in Muay Thai or K1 kick boxing nowadays. The full contact rules suited Wullie well and he went on to be the WUMA super heavyweight UK champion. It was then that he started his first kick boxing club under the name of Kozakai kick boxing, but after a number of years Wullie changed the name of the club to Senshi Do kick boxing to tie in with his brother Iain's Kyokushinkai karate club of the

same name (Senshi Do translates from Japanese to 'warrior way'). All the while Wullie was ranking up under WUMA to his present grade of 6th dan black belt, which was presented to him after his completion of his second 100 Man Kumite, which is where the person attempting it faces a fresh fighter every minute in bare knuckle full contact fighting until 100 fights have been completed. Current club members are winning trophies at points tournaments and full contact events throughout the country and club member Craig MacLachlan even represented the club at the World Knockdown Karate Championships in Japan. Sessions are on for juniors on a Wednesday at 6.30pm and Sunday at 11am, seniors are on Wednesday at 7.30pm. Beginners are always welcome, if you want more details call Wullie on 07588 513 618 or email shihanwill@gmail.com.



McPhee back at the sharp end in Mugello

BRITISH Talent Team rider John McPhee has been on it all weekend at Mugello, and after starting from pole for the Gran Premio d'Italia Oakley the Scotsman kept calm in the huge front group of the Moto3 race to take a solid sixth place. With the times screens almost inverted each time over the line, it was a group of more than 20 riders slipstreaming their way around the Autodromo del Mugello, and McPhee kept calm to pull some impressive moves and stay right up in contention. The Connell rider's sixth place was only four tenths off the win in the incredibly tight finish, with the British Talent Team back in the

Moto3

battle and ready for the Catalan GP next weekend. John said: 'That has to be one of the most enjoyable races ever, although the result wasn't quite what I was aiming for. Luck 'I'm not really a believer in good or bad luck but to be in the correct position going into the last lap had a lot to do with luck today. 'The most important thing is that I finished in front of nearly all of my championship rivals and closed the gap at the front. It's nice to be back at the sharp end.'



John McPhee, No 17, leads the pack during the Italian Grand Prix in Mugello.

Glencruitten

LEADING qualifiers for the Handicap and Senior Championship held at Glencruitten on Saturday were Graham Whitelaw 70 - 12 = 58, Dugald MacLennan 76 - 14 = 62, Graham MacColl 68 - 4 = 64, Alan Jamieson 76 - 12 = 64, Donald McGill 84 - 20 = 64. The Glencruitten Centenary gents medal and monthly medal takes place on Saturday.

Taynuilt

CLUB Championship first round round played on Sunday June 4. Scratch - 1 David Howie 67; 2 Andy Ronald 69; 3 Donald MacVicar 70. Handicap - 1 Alex Needham 78-17=61; 2 Donald MacLennan 70-9=61; 3 Andy Ronald 69-7=62. Ladies: Handicap championship second round and medal 1 Moira MavVicar 87-20-67; 2 Fiona McGlynn 86-17-69; 3 Carol MacLarty 89-18-71. Save the Children mixed foursomes - 1 Donald and Moira MacVicar 37 pts; 2 Andrew Diggory and Anne MacCallman 34 pts; 3 Ian MacMillan and Alice MacCallman 33pts.

Islay

RESULTS: summer league played Wednesday May 31 - 1 I Farrell 42 pts; 2 S Cameron 35 pts; 3 D Gillies 3 pts. C.Ss71. June Medal played June 4 - 1 G Hamilton 78 - 8 net 70; 2 A Woodman 81 - 9 net 72; 3 D Gillies 85-12 net 73. C.Ss 73.

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Easy to enter Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted. **Competition rules** No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

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SHINTY

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Narrow win for red and blacks in Camanachd Cup replay at Taynuilt

OBAN Camanachd and Lovat secured the final two Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter-final places, whilst Kyle Athletic extended their lead at the top of the Marine Harvest Premiership following the shinty action on Saturday June 3.

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup second round replays

Oban Camanachd 1 Kinlochshiel 0

An Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish goal made the difference as Oban Camanachd beat Kinlochshiel 1-0 in their Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup second round replay at Taynuilt Sports Field.

The sides played out a goalless draw at Kirkton a week earlier and the replay was switched to Taynuilt as Oban Camanachd's Mossfield pitch was hosting the Oban Live concert.

Oban Camanachd defender Scott McKillop suffered a shin injury in the first game but made it for the replay.

Scott MacMillan was working but Willie Neilson started after coming on as a substitute a week earlier.

Oban Camanachd manager Iain Hay went with something different in attack as he switched Aidan MacIntyre and Lorne Dickie up front with Andrew MacCuish and Malcolm Clark on the wings.

Kinlochshiel boss Johnston Gill didn't have his selection problems to seek. John MacRae's red card a week earlier saw him suspended.

Paul MacRae was out with a broken finger, Keith MacRae and Duncan 'DA' MacRae were unavailable and Scott MacLean picked up a knee injury in the first match whilst Oliver MacRae and Gordie MacDonald were also out. Jordan Fraser took the absentee list to eight players.

Oban Camanachd had numerous chances to wrap the game up in the first half but, by the interval, they only had one goal to show for their efforts.

The goal came on 36 minutes when a free-hit was played on to Andrew MacCuish who dribbled the ball past the keeper Scott Kennedy before tapping it over the line to make it 1-0.

A mixture of wasteful finishing and some good goal keeping from Scott Kennedy, particularly one superb double-save, kept Kinlochshiel in it.

The second half was more even, although Camanachd still had chances to add to Mac-

Cuish's goal. Oban Camanachd's slender lead meant Kinlochshiel were always a threat and Gavin Stobbart had to make a couple of good stops.

Kinlochshiel threw everyone forward for the final minutes of the game in an attempt to force a replay but the Oban Camanachd defence stayed strong.

Kinlochshiel's Conor Cormack was sent off just after the final whistle. There were around 20 players in and around the Oban Camanachd 'D' and when Camanachd cleared the danger. Conor Cormack made a late challenge on Craig MacDougall and a number of players got involved. Referee Deek Cameron sent Cormack off and showed yellow cards to each team.

Kinlochshiel's cup form hasn't matched their excellent start to their league campaign. They are now out of shinty's three major cup competitions so will now focus their attentions on the Premiership where they have won all five of their matches so far.

They head for Blairbeg this Saturday to play Glenurquhart.

Oban Camanachd now travel to The Winterton to play Marine Harvest National Division side Inveraray in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter-finals on Saturday July 8.

Next up for Iain Hay's side though is an Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-final against Oban Celtic at Ganavan on Saturday June 17.

Lovat 3 Glenurquhart 0

Lovat will play Kilmallie at Canal Parks in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup last eight after they beat Glenurquhart 3-0 in their 3pm throw up at Balgiate.

A Michael Fraser goal and a Greg Matheson penalty had the sides tied at a goal apiece in their second round encounter at Blairbeg seven days earlier.

This was the fourth meeting between the sides this season, with Lovat yet to record a win.

An army of volunteers mobilised to clear stones from the surface ahead of throw up as maintenance work on the Balgiate pitch during the week, which included spreading coverings of top-soil, had left small stones on the surface.

Referee Martin MacLean carried out a pre-match inspection and declared the field playable.

As with other matches across the country, there was a minute's silence ahead of throw-up to remember Kilmallie player and Scotland cap Duncan Rodger who passed away earlier in the week.

Daniel Grieve returned for the home side after suspension and injury. James MacPherson

was back for Glenurquhart, also after injury, and started on the bench. Callum Smith and David MacLennan remained out and James Hurwood was also missing.

Glenurquhart made a bright start with Neale Reid sending a shot just past the post after just 15 seconds.

The game then flowed from end-to-end and a fierce Greg Matheson shot from 18 yards out hit the Glenurquhart keeper Stuart MacKintosh but he recovered sufficiently to clear the danger.

Lovat took the lead on nine minutes. Greg Matheson's shot was saved by keeper MacKintosh but Lewis Tawse steered the rebound home to make it 1-0.

A Danny Kelly strike from distance was stopped by Stuart MacKintosh and Greg Matheson went down under an Andrew Corrigan challenge on the edge of the 'D' with the home side appealing in vain for a penalty.

Craig Mainland came on for a limping Martin Mainland on 27 minutes.

Lorne MacKay made it 2-0 on 30 minutes. MacKay collected the ball and held off two heavy challenges before lashing a venomous shot from 25 yards out, low into the net.

There was more delight for the home support on 33 minutes. A long-range Ryan Ferguson effort was parried by MacKintosh, but Greg Matheson was quickly in to dispatch the loose ball into the net.

Lovat were well worth their 3-0 interval lead and visiting boss Iain MacLeod made changes with James MacPherson replacing full centre Arran MacDonald. MacPherson joined the attack, Connor Golabek dropped back into defence and Fraser Heath went to centre.

The Lovat defence never really looked like losing a goal with Drew Howie again outstanding against John Barr. He was ably assisted by fellow defenders Daniel Grieve, Callum Cruden and Craig Mainland.

Lovat had a chance to extend their lead on 52 minutes. Ryan Ferguson knocked down a Glenurquhart clearance and the ball dropped into the 'D' where Stuart MacKintosh was penalised for a kick.

Greg Matheson struck the penalty well enough but MacKintosh made a fantastic save with his caman high above his head.

The tie turned tousy towards the end with John Barr and Fraser Heath amongst those finding their way into referee Martin MacLean's book.

Glenurquhart are now out of all three cup competitions and will focus on finishing as high up the league as possible.

Lovat might have been fortunate to get away with a draw from the first tie but they were terrific in the replay and if they can carry this form forward into their remaining cup matches, they will be a force to be reckoned with.

Teenagers Danny Kelly and Scott MacKenzie, along with the more experienced Ryan Ferguson, were dominant in midfield, providing plenty of balls for the forwards.

Fraser Gallacher's Lovat side now travel to Canal Parks to play MacTavish Cup finalists Kilmallie in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter-finals.

Balliemore Cup quarter-finals

Skye Camanachd P Fort William P

The Balliemore Cup quarter-final tie between Skye Camanachd

and Fort William at Paire nan Laoch, Portree, was postponed at Fort William's request following the sad passing of former player Duncan Rodger.

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup quarter finals

Newtonmore 8 Glengarry 3

This Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup quarter-final tie brought together the league leaders from Marine Harvest North Division 1 and North Division 2 at The Eilan.

In the end, holders Newtonmore progressed over their lower league opponents 8-3.

Evan Menzies continued his return to action with a goal after 19 minutes.

John MacKenzie made it 2-0 on 23 minutes and Evan Menzies got his second on 27 minutes.

Menzies completed his hat-trick a couple of minutes later but Daniel MacLennan pulled a goal back on 36 minutes to make it 4-1 at the break.

Newtonmore's Duncan Gorman and Glengarry's Daniel MacLennan traded goals on 55 and 58 minutes and Glengarry's Stuart Gregory made it 5-3 with an hour played.

Evan Menzies netted his fourth goal of the afternoon on 68 minutes and second goals from John MacKenzie on 75 minutes and Duncan Gorman on 82 minutes rounded off the 8-3 victory.

Newtonmore will now play Fort William or Kingussie in the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup semi-finals.

Generous Newtonmore and Glengarry supporters contributed £640 to a collection for the family of Duncan Rodger, Kilmallie.

Fort William P Kingussie P

The Fort William second team were granted a postponement of their tie against the Kingussie second team following the passing of former Fort player Duncan Rodger.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kyles Athletic 3 Kingussie 1

Kyles Athletic took the chance to extend their lead at the top of the Marine Harvest Premiership, beating Kingussie 3-1 in their 3pm throw-up at Tighnabruich.

This was the weekend's only top flight match and table toppers Kyles Athletic had a one point advantage over second placed Kingussie going into the game.

Kyles Athletic manager James Perlich was without Donald Irvine, Dunkie Kerr and Sandy MacKenzie.

James Hutchison returned at full back for Dallas Young's Kingussie and Lee Bain was deployed at full forward.

However James Falconer, who is fit following injury, was on holiday and youngsters Roddy Young and Ruairidh Anderson were on a school trip.

Martin Dallas has opted not to play again this season. Dylan Borthwick, who made a substitute appearance against Skye a week earlier, was given his first senior start.

Grant Irvine gave Kyles the lead on 21 minutes when he got the better of his marker out wide on the left and, with the referee playing advantage, Irvine sent



Oban Camanachd reached the quarter finals of the Camanachd Cup after a 1-0 win over Kinlochshiel at Taynuilt.

a rocket shot from a tight angle into the top corner of the net.

Roddy MacDonald made it 2-0 on the half hour mark. MacDonald came deep to gain possession and his brilliant run with the ball took him past two defenders and into the box where he tapped the ball past helpless keeper Craig Dawson.

Kingussie pulled a goal back on 51 minutes when Lee Bain held the ball up before flicking it to wing forward Lee Riddoch who smashed a shot through the keeper's legs into the net.

Innes MacDonald sealed the win on 76 minutes. Roddy MacDonald carried the ball out past his man, dragging Innes MacDonald's marker wide in the process and Roddy MacDonald then touched the ball to his unmarked brother at the front post allowing Innes MacDonald to slip it into the far side of the goal to make it 3-1.

This was a hard fought win for Kyles who are now three points clear at the top of the table. They have only dropped one point from eight league fixtures but they will be aware Kinlochshiel have five wins out of five so far.

Newtonmore P Kilmallie P

The MacTavish Cup Final rehearsal between Newtonmore and Kilmallie was postponed following the passing of Kilmallie player Duncan Rodger.

Marine Harvest National Division

Strathglass 1 Inveraray 2

Inveraray knew it was crucial to their title push that they took both points against Strathglass at Cannich and they did just that with a 2-1 win.

Inveraray were without centre line maestro Garry MacPherson and experienced defender Douglas Dando but former Inveraray stalwart David Robertson came out of first team retirement to make his first senior appearance of the season, starting on the bench alongside Robert Wood and Kenneth Kirkhope.

The pitch was in excellent condition and the visitors made a strong start with captain Lewis MacNicol once again dominating the centre line and challenging for every loose ball.

Spurred on by their captain's efforts, Inveraray started to control the game and what seemed like the inevitable visiting goal came on 13 minutes when a break from the centre line ended on the stick of 18-year-old Lewis Montgomery who slotted home the yellow and blacks' opener.

As the first half continued, Strathglass slowly edged their way into the game but Inveraray's mixture of youth and experience earned them a second goal when

Allan MacDonald doubled their lead on 34 minutes.

It was a much more determined Strathglass side that started the second half, challenging every free ball and not giving Inveraray any time in possession.

The visitors seemed to struggle in the passenger's seat for the first time in the game and Darren Reid pulled a goal back on 57 minutes, turning the tempo of the game up once again.

Both sides had their fair share of chances with Inveraray hitting the post but they couldn't find a way past Strathglass keeper Ally MacAdams who was on fine form.

Inveraray, having already swapped player/manager Ruairidh Graham for David Robertson, made two further changes, bringing young guns Robert Wood and Kenneth Kirkhope off the bench. Both players made positive contributions, especially Wood who did well to hold the ball up front in an attempt to run the clock down.

This was a clean game played in good spirit with little need for intervention from referee Andy MacLean.

The win lifts Inveraray to fourth in the division and they will now seek revenge on Oban Celtic in the Balliemore cup quarter-final this coming Saturday after the Oban side's Artemis Macaulay Cup win at The Winterton at the end of April.

Beaulie 5 Inverness 1

Beaulie came from a goal down to beat Inverness 5-1 in their 3pm throw-up at Braeview Park. Inverness were without Dougie Rankin who was suspended following his sending off against Oban Celtic the previous Saturday.

James Cameron gave Inverness the lead on 35 minutes but two goals late in the half turned the match Beaulie's way.

Craig Rankin made it 1-1 with a goal on 44 minutes and Jack MacDonald gave the hosts the lead when he scored on the stroke of half time.

Beaulie were playing well and Jack MacDonald got his second on 53 minutes and Craig Rankin went on to complete his hat-trick with goals on 66 and 70 minutes.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Beaulie 2 Aberdeen University 8

Aberdeen University bounced back from the previous weekend's defeat to league leaders Newtonmore by beating the Beaulie second team 8-2 in their noon throw-up at Braeview Park. Robbie Tuach gave Beaulie the

lead on three minutes but Alex Duncan equalised on nine minutes. Gregor Cushnie put the Students ahead on 12 minutes and Elliot Moir drew Beaulie level on 21 minutes but that was as good as it got for the hosts.

The Aberdeen side went on to lead 5-2 at the break through another from Alex Duncan on 38 minutes, Ewan Fraser on 41 minutes and a second Gregor Cushnie goal on 44 minutes.

Ewan Fraser got his second on 53 minutes and Alex Duncan completed his hat-trick on 70 minutes. Jamie Beaton made 8-2 when he found the back of the net on 77 minutes.

Aberdeen University are now just a point behind third-placed Kingussie reserves and have a couple of games in hand.

Kinlochshiel 0 Skye Camanachd 9

Skye Camanachd came out on top in their reserve team derby against the Kinlochshiel second team winning 9-0 at Kirkton.

With the Kinlochshiel first team having a number of absentees for their Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup second round replay against Oban Camanachd, Jonnie MacAskill, Colin MacDiarmid, Corrin Campbell and WD MacRae were amongst the second team players called up whilst Scott MacLean was injured.

With the Skye seniors idle, second team manager Kenny MacLeod resisted the temptation to load his squad with first team players although he included Ally 'Cleodil' MacLeod and Iain MacLellan - both of whom have recently been covering first team absences - with MacLellan starting on the bench.

Iain Nicolson started to get more game time at the request of first team manager Willie Cowie as his recent first team appearances have been limited. Skye played down the slope in the first half and immediately went on the attack, going in front after 10 minutes.

Ross Gordon made space at the back post to let a cross from the left drop and he crashed the ball home to open the scoring.

Connor Gilpin then scored an eight-minute hat-trick with goals on 15, 22 and 23 minutes before being substituted.

Iain MacLellan came on in Gilpin's place and scored on 32 minutes to make it 5-0 at the break.

Skye passed up some chances after the restart before Iain MacLellan got his second on 66 minutes.

Another Ross Gordon strike on 72 minutes was arguably the goal of the game. Gordon jinked on the left to make enough space to send a blistering shot over keeper Raymond Gillies' left to make it 7-0.



High flying Neale Reid of Glenurquhart goes in for a tackle with Lovat's Callum Cruden. Photograph: Neil Paterson.



Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

John Angus MacInnes slotted home an eighth on 77 minutes after Connor Gilpin's effort had come back off the post and Gilpin, who came back on during the second half, made it 9-0 a minute later.

Ross Gordon had the ball in the net towards the end but the goal judge flagged for offside.

The win extends Skye's unbeaten run to six matches and they go second in the table although they have played more games than the teams around them.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

**Tayforth 1
Aberdour 1**
Tayforth missed out on a chance to top Marine Harvest South Division 1 when they drew 1-1 with Tayforth in their match at The Meadows Festival, Edinburgh.

This match formed part of a full weekend's shinty action, including fixtures and coaching sessions at The Middle Meadow Walk area of The Meadows.

This event was the first of its kind in Edinburgh and proved popular with everyone who took part.

Aberdour had the better of the first half and took the lead through Angus Thorburn on 37 minutes.

The second half belonged to Tayforth though and Brendan Duggan levelled a couple of minutes into the second half.

Bute 4 Kilmory 2

Bute made it three successive league wins when they beat Kilmory 4-2 at The Meadows.

Craig Fisher gave the islanders the lead on three minutes and Robert Walker made it 2-0 on 33 minutes.

Roberto Zavaroni, back with Bute after a spell with Kyles Athletic, made it 3-0 on 42 minutes and Bute took that lead into the interval.

which found its way into the net.

The home side took the 2-1 advantage into the break but the hosts were reduced to 11 players after the restart. The ball was played into the Ballachulish 'D' and keeper Donald Pearce came out to clear his lines but a Glenorchy forward got a touch first resulting in a foul and a red card for the keeper. Lorne Brown took the keeper's jersey and Graham Morrice stepped up to take his second penalty of the day. Morrice went for power but his shot went high over the bar.

Ballachulish made a short period of pressure count when the ball fell for Alan Clark who got his second to make it 3-1 with 58 minutes played.

With the game now in the final quarter, Glenorchy won a free-hit on the edge of the Ballachulish 'D'. The Ballachulish defence cleared the ball but Glenorchy continued to pile on the pressure, having thrown their spare man into the forward line, and Kieran Gallacher found just enough time to send a thunderous shot into the top corner of the net to make it 3-2 with 17 minutes remaining.

Both teams created chances during the closing stages of the game but with no further scoring, Ballachulish took the points to go fourth in the league.

Kyles Athletic 2 Col Glen 2

The Kyles Athletic colts and Col Glen drew 2-2 in their noon throw-up at Tighnabrauch.

Neily MacNaughton put Col Glen ahead with the only goal of the first half on 16 minutes. A waist-high ball from midfield found MacNaughton on the edge of the 'D' and he delightfully flicked the ball over the keeper into the net.

Conor Guidici drew Kyles level on 63 minutes and Kyle Memartin put the home side in front on 71 minutes.

A Jamie MacVicar goal on 83 minutes earned Col Glen a point



Lovat's Daniel Grieve, centre, leads the charge for the ball with Glenurquhart's Michael Fraser, left, and John Barr during last weekend's Camanachd Cup replay. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

completed his hat-trick just a minute later to make it 8-1.

Youngster Max Campbell on 78 minutes and hat-trick goals from Keith Neville and Ben Delaney on 84 and 90 minutes rounded off the 11-1 win.

Lovat P Boleskine P

The noon meeting between the Lovat second team and Boleskine at Balmage was postponed under unusual circumstances.

Maintenance work on the Balmage pitch during the week included spreading top-soil on the surface. However there were stones in the top soil which rested on the surface and referee Scott McNeil ruled the pitch unplayable for player safety reasons with the players on the pitch.

This was the second time Boleskine have visited Balmage this season only for the game to be called off.

Their fixture on the first day of the season was also a late call-off because of heavy rain on the Saturday morning.

Oban Lorn scored a well-worked goal through Daniel MacKinnon on 40 minutes after the Inveraray defence failed to clear their lines.

Inveraray had opportunities to level but they found Brian Logan in inspired form in the Oban Lorne goal.

Inveraray manager Graham MacPherson made a few tactical changes in the second half and brought on the youthful, energetic Coll MacKay. This sparked the Inveraray forward line and they equalised on 75 minutes when Coll MacKay showed excellent movement and made enough space to fire home.

Inveraray found another gear and, with five minutes remaining, captain Allan Cameron launched a shot from 35 yards out which found the net and proved to be the winner.

Inveraray youngster Campbell Watt played beyond his years, turning in a man of the match performance.

This was a second outing in charge of a competitive match for new Camanachd Association referee Graham Fisher.

Strachur 10 Bute 0

Strachur put ten goals past the Bute reserves at Strachurmore.

Ian MacLennan and Angus Campbell recorded hat-tricks whilst Ian Wilson, Steven Wilson, Rhys Campbell and Alan Paterson got the others.

Aberdour 0 Glasgow Mid Argyll 7

The Glasgow Mid Argyll colts defeated the Aberdour colts 7-0 at Silversands.

An early Calum McLay double on four and six minutes followed by an eleventh minute Angus MacInnes goal gave GMA a 3-0 cushion.

Calum McLay took his tally to four goals with strikes on 19 and 22 minutes.

Andy McGhee added his name to the scoresheet, making it 6-0 a minute before the break. Calum McLay got his fifth goal of the game with the only goal of the second half five minutes after the re-start.

Updated Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup draw

The full Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter-final draw is known following the weekend replays.

The draw is as follows: Strathglass v Skye Camanachd Inveraray v Oban Camanachd Newtonmore v Kyles Athletic Kilmallie v Lovat
The ties will take place on Saturday July 8.

MacTavish Cup Final preview

Newtonmore and Kilmallie meet in the MacTavish Cup Final at The Bught Park, Inverness, on Saturday.

This will be a first final as captain for Newtonmore's Rory Kennedy and his side will be without speedy forward Iain Robinson who is abroad on a

school trip.

It's been an unprecedented week for Kilmallie. The recent deaths of club stalwart Donald Lamont and top scorer Duncan Rodger have shocked Mark MacPherson's squad and cast a shadow over their preparations for the final.

Aaron Sandison is finally free of a five-match ban, but defender Stephen McAlister's absence through suspension is a blow. Midfielder Innes Blackhall will be given every chance to prove his fitness following a wrist injury.

Throw-up is at 4.05pm and Archie Ritchie is the match referee.

If you can't make the game, the match will be broadcast live on BBC Alba from 4pm.

Earlier in the day, Skye Camanachd U17 and Kingussie U17 meet in the MacTavish Juvenile Cup Final.

Ruaraidh MacLeod is back from injury for Skye whilst Kingussie are without Roddy Young and Ruaridh Anderson who are both on a school trip.

Throw-up is at 1pm and Brian MacKay is the match referee.

WCA Round Up

The ladies shinty focus was on Marine Harvest National Division 1 on Sunday June 4.

Marine Harvest National Division 1

Glasgow Mid Argyll 3 Lochaber 4

League leaders Lochaber kept their title push on track with what could yet prove to be a crucial 4-3 win over Glasgow Mid Argyll in their 1.30pm throw-up at Yoker.

Lyndsay Michie, Katie Drain and Lucy McNulty all scored for GMA but a Kirsty Delaney hat-trick and a Stephanie Walsh goal gave the Spean Bridge side the win.

Lovat 0 Badenoch 6

Badenoch beat newly-promoted

Lovat 6-0 at Balmage. An Eilidh Ross treble, Zoe Reid, Megan Ralph and an own goal counted for the visitors.

**Aberdour 0
Skye Camanachd 14**
Skye Camanachd Ladies were too strong for Aberdour Ladies, winning 14-0 in a match which formed part of The Meadows Festival in Edinburgh

Lorna MacRae was Skye's top scorer in this 1.30pm throw-up with six goals.

Sarah Corrigan netted four times with Caitlin MacLean grabbing a hat-trick whilst Izzy Law got the other.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

**Inverness 2
Glengarry 8**
Glengarry and Inverness met at The Bught Park for the second successive Sunday.

And just as they did in the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup, Glengarry ran out winners, this time 8-2.

Chloe Mutch and Melissa Mackay netted for Inverness with four-goal Margaret Jane Malcolm, an Elaine Cameron hat-trick and a Leona Falconer goal sealing the win for Glengarry.

Marine Harvest Challenge Cup

The draw for the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup semi-finals was made by Gary Innes at Oban Live.

The semi-final draw is as follows:

Cowal & Bute v Glengarry Ardnamurchan v Glasgow Mid Argyll

Youth round-up

Skye Camanachd and Kingussie will meet in the MacTavish Juvenile Cup Final at The Bught Park, Inverness, on Saturday.

Tulloch Trophy: National Primary Schools Final

Taynuilt Primaries 5 Kingussie Primary 0

Taynuilt Primaries lifted the Tulloch Cup with a 5-0 win over Kingussie Primary School in their noon throw-up at The Eilan on Saturday June 3.

Innes Jackson grabbed a hat-trick whilst Matthew Sloss scored twice.

Ian Kennedy was the match referee.

Artemis Macaulay Six-a-Sides

This year's Macaulay National six-a-side competition, sponsored by Artemis, takes place on Sunday at Mossfield Stadium, Oban.



Fixtures

**Saturday June 10
MacTavish Cup Final**
Newtonmore v Kilmallie
Archie Ritchie - 4pm

Balliemore Cup 3rd Round
Inveraray v Oban Celtic
Robert Baxter - 3pm

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 3rd Round
Bute v Lochside Rovers
Ewan MacDonald
Caberfeidh v Glenurquhart
Iain Kennedy - 1pm

Marine Harvest Premiership
Glenurquhart v Kinlochshiel
John Angus Gillies - 1pm
Lochaber v Glasgow Mid Argyll
Deek Cameron

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Aberdour v Ballachulish
Ross Brown
Col Glen v Kilmory
Neil MacDonald
Glenorchy v Bute
Alex MacVicar
Taynuilt v Tayforth
Innes Wood

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Boleskine v Lochaber
Scott McNeil - 1pm
Lovat v Glengarry
Ronnie Campbell - 1pm
Strathglass v Lewis
John Matheson - 1pm
Strathspey v Lochcarron
John Wood - 1pm

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Inveraray v Glasgow MA
Des McNulty - noon
Strachur v Aberdour
Graham Fisher

Throw-ups 2pm, unless stated.

Results

**Saturday June 3
Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup 2nd round replays**
Lovat 3 v 0 Glenurquhart
Oban Caman 1 v 0 Kinlochshiel

Balliemore Cup 3rd Round
Skye P v P Fort William
Due to bereavement

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 3rd Round
Fort William P v P Kingussie
Due to bereavement
Newtonmore 8 v 0 Glengarry

Marine Harvest Premiership
Kyles Athletic 3 v 1 Kingussie
Newtonmore P v P Kilmallie
Due to bereavement

Marine Harvest National Division
Beaully 5 v 1 Inverness
Strathglass 1 v 2 Inveraray

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Beaully 2 v 8 Aberdeen Uni
Kinlochshiel 0 v 9 Skye

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Ballachulish 3 v 2 Glenorchy
Bute 4 v 2 Kilmory
Kyles Athletic 2 v 2 Col Glen
Tayforth 1 v 1 Aberdour

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Lewis v Lochaber
Kilmallie P v P Inverness
Due to bereavement
Lovat P v P Boleskine
Unplayable field
Strathspey P v P Strathglass
To be re-arranged

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Aberdour 0 v 7 Glasgow MA
Inveraray 2 v 1 Oban Lorn
Strachur 10 v 0 Bute



Inveraray's Allan MacDonald and George Phimister of Strathglass go for the ball during Saturday's National League match at Cannich which Inveraray won 2-1. Photograph: Donald Cameron.

Roberto Zavaroni got his second on 69 minutes and this goal seemed to finally spark Kilmory into life.

Ian Robertson pulled a goal back a minute later and Alistair MacArthur made it 2-0 on 78 minutes.

Bute stayed in front though and the win lifts them off the bottom of the table.

Ballachulish 3 Glenorchy 2

Ballachulish were 3-2 winners against Glenorchy in a ding-dong encounter at Jubilee Park.

Ballachulish got off to a great start with Alan Clack scoring after two minutes. The ball was played forward to Clark who took a touch before driving the ball home.

Glenorchy were awarded a penalty on 15 minutes when referee Ronnie Campbell penalised a challenge inside the 'D' and Graham Morrice stepped up to fire the ball into the bottom left corner of goals.

Lorne Brown restored the home side's lead five minutes later. A long ball from the Ballachulish defence was controlled by Brown who took a touch before hitting a shot towards the bottom corner of the goals

though. A ball from the wing was controlled by Finan Kennedy and he found MacVicar who tucked the ball past the keeper into the bottom corner of the net.

Col Glen stay fifth, but sixth-placed Kyles are just a point behind with four games in hand.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Lewis Camanachd 1 Lochaber 11

Lewis Camanachd's wait for a home fixture is over with a strong Lochaber seconds visiting Shawbost and coming away with both points following a convincing 11-1 victory.

Keith Neville on five minutes and Lachlan Campbell on seven minutes made it 2-0 with Sam Lees on 10 minutes and Ben Delaney just 60 seconds later making it four.

A debut David Cleary goal on 43 minutes made it 4-1 at the break.

Ben Delaney a couple of minutes after the restart and second goals from Keith Neville and Lachlan Campbell on 48 and 50 minutes saw the Spean Bridge side pull away and Campbell

Kilmallie P Inverness P

The meeting between the Kilmallie and Inverness second teams was postponed following Duncan Rodger's passing.

Strathspey Camanachd P Strathglass P

The match between Strathspey Camanachd and the Strathglass second team at Grantown Grammar School will be re-scheduled.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Inveraray 2 Oban Lorn 1

It took two late goals to give league leaders Inveraray reserves a 2-1 win over second placed Oban Lorn as they met for the second successive Saturday, this time at The Winterton.

The sides drew 1-1 at Ganavan a week earlier and this was another tight affair. David Robertson and Kenny Kirkhope were called up to the Inveraray first team and the experienced David MacPherson, Andrew MacMurdo, Scott Robertson and John Smylie were all added to the young Inveraray squad.

Nail biting finish to Oban Rotary Club's Am-Am at Glencruitten

THE 32nd Am-Am charity golf tournament, organised by Oban Rotary Club, saw a nail-biting win and a record raffle at Glencruitten Golf Club on Sunday.

The raffle raised a 'stunning' £725, which will be donated to Mary's Meals, while the auction made £400 for local causes, which all adds to the group's £10,000 fundraising total this year.

Third prize, the Angus Simpson Memorial Trophy and £100, went to Andy's Giants, composed of J Forgivevie, A Campbell, D McGill and W Adam, for their score of 91 points.

McFadyens contractors took second prize, the Allan McDougall Memorial Trophy and £120, collected by Malcolm Cullen on behalf of his team mates A Jamieson, S McCuish and F MacKay.

Both McFadyens and a team from Scottish Sea Farms came top of the leader board with 96 points, but in the event of a tie the winner was decided by who played the best last nine holes, which fell by just one point to Scottish Sea Farms, comprising G Carney, D MacMillan, D MacMillan, and I MacMillan.

Scott MacMillan, an employee of Scottish Sea Farms but not a member of their winning team,

Golf

collected the Bank of Scotland Trophy and a top prize of £200 on behalf of his colleagues who were not present at the end of the day-long event which started at 7.30am.

In other results, the prizes for nearest the pin went to G Miller, P Monteith, K Wotherspoon, F MacKay, K Mackie, and J Campbell.

The D & K Lafferty's team of F O'Rourke, P Dunn, M Kelly, C McIntyre won the yellow ball competition, and the top visiting team went to Munro's Garage, comprising C Munro, C Munro, P Walton and R Bergant.

Rotary Club president Graham Fraser said all 40 members played their part in organising the annual tournament, and thanked all those who helped and donated money and prizes. 'Everything went smoothly. The weather was kind. Everybody was happy.'

Rotarian and Am-Am stalwart Iain MacIntyre had a special reason to celebrate this year, making par on the 12th for the first time in his life. He is 72.

The club will now get busy organising their next event, a sportive around Loch Awe in September.



Left to right: Oban Rotary Club members George Miller, Jack Tollan and Ken Moncrieff, Malcolm Cullen, Scott MacMillan, Donald McGill, next to Alan Jamieson and Steven McCuish of the McFadyens team, and Rotarians Graham Fraser, Terry MacNair, Iain MacIntyre, David Mudie, and Graham McQueen. 16_t23amam03



Donald McGill of Oban collecting third prize for his team Andy's Giants, from Oban Rotary president Graham Fraser, left. 16_t23amam01



Paul Kersley fires this shot onto the 18th green.



Oban Rotary president Graham Fraser, right, presents Malcolm Cullen of Oban with the Allan McDougall Memorial Trophy after his team, McFadyens, came second. 16_t23amam02



Kenny Campbell sends ball and turf flying.



Robert Alexander chips onto the green.



Mr Yip's approach shot to the 18th green.

Calling all budding young footballers

Youth football

BUDDING young footballers are being invited to sign up to a number of football coaching sessions that are taking place across Argyll and Bute this summer.

The sessions, which are being organised by Argyll and Bute Council, are open to young people aged three and upwards, with different sessions designed specifically for each age group.

Mini Kickers is aimed at children aged three to four and focuses on developing their basic motor skills and giving them a good physical and social foundation for football and general sports.

Soccer Week is for youngsters in primary one through to S1. These sessions help to develop basic skills through football and will be delivered in fun activities which focus on agility, balance, speed and co-ordination.

The third category is a residential camp for nine- to 15-year-olds.

The council has teamed up with the Scottish Football Association to offer young people the opportunity to attend a five-day residential camp in Oban.

This camp will enable football stars of the future to experience the life of a professional footballer and take their skills to the next level with highly qualified and experienced Argyll and Bute/SFA coaches.

The council's head of community and culture, Donald MacVicar, said: 'This is a great opportunity for young people to get involved in football, while keeping fit and making new friends at the same time.'

'These sessions are always very popular and I would urge anyone wishing to attend to sign up as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.'

For more information about what events are taking place in your area, and to sign up, visit the Argyll and Bute Council website and see their football brochure.

Saints youths – results and fixtures

Youth football

RESULTS: Under 13s 5, Haldane 3. Scoring for Saints were Liam Campbell (2), William Duncan, John Macdonald and Thomas McCrindle.

Drumchapel United 3, Under 15s 1. On target for Saints was Jordan Norman.

Regional Cup final – Syngenta 5, Under 16s 1. Saints' goalscorer was Cameron Kerr.

The season is now over for all the youth teams who will now take a well-earned summer break.

Scottish Amateur FL results and fixtures

Football

RESULT: Premier Division – St Joseph's 2, Oban Saints 4.

Saturday's fixture – Inverclyde v Oban Saints.

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Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday May 18, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	04.47	3.5	11.23	1.2	17.12	3.7	23.27	1.1
Fri	05.23	3.6	11.55	1.1	17.47	3.8	***	**
Sat	00.04	1.1	05.59	3.7	12.29	1.1	18.22	3.8
Sun	00.41	1.2	06.35	3.7	13.03	1.1	18.56	3.8
Mon	01.19	1.2	07.09	3.6	13.37	1.2	19.31	3.7
Tues	01.55	1.3	07.42	3.5	14.08	1.3	20.06	3.6
Wed	02.31	1.4	08.15	3.4	14.40	1.4	20.43	3.5

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

WEATHER

Thursday Light rain
Winds moderate south south easterly
Temperatures 10°C to 14°C.

Friday Light rain showers
Winds moderate south south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.

Weekend Heavy rain showers on Saturday
Light rain showers on Sunday
Winds moderate south south easterly
Temperatures 10°C to 15°C.

FRIDAY

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Island says sad farewell to 'fun-loving, bubbly' Eilidh

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

ON A beautiful Barra beach in the presence of family and friends, the body of 'fun-loving and bubbly' Eilidh MacLeod was carried home, having been flown back to the island from the city of Manchester.

Eilidh lost her life in the terror attack following the Ariana Grande concert in Manchester Arena on May 22, having enjoyed the 'weekend of her life' in the city.

While music was still ringing in her ears, she was caught up in the chaos of terrorism, something that before that day was unimaginable.

Why? was the question on the lips of the 1,000 mourners who attended a mass at the Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Castlebay. The service started shortly before 11am on Monday (June 5).

Loudspeakers were fitted in the adjacent community hall for the huge number of people who attended the funeral.

Eilidh's coffin was covered in the green and white flag of the island of Barra, and her forebears.

Her coffin was brought to the island by a small aircraft from the mainland. Local men carried it along the beach and into a hearse.

The funeral service was led by the parish priest, Father John Paul MacKinnon.

In his introduction, Father MacKinnon said: 'Eilidh was taken from us at such a young age - and we are hurting and in pain with the loss of Eilidh from our lives.'

He reminded mourners: 'In 14 years, Eilidh packed a lot into her life - 14 happy years. That's so important for us to remember today. Eilidh was a happy girl. She had 14 happy years and in

the last few days of her life she was the happiest you could ever imagine.

'The last thing in Eilidh's life was happiness - she had spent a wonderful weekend away from the island, going shopping, going to nice cafes, going to the cinema and then going to her pop idol's concert - Ariana - she was the happiest she had ever been - and that's what we hold onto today: the happiness of Eilidh's life.'

'Those memories of Eilidh will live on in all our hearts. Every year of her life was precious to us and we thank God for blessing us with her precious life.'

'The family have been overwhelmed by the great generosity and love that they have received ever since they lost their Eilidh.'

Eilidh's grand-uncle Donald Manford moved the mourners, saying: 'In contrast to the hate that took her life, Eilidh's life was and



Eilidh is carried along Barra beach on Sunday.

now stands as a testament forever in the world of love, innocence, goodness, kindness and faith. We will look after each other - we will love one another.'

During the service the congregation heard a pipe recording of *Both Sides of the Tweed*, played

by Eilidh, who was a member of Sgoil Lioncleit Pipe Band. The Gaelic choir also sang. And as the mourners left, Ariana Grande's song *My Everything* was played.

The congregation also prayed for Laura MacIntyre, who was

seriously injured during the tragic events.

Father MacKinnon said: 'We pray for Eilidh's good friend Laura, who is in hospital in Manchester. We pray to our Lord Jesus to bring strength and healing to Laura in her recovery and to give strength and peace to her parents and family at this time.'

Prayers were offered for all those affected.

Father MacKinnon added: 'We pray for all who have been affected by the Manchester attack; for all who have been injured, for all who have died, for all who feel pain and hurt. May the Lord Jesus unite us together as God's children and help us all to live in God's love and peace.'

Laura remains in hospital with 'serious head and leg injuries'.

In the silence of the Isle of Watersay graveyard, Eilidh was laid to rest.

Concern grows over Post Office closures

POST office closures across Lochaber are continuing to inconvenience communities.

Inverlochty, Glencoe and Roy Bridge Post Offices have been 'temporarily' closed since January this year and residents say there are no sign of them re-opening soon.

Inverlochty Post Office unexpectedly closed on January 10 'due to an operational issue', according to a Post Office spokesperson, and the owner of the building claims he has now been told it will remain closed.

He told the *Lochaber Times*: 'The Post Office in Inverlochty is going to be closed indefinitely. The Post Office has not tried everything it can to keep it open and I can't understand why. It's such a pain for people to have to go into town and try and park just to use the Post Office.'

A Post Office spokesperson said: 'We apologise for the inconvenience caused by the continued temporary closure of the Post Office branch in Inverlochty and the outreach branches in Glencoe and Roy Bridge.'

'We would like to reassure customers that we continue to work hard to restore the services to the communities as soon as possible and are committed to maintaining services in the area. In the meantime, customers can access Post Office services at Fort William Post Office and Caol Post Office.'

Pupils and staff urged to share memories as doors close on Roy Bridge Primary School

A LOCHABER village marked the end of an era as its primary school closed its doors.

Friends and families came together last Friday for a 'final hoorah' at Roy Bridge Primary School.

Parents and the Highland Council agreed to mothball the school, as reported in the *Lochaber Times*, following a meeting between members of

Roy Bridge Parent Council and Norma Young, care and learning manager for Highland Council, on March 13.

The three pupils who attended the school have now transferred to Spean Bridge Primary School.

Deirdre MacDonald, a teacher at Banavie Primary School, has started a Facebook group Roy Bridge Primary School Past Pupils to bring together previous staff and people who attended the school to bid it a 'proper farewell'.

Deirdre attended the school between 1985 and 1992 and her mum, who lives

in the village, was a teacher at the school.

She told the *Lochaber Times*: 'We want to reach out to as many people as possible because it was a brilliant school and it has so many achievements.'

'Although it is mothballed now, we wouldn't want to see it close in the near future without marking the occasion, when it has so much history. We want people to share their memories.'

'To get in touch, visit the Facebook page.'



Left: Roy Bridge youngsters bid farewell to the school.

Photograph: Abridge Photography.

Delay over new buses questioned

SCOTTISH Citylink is investing £1.2 million in new buses for the Fort William to Inverness route.

But Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry community council chairman John Fotheringham has questioned why passengers need to wait until November to see an improvement in services.

The coach operator is introducing four new state-of-the-art coaches to the 919 route from November, replacing the current 10-year-old vehicles. The new coaches feature USB points, WiFi, toilet, air conditioning and reclining seats.

Mr Fotheringham wrote to operations director Peter Knight claiming the current coaches 'still give the travelling public cause for concern'.

He said: 'On May 31, the 8.55am service from Fort William arrived at Spean Bridge late because there were serious issues with the door. Not an uncommon fault which has been reported many, many times. The driver did his best, but every stop meant two or three minutes manhandling the door to close. The upshot was it arrived in Inverness 35 minutes late at 11.30am.'

Mr Fotheringham questioned why this was allowed to happen as both Stagecoach North of Scotland and Citylink claim no coach leaves the depots without passing a 30-point reliability inspection.

Responding, Mr Knight said he was 'concerned' to hear of this incident: 'I have asked Stagecoach North Scotland for an explanation as to what the specific

issues were and what has been done to rectify those issues. This inconveniences passengers.'

Mr Fotheringham told the *Lochaber Times* the 'whole thing is appalling'.

He said: 'Why do we need to wait until November to get reliable buses? We have seen it all before. They don't listen, have little regard for the travelling public, change the timetables without consultation and, despite a catalogue of complaints, Citylink continues to use Stagecoach North of Scotland as the preferred main operator. After three years of knocking our head against a brick wall, Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council is withdrawing its representation from the Transport Forum and Bus Users Group.'



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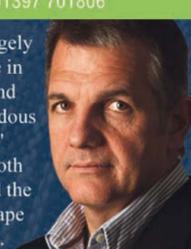
The Lime Tree Tickets are limited and are payable in advance from the Lime Tree. info@limetreefortwilliam.co.uk or call 01397 701806

Midsummer Delight

An evening with Francois Naude exploring wines from the Rhebokskloof Wine Estate matched with a selection of dishes from The Lime Tree's award winning restaurant

Hors-d'oeuvre
Trio of Orkney Brown Crab with Bosstok Chenin Blanc 2016
Pork Belly with 'MGS' 2014
Blade of Beef with Pinotage 2015
Kaiserschmarren served with a Cape Dessert Wine

Francois is a hugely respected figure in South Africa and possesses tremendous 'encyclopedic' knowledge of both wine making and the history of the Cape wine industry.



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Nominate your top volunteers for Queen's award

THE LORD-LIEUTENANT of the Western Isles, Donald Martin, is urging islanders to nominate voluntary groups for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) 2018.

The QAVS was created in 2002 to celebrate the anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen's coronation and is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities.

Mr Martin said: 'It is now several years since we had a QAVS presented to any group in the Western Isles and I know there are hundreds of people throughout our islands who give thousands of hours of their free time to voluntary groups.'

'If you know of a group that makes a difference to your community, please consider nominating them for the award.'

'Any group providing a social, economic, cultural or environmental service to the local community can be nominated.'

'To date, we have had two groups in the Western Isles which have been awarded the QAVS.'

In 2004, Guth airson Iarrtas Nis (GAIN), which developed and managed the Eoropic Play Park in Ness, were given the award and, in 2011, Spornis secured the award.

'We have two good examples of groups which have made a difference to their communities and I would encourage everyone to think about nominating groups for this prestigious award.'

Nominations have to be submitted by September 30.

Full details on how to make a nomination can be obtained on www.qavs.direct.gov.uk.

Uist and Barra projects will bring major benefits

ELLIE FORBES
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

THE FIRST in a series of major community projects has recently been completed in South Uist and Barra.

Cothrom Re-Store in South Uist is a social enterprise and vocational training project, which has been set up in Orm-clate.

It is thought the purpose-built recycling and training centre will contribute to economic growth of South Uist through the creation of jobs and the employability of its learners.

Manufacturing in Re-Store will improve environmental sustainability of the community, through service which will encourage recycling, divert waste from landfill and provide good quality low-cost household goods.

Barbara MacDonald, manager of Cothrom Lt, said: 'We expect to double learner numbers in the first year in the new building because of the extra space and additional staff we will be hiring.'

Other projects to have re-



Vatersay Community Centre now has a cafe, washing facilities, an extended community meeting and performance space, and commercial kitchen facilities for larger community events.

ceived funding are Vatersay Community Hub, Castlebay Business Units and Eriskay Shop.

Funding for the projects has come through the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) with the Western Isles Council

matching the sum from its own Community Capital Grant Fund.

In Eriskay, the Co-Chomunn has upgraded the community shop. There is now a new area for visitors to come together and a range of goods for the community on offer.

'Thanks to the completion of our extension, visitors to Eriskay are finding a much expanded display of gifts, crafts and local products in the Eriskay shop,' said Catriona Walker, Co-Chomunn shop manager.

Vatersay Community Association has refurbished its com-

munity centre. The centre now has a cafe, washing facilities, an extended community meeting and performance space, and commercial kitchen facilities for larger community events.

In Castlebay, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has built two business units to accommodate demand for business space in Barra. The council is now advertising for potential tenants.

Councillor Donald Crichton, chairman of the comhairle's sustainable development committee, said: 'The suite of community economic development projects delivered through round one of the RCGF will provide benefits on many levels in the communities of South Uist and Barra. Jobs will be created from the income generated and the circular economy operating as a result will lead to less waste.'

'The comhairle's regeneration team supported local communities directly to deliver these projects and officers were instrumental in sourcing the funding and providing project-management expertise to ensure that these proposals succeeded.'

HIE reports year-end results

DESPITE uncertainties around the future of the Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), end-of-year reports show a strong performance by businesses and communities supported by the development agency.

Investments by HIE during 2016/17 across the region created or retained 1,688 full-time equivalent jobs in the region, 169 of them in fragile areas.

Turnover among these firms is forecast to increase by £120.4 million.

The Scottish Land Fund, administered by HIE and Big Lottery on behalf of the Scottish Government, was extended to all communities across Scotland, and in 2016/17 the fund awarded more than £4 million to 54 projects, 31 of which were in the Highlands and Islands.



Brian Wilson and Margaret Ann MacLeod with Consul General Andrey Pritsepov.

Harris Tweed now set to spark Russian revolution

HARRIS TWEED could be set to break into the elusive Russian market following a visit from a diplomat.

The Consul General of the Russian Federation, Andrey Pritsepov, visited the mill in Shawbost, Isle of Lewis, where he got a behind-the-scenes look at Harris Tweed.

He was welcomed by the company's chairman, Brian Wilson, and brand development director, Margaret Ann MacLeod, who gave him a guided tour of the mill and explained the elements that make Harris Tweed unique.

Mr Wilson said there was great interest from the diplomat to consider the possibilities of promoting it as a luxury fabric in Russia.

He said: 'It is a market in which we currently do a small amount of business but clearly has far greater potential given the strong interest in British fashion, the growing demand for high-quality products and also the climatic conditions.'

'There have been some issues with getting our fabric into Russia because of customs restrictions and we

received helpful advice on how to overcome this.'

'We will undoubtedly be developing a renewed strategy to address the Russian market in the light of this visit and the Consul General has offered us continuing support and advice.'

Mr Pritsepov was presented with a jacket length of Harris Tweed in the special design which Harris Tweed Hebrides has developed with the Scottish Rugby Union, combining Scotland's dark blue with the colours of the thistle.



Innèid Nàiseanta Canan is Cultar no Gàidhlig



AN CÙRSA COMAIS GAELIC IMMERSION YEAR

'S e cùrsa cànan air fad a th' anns a' Chùrsa Chomais a tha deasachta airson luchd-ionnsachaidh eadar-mheadhanach leis an amas a bhith fileanta sa Ghàidhlig. 'S e adhartachadh sgilean labhairt is sgrìobhaidh prìomh amas a' chùrsa, ach thèid cuspairean eile a thoirt a-steach mar a thèid an cùrsa air adhart. Nì oileanaich trì seachdainean de ghreis dhreuchdail ann an Gàidhlig an lùib a' mhodail Greis-gniomhachais.

Tha e na chùrsa fad bliadhna làn-ùine aig a' Cholaiste is tha e co-ionnan ris a' Chùrsa Adhartais a tha ga teagasg air astar fad dà bhliadhna. Ma shoirbhicheas le oileanaich anns a' Chùrsa Chomais bidh cothrom aca airson gluasad gu dàrna bliadhna prògram a' cheuma.

An Cùrsa Comais is an intensive language learning course designed for intermediate level learners whose aim is fluency in the language. The major focus is on language skills, both speaking and writing, but other subjects will be introduced as the course progresses. Students on An Cùrsa Comais undertake a three week work placement within a Gaelic setting as part of the Greis-gniomhachais module.

The course is a one year full-time course at the College that is the equivalent to An Cùrsa Adhartais that is taught over 2 years long distance. If students successfully complete the Cert HE Cùrsa Comais they have the opportunity to progress to the second year of the degree programme.

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Skye chef in festival spirit

HEAD chef and *Masterchef* finalist Scott Davies has said he is delighted to be taking part in this year's Spirit of Skye festival.

The festival on June 16 and 17 will exhibit more than 30 local and regional producers, including whisky distillers, award-winning brewers, gin crafters and food producers all to showcase the what makes Skye a delight for food and drink lovers.

The Three Chimneys head chef said: 'Skye produces some of the best fresh food in Scotland and we have not highlighted this as a community in any major way for many years.'

'Now that we have been given special recognition as a Geographic Food Destination by the Scottish Food Awards, we have an even greater excuse to celebrate Skye's natural larder of very special ingredients, from seafood, to beef, lamb and pork, vegetables, salads, herbs, sea salt and soft fruits. There's no stopping us.'

Items which are produced on the island include tablet, chocolates, a world-renowned single malt whisky, plus beers and, most recently, gin.

The Aros Centre in Portree will be the venue for the event, with entertainment throughout each day.

Scott added: 'I am really looking forward to demonstrating some dishes, at the main event on Saturday at Aros. Over the whole weekend, the Three Chimneys will be highlighting dishes made with fresh local food, just as we serve every day throughout the year.'

For more information on the Spirit of Skye Festival 2017, contact ruth@spiritofskye.co.uk.

Lochaber school on shortlist

A LOCHABER high school is up for a top Gaelic education award.

Ardnamurchan High School has been shortlisted for the Gaelic award in next month's Scottish Education Awards, alongside Sgoil an Taobh Siar on the Isle of Lewis and Gartcosh Primary School in North Lanarkshire.

Staff at the schools have been praising Go! Gaelic, an online programme of resources from Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig, which enables them to teach some Gaelic in confidence within English-medium education.

Go! Gaelic is an online suite of sequenced resources designed to support teachers and was created by Stòrlann, the Gaelic educational resources organisation based in Stornoway.

The awards 'celebrate the hard work and success that takes place in Scottish education' and 'recognise the achievements of people who dedicate their lives to children and young people and showcase the valuable work and innovation' in the classroom.

Stòrlann chief executive Donald W Morrison said: 'For me, there's more to this shortlist than meets the eye.'

'It highlights the fantastic learning opportunities for learners and fluent speakers from across Scotland and, by all accounts, it demonstrates the relevance of Gaelic as a language of our day.'

'Go! Gaelic is giving a big shout to finalists at Gartcosh Primary Ardnamurchan and Lewis.'

Launch postponed

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar is to delay the launch of its apprenticeship programme throughout the Western Isles.

The council was scheduled to publish a list of more than 40 apprenticeships this week which will see posts created from the Butt of Lewis to Barra.

But given recent events in Manchester, it has been decided to postpone both the recruitment and the meetings until further notice.

The posts will be in a range of sectors including business, childcare, human resources and sports.

Boats, boots and bikes...



Calum Macaulay and Niall Iain MacDonald.

BBC Alba's Calum Macaulay and Niall Iain MacDonald are exploring Scotland's canals by boat, by boot and by bike.

Along the way, Calum and Niall Iain meet those whose livelihood depends on the canal - visiting a floating hotel and hearing from those who choose to live on or near the water.

On the Caledonian Canal,

the boys take charge of their own 40ft cruiser, leaving Caley Marina in Inverness for a couple of days' sailing down Loch Ness, before taking to their bikes along the Great Glen Way.

Calum is in Commando country as he visits Spean Bridge War Memorial, while Niall Iain finds out how electricity finally came to

the Highlands as he travels to Mucomir hydro-electric power station. Calum also joins the team on board the Scottish Highlander, a Dutch barge converted into a luxury floating hotel which offers cruises from Inverness to Banavie, Fort William.

The series starts tonight (Thursday June 8) at 9pm on BBC Alba.

Model train challenge in TV spotlight

WORK on a Channel 4 programme taking a model train from Fort William to Inverness will begin later this month.

Makers of the *Great British Bake Off* and the *Great British Sewing Bee*, Love Productions, will be retracing the steps of the Victorians and attempting to finish what they never could – a train from Fort William to the Highland capital.

Producer Charlotte Armstrong said: 'We decided to shine a light on a hobby time forgot – model railways. This is probably the biggest project we've worked on.'

Fifty-six people are scheduled to take part in *The Biggest Little Railway in the World* with programme-makers on the lookout for Lochaber volunteers to help at short notice.

Ms Armstrong said: 'We have five groups of 10 to 12 people. Each group will be laying sections of the track and will live in campsites along the route.'

'The teams are made up of railway enthusiasts, engineers and adventurous souls, between the ages of 18 and 72. No doubt they will encounter challenges with the landscape and the programme will focus on how they cope with these, should it be hills or building bridges. We might need a helping hand because we only have two weeks to complete the project.'

Clarification

IN LAST week's paper we ran a court report that stated the trial of Thomas Allan Kirsop, North Ballachulish, was being heard in front of a jury.

This is not the case. The trial is being heard before Sheriff William Taylor QC.

We apologise for this error.

Resident claims green and blue bin waste is not being separated

ELLIE FORBES

eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

CLAIMS all household waste ends up in the same place have been rubbished by the local authority.

The *Lochaber Times* was contacted by a Fort William resident who believes recyclable waste collected from blue bins by Highland Council bin lorries is not being recycled but is ending up in landfill along with general waste from green bins.

The man, who did not want to be named, said the Highland Council claims 50 per cent of all rubbish is recycled but this

would not seem to be the case. He added many residents would be upset to learn their rubbish is not being recycled in the manner they had thought and that he was also concerned about the impact on the environment.

A Highland Council spokesperson refuted the claims and said: 'The rubbish collected in blue bins is not landfilled. It is deposited into a waste transfer shed where it is bulked up before being transported to processors.'

In a separate call from a Glencoe resident, it was claimed Glencoe Visitor Centre has a lack of bins, leading to green bin waste being taken away with

recyclables. The council does not collect excess waste outwith bins, but the caller claimed bin bags are being left out of the bins, because they are so full, and council workers are mixing the rubbish.

He said: 'All the people who walk their dogs in the area talk about how bad it is. The centre doesn't have enough bins.'

'Rather than get enough bins, people at the centre are getting council workers to take extra green waste rubbish in the blue bin lorry.'

'I called the council to complain and they said they would deal with it. I know for a fact

they know it's going on. It's a big conservation charity and I imagine they're making a huge amount of money so why can't they get more bins?'

The visitor centre welcomes almost 240,000 visitors annually and the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) said there is adequate bin provision.

A spokesperson for NTS said: 'The centre's bins are collected by the council. The number of bins and collections varies throughout the year in line with the visitor season.'

'The centre has adequate bin provision with two bins for refuse emptied weekly in the

winter and four bins from Easter to the end of June. To ensure there is extra capacity this year, five bins will be emptied weekly in July and August, going down to four again for September and October.'

'There are two bins for recycling which are emptied once a fortnight all year round.'

'The team follow the relevant rules relating to waste management, particularly around the separation of recyclables. There has been one occasion when the refuse lorry uplifted the recyclable bin.'

'This was after a member of the public emptied bags of

general waste into the recycling bin out-of-hours. The recycling lorry operators declared it contaminated and could not take it.'

When asked by the *Lochaber Times* if the council has any knowledge of this mixing of rubbish a spokesperson said: 'Waste and recycle are collected separately.'

The council added: 'Businesses are required to consider their own particular circumstance and request a service that adequately manages the volume of waste and recycle created.'

'The council is not aware of an issue in respect of the current level of service at the NTS.'

Boost for group's plans to upgrade Banavie park

A FORT WILLIAM play park could be upgraded after a group of parents secured £10,000 from the Big Lottery Fund's Awards for All Scotland.

Friends of Banavie Park Committee said that after laying low for a year, it can now get the ball rolling again to improve the play park at Banavie, near the Caledonian Canal.

The grant will cover the cost of a feasibility study, the first part of which is a survey of what the community wants.

This will be carried out over the next few months by appointed contractor Alan Jones Associates.

Committee member Lisa Wharton told the *Lochaber Times*: 'A group of parents got together because what's there looks old and a bit rropy. It's such a great space that could be lovely for children and visitors. We really want to try and have something better.'

Lisa added the park could cost around £100,000.

Everyone is encouraged to complete the online survey on the group's Facebook page or call Lisa on 07799 747375.



Committee members and children at Banavie Park, which they hope will have a fresh new look soon. Photograph: A Brightside Photography.

Consultation on coach drop-off and pick-up points

THE HIGHLAND Council is carrying out a consultation on coach tour drop-off and pick-up points in Fort William.

The council has sent a questionnaire to coach tour operators, Fort William Retail Association, High Street businesses, Highland Council public transport section, Lochaber Access Panel, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, Lochaber Transport Forum, Police Scotland and service bus operators.

Currently only service buses may use the designated bus stops, with no designated pick-up and drop-off points for tourist coaches.

The council say it hopes the consultation will determine an appropriate place for coaches to stop to maximise safety for passengers and road users, reduce inconvenience for less mobile passengers, minimise impact on the road network and ensure the economic benefit from coach passengers visiting Fort William.

Generous ruby wedding pair raise charity cash

AN INVERLOCHY couple celebrated 40 years of marriage by raising £1,500 for a suicide awareness charity.

Maurice, 62, and Joyce Wells, 58, gathered friends and family at the Railway Club on Saturday May 20 for their ruby wedding anniversary.

There was a surprise for the 100 guests who attended, as the couple had invited Reverend Morag Muirhead along to officiate as they renewed their wedding vows. The couple, who have two daughters, lost their son Gary in 2014 and instead of anniversary presents, they asked friends to donate to Chris's House – the Centre for Help, Response and Intervention Surrounding Suicide – the first 24-hour, non-medical crisis centre in Scotland.

Joyce said: 'We are delighted we raised £1,500 for Chris's House in lieu of presents. We thank everyone who came, Rev Muirhead for the beautiful ceremony to renew our vows, Wonderland for the fantastic music and staff at the Railway Club for a lovely buffet.'

The couple said the secret to their long and happy marriage was each other. 'We have been through our ups and downs, losing our son, but we have stuck together and taken the good with the bad. We thought this would be something nice for our family and something to celebrate with everyone.'

It was an extra special occasion for the family as Maurice, who was adopted, got to share it with his two brothers and a sister he reconnected with 22 years ago.

A group from Lochaber travelled to Glasgow to take part in Walk Of Hope, a 5k event on Saturday May 6, in memory of people who have taken their own lives, and raised £3,000. Joyce has been fundraising for the charity for three years, donating more than £6,000.



Ruby wedding couple Joyce and Maurice Wells, who celebrated their anniversary by raising funds for a suicide awareness charity, with a gift from their grandchildren. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Tackling inequalities across Lochaber

KINLOCHLEVEN is taking action to reduce inequalities by asking the community three questions.

Kinlochleven Action Group is part of the newly-formed Lochaber Community Partnership, which aims to tackle inequalities and disadvantage across Lochaber.

Now the community is being asked: What do you like about living in Kinlochleven? What could be better? What is the first achievable thing we could do as partners to make it happen?

Marie Law, district manager Lochaber, said: 'We are inviting residents to come along to Kinlochleven Community

Trust's open day at the trust office on Saturday June 24 from 11am to 2.30pm to meet us in person and help decide.'

Representatives from the partnership will be in Morrisons supermarket, Fort William, tomorrow (Friday June 9), between 1pm and 3pm, asking residents what matters to them.

Picnic tables, benches, and so much more made from tough recycled plastic!

Fusion Marine's outdoor furniture range made from recycled plastic offers a much longer lasting yet environmentally friendly alternative to wood.

The Barcaldine based company supplies a range of durable outdoor products, including picnic tables and benches, decking, fencing and boardwalks, which are ideal for private users or for commercial operators such as holiday parks, nature reserves, visitor centres and other outdoor areas.

Especially popular are the company's memorial benches, which are a marvellous way of paying tribute to a loved one and for giving something back to the community. And because they are made from tough recycled plastic, they will last for much longer than a wooden bench.

Or have you ever considered using decking made from recycled plastic? No longer required are the tiresome frequent treatments to preserve the wood or



the constant cleaning to prevent the build-up of slippery algae. Fusion Marine's decking planks made from recycled plastic look great and will last for a very long time.

The tables and benches are available in colours that blend in naturally with the environment.

The advantages of recycled plastic for such outdoor products include:

- Tough and durable
- Decay resistant
- Low maintenance
- Environmentally friendly
- Slip-resistant surfaces
- Will not crack or split

- Non-toxic and inert
- Weather resistant
- Impervious to water
- Resistant to micro-organisms
- Better chemical resistance
- Will not leach chemicals into the soil.

Fusion Marine also manufactures marine pontoons that provide convenient access for small craft. These pontoons are incredibly versatile as they can be sited on tidal shores, providing convenient round-the-clock marine access.

These pontoons are ideal for a wide variety of business and leisure applications and have the capability to transform a shore location. Typical uses include: hotels looking to attract leisure craft; mooring associations and yacht clubs; community associations; outdoor activity centres; country estates; angling and leisure boat operators; and private homeowners in waterside locations.

www.fusionrecycledplastic.com

Love the outdoors? Fancy doing something a bit different?
Exciting new C4 series needs your help!
 Love Productions, makers of 'The Great British Bake Off', are going to build the biggest model railway ever constructed - and we need volunteers!
 We'll be filming along Great Glen Way, starting at Fort William and finishing in Inverness, from 19th June - 1st July. For more information Email trainsvolunteers@loveproductions.co.uk Call 020 7067 4820 ask to speak to one of the Trains team Or Text 07759 317 271



FW

Lochaber primary pupils take part in inter-schools sports

ELLIE FORBES
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MORE than 200 children from 20 schools across Lochaber have participated in the Lochaber Primaries Inter-School swimming gala and athletics competition.

The day began at Lochaber Leisure Centre where the children raced individual 25m heats and 50m finals in front crawl, breaststroke, back crawl and a 4x25m team relay.

Last year the swimmers broke five gala records. This year many swimmers came close, but there was just one record broken - by Inverloch's Evie Jay Clark.

Evie beat Poppy Valentine's record in the girls' backstroke by just over a second, setting a new time of 34.28.

Winning the boys' race was Kyle Nolan. In the breaststroke, the winners were Caitlin McGilvray and for the boys, Alex Atkinson. The girls' front crawl had a clear winner in Danni MacLean, and the boys' winner was Archie Macintyre, who also had a clear win over second place. This year's most improved swimmer was Saffron Jamieson from Caol Primary.

The schools attending the competition each year are split into categories of small, medium and large schools according to their pupil numbers.

In the small schools swimming trophy competition, first place went to Lady Lovat, second was Glencoe and in third place was Ardgour. In the medium schools, first placed was Mallaig, second was Invergarry and in third was Acharacle. For the large



Small school winners was Ardgour Primary School. Photographs: Iain Ferguson The Write Image.

schools, in first was Inverloch, second place went to Lundavra and third was Banavie.

Competitions at Claggan Park then got under way with the children competing in hurdles, followed by the 100m sprint, 200m run and team relays on the track.

In the shot putt, the boys' victor was Aidan Fordham of Banavie by a slim margin

competitor by almost a metre with a throw of 7.24m. The girls' competition was a little closer with Mallaig's Megan Morrison winning by just 7cms with a throw of 5.95m.

In the long jump competition for the girls, the medal for first place went back to Invergarry Primary with Lily Bloom. The boys' winner was Corey Muir of Banavie by a slim margin

of 3cms. On the track Tamzin MacKenzie won. In the boys' race Archie Macintyre from Banavie took the gold.

Strontian runner Mya Carmichael took the 200m win, with second and third places also being filled with runner from smaller schools.

For the boys, Liam Martin from Lundavra took gold in his final. In the 100m sprints,

Sarah Harper and Archie Bowman were victors.

The final event of the day was the mixed 4x100m relay, and it was Caol who proved to be the strongest in this race, with Ardgour Primary showing exceptional pace over the larger schools and coming in second place.

Banavie and Lundavra teams were running strongly and

battling for third until their runners tripped over each other on the third leg of the race, which left the space open for Inverloch Primary.

Overall, the athletics trophy for the small schools was won by Ardgour Primary. The medium schools' winner this year was Invergarry and the large school with the most points was Lundavra once again.



Invergarry took home the medium school trophy.



Lundavra Primary School took home the large school prize.

WHAT'S ON

STAFF and volunteers from Lochaber Sensory Care (LSC) for sight and hearing will be visiting Ardnamurchan on June 12. The LSC representatives will be based in Acharacle Medical Practice between 10.30am and 11.30am, and at Dail Mhor care homes in Strontian from 12.20pm to 1.30pm. At both venues they will offer help and advice to those with a hearing or sight loss. The team members will also re-tube and maintain NHS hearing aids, and supply NHS batteries. No appointments are necessary.

BOOK your appointments to give blood at the Nevis Centre on June 14 between 1.30pm and 4pm, and 5pm and 7.15pm. Spaces are limited so to book your donations call 03453 017270, Monday to Thursday, 9am to 7pm, and Friday 9am to 5pm. Appointment grid closes 4pm the day before.

CROILEAGAN Grianach is hosting a fashion show on June 22. Funds will be put back into the nursery. The show starts at 6.30pm in M&Co at High Street, Fort William. Tickets are £5/£2.50 and can be bought in-store or by contacting Croileagan Grianach on 01397 709724 or at croileagan-6grianach@gmail.com.

CAOL gala day is on June 24 at Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar from noon to 4pm. There will be a fair, a licensed bar, snacks and craft stalls. There will also be a tug-of-war, bonnie baby, gala grannie, cheerleaders and more. An unlimited ride wristband is £9. For more information, email kirstyky-le75@gmail.com.

ON SATURDAY June 24 a public meeting will be held between 3pm and 4.30pm at the Four Seasons Bistro, the Inchree Centre in Onich, chaired by Councillor Andrew Baxter. This will be to have an open discussion about two options for the Nether Lochaber community to acquire buildings and an area of woodland from the Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS), and agricultural fields owned by Lochaber Housing Association.

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.

BUS Users Scotland is holding a Your Bus Matters event to allow passengers to discuss local bus services in Fort William in partnership with Scottish Citylink, Stagecoach North Scotland, Shiel Buses and the Highland Council. This will take place on Tuesday June 13 between 2pm and 7pm in St Andrews Hall, High Street, Fort William.

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View from the Chamber



JAMIE HEPBURN, MSP, the Minister for Employability and Training, is to visit West Highland College UHI.

The Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) West Highland team is encouraging as many employers as possible to become involved with the DYW programme and would like to invite them to an event on Monday June 12, which Mr Hepburn will be attending to give a short talk.

Developing the Young Workforce was established to implement the recommendations from the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce and forms part of the Scottish Government's youth employment strategy.

The aim of DYW is to develop an improved vocational education system and reduce youth unemployment by 40 per cent by 2021.

This event is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the DYW programme, how employers can become involved and the benefits of doing so. There will also be an opportunity for questions to both Mr Hepburn and DYW West Highland.

The event will begin at 1pm and tea and coffee will be available from 12.30pm.

Give DYW West Highland a call on 01397 705765 or email info@dywwesthighland.org to book your place.

Walker dies after collapse on Ben

A 39-YEAR-OLD walker from Greater Manchester has died after collapsing on Ben Nevis on Sunday May 28.

Police Scotland were made aware around 9.10am. A spokesperson said: 'The 39-year-old man was airlifted off the mountain but was pronounced dead a short time later.'

'There are not thought to be any suspicious circumstances. As with all sudden deaths, a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.'

Leader of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team John Stevenson told the *Lochaber Times*: 'We got a call around 9am to say a gentleman had collapsed on the path. When we arrived, there was a doctor there who was doing his best to resuscitate him.'

'We called the helicopter in, because the best option is to get him off the hill and to a hospital as soon as possible, and there wasn't much else we could do. He was airlifted off the hill but unfortunately he didn't make it.'

Mr Stevenson added: 'We have had a very quiet year up until now which has been great for us. It's coming into summer now so I am sure we will have the usual summer stuff, like heat exhaustion, tiredness and twisted ankles back again soon.'

Kyle RNLI crew help rescue man

KYLE of Lochalsh RNLI rescued a man who broke his ankle after falling on rocks near Eilean Donan Castle.

The volunteer crew were paged at 5.43pm on Saturday June 3 to assist the Scottish Ambulance Service with the 48-year-old man.

Kyle lifeboat Spirit of Fred arrived on scene at 6.04pm and transported the casualty from the castle island to the slipway at Dornie hall, where he was transferred to the ambulance.

The lifeboat was ready for service again at 7.20pm.



Kyle RNLI crew carry the casualty to the lifeboat.

Photograph: Kyle RNLI.



The tenth annual charity 'Breast Way Around Scotland' motorcycle run used Fort William as a base.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Bikers turn Fort William pink for cancer support

BREAST Way Around Scotland riders stopped off in Fort William on the 10th annual motorcycle run.

A group of 55 riders from all over the UK get together at the end of May each year riding around the west coast of Scotland in a charity event for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The event, which started in 2008, has raised £318,500 for Macmillan.

Participants left Kilmarnock on Friday May 26 and headed to Fort William.

Group secretary Kate Anderson explained the riders split into two, with the more experienced riders heading to Inverness and onto Aviemore, while the others stay in Fort William for part of the day doing a street collection, before meeting the rest of the riders in Aviemore.

Kate told the *Lochaber Times*: 'This was a special year for us, with it being the 10th anniversary of the event. We always go to Aviemore as we have a memory tree in the MacDonald Resort there and we have a memorial for the ones we have lost.'

'Everyone in the group has been touched by cancer in some way, through the loss of a relative.'

Kate said that while the majority of the riders are female, men are able to join them, but the ones who do, do so with a special condition.

'All the men who participate have to wear a decorated bra on top of their leathers and we hold presentations for the best bra and the pinkest bike.'

Kate said the group hopes it has raised another significant amount this year, with the total still being calculated.

Celebrations as new quarry project opens

ELLIE FORBES

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BALLACHULISH Community Council is celebrating the launch of a new local history project at the village's slate quarry.

This project has gathered together stories of older people within the community who still remember family members working in the quarry or living in the 'bank' in one of the quarry cottages provided by the company.

Launched in 2015, this three-year project has been funded by Historic Environment Scotland, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Highland Council.

People living in Ballachulish and Lochaber plus visitors to the area are being invited to attend the celebratory launch.

A photocall will be held inside the quarry, or at Ballachulish Village Hall if the weather is bad, at 6pm on Friday June 9. The event starts in the hall at 5.30pm and should end around 7pm.

This vast and iconic west-coast geological and historical site still dominates the landscape at Ballachulish, containing features such as the last-remaining inclined plane 'slate arch' in Scotland and is still cherished today. The quarry once echoed

with the sound of high explosives, plus the hammers and chisels of many skilled men, and occasionally women, who hand-shaped the millions of roof and flooring slates destined for locations all over the UK and beyond.

In attendance at the opening as guests of honour will be the project interviewees whose poignant memories and expertise has been collated into a unique app which can be downloaded from www.ballachulish.org.uk from Friday June 9.

There will also be an update on the film project, *In the Darkest Hour*, which is based on the story of three men, one of them from Ballachulish, who escaped Nazi-occupied Europe during Second World War.

Ballachulish Community Council chairman Kevin Smith is excited about how the project has unfolded.

He said: 'This has been a project with obvious benefits for future visitors, but also one with great opportunities for local people too. Local folk have shared stories, trained in oral history recording techniques and in practical slate-working.'

'The unexpected bonus of the social media side of the project has meant a connection to an exciting new film with local roots

and a new interest in Ballachulish from all over the world. We have also re-discovered the stories of almost-forgotten local features, such as the Dispute Stone. This was a great chunk of white quartz which was where quarriers would take their quarrels to be resolved.'

'You could not leave the Dispute Stone until you had sorted out your differences. We hope to see this highly-beneficial local alternative to mediation revived and become popular with visitors too.'

Thanks to the interpretive work of this project, these unique memories will be passed on to visitors and down the generations in Ballachulish and the surrounding area.

Ballachulish Community Council is delighted The Heritage Lottery Fund has chosen to support the project which has not only conserved a physical reminder of the skill of the quarriers in the form of the much-loved slate arch, but has also re-engaged people with their industrial heritage and provided an important record for the region.

Those hoping to attend should let the project organisers know they are planning to come along by phoning 07778 922407 or via the project Facebook page.



Camping on Fort William Parade. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Campers pitch up in Fort William

AS THE summer season approaches, tourists are already flocking to Fort William.

The *Lochaber Times* has been approached by a reader who, on two separate days, saw people pitch up tents in two popular Fort William spots.

One visitor set up camp in the Parade, while another camped at the Old Fort.

The *Lochaber Times* took to Facebook to find out what people thought of the situation.

Willie Reid commented: 'As long as they leave the place as they found it, where's the

harm in that?' Audrey Cavaye disagreed saying people should not be allowed to pitch just anywhere.

She commented: 'I have dropped my daughter off at Stramash nursery in Fort William in the morning and campervans are parked in the car park, people sitting around a wee table having breakfast. It's just not right. I don't agree they should be allowed to just pitch up anywhere, especially right outside our nursery.'

Stramash nursery said that while there can be a few campers

in tent or campervans, it is usually during the busy summers months, when the children are not at nursery. Anyone who is in the area is asked to leave before children arrive.

A spokesperson for the town team said: 'It is disappointing that visitors to our town are using our public spaces in this way.'

BEAR Scotland said it has not been made aware of any tents being pitched in the Parade or the Old Fort.

A spokesperson explained: 'Should any concerns be raised,

we will liaise with Police Scotland and the Highland Council to address the situation as necessary.'

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'Local Highland Council staff are aware of inappropriate camping in Fort William town centre locations and the matter has been raised with the police.'

'We understand there are no powers to prevent this from happening and all that can be done is to suggest to campers they move on as the location isn't appropriate.'

Growing concern over sawmill noise

CORPACH residents say they have suffered enough as noise from the sawmill continues to cause sleepless nights.

There have been growing concerns over noise from the BSW Sawmill for months with people around Drumfada and across the water in Achaphuil being effected.

At the Kilmallie Community Council meeting on Monday May 22 members of the community, who have been affected by this for the past 12 to 18 months, described the noise as an intermittent 'clanking' which can go on until 2am.

Community council member Mandy Ketchin said: 'People accept noise during reasonable hours but not at 1.55am. People are suffering from sleepless nights almost every night. It's affecting people's lives.'

Graeme Corner, senior environmental health officer for the Highland Council in Fort William and Skye, said environmental health had received 12 formal complaints. But Ms Ketchin added: 'It's not just one group of four houses. It's right across Drumfada estate and beyond, so I think it's safe to assume everyone is suffering, but some have just not yet been mobilised to complain.'

Mr Corner explained that during BSW's planning application to move across to its new site, it had to submit a noise prediction level.

He said: 'BSW is undergoing a post completion noise assessment which the council will then look at to see how it stacks up against the predicted noise and the conditions set in the planning application. If we still get complaints once the noise assessment has been submitted, we can then carry out our own tests.'

BSW has planning permission to work round the clock.

Residents will now be issued with a noise diary which they should fill in before giving back to the council.

Roddy Mainland, of Lady Margaret Drive, Drumfada, said he had lived in the area for 52 years. He said: 'I don't think anyone has a problem with the plant or against a sawmill which employs lots of people and is good for the community.'

'The chipper is a particularly annoying noise and a predominant one which is heard over the whole area. I think BSW recognises this and that it has been a problem for a while, and what we have been complaining about most of the time. So I am concerned they know it's a problem and disappointed they have not yet done something.'

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FW

Morar



Mya Clark leaps in the air as part of the Hebridean Dance Fantasy in memory of local man Ewan MacLachlan. The girls trained over months taught by professional ballet dancers. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

THE Morar community has been celebrating the life of 19th-century dance master Ewan MacLachlan, who hailed from Morar and who went on to create the unique dances of the Hebrides.

With sponsorship from the Lottery Celebrate Fund, Morar Community Trust paid tribute to MacLachlan's artistic contribution when he innovated the dances that are now deeply embedded in Hebridean tradition.

Staging the world premiere of the Hebridean Dance Fantasy on Saturday May 27, residents in Morar wanted to celebrate MacLachlan's journey from humble origins in remote Retland by Loch Morar to making an outstanding contribution to the Scottish arts.

With music written by

world-class Scottish composer Eddie McGuire and choreographed by African ballet master Vincent Hantam, a troupe of dancers showcased the new dance, under the direction of Vicky Horn.

A spokesperson for the festival said: 'They stunned the audience with their skilful performance and complex sequence of movements.'

The audience were also entertained by the Lochaber Stella Nova Choir with conductor Al McLuskey, Morar singer Mairi Orr, visiting violinist Alistair Savage from the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and renowned cellist Alice Allen.

The programme of events was introduced by Frank McConnell, who also performed MacLachlan's dance, First of August.

Fort William



The Highlanders cadets target rifle team proudly show off their trophies. Now they go on to compete at Bisley.

FORT WILLIAM army cadet Darren Stuart has returned from the Scottish cadet target rifle competition a winner.

The 15-year-old from the Fort William Detachment, 1st Battalion The Highlanders, represented his group at the competition, which was held near Dundee, and secured first place.

The one-day competition saw The Highlanders compete against teams of cadets from across Scotland.

Despite only having one day of practice leading up to the competition, the

cadets did not let this affect them, winning every trophy in the competition.

The cadets won the Watts Bowl, for the 300m shoot, and the Frankfurt Trophy, for the 500m shoot.

Inverness cadet Corporal Euan Stewart won top shot. By winning the Scottish competition Darren, alongside the rest of The Highlanders team, will now take part in the inter-service cadet rifle meeting, held at Bisley in Surrey in July, competing against young people from across the United Kingdom.

Fort William



Members of TS St Christopher SCC at Fort William.

Cadets board HMS Tracker

SEA CADETS from TS St Christopher in Fort William enjoyed a visit on board HMS Tracker, the Royal Navy patrol boat currently touring Scottish waters on a three-week goodwill deployment.

She navigated the Caledonian Canal at Corpach, on her way to negotiate the 60-mile stretch of locks, aqueducts and bridges that make up the world-famous

channel. The journey included Neptune's Staircase at Banavie, one of the longest series of locks in Britain.

Arriving at Loch Ness the following day, the vessel and her crew took part in a joint training exercise with the Loch Ness-based Royal National Lifeboat Institution and a Coastguard search and rescue helicopter based in Inverness.

Over the past seven days,

HMS Tracker has hosted 50 children from a number of youth organisations, including the sea cadets.

Members of the ship's company showed visitors around the modified Archer-class vessel, allowing them to sit in the quarter-master's chair and handle the steering of the ship.

HMS Tracker departed Inverness on Sunday and is continuing her transit

calling into Lossiemouth, Wick, Orkney, Stornoway, Portree, Tobermory and Northern Ireland.

HMS Tracker is one of two Royal Navy patrol boats which make up the Faslane Patrol Boat Squadron. Commissioned into the Royal Navy in 1998, she is a fully-fledged armed patrol boat responsible for protecting high-value shipping on the Clyde.

Kinlochleven

KINLOCHLEVEN High School celebrated its first happiness day by cutting the ribbon on a new chat room.

Originally a store cupboard, the room was turned into a comfortable place to talk to a mental health first aider, mentor or counsellor by pupils at the school.

The Kinlochleven chat room was officially opened by Alyson Smith from Lochaber Hope, who said the room is 'super'.

Cutting the ribbon, Ms Smith said: 'You should be so proud. What breakthrough work you are doing - you are absolutely creating the right environment for young people.'

Head teacher Rebecca Machin said: 'We wanted to ensure that we not only included pupil voice but also ensured that the concepts of inclusion, acceptance and the removal of stigma permeated every aspect of our school, its curriculum and its ethos. By involving our pupils so directly in its development, we hope we have achieved that.'

Since 2013 the United Nations has celebrated the International Day of Happiness and this year



Holly Baldwin, Alyson Smith from Lochaber Hope, and Alex Stuart in the new chat room.



Joe Saunders, right, with participants on the ice wall.

the school decided to get involved.

'Mrs Machin explained: 'Action for happiness is a movement of people from all walks of life who are taking steps in their per-

sonal lives, communities, work places and schools to help create a happier and more caring society. We invited our new S1 to take part as we thought this would make a lovely first

day at Kinlochleven High School for them.'

The pupils made a tree of life with each child creating a message of gratitude attached to it, took part in a drama workshop and baked in aid of the Breast Cancer Care afternoon tea campaign, which raised more than £75.

THE world's largest indoor ice-climbing centre is inviting weekend warriors to experience the thrill of ice and rock climbing as part of its annual open day.

On Saturday June 24, the £3.6 million centre will be hosting fun and family-focused activities to raise money for charity.

And this year organisers have said Down's Syndrome Scotland is among the charities set to benefit from the day.

Tracey Smith, operations director at Ice Factor in Kinlochleven, said: 'The Ice Factor open day is a fun and community-spirited event that aims to encourage young and old alike to get active and experience all that our award-winning facility has to offer.'

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Fort William



Pupils at the Underwater Centre in Fort William. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

YOUNG people in Lochaber have been getting an insight into possible careers and the world of work through Developing the Young Workforce (DYW).

Two recent trips included S3 pupils from Lochaber High School visiting both BSW Timber Ltd and the Underwater Centre in Fort William.

Ewen Smith, engineering manager at BSW Timber Ltd, said after the tour: 'As the Fort William sawmill continues to develop, so does our requirement for highly skilled engineers.'

'To meet this need, in recent years BSW Timber has recruited a significant number of apprentices in various engineering disciplines. To ensure that we attract the best young people, building strong partnerships with

DYW and Lochaber High School is essential.'

Steve Ham, commercial director at the Underwater Centre, said: 'We were delighted to be able to show the group of pupils from Lochaber High School around the Underwater Centre today.'

'The pupils were a really engaged group and asked lots of intelligent questions - they were a pleasure to show around.'

ART Lochaber's preview has been hailed a success as MSP Kate Forbes opened the 39th annual exhibition.

Held at Ben Nevis Distillery on Friday May 26, the occasion was well attended by artists and guests.

The Lochaber MSP said she was very impressed by the 'standard and variety of the work displayed' and

commented on how artists can communicate so well through their own particular medium, while the politician uses words.

Dorothy Kelly of Art Lochaber welcomed Ms Forbes and a raffle followed later in the evening, with prizes donated by Ben Nevis Distillery, Crannog Cruises, Nevis Range and Art Lochaber. Music during the evening was provided by Fort William students home for the summer, Kirstin McAdam and Claire Francis, with fiddles and keyboard.

The Art Lochaber 40th anniversary programme kicks off in September with a weekend workshop led by Jonathan Shearer. The programme of workshops is funded by the commission on sales made at the annual exhibition.

RETRO Roamer

More anecdotes from mid 1980s

□ Nice one, Jimmy! After the 'wake' for the passing of the telephone exchange switchboards, Jimmy dialled 100. 'Hello!' said he. 'Did I leave my jacket in the staff room? I haven't seen it since last night.'

Inverness 100 apparently reckoned it was a nuisance call and hung up on Jimmy. I doubt Jimmy's jacket is still 'hung up' as well!

□ Caol residents did a double take when they saw not one but two polis patrolling - on foot, mark you - through the streets of their village which is, of course, the largest in Scotland. To many, it brought back memories of the early days when the boys in blue put in the occasional appearance.

□ While the game of Trivial Pursuits was getting big licks upstairs in the council chambers, the staircases within Lochaber House were also getting big licks - of paint. Obviously some staff members weren't told about this freshening up process. I was heading upstairs for a meeting and met one workers with a liberal supply of wet paint - from the banister rail - on her hand. Then one of her colleagues appeared with paint marks on his jacket. Claims, in quintuplicate, please, to the chairman of the Resources and General Purposes Committee.

□ Sterling stuff at the licensing board, with a mere male standing in for the lady who had applied for a drinks licence on behalf of an organisation in Kinloch. 'You're not Miss B...' observed the astute lady chairwoman. Then, pointing to the serried ranks of local lawyers, she went on. 'Are you represented by one of these people?' Mere male was. So the clerk was instructed to make a note of the 'slight alteration'.

□ Then there was the application by a post office/store down Ardnamurchan way for an off-sales licence. Agent (one of 'these people') for the applicant apologised for the forms being lodged late. 'They were posted in time,' said he, 'and if one could rely on the postal service they would have arrived on time.' Said the chairman: 'But surely the applicant operates the post office?' This was followed by the intimation that the fire service had no objections to the issuing of the licence. Then it transpired that the stand-in applicant was a part-time fireman.

□ Those of you, and you are many, who like to know what the big yellow helicopters get up to before and after they land in the West End car park, will like this one. A Sea King appeared last weekend on a rescue mission to retrieve four of the RAF's own personnel who had become benighted in the Ardgour hills. In fairness, the quartet did manage to extricate themselves by their own efforts. But I gather that this was due, largely, to the fact that they had heard over their radios that Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team personnel were about to board the helicopter en route to giving them a short, sharp course in navigation.

□ This is true. A somewhat inebriated local worthy, wandering along the High Street, sees a sign which is new to him. 'Heel Bar', it reads. Thinks to himself 'There's a town pub I didn't know existed. Must look in there.' Does so, and was none too pleased to find an array of footwear had got there before him. Not true, however, was the story of the two lads who had a few and decided to go for an Indian meal - and were none too pleased to find that Curry's was shut.

□ Parking at the Belford is worse than ever, these days. With the car park itself having been closed, the abandoned vehicles on the approaches to the Belford have to be seen to be believed. One pantechnic, with deliveries for the Belford, very nearly flattened a motor parked on the pavement, when the huge vehicle was being reversed into the hospital grounds. Then, would you believe it, a wife drove straight up to the Belford front door, blocking in another car there, and got out. Then she asked reception to take her keys and move her motor if it was in the way! She'd been watching too many American TV productions, I'd say.

□ Local story - and a true one. Earlier this month an Inverlochymum took her four-year-old daughter along to the school to be assessed for her entry into the primary. One of the questions the wee lassie was asked was: 'What is a mile?' Without hesitation she responded 'It's down past my knee.' This was a new one on the interviewer, so he repeated the question. 'It's down below my knee,' was the confirmed reply. Later in the proceedings he tried again, and got the same answer, 'It's down past my knee.' Assessor and mum had a confab and mum asked daughter: 'Why did you keep telling the man that a mile was down past your knee?' Back came the clever tot: 'Well, mum, you're always saying that my skirt's hanging down a mile past my knee.'

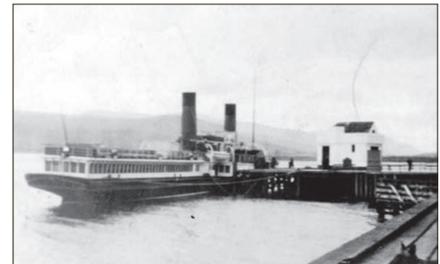
□ Aye, it's a fine institution the Royal Mail. Have you seen what it's doing now? Following a time and motion study, our pedalling postmen are being supplied with ladies' bikes. Which means, of course, not strenuous leg movements for the posties.

□ Fort clergyman needed a haircut. A member of his flock said he would be happy to shear the locks of the reverend gentleman with his brand new electrical machine. Plugged it in.

'It seems to run very quietly,' the cleric reckoned. 'Yes, but it isn't cutting very well,' replied the crestfallen barber. Further examination revealed that the machine had no innards. Neither miracle nor electrician were going to get it to work.

So, no trendy tonsure for the Rev. But I did hear, since that the barber, whose face by now was matching the colour of his hair, had a winning bet on Demon Barber at Ayr that day. So, now, maybe he'll invest in an electric cutter for hair which runs on more than - air!

□ Fella in the post office - OK it's all one word as 'postoffice' in Lochaber - handed over a form to the clerk behind the counter. 'Have you any identification?' he was asked. No driving licence, passport or even a bill were forthcoming. Then the fella had a brainwave, rolled up his sleeve, and revealed a tattoo - with his name across it.



In the days when the big ships could berth at Fort William pier.



World cup is dream come true for Fort William teen

FORT WILLIAM'S Jack McCallum has been ranked 33rd in the world at the junior mountain bike world championships.

Jack embarked on a childhood dream at the weekend after being selected to ride for the British national team at the UCI Downhill Mountain Bike World Cup at Nevis Range.

The 18-year-old, who is originally from Spean Bridge but moved to Fort William recently, was just 30 seconds off qualifying for Sunday's racing.

He told the *Lochaber Times*: 'Friday's practice was good, but by Saturday morning the weather had totally changed the run. I think I got the worst of the weather and went over the handlebars twice after going in a hole which had opened up with the rain.'

The top 20 riders from Saturday made it through to the Sunday race.

Jack, who is sponsored by Highland Bikes, said: 'I think if I hadn't crashed I would have qualified for Sunday. I missed out on it by about 30 seconds, so had I not gone over the bars I think I would have made it - so I was a bit disappointed. But what are you going to do? You just have to keep going.'

Jack, who has been riding since he was six, said getting selected by British Cycling to



Clockwise from top left: UCI winner Greg Minaar of South Africa, second, Jack Moir of Australia, and third, Aaron Gwin of the United States; UCI ladies winner Hannah Tracey of Australia, second, Myriam Nicole, France, and third, Emilie Siegenthaler of Finland; the top 20 riders from Saturday made it through to Sunday's race; and Jack McCallum with Steven Thomson of Highland Bikes.

Photographs: Iain Ferguson The Write Image.

race for the British national team in the world cup came as a huge surprise.

'I wanted to make it last year and I didn't, so getting picked this year was amazing,' he said.

And when he is not riding, or working at Off Beat Bikes as a mechanic, Jack is enjoying his second love - music.

He has plans to go to the University of the West of Scotland to study music technology with hopes of becoming a sound engineer.

'I got into music through my

dad playing guitar, and then I took it up when I was about eight. Bikes have had to take a sideline at times because it's a bit of a lottery whether you get picked or not, and being a sound engineer will bring some stability.'

Jack hopes to go on to race for Britain at next year's event and secure a top 20 qualifying spot.

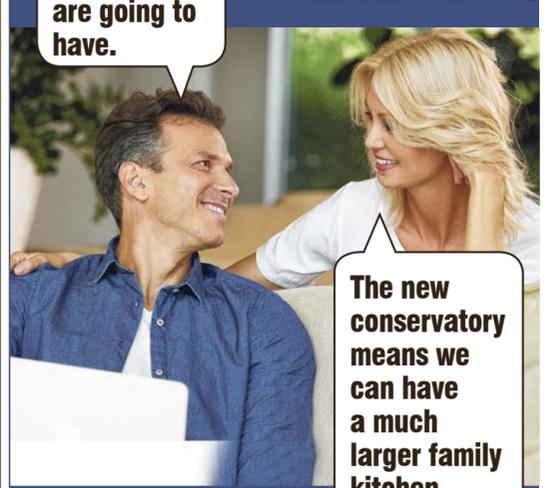
Before embarking on his degree, Jack said he plans to take a year out and do some travelling, as well as taking part in a few European biking competitions.

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MORVERN lines

A rare Highland brooch

LAST week I referred to the Rev Alexander Stewart, the Church of Scotland minister of Ballachulish who collected information on the natural history, legends and folk-lore of the West Highlands which, without his interest and foresight, would have been lost.

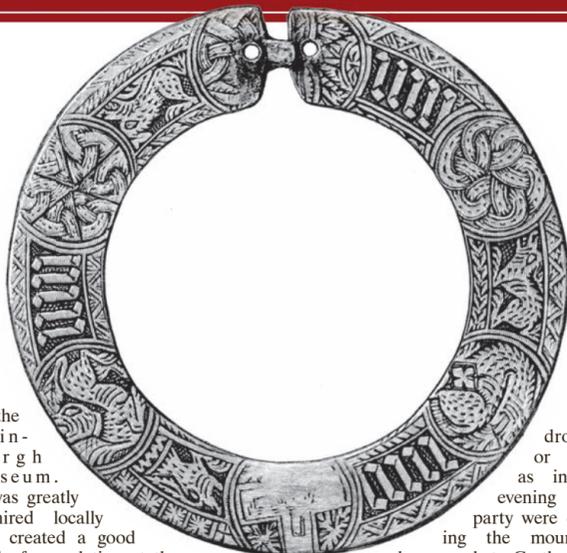
Scotland owes another debt to this man for ensuring that one of the Highlands most beautiful and valuable 500-year-old objects found its way into the Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh, now called the National Museum of Scotland, from a most unlikely place.

In October 1881, an Appin shepherd was taking a breather a few yards below the summit of Beinn a' Bheithir (Gaelic, the mountain of the thunderbolt), a 2,500ft hill above Ballachulish on the south side of Loch Leven, when idly poking into the moss beside him with his cromach, he turned up the shoulder brooch shown in the accompanying drawing.

The brooch, of solid silver, measures three and a half inches in diameter and would have been attached to a cloak or outer garment by a pin, or tongue, which is missing probably because it was of iron, bronze or silver gilt which would have rusted away.

The brooch, however, is as fresh and striking as it must have been on the day when it was lost or hidden where it was found. It is engraved, on one side only, and shows strange beasts and ornamentation typical of the period but in the highest style of medieval Celtic art.

Evidently the nameless shepherd who, on knowing of Mr Stewart's interest in such objects, must have taken it to him for an opinion and was persuaded to sell it



to the Edinburgh museum.

It was greatly admired locally and created a good deal of speculation at the time. Whom had it belonged to and how did it come to be on the top of a remote hill in Appin where it was recovered?

We will never know but Nether Lochaber offered some thoughtful opinions. 'We know that Appin was at one time so famous for its stags and wild-fowl, that two at least of the Stuart kings, James IV and James V, frequently visited Duncan Stewart, the chief of the clan in his stronghold of Castle Stalker, for the purpose of hunting and hawking. We may easily fancy a hunting party, consisting of James IV and a score of favourite gentlemen, attended by the Chief of Appin, following the stag in Glen Duror and Glen-a-Chaolais, and the brooch being

dropped or lost, as in the evening the party were crossing the mountains homewards to Castle Stalker. The Chief of Appin himself may have lost the brooch; for it is an article not likely to have belonged to anyone of meaner birth, or, for that matter of it, may not this beautiful brooch have adorned the royal shoulder of the king himself?'

Perhaps this rare artefact will one day be repatriated to Lochaber where it rightly belongs - in the same way as the complete set of Lewis chessmen should rest in Stornoway. The trustees of the West Highland Museum in Fort William, should act to acquire what is now known as the Benvar Brooch either permanently or on loan for an extended period.

If the Rev Alexander Stewart had been alive today, I feel sure he would

have been fascinated by a small group of Corran Ferry users who, unlike the usual daily commuters, have taken up residence aboard for a few weeks. I am referring to several pairs of black guillemots who have not only been hitching a lift across the Narrows and hopping off midstream when it takes their fancy during operating hours, but have actually nested aboard.

It all began some years ago when a small colony of these attractive black and white birds decided the reinstated old Ardour Estate pier adjacent to the slipway and which acts as a windbreak for the ferry tender, would make an ideal home during the nesting season. Bored, perhaps, waiting for their sitting partners to produce young, the males began flying to and from the ferry in the evening until, eventually, throwing caution to the wind or taking a shine to the ferry crew, began alighting on the moving car deck and upper structure where some of their partners, not to be outdone, elected to lay their eggs under some pieces of equipment preferring a bare deck to a nest.

The black guillemot belongs to the auk family and in many ways differs from the common species and is not so widely distributed. It is contained to Scotland, the northern half of Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Scottish islands. The birds are usually black all over except for a broad white bar across the wing. In winter, however, it is white, with black patches and on the wings. It lays two eggs and prefers to lie on them instead of standing over them and probably eats more crustaceans than fish. Unlike most other divers, it is said to use its feet when swimming under water and not its wings.

Iain Thornber
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#MeetTheCairns

Heroes run into building as blaze rips through flats

LOUISE GLEN

lglen@obantimes.co.uk

AT LEAST three people were rescued from flats on Oban's George Street after a fire spread from the chip shop below on Tuesday morning.

Acting quickly when he heard about the fire, Alasdair McBurnie the manager of a neighbouring shop, and a taxi driver who was a resident of the building, helped sleeping shift workers escape the blaze.

Mr McBurnie, manager of Timpon's shoe repair, key cutting and engraving shop across the road, said: 'I was talking to Dave the bin man when a customer came up to us and said it looks like that building is on fire.'

'It looked like there was smoke starting to come out of the top of the building. I knew there was no way that this could be a chimney fire.'

'I ran to the back of the building and it was then that I shouted for someone to phone the fire brigade.'

'I turned round and started battering the close door and pressing the buzzers.'

'My next worry was that there were people in the building - there are a number of flats up there, and people work shifts.'

'When I finally managed to open the door, smoke came pouring out.'

'I was waiting to let it clear when a taxi driver [Tom Mackay], who stays in one of the flats, came up behind me. He said, "There is a man in there who was on night shift and is still sleeping".'

'He ran straight in. I knew I had



Charred debris lies on the George Street pavement as emergency services tackle the fire.

to make sure there was no-one in the building so I went inside and I started banging the flat doors.'

Mr McBurnie found a number of people who were still in bed as they had been working night shifts. He told them to get out.

In one flat he found a woman who was banging on the door trying to get out. Mr MacIntyre said the room was 'full of smoke'.

The men made their way through the three-storey building making sure everyone was out of the building.

Mr McBurnie continued: 'People were in bed and sleeping. At one door I didn't get any reply and I don't know what made me do it but I just opened the door. Inside there was a young man sleeping.'

He said: 'In no time at all the fire brigade were there and checked the building fully. It was lucky it happened during the day or it might not have been spotted so quickly.'

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was onsite for a number of hours while the police worked

to re-open the road, managing traffic which was backed up for at least two miles to the cemetery at Pennyfuir.

A police spokesman said: 'People who live in the flats above were evacuated for most of the day.'

It is believed residents were allowed to return home in the early evening.

Eye-witnesses said there was extensive smoke and fire damage to the homes. Some debris from the buildings was thrown onto

the street by firefighters.

The police spokesman confirmed that no-one was injured in the fire and inquiries are ongoing into the cause.

A spokesperson for the SFRS said: 'Firefighters were in attendance at a fire in commercial premises in Oban.'

'Four fire appliances were mobilised at 11.20am on Tuesday June 6 to the incident in George Street. Both appliances from Oban attended, as well as an aerial appliance from Clyde-

bank and an appliance from Inveraray. They used powerful hoses on the fire and worked at the scene until just before 5pm.'

'I believe it was the extraction system in the ground floor at the chip shop. It had spread to the first floor flat.'

'Crews cut away parts of the building to make sure the fire hadn't spread.'

'We have received no notification of any casualties.' Taxi driver Tom Mackay said he was glad everyone was safe.

Crowds flock to Oban Live

MORE than 8,000 people flocked to Mossfield stadium in Oban over Friday and Saturday for a hugely successful Oban Live.

The festival-goers were treated to two days of top musical entertainment from the headliners Skerryvore and Skipinnish, backed by big names such as Toploader and Hue and Cry.

But among the highlights for many fans was the set performed by the winner of the Oban Unsigned competition: K9 Kev and Rory O'B - otherwise known as Kevin Irvine and Rory O'Byrne.

The Oban rappers went down a storm on Saturday afternoon.

Oban Live managing director Daniel Gillespie said: 'The weather was unbelievable and the turnout was phenomenal. We had over 8,000 people from all over the world. K9 Kev and Rory O'B were amazing.'

Don't miss our unrivalled coverage with pictures and reports on pages 11-15.

Mòd proves huge draw

HUNDREDS of people packed the various venues for the Oban and District Provincial Mòd on Friday and Saturday.

Performers from across Argyll and the Isles competed in the various categories at venues that included the Corran Halls and Oban High School.

Reports, results and pictures on pages 16 and 17.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004



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FW

Viewpoint



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

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

We are constantly being encouraged by the powers-that-be to use public transport – quite rightly – for a whole raft of reasons.

Among those reasons are to reduce congestion on our roads, to cut harmful emissions and to benefit the environment.

However, it is increasingly difficult to persuade motorists to leave their cars at home if the public transport service is perceived to be less efficient and user-friendly than we all wish it to be.

For that reason, we have considerable sympathy with Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry community

council chairman John Fotheringham, who has questioned why passengers need to wait until November to see an improvement in services.

Mr Fotheringham has raised concerns about the services following the announcement by Scottish Citylink that it is to invest £1.2 million in new buses for the Fort William to Inverness route.

The coach operator is introducing four new state-of-the-art coaches to the route from November, replacing the current 10-year-old vehicles, whose condition is causing buses to run behind schedule. We urge Scottish Citylink to fast-track the new vehicles into service.



Days gone by – 1996

Looking very smart back in 1996 were the competitors at the Mòd from Rockfield Primary School.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



THIS week's article is a response to a submission on the letters page of the latest edition of *An Tirisdeach* (the local Tìree newspaper).

In it, the authors, James and Linda Laikie from Gourrock, protested against the fishing operations of a boat recently bought by Coinneach MacKinnon of Hillcrest, Tìree.

The arrogance and ignorance of the content, coupled with the supercilious tone in which it was delivered, places this letter as a shining example of the very worst traits of anti-fishing lobbyists, and a good indicator as to why there is such deep distrust of environmental groups by the fishing industry.

The issues created by such strong opinions based on lack of knowledge are, of course, not limited to Tìree, but are a threat to populations across all fishing communities.

Conservation of stock and stewarding of marine resources is in everyone's interests, but bystanders willing to devastate fishermen's livelihoods on the whim of passionate ignorance are a danger to fragile coastal communities.

One of the main reasons why I object to any proposals for creating protected areas of sea and coastline, such as MPAs and SPAs is that once they are designated, it gives this type of person with an unbalanced and uneducated perspective a high degree of direct control over economies and populations in which they have no anthropological interest.

Social media

We asked the questions on Facebook last week: Parking – are you struggling to find a space? What do you think the problems and the solutions are in Oban? And the issue prompted a lively response.

Morven Hunter suggested: 'Should have a park and ride before you get into Oban between town and Pennyfur and stop campers coming in unless going to a campsite, this is what they do in Canada and it works well.'

David Livingstone wrote: 'Campers? There is at least two always parked near the War Memorial!'

Colline Mackiggan explained: 'Was in Oban last week and managed to get a space in High St (there was a few). Probably because the rain was that heavy no one came out. Being local most of my life I know what it's like especially in summer. Having been on holiday in Harrogate and other English resorts they have a park and ride, we had a motor home and we parked up

The worrying truth is that there is an alarming number of this type of individual – and numbers mean political power and political power means influence. They would happily oversee the depopulation of islands like Tìree if it satisfied their positions of moral posturing on environmental issues they do not understand, but feel so very strongly about.

I fully admit to being biased in this. The man among all for whom I hold the greatest respect was at one time a scallop fisherman. It is relevant to convey to the Laikies that the scallop ground fished by that man, my uncle, Iain Skipinnish in the 1980s and 1990s, and also fished by countless other boats from all over the country at that time, before that time and until the present day is exactly the same ground that Coinneach MacKinnon is making a living from now.

Analogies of cutting down a forest to catch a parrot, as quoted in their letter, is the type of ridiculous, sensationalist nonsense that kills the credibility of the marine science industry in the eyes of fishermen and makes it more difficult for all sides to work together in the interests of the sea and the fruits it bears.

Certainly, scallop dredging can cause damage to certain types of seabed in certain places and this should be managed sensibly and, in some cases, closing specific areas may be the best action. Progress on this will not be made, though, by extreme views and ig-

norance the like of which was displayed in the letter being discussed.

I suggest to James and Linda Laikie that there are far more damaging industries adversely affecting the world's oceans than that which can be inflicted by a 37ft, four dredge-a-side scalloper towing on flat gravel and sand beds that have been fished in this way sustainably since scallop dredging began in the area more than 60 years ago.

They should turn their energies against big industry filling the seas with plastic, heavy metals and other waste, and refrain from demonising a young man doing his best to make a modest living on a remote and fragile island.

I hope the next time the Laikies of Gourrock are visting Milton Harbour they happen upon the ghost of my father. Along with others, he worked hard to have the original and the newer pier built, and he would be immensely proud of the thriving fishing fleet now operating from there. He would be very proud of Coinneach, a young energetic man who has taken a considerable risk in investing in growth and diversification to build a stronger future for himself, his family, the fishing industry and the island of Tìree as a whole.

I, too, am very proud of Coinneach and I hope he will not allow his career to be adversely affected by the narrow-minded sniping of people who clearly do not understand the damage their ignorance can inflict on an already weak island economy.



and jumped on the bus ,great idea.'

Rebecca Neilson posted: 'Have a daily rated car park, no business is able to get out every couple of hours to put a ticket on. A fair daily rate (like the train station do) would be fantastic. Still making money but less hassle for workers wether living in or out of town. Allan Strang Jnr lamented: 'Parking been an issue for too long now. It'll never be sorted in this generation. Park and ride failed along time ago as more and more cars are around now and it won't be lessening any time soon.'

Christine MacDougall wondered: 'Would it be feasible to build a multi storey at old gas works.'

Colin Martin posted: 'Considering that we are trying to attract people to the town, we need to vastly increase the amount of free parking places. Steve Letford wrote: 'Those who use the hospital car park as a park and ride should be ashamed of themselves and should be fined heavily.'

Peter Miller offered: 'multi car park would be great.'

Margaret Menassa agreed: 'Definitely more spaces required a multi story would be easiest option.'

Hannah Karpinski proposed: 'Even just making George St free for first half an hour would be beneficial.'

Christine Houghton asked: 'How about opening school playgrounds in the holidays?'

Tom Smith urged: 'Use a bike.'

Sharon Stenhouse said: 'Need a simple, unified parking payment system. It's currently so random and hard to understand. I would hate to be a foreign visitor trying to work it all out.'

Rebecca Barnham Smyth posted: 'FREE park and ride or long stay parking in town is desperately needed, not only for visitors but for commuters too. Lorna Wylie wrote: 'Needs a multistorey car park and a long stay car park. Long stay would be better situated out of town.'

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.

End discrimination in favour of Europeans

Sir,
I refer to the letter from Ken MacColl (*The Oban Times*, May 25).

The Home Secretary has to deport a large number of non-Europeans because we cannot have totally unlimited immigration, and EU law does not allow us to deport Europeans.

It is not discriminatory to want to redress the imbalance of present and past discrimination. As soon as we leave the EU in 2019, we must have new immigration laws that provide equality between Europeans and non-Europeans by ending the special privileges provided to Europeans under EU laws. We must put an end to discrimination against non-Europeans.

There are some non-EU European countries that have freedom of movement agreements with EU. We must not be one of them because it amounts to discrimination against non-Europeans. I am very consistent in my views.

I am totally opposed to discrimination of any kind.
SNP, Lib-Dems and Greens all support the special privileged position of Europeans. If there were a UKIP candidate in my area, I would vote for them but, since there is not, I am unsure who to support.

It is unlikely that I will support Labour because Jeremy Corbyn has said he will introduce additional UK-wide public holidays on St Andrew's Day, St David's Day, St George's Day and St Patrick's Day. This is not acceptable because they are all Christian Saints and we already have an abundance of holidays linked to Christianity.

The four new holidays should be on days that are connected to Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism. When the time comes to add a fifth new holiday, it should be linked to Sikhism.

It is unlikely that I will vote Conservative because of the way they discriminate against disabled people by, for example, stopping unemployment benefits for severely disabled people on the grounds that they are not trying hard enough to find work.

David Gallant,
Oban.

Thanks to kind duo who helped after fall

Sir,
In the course of a sailing holiday, I was walking through Oban on May 14 this year when I tripped and hit my head.

Two people, a man and a woman, immediately came to my aid. They were outstandingly kind. When they had assessed the situation, the young man, who was wearing an Oban High School top and clearly had some knowledge of first aid, first reunited me with my wife.

She was shopping separately from me and in my dazed condition I would have had difficulty in finding her. He then took charge of us and got us to Oban hospital, where I received first-

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk



DISATHAIRNE SEO CHAIDH bha mi ann am Port Rìgh nam bhritheamh Mòd airson a' chiad turas am-bliadhna, agus abair gun do chòrd an turas agus an tachartas rium.

Mar a bhiodh dùil aig an àm seo den bhliadhna, bha an t-àite air chrith le luchd-turais far feadh an t-saoghail agus tha mar-thà aithrisean air daoine air am bheil e air faireachadh àite-fuirich a lorg aig amannan. Tha cùisean air atharrachadh thaobh a' ghnìomhachais thar nan deicheadan mu dheireadh saoilidh mi is daoine a' tadhal air a' Ghàidhealtachd fad na bliadhna a-nise, seach an suidheachadh a bh' ann uaireigin far an robh fèist aig luchd-aogheachd tron t-samhradh agus gort a' chuid eile den bhliadhna.

Dh'fhaodte a ràdh le cinnt gum bheil deagh chothroman an lùib obair turasachd a-nise gus dreuchd beatha phroifeiseanta a thogail na lùib. Air feadh na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eileanan an iar air fad tha eachdraidh, cànan, agus dualchas na Gàidhlig mar shàr annalann a ghabhas libhrigeadh dha luchd-tadhail agus ged a tha beagan den sin a' tachairt, saoilidh

rate overnight monitoring. At the time I was not really in a condition to thank these two very kind individuals adequately for all they did for me.

My wife and I very much appreciated the help we received, and I write this letter in the hope that they will learn how much it was appreciated.

I have made a small donation to an Oban charity. When there is so much bad news around, it is welcome to be reminded that there are also so many good people.

Walter Reid,
Beauly, Bridge of Weir.

Grateful to people for public spirit

Sir,
I wonder if I could through your columns, express my gratitude for the kindness of two unknown people in Oban recently.

On Thursday May 25 I parked my car at Pulpit Rock prior to going for the Craignure ferry. I fell on the path linking Pulpit Hill with the main road and sustained a nasty injury, being treated by the doctor at Bunnassan later.

Before leaving Iona, I discovered that my car keys were missing (my wife had a spare) and deduced that I had dropped them on the path.

When I reached Pulpit Rock I noticed that someone had taped a plastic cover over the side window of the car (I had left it open on a hot day) to protect it from the rain.

I knocked on various doors to express thanks but no-one was at home. I then recovered the keys at the police station. I was therefore unable to express gratitude to either of the kind persons who had assisted me. At a time when we are tempted to be cynical about public spiritedness, it was very welcome to see such acts.

Rev Dr Iain Whyte,
14 Carlingnose Point,
North Queensferry,

MP has represented constituents well

Sir,
I read D Johnson's letter (*The Oban Times*, June 1) with interest.

While I agree with some points, I was puzzled at the comments about Brendan O'Hara, who has served for two years as an SNP MP for Argyll and Bute. I quote 'a novice MP adept at claiming expenses'. What does this actually mean?

The claiming of expenses is very closely scrutinised so what is D Johnson insinuating? If D Johnson has any evidence expenses were claimed in an irregular fashion, I think the authorities need to know.

Argyll and Bute is a very large constituency and travel needs careful planning. Mr O'Hara was elected to serve everyone in Argyll and Bute at Westminster so is D Johnson saying that we should elect someone to represent us and they never return to speak to constituents, hold surgeries, visit businesses and charities?

This is nonsense and wouldn't be

democratic. Mr O'Hara has visited Islay a number of times over the past two years supporting local industry, visiting groups as well as a range of local people. This to me is democracy at its best.

We can question our representatives and give them an up-to-date picture of what is happening in the constituency. Perhaps D Johnson would like to expand his or her view of what democracy means to them.

A Pilley,
Islay.

Feeding the seagulls is a very bad idea

Sir,
As an Oban taxi driver, I frequently see people (mainly tourists) feeding seagulls along the seafront.

This seems like a harmless and amusing way of disposing of food scraps, although I have seen some bring whole loaves of bread to feed the gulls.

Anyone who has been to St Ives in Cornwall, as I have, or any number of other seaside resorts, will understand why this is a very bad idea. The seagulls attack you in these places, ripping the food from your hand, terrorising children and adults alike.

Now I have seen this happen in Oban for the first time. A mature couple were sitting on one of the benches by the taxi rank, eating a sandwich, when a gull swooped low over them and snatched some of the man's food from his hand.

The couple were clearly disconcerted by this behaviour, unsure as to what to do with the remains of the sandwich which the gull had despoiled.

I think it is an urgent requirement that visitors and residents alike are warned not to feed the gulls to discourage this and prevent the attacks reaching the epidemic proportions suffered elsewhere.

Peter Mallinson
High Street, Oban.

We must act to put stop to atrocities

Sir,
When will politicians admit we are fighting a war of survival in the UK and Europe against those perverting Islam, a religion of peace?

The West must immediately introduce measures, including banning people entering Europe and the UK from countries which are hostile towards us. Those planning terrorism, and MI5 say there are 23,000 suspects in the UK, should immediately be interred.

Those who commit or plan terrorist attacks and hold British passports are guilty of treason. Foreign terrorists should be similarly treated.

I am certain these actions would be welcomed by millions of real Muslims in Europe who follow their religion of peace and are shocked that their religion has been tainted and disrespected by these monsters.

Clark Cross,
Linthlough.

Ailean Caimbeul

mi gun gabhadh fada a bharrachd dèanamh. Chan e a-mhàin gun toireadh leithid sin tlachd dha goirich ach bheireadh e cuideachd cothrom air leth dha muinntir nan sgìrean sin uigh agus tlachd às ùr a ghabhail nan cuid dualchais, agus bhrosnaicheadh e barrachd gus Gàidhlig ionnsachadh agus a chleachdadh.

Chan eil teagamh nam inntinn fhìn nach eil na Mòdan a' leagail bunaiten feumail a dh'fhaodadh cur ri leithid sin de dh'amas air leasachadh eaconamach, agus tha e na thoileachas daonnan a bhith a' faicinn chloinne a' dèanamh uimhir de spàirn ann am farpaisean Mhòdan. 'S ann a dh'ionnsaigh an latha seo a bha iad ag obrachadh fad mhiosan ag ionnsachadh fhaclan is fhuin, agus a' cur loinn air aithris is seinn. Gun teagamh feumaidh cuideigin buinnig is fàgaidh sin cuid eile a' call, ach chan eil sin ach tachartas an latha oir tha na bunaiten cànan is dualchais a' mair-sinn agus gabhadh tuilleadh eòlais agus sgìl togail orra. Sin is coireach gum bheil e cho cudromach gun còrd am pàirt anns na Mòdan ris a h-uile neach agus gu sònraichte ris an òi-

gridh, agus gun sibhail iad dhachaigh le cuimhne bhlàth air na thachair agus air a' chànan a bha na adhbhar air. Tha brithemhan cothromach onarach nan cuid breithneachaidh ach tha iad cuideachd faiceallach gum bheil iad a' misneachadh seach a bhith a' cronachadh fharpaisich.

A rèir na chunnaic is na chuala mise, rinn na bha a' gabhail pàirt ann am Mòd Ionadaid an Eilein Sgitheanaich fìor mhath am-bliadhna a-rithist is bha iad nan deagh theisteanas air na bha iad gum cuideachadh. Tha mi glè thoileichte aithris gum faca 's gun cuala sinn taghadh math de thobar dualchais.

COMPETITORS at last week's Skye Provincial Mòd demonstrated the positive influence of Gaelic Medium Education on the linguistic fluency of the area's young people.

They clearly enjoyed their Mòd experience and the event was also a pleasure for the audience and adjudicators alike.

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

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Supporting Fort William Football Club

History is made at Fort William mountain bike world cup

MORE than 11,000 raised the roof as history was made in the UCI Downhill Mountain Bike World Cup.

The three-day event came to a dramatic end on Sunday June 4 when the most successful downhill rider of all time charged to victory in the Scottish Highlands.

In one of the most exciting finishes to a World Cup event at Nevis Range, South Africa's Greg Minnaar made history in the elite men's downhill final following a nail-biting run which saw the Santa Cruz Syndicate athlete clinch his seventh Fort William World Cup title

Mountain biking

to the delight of thousands of screaming mountain bike fans.

Australia's Tracey Hannah capitalised on the absence of reigning World Champion Rachel Atherton as she outpaced her competition to win her first Fort William World Cup title.

The 28-year-old athlete, who rides with Polygon UR, skilfully manoeuvred heavy mud in the woods before storming down the home straight into the finishing bowl where a rapturous Fort William crowd cheered her to victory.



One of the high-flyers.



Lochaber High School pupils get a close-up of the action. See page seven for more. Photos: Abrightside Photography

Fort William lad set to journey to Bahamas for Commonwealth competitions

Cycling

COMMONWEALTH Games Scotland has announced the 41 athletes who have been selected to represent Team Scotland at the Commonwealth Youth Games.

With less than 50 days to go until the international multi-sport games in Nassau, Bahamas, the athletes aged between 15 and 18 are gearing up to compete in seven of the nine sports, including athletics, beach volleyball, boxing, cycling, judo, swimming and tennis.

And one Fort William lad will be making the journey, to compete in cycling, as the sport makes a return to the games after a six-year absence.

Stephen Dent will be representing Team Scotland in July. The 18-year-old will compete in both the road race and individual time trial.

Stephen has been elected for the British Cycling Olympic Development Apprenticeship and has just achieved his first category race licence as a first-year junior.

Rebecca Machin, head teacher at Kinlochleven High School, where Stephen is a pupil, said: 'Stephen is a hardworking and conscientious student who applies himself in all that he does, and is a credit to his school and to himself.'

'We have a keen, supportive and enthusiastic PE department but have no way of supporting Stephen to his full potential in cycling as a school. To achieve this he has needed to organise and take part in a wide range of specialist post-school and extra-curricular training, which requires a great deal of travelling.'



Stephen Dent.

Lochaber Dinghy Hill Race

ANOTHER successful Lochaber Yacht Club Dinghy Hill Race has taken place.

The course crosses Loch Linnhe from LYC, ascends Meall an t-Slammain (467 metres) before returning by the same route. It's said to be similar to the Meall an t-Suidhe race but with thick heather, and sea water.

First runner back was Nick Sedgewick of LAC in a time of 28:37, a new record. Amanda Blackhall was first lady and first FV 40 in seventh position. Kenny Lang won the MV50 category in fourth.

Niall Macbeath took the MV40 prize in sixth. Nineteen runners from a number of clubs/locations competed, the furthest being Canada. Well done to all who took part.

Sailors and runners enjoyed the sail, or motorboat ride, across in good conditions. The sailing race from the opposite shore was rather one-sided as the wind had dropped and only one boat had

Sailing / athletics

remembered their paddles. Paul Biggin (LYC) and crew took first place, Matt Linguard (LYC) and crew took a creditable second. No records were broken. It is hoped to run and sail the race again in 2018.

A spokesperson would like to thank Conaglen Estate, Lochaber Embroidery And Printing (LEAP), Tesco, all marshals, timers, helpers, rescue boat crews and especially everyone involved with catering.

The LYC website shows details for sail training and events, all welcome - come down for a chat Thursdays after 6pm - www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk

For further information contact Jon Gay 07588 531399 or jongayarchitect@googlemail.com.



The winners of the Lochaber Dinghy Hill Race, a joint race with Lochaber Yacht Club and Lochaber Athletic Club. Pictured are Nick Sedgewick winner of the race in a new record time.

Picture Anthony MacMillan Photography.

Boxers finish up for the season

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club made their final journey of the current boxing season last Friday night when they travelled to Kinghorn in Fife to attend a show hosted by Kingdom Boxing Club.

Senior welterweights Dawid Jarzab and Graham Allison were both in action against more experienced opponents and both gave very good accounts of themselves in their respective bouts.

Jarzab is technically still a novice boxer but has been creating a bit of a stir as he has accounted for every opponent he has faced so far in his boxing career which has made finding him suitable matches very difficult.

His opponent last Friday was Connor McCurdy from Glasgow City Boxing Club, who had taken part in four times as many bouts as Dawid. The reasoning for accepting this bout was to give Dawid experience against a boxer who has much more ring time than anyone he has faced previously which would stand him in good stead when he competes at the Scottish Novice Championships in October.

Jarzab worked behind the jab in the opener, probing for openings, while McCurdy showed good head movement while looking for counters. Jarzab cleverly switched the majority of his attack to the body midway through the round to try to slow the fleet-footed Glaswegian's lateral movement.

Both boxers showed powerful jabs in the second but the Lochaber camp were particu-

larly happy with the improved defence shown by Dawid from his previous bouts. This was a feature of Dawid's boxing that he has been working hard on in the gym and it was pleasing to see this improvement in competition.

The first two rounds had shown quality work from both boxers and consequently the scorecards were tight and everything rested on round three.

Dawid came out and immediately took ring centre and continued to target the body. This body work was taking its toll on McCurdy, whose footwork had noticeably slowed. Jarzab now switched targets and at last found a home for his straight backhand, knocking Connor's head back. Now he had the range for his backhand he kept throwing it and it kept landing.

Eventually McCurdy was pinned to the ropes and the referee had no option but to issue a standing eight count. On resumption, Dawid would not be denied and he again forced McCurdy to the ropes where he unleashed big combinations to force the referee's intervention.

A fine win for the hard-working Jarzab.

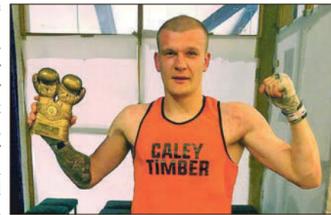
Graham Allison entered a boxing ring for the second time after his debut win in Fort William last month, when he faced another Glasgow City boxer in the more experienced Darren Walker. Graham handled the pressure of boxing away from home

Boxing

very well indeed, forcing the action and showing a real desire for victory. As can often be the case for a boxer fairly new to the sport, Graham's exuberance on occasion got the better of him as he would find himself off balance after launching an attack, allowing an opening for his opponent to steal points.

All three rounds followed a similar pattern as Allison would attempt to cut off the ring and pin his Glaswegian rival to the ropes. Although Graham found plenty of success his previously mentioned desire sometimes left him open for counters. However, he always regrouped without shipping too much punishment and resumed his pursuit.

Graham lost a points decision but showed many positive elements to his boxing, including exceptional foot and hand speed, a very strong will to win and for the most part good balance. Graham shows plenty of promise for the future and is definitely one to watch next season.



Lochaber Phoenix boxer Dawid Jarzab.

Picture: Iain Ferguson The Write Image.

Winning lottery numbers

Lotto

AGNES Davren has won £1,000 jackpot on the Ballachulish shinty lottery. Winning numbers were 18, 19 and 20. Today's draw (Thursday June 8) will go back to £200.

Winning numbers in the Caol Regeneration Lotto were 2, 8 and 19. There were no winners on June 1, so the draw goes to £300 this week.

There is £400 available in the Fort William Golf Club lotto draw. Winning numbers for last Thursday's draw were 2, 7 and 16.

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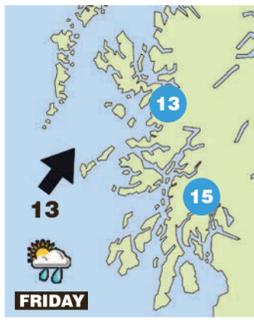
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WEATHER

Thursday	Light rain Winds moderate south south easterly Temperatures 10°C to 14°C.
Friday	Light rain showers Winds moderate south south westerly Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.
Weekend Outlook	Heavy rain showers on Saturday Light rain showers on Sunday Winds moderate south south easterly Temperatures 10°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	04.47	3.5	11.23	1.2	17.12	3.7	23.27	1.1	Ardershaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	05.23	3.6	11.55	1.1	17.47	3.8	***	**	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	00.04	1.1	05.59	3.7	12.29	1.1	18.22	3.8	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	00.41	1.2	06.35	3.7	13.03	1.1	18.56	3.8	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	01.19	1.2	07.09	3.6	13.37	1.2	19.31	3.7	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	01.55	1.3	07.42	3.5	14.08	1.3	20.06	3.6	Ferry Crossings/Sea States			
Wed	02.31	1.4	08.15	3.4	14.40	1.4	20.43	3.5	Oban to Barra/South Uist		Moderate	
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)									Oban to Coll/Tiree		Moderate	
									Kennacraig to Islay		Moderate	