

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES



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Asking price for 'eyesore' - yours for £1

ONE OF Oban's grandest Victorian buildings is set to be sold for £1 - and then reduced to rubble, writes Louise Lee.

Despite the fact that an offer of £350,000 is still on the table to redevelop the former Rockfield primary school.

Another offer made seven years ago for £405,000 for the building was shelved by Argyll and Bute Council, it is also claimed.

Councillors told *The Oban Times* that they have been kept in the dark about either cash offer.

Furthermore, it is understood that councillors were told there was no feasible interest in the building, despite an offer still being available to them.

At least four members of the council's Oban, Lorn and the isles area committee were told

it was only social housing charity, Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) which was willing to take the former school off the council's hands and demolish the building.

The former primary school building has lain empty for seven years with many people in the town calling it an 'eyesore' and demanding action.

Last year, a bid from ACHA to undertake a feasibility study on the site - with the authority picking up the £50,000 bill - was regarded as the only viable option by councillors.

As *The Oban Times* went to press, councillors were due to discuss a document, in private, which will see the council hand the building and car park over to ACHA for £1.

ACHA intends to demolish

the building and build 27 social housing flats.

Redevelopment specialist Paul Molinari, from Glasgow, said his solicitor had given a verbal offer of £350,000 to Argyll and Bute Council. The businessman spent thousands of pounds on architect's drawings to detail his plans for flats and lay out his blueprint for the rundown building.

Council papers show this bid was not put before councillors.

Mr Molinari has completed two similar redevelopment projects since bidding for the school.

Earlier this year, the businessman again put a second verbal offer, via his solicitor, to the council. This time there was no cash on the table, but he pledged to invest £2.5 million into the redevelopment of the building.

At that time he asked for a letter of agreement in order to complete a feasibility study on the building. He said he was never given that letter.

But despite recent setbacks, Mr Molinari hasn't given up hope of acquiring the building.

Mr Molinari said: 'It would be a disaster to take down that fine Victorian building. I would still be keen to undertake the project - but the council are just not willing to work with me to make that possible.'

'If my first offer had been accepted it would now have a beautifully developed site of 17 flats in a refurbished Victorian building. Instead, they are giving the building away in order that it can be demolished.'

Oban businessman John MacGregor made an offer of £405,000 in 2007 for the site. His offer, he claims, is the only one to have been given in writing but was never discussed by councillors, he claims. Area committee papers from this period back up his assertion.

Mr MacGregor said: 'The council has only ever received one bid for the building, and that was mine. It took Argyll and Bute council eight months to reply to my solicitor's offer - and it was a 'no'.'

'But it is good they are finally going to make a decision about the future of the building, because right now it is an eyesore.'

In a statement ACHA said: 'ACHA's preferred option is for demolition and new build on housing and economic terms.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said it was unable to comment as the matter was to be discussed as an excluded item at the area committee.



POUND LAND: an option to sell the former Rockfield primary school for £1 is on the table.

GOOD TIMES BOY



READ ALL ABOUT IT: Popular TV broadcaster Eamonn Holmes catches up with all the breaking news in *The Oban Times*. Eamonn left the comfort of his London studio on Monday to take his early morning Sky TV show to the town as part of a fact-finding mission. Turn to page three for full story. 16_124eamonn04

Posed as qualified nurse and tricked elderly couple

A HEARTLESS fraudster conned her way into an elderly couple's home as a carer, Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday.

Lisa Angela Grant, 54, who now lives at Dalchork Cottages, Dalchork Farm, Lairg, pleaded guilty when she appeared before Sheriff Douglas Small on Monday to pretending that she was a qualified nurse.

She admitted that she provided a forged ID badge stating that she was a registered nurse and also a false National Insurance number in order to trick a woman living in Appin to employ her as a carer.

She was paid £688 in wages for her bogus services along with getting the sole use of a cottage.

She worked there between December 9, 2013 and January 14 this year.

'This is a serious offence. I am going to need to get background reports,' said Sheriff Small.

Sheriff Small will hear the full details of the case once these reports have been prepared, and sentence has been deferred until July 22.

It's new orders at Tobermory hotel in year-long saga

AN ISLAND hotel has been sold, taking it out of the hands of the family who have owned it since 1869.

Tobermory's Mishnish Hotel has been at the centre of a bitter row for the past year, after owner Robert MacLeod, 62, was declared bankrupt.

Solicitors handed the business to Mr MacLeod's family to run it for a year until a buyer could be found.

Robert was the fifth generation of his family to run the famous yellow waterfront hotel.

The battle for ownership ended on Tuesday morning when it was announced that Meg and Les MacLeod, of Lunga House at Ardfern, had taken ownership of the building.

They are not related to the original owners.



Cold comfort for islands

POOR families say they are being left out in the cold this winter as millions for heating homes will be spent by postcode lottery.

Last week *The Oban Times* revealed that over £2.3million for heating homes and reducing fuel bills was given to Argyll and Bute council.

The local authority announced this week the first tranche of money was to be spent in Kintyre and Mid Argyll. Families in Oban, Lorn and the isles will have to wait until this has been completed.

Fran MacLeod from Seil Island said she was disappointed with the news as she thought the cash would be allocated on the basis of need,

rather than by postcode.

She said: 'My mother, who is in her eighties, spends most of her income in the winter on trying to keep herself warm.'

'She could really do with a helping hand when it comes to making her house more energy efficient.'

Councillor Robin Currie, who leads Argyll and Bute council's strategic housing committee, was delighted with the news that the area will receive £2,389,668 from the investment in Home Energy Efficiency Programme Area Based Schemes.

He said: 'This is a very welcome funding boost and will help us to build on our existing efforts of

tackling fuel poverty in Argyll and Bute.

'We will continue to work in partnership with ALLenergy - a not-for-profit agency - to help people find ways of keeping their homes warmer and saving money on fuel bills.'

'Our immediate focus will be on the Mid Argyll and Kintyre area, quickly followed by some of our other island communities where this can be a particular issue for people.'

Councillor Currie continued: 'Being able to improve their lives with this additional funding is going to make a real and positive difference.'

It's opening time

AN unique excavation has been carried out in Argyll, revealing a 16th century Drover's Inn.

The hostelry provides a snapshot on how it was used before being abandoned some 200 years ago.

The excavation took place near to Glendaruel in Argyll on the ruins of 'Tigh Caol', an old inn on the edge of a droving route on the Cowal Peninsula.

For more information, see guard-archaeology.co.uk



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Oban lifeboat called out twice

OBAN lifeboat was called out twice over the weekend, once to a diver with the 'bends' and to help a yacht with a fouled propeller.

On Saturday, Stornoway Coastguard received a call around 5.40pm from divers on a rigid inflatable boat (RIB) in the Sound of Mull to say a fellow diver had surfaced suffering from a suspected build-up of nitrogen in his blood.

The RIB was met by the lifeboat south of Lismore and the diver was transferred by the Mora Edith Macdonald to Oban where he was taken by ambulance to hospital for assessment before being taken to a recompression chamber for further treatment.

On Friday evening, June 6, the lifeboat was called out at 6pm to tow a yacht from the entrance of Loch Spelve, Mull, to Oban Marina after its propeller had fouled up.

Benefits cheat must step up repayments

AN ISLAY woman who falsely claimed £3,000 in benefits has been told by a court she will have to repay the money faster.

Campbeltown Sheriff Court heard last week that Donald McLean, 54, of 2 Antrim View, Port Ellen had repaid a total of £580 at a rate of £40 a month.

Sentence had been deferred on McLean at an earlier court to see if she was repaying the money as instructed and for her to be of good behaviour.

Last week, Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC deferred sentence until July 3.

She told McLean's lawyer that she wanted to see vouchers for the money repaid thus far and also to see if her client could suggest how she could repay the money quicker.

McLean had admitted to claiming benefits for not working between March 2010 and May 2011 when she was in fact working at Laphroaig Distillery.

Hit the high notes for fundraiser

ORGANISERS of an afternoon treat for Father's Day are looking for volunteers to help a fundraising event go with a swing.

This Sunday, June 15, will see a Victorian Tea, a popular fundraising event originally started at the winter festival, open its doors at noon in the Corran Halls in Oban to raise cash for prostate cancer.

The fundraisers already have some musicians playing but would like more to play between 12 noon and 4pm. If anyone can help, please contact margaretscoops@gmail.com.

Iona housing group in pledge to finish homes

THE ONLY social housing plan on the island of Iona for more than 70 years has hit a brick wall, but the island's housing partnership is determined to fight on.

Iona Housing Partnership (IHP) was turned down for extra cash by Argyll and Bute Council last month.

Councillors refused to give the extra cash needed from the authority's second homes council tax fund, used to help finance social housing, for the five proposed houses.

The council did, however, approve a grant of £450,000, which was some way short of the money required to get the project underway this summer.

Formed in 2003, IHP is determined not to give up, despite having to find a total of £1 million for the project.

The homes would answer a growing demand for long-term affordable homes for island residents. Fiona Menzies, chairwoman of the IHP, said the council had worked well with the group and had given it all the support it was able to.

Mrs Menzies said: 'There are no builders who are able to complete this project who live on the island. Therefore we are two ferries away from the mainland and that certainly adds to the cost of the project. That means that sometimes the funding is 50-100 per cent more than the cost of building a house on the mainland.'

'We will move this matter forward. We are still fundraising for the extra money that we need.'

The chairwoman said the group's buy-a-brick campaign was continuing and it

was hoped that people would continue to support the project.

A recent survey revealed that almost 100 people and families, with links to the island, were looking for a home on the island.

Several families, important for the island's future, have left Iona in recent years because of difficulties in finding suitable housing.

Michael Russell, Argyll and Bute MSP, said: 'The work that the IHP has done so far has been fantastic and I really want it to succeed.'

'It is the only opportunity for the foreseeable future that the island will have to create new affordable rented housing.'

'I know there is a great deal of local

disappointment in the failure of Argyll and Bute Council to recognise these special circumstances that require special finding support and I hope that the Mull councillors will work to overcome that mistaken decision by the administration of which they are part.'

'I am also keen to see what additional national help can be found though the support of national bodies so far cannot be faulted.'

'Iona needs this project and everyone must get behind it.'

A meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's Community Services committee discussed the IHP in private, despite discussing a similar item on Ulva Housing in public. The Ulva application was successful.



Nikki and James Warham, with their son David, who took a boat to their wedding reception after the main road was blocked.

Dunbeg bride goes by boat to beat traffic chaos

TRAFFIC chaos in Oban almost brought a wedding reception to a standstill, until a dad, a mother-in-law, a boat and a kindly neighbour got involved.

Bride Nikki Warham, nee Aitkenhead, was distraught when she found out the A85 road between her and her evening reception in town was blocked.

The bride and her groom, James 'Worm' Wareham, 25, were stuck in North Connel with no way through the traffic and thought they might not be able to get to their evening reception.

But that was before new mother-in-law Jacqueline Sewell thought of a way to get them to the reception on time.

Nikki, 22, from Dunbeg, said: 'We were having a lovely day when my new husband's half of the family tried to get back to Oban, and we realised the road was blocked.'

'There were no buses or taxis and of course it was a wedding and we had all had a wee drink so we were unable to drive.'

'My sister's partner is a taxi driver and he was keeping us informed of any progress and trying his best to get us moving.'

'We all made our way back to my mum and dad's house [in Dunbeg] and I started getting ready for the evening reception, not knowing if we would get there or not.'

'It wasn't until my mother-in-law, suggested going around to Oban by boat that I thought we might actually get to the wedding reception.'

Nikki's dad, Tim Aitkenhead, who works at Alba Sailing as a fleet manager, got the bride, groom, bridesmaid Paris Louis and best man Michael Warham into his boat.

Nikki said: 'It was lovely to hear all the fog horns from the other boats as we sailed out of the harbour and everyone was taking pictures.'

The couple arrived at their reception in Cuan Mor via The Oban Times slipway where Lyndsay Hall, their photographer, was waiting.

A little windswept the couple made it to their reception with those of their guests who could make it through the traffic to be with them.

The couple danced their first dance to 'How Long will I Love You' by Ellie Goulding.

Summer walkers warned over Ben Nevis snow

WALKERS are being urged to take care when climbing Ben Nevis this summer as there is still snow up to one metre deep on some areas of the mountain.

Despite mild temperatures in Fort William, 4,409 feet up the aftermath of high levels of snowfall during the winter can still be seen.

Heather Morning, mountain safety advisor with The Mountaineering Council of Scotland, said: 'There are still large cornices [ledges of snow hanging over the edge of the cliff face] on Ben Nevis and many other Scottish Munros. Care should be taken to avoid these and stay on the rocky terrain - particularly in misty conditions when it might be difficult to see the edge.'

Famous generosity sees lost wallet returned



Pamela Kelt, right, and her daughter Lauren Deeth-Kelt at Fingal's Cave on Staffa before Pamela's wallet went AWOL.

A WEST Highland visitor had cause to praise the area's famous generosity when she left her wallet in a cafe on Iona the day before returning home to England from Oban.

Pamela Kelt, from Kenilworth, Warwickshire, was using Oban as a base last month to take part in a tour to Mull, Iona and Staffa with her 20-year-old Edinburgh University student daughter Lauren Deeth-Kelt.

'The boat took us to Iona for lunch and we had taken a picnic which we had on the beach but there was a cafe where we had a cup of tea and then we got the boat back to Mull and were bussed back to Craignure,' said Pamela.

'I said to Lauren, 'I'll buy you an ice-cream' - and my wallet wasn't there. It wasn't the fact that it was just money in it but it had my credit cards and my driver's licence, which I was using for ID for my flight.'

Pamela managed to phone Sheila Grant at the Martyr's Cafe, Restaurant and Bar on

Iona who organised for Pamela's wallet to be sent to her on a later ferry to Oban.

Pamela said: 'I went to the ferry terminal and literally 1,000s of people seemed to come off the ferry and I was beginning to panic but then the deputy harbour master appeared with a brown envelope and he said, 'Are you who I think you are?' and I said, 'Is that what I think it is!'

'They were just so matter-of-fact and they didn't make me feel stupid. I was terribly grateful because we did have such a fabulous time and it would have put a damper on it. They were just so charming,' she added.

She said that without their help she would have had to cancel her flight home, extend her accommodation and car hire in order to return to Iona to retrieve her wallet.

Pamela, a published author, wrote to the pair and sent them chocolates to thank them for their help. 'I was so grateful I felt I must.'

Mull Lines

A GROUP of volunteers participating in one of the National Trust for Scotland's Thistle Camps recently helped to clean up the white sands at Iona.

For a week in late May, the team covered the beaches and other parts of the Hebridean Island, collecting litter, tackling drainage problems and developing access to the more remote parts of the island.

The trust's Thistle Camps offer people the chance to carry out vital conservation projects in the name of relaxation in some of Scotland's most stunning locations.

Camp leader Jon Downie

said: 'It is important that Iona is kept in the best possible condition, particularly during summer. Many people who visit the island are struck by its rarefied atmosphere and exceptional clarity of air, so it is vital that these qualities are not lost. With such a rich history, the island itself is a real artefact that the trust and all its helpers will continue to help preserve.'

The team's efforts amounted to the collection of more than 100 bags of waste, ensuring that both residents and the many visitors that flock to Iona during the summer months can enjoy a clearer, greener view of the beautiful coastline.



Tobermory High School pupils and staff recently spent a week in Paris and Ypres.

PUPILS and staff of Tobermory High School recently spent a week in Paris and Ypres.

The 26 third year pupils and four staff spent a day at Euro Disney as well as going up the Eiffel Tower and visiting the Musée d'Orsay.

The group also visited Versailles. Moving on to Ypres they spent a day touring some of the Somme including the monument at Thiepval and also a day around Ypres which included carrying out their own act of remembrance at Tyne Cot.

For the first time Tobermory pupils took part in the Last

Post ceremony at the Menin Gate laying a wreath on behalf of the school in front of a huge crowd.

S3 has spent time over the last year fundraising for the trip which would not have been possible without the support of Historic Scotland, the Argyll Trust, Mull and Iona Environmentally Sustainable Solutions (MESS), Tobermory High School Parent Council, the Salen Hotel, Maggie MacLean, Maude MacColl, Dougie MacNeilage, Anne MacLean, the Scout Hall and the staff and pupils of Tobermory High School.

HISTORIC Scotland and the Iona Community have come together to produce a week-long residential course at Iona Abbey.

The course will see a range of leading historians and archaeologists sharing some of the latest insights into the early church in Scotland.

The course coincides with the first anniversary of the completion of the Iona Abbey redisplay project, which tells visitors the extraordinary story of St Columba and the centuries of religious life on Iona.

A new Iona Abbey guide book, which is now on sale at the abbey, will also tell the story in greater detail than ever before.

Professor Eamonn O' Carragain of University College Cork will speak about the complex designs of the high crosses and how these were originally intended to

be read with the movement of the sun, while Prof Tom O'Loughlin of the University of Nottingham will explain how the Iona monks created their own idea of the holy places of Jerusalem in their own monastery at Iona in the 600s, as an aid to their worship.

Peter Yeoman, principal heritage researcher at Historic Scotland said: 'Columba arrived on Iona in 563, introducing Christianity and literacy to large parts of Scotland for the first time.'

'Today Historic Scotland welcomes around 60,000 visitors to Iona Abbey each year, and the new displays and audio guide help to bring the history of the place alive, giving visitors a better understanding of the contribution that Columba and the generations of monks who came after him made to European civilisation.'

Driver more than three times legal alcohol limit

AN Islay man who drove while more than three times the legal alcohol limit has been warned he could face a custodial sentence.

Brian Montgomery, 49, of 1 Redhouses, Bridgend, committed the offence on the A846 near Bridgend on June 1 of this year.

At Campbeltown Sheriff Court last week he also admitted failing to give police information about the vehicle.

Prosecutor fiscal Eoin McGinty said a policeman on mobile patrol came across Montgomery's Ford Mondeo stationary on a blind bend.

He smelled strongly of alcohol and the officer also believed he could smell cannabis.

Montgomery initially tried to ignore the police officer and drive off.

When instructed to get out the car, he was staggering all over the road and his speech was slurred.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC deferred sentence on Montgomery until July 3 and called for a criminal justice social work report.

She warned him: 'Because of your appalling record, I will be considering all disposals.'

Oban digs deep to support RNLI lifeboat

A TWO-DAY collection at Tesco by Oban lifeboat's fundraising team has brought in the magnificent sum of £1,131.73.

Mike Robertson, chairman of Oban's Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) fundraising group, said 'thank you' to the Oban store and to all those who donated money for their outstanding support.

He said: 'I have often wondered how we could count up the charity giving that the people of Oban and district do-

nate over a year - not just to the RNLI, but to all our charities. 'I firmly believe the folk in this area are some of the most generous in the whole country.'

Oban RNLI fundraising group also said a big 'thank you' to Appin artist Alex Gourlay.

Mr Gourlay very generously donated £250 of his takings from a recent public weekend opening of his studio to Oban lifeboat.



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Venue: Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Breadalbane Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NZ

Date: Wednesday 18 June 2014

Time: 5.30pm refreshments and informal discussion for 6pm start

Please confirm your attendance online at: www.scottishwater.co.uk/consult or by calling 01383 848 272.

Questions can be submitted in advance when you confirm your attendance.

Islay postmaster chosen as election candidate

AN ISLAY postmaster has been chosen as a candidate for the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party ahead of next year's UK General Election.

Alastair Redman, who hails from Portnahaven, was selected by constituency members last Saturday as prospective parliamentary candidate for Argyll and Bute and will contest the seat currently held by Liberal Democrat MP Alan Reid.

Mr Redman told *The Oban Times*: 'I must give my thanks to my fellow applicants who unfortunately did not

make it through this time and for all of the membership, some of them new members, attending their first function for electing me. This is a great result for Argyll and Bute and hopefully with the support of people here we can bring about the change that is needed.'

'My background is as a farm labourer and I spent most of my days shovelling muck, which makes me ideally suited to a career in politics.'

Mr Reid held the seat since he was elected in 2001 and was returned in 2010 with a 3,431 majority.



Alastair Redman.

Music fans hail Ceòl on the Croft festival a success

TRADITIONAL music fans descended on Kilmuir, North Skye, for the ever-popular Ceòl on the Croft festival.

The festivities started early on the Trotternish peninsula with the arrival of four students from Benbecula Music College who worked over Wednesday and Thursday evenings with seven local primary school children to produce a short set which was performed twice over the weekend.

Friday afternoon kicked off the performances with a free show for guests from north primary schools, pre school groups and members of the wider Trotternish community.

Ceòl Beag gave a taste of what was to come in the evenings ahead with input from the Mischa MacPherson Trio - this year's winners of the BBC 2 young folk musicians of the year. Colum Sands from Northern Ireland, Skye's own Sara Naylor (joined by her fiancé Felix), and Angus MacKenzie on pipes. The great Ceitidh Douglas was joined on stage by her dad to start off the Friday concert which finished with an incredible set by Daimh Mòr.

Shaka warmed up the early arrivals on Saturday with some summer grooves before the Ceòl on the Croft Pipe

Band, a mix of pipers from all performing bands and local youngsters, struck up.

Donald Macdonald and the Islands notched the tent up a gear or two with their energetic but soulful performance prior to Breabach's outstanding set which was all the audience could have wished for.

In true north-end style the concert was followed by a dance with music by the mighty Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band.

Organisers called the festival 'a superb weekend of music and craic'.

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Always serving Scotland

Independence day as TV anchorman Eamonn talks about the big question

THE INDEPENDENCE campaigns need to 'pick up a gear' and drive the national debate forward, said TV presenter Eamonn Holmes in an exclusive interview with The Oban Times, writes Louise Lee.

The Sky news reporter and popular breakfast TV broadcaster, was in town to discuss independence, marking 100 days before the September 18 referendum.

Eamonn, who presents the Sky News flagship show *Sunrise* as well as STV show *This Morning*, said he would be hard pushed to find somewhere more beautiful in the world than Scotland. He said: 'It is Northern Ireland with knobs on.'

In a frank interview, he said he thought people in Scotland were finding it hard to engage fully in the referendum debate.

The TV presenter said he understood the frustrations of people on the west coast of Scotland because the climate and culture was similar to that of Northern Ireland, where he grew up. He said: 'I have four brothers and we were all set to be carpet fitters.'

But a turn of fate saw Eamonn enter a career that spanned the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland, having his own show at the age of 21, before moving to Manchester and then to London where he was one of the first breakfast television presenters on GMTV.

He said: 'I had to prove to my dad, who worked hard every day of his life, that my job was worthwhile.'

He said he inherited the gift of conversation from his dad as well as a love of gossip and nosiness. He said: 'I feel blessed that I have been able to do this job and raise issues on a diverse range of subjects.'

'I learned from those early days in Northern Ireland that we have nothing to fear from telling



COVER STORY: The Oban Times reporter Louise Lee meets popular Sky TV broadcaster Eamonn Holmes who was in town on a fact-finding mission. 16_124eamonn01

the truth. Local papers are the lifeblood of news. *The Oban Times* is, as far as I can see, very good in recording local news and keeping people informed.'

Eamonn has spent 35 years in television with one of the longest news careers in the business - and even presenting a game

'It's just like Northern Ireland with knobs on'

show in the United States of America. He played host to many people from Oban for his early-morning show, which was held in the Great Western Hotel on the Esplanade. His guests included Angus MacPhail from Skipinnish and Alan MacLeod from the Ee-uk restaurant.

Youth service is an oasis for kids hooked on drink and drugs

A YOUTH addiction service is dealing with children as young as 12 in Oban, writes Louise Lee.

The shocking statistics that 32 young people use the specialist service provided by OASIS (Oban Addiction Support and Information Service), was revealed in an interview with the OASIS project manager.

The group was set up in response to pleas for help and support from local families, schools and young people who realise they have a problem.

Nichola MacGillivray, project manager, believes the service offers young people, between the ages of 12 and 21, an opportunity to think differently about their lives.

She said: 'I believe that people should not focus on the past and begin to think about where they are going.'

'We want young people to believe in themselves again. We can only do that by taking small steps. We have found that you cannot measure success by the large things - it is all about small steps.'

'Some clients, who have not been using the service regularly in the past, often come back and say how much they get out of the service and that it makes a difference.'

'People make choices in life, and we are here to offer an alternative to addiction. It is not always easy to choose to accept help.'

'OASIS is the sort of place that people can take time out to do something different and see that there are other ways in which to live their lives.'

OASIS also works with Oban High School, providing drug and alcohol awareness sessions to pupils from S1 to S4.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon said that while she was 'incredibly' saddened to hear the number of children who were using the service, she was pleased that it existed for young people who were in need of help.

Councillor Devon, Argyll and Bute council's children and families policy leader, said: 'There will be very few families who are not effected by addiction of one type or another.'

'It is a very difficult thing to ask for help therefore OASIS is doing an outstanding job in getting people involved.'

'If young people are accessing the services there is a likelihood they will find coping mechanisms - if not, the future is very bleak for our young people.'

For more details on the service, contact Nichola MacGillivray on 01631 571348. The group also has a Facebook page.

Kay makes her splash on ferry trip

MONDAY afternoon saw the first ever live TV broadcast from a Scottish ferry, thanks to Sky TV and CalMac MacBrayne ferries (CalMac).

Kay Burley, top Sky News anchor, was able to make an early evening news programme thanks to a helicopter flying above the MV Isle of Mull.

Passengers were amazed by the high-flying technology involved in beaming the pictures down the line from the ferry via the helicopter to London, and then on to the international station.

News reporter Kay was on hand to interview passengers and to discuss the 'special' challenges of ferry travel.

She asked CalMac finance director Robbie Drummond if the company ever had to cancel ferries because of the weather.

He replied: 'We have an excellent record.'

Robbie continued: 'It has been really interesting to be involved in Sky live TV coverage from a CalMac ferry. We believe it to be the first time this has ever happened in Scotland.'



Mull Hotel picks up top awards

WINNING two rosettes from the AA is an achievement for a hotel on the edge of Mull. The hotel is one of only two properties on the island with such an accolade.

Tiroran House Hotel, the Scottish Hotel Awards Country House Hotel of the Year 2014, doesn't take anything for granted including sourcing and knowing the provenance of every product on the plate.

Katie Mackay, along with husband Laurence have owned the hotel for ten years. The hotel is described by visitors as 'exceptional' and



'charming and beautiful' individually designed rooms. It started out as a five bed roomed guest house and now is one of the top 25 romantic hotels in the UK with ten

Katie said the secret to the restaurant's success was 'doing everything we can to sourcing our products from

Scotland. 'Renowned chef Craig Ferguson and sous-chef Alex Dashwood-Baker understand the importance of local, foraged, fresh and seasonal produce being imaginatively prepared and presented to the highest possible standards.'

And the reviews are spectacular as the two rosettes quality standards testify.

Katie explains that the focus is a modern Scottish menu. While the hotel itself is often busy, the chef is keen to open the restaurant to people who are not staying with them.



ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH: Sky reporter Kay Burley interviews CalMac finance director Robbie Drummond. 15_124calmac1 Above: Kay Burley. 15_124kay01

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Lorn Lines

Rhuriah wins games logo design contest

Right: Rhuriah Cottier, 6, from Dunbeg Primary School, won the Lorne Highland Games competition to design a logo for the front page of its programme. This year the event takes place on Sunday June 22 and has a number of new events such as a produce tent, a dog show and a piping competition. Organiser Dale Cupris, active school's co-ordinator, said he had a difficult time choosing from the 400 entries. For more details visit the group's website at lorne-highland-games.org. 16_124picture1

SCOTTISH Water's executive leadership team will visit Oban next week to meet customers at a public meeting. The event will be an opportunity to discuss the company's performance and plans for the future as well as creating an opportunity to meet customers from across Argyll and Bute. Chief operating officer Peter Farrer said: 'At Scottish Water our customers are our main priority. 'In building value and trust in the essential services we provide, it's vital that we give communities the chance to tell us what matters most to them.' The meeting, on Wednesday June 18, will be held in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Breadalbane Street, Oban, at 5.30pm for refreshments and an informal discussion for a 6pm start. Anyone can confirm their attendance online at: www.scottishwater.co.uk/consult or by calling 01383 848 272. A COFFEE morning at Barcaldine Primary School may serve up a few treasures for visitors. The annual fundraiser, this Saturday June 14, will see staff and pupils offer home baking alongside a table top sale between 11am and 1pm. THE Kilmore 100 club's May winner was Duncan Mudie. June winners were D White and T Storr.

Oban Charities Day fun

Astonishing £17,000 raised at Lions Club event

AN ASTONISHING £17,000 was raised at this year's Oban Charities Day. The event, held in Station Square on the first Saturday in June as usual, attracted stallholders and representatives of 49 groups from Oban and Lorn.

The early afternoon sunshine brought out the crowds, who browsed the various stalls and gave generously before enjoying a parade of community groups from the Corran Halls to Station Square, led by Oban Pipe Band. The shield and cheque for the best group in the parade was won by St Columba's Primary School who looked great in their wild west themed costumes.

The shield and cheque for best dressed stall was won by the Oban branch of Royal British Legion.

A Clydesdale horse and Shetland ponies proved a great attraction as did the display by Oban and Lorn Model Engineering Club.

Organiser Oban and Lorn Lions Club thanked taxis and the bus companies for their co-operation and Police Scotland, Argyll Bute Council, Strathclyde Scaffolding and Oban Express for continued support.

Oban and Lorn Lions Club hopes to get 50 groups involved next year.

Apart from the funds made by the individual stall holders, money raised by Oban and Lorn Lions Club is distributed to local groups and organisations throughout the year.

The Lions will host the Oban Pipe Band and Highland dancers at McCaig's Tower in Oban on Thursday, June 19 at 8pm.

This is an event which is popular with locals and tourists alike and is another big fundraiser for the club.



Connor Blue, Oban, uses all his might at the Ring the Bell stand run by Oban and Lorn Lions. 16_t24charity02



Above: St Columba's Primary School was voted as the best dressed group in the parade. 16_t24charity10



Andy Harper gets a wet sponge in the face as he does his bit for charity. 16_t24charity05



Above: John Lloyd of Oban and Lorn Lions, second from right, visits the Rotary Club of Oban stall, manned by Mike Urwin, Ken Oxland, Jack Tollan and Iain MacKinnon. 16_t24charity01



Helping out at the Oban Community Playpark stall are, from left: Rowan MacGregor, Brodie Sloss, Chloe Will and Jessica Main. 16_t24charity03



Oban Pipe Band leads the march from the Corran Halls to Station Square. 16_t24charity06



Oban Sea Cadets. 16_t24charity08



The girls from 1st Oban Rainbows created a colourful display for the march. 16_t24charity09



The Diabetes UK stand. 16_t24charity04

A82 overnight closures

MFL McLaughlin & Harvey

Overnight closures of the A82 at Pulpit Rock, south of Ardlui are scheduled to take place between **Saturday 14 June** and **Friday 27 June**.

The road will close at 2200hrs and re-open each day at 0600hrs. The A82 will remain open either side of the closure.

Diversion routes between these hours will be northbound via the A83 at Tarbet, A819 and A85, and southbound via the A85 at Tyndrum, A819 and A83.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

This is to allow essential work to be carried out safely on the A82 Pulpit Rock improvement project.

Closures can be subject to change, therefore please refer to the Transport Scotland website for the latest information:

<http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/project/a82-pulpit-rock>



Free parking for Rothesay town square

ARGYLL and Bute Council is considering free parking - in Rothesay town square. The news was welcomed by Oban councillor Roddy McCuish who said the idea of having one hour's free parking to motorists was attractive. Argyll and Bute councillors on Bute are due to talk about the free parking at their area committee. The plan, brought about by the demands of a site development, will see premium parking currently managed by Argyll and Bute Council allow one hour's free parking in the town square, if agreed.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, Oban North and Lorn, said this was an opportunity for the town: 'Delighted to hear we are beginning to think differently about parking. I can understand why Rothesay is doing this and it would be good to look at a similar situation in Oban.'

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New shore initiative

IT IS a myth that the Crown Estate owns all of Scotland's foreshore - in fact it manages around 50 per cent.

But now that figure is set to go down further with an initiative aimed at getting West Highland and island and other coastal communities to take ownership of their foreshores.

Already Local Management Agreements (LMA) are in place to help organisations deliver projects for local benefits. These include Lochmaddy in North Uist, the Isle of Gigha, Tobermory on Mull and Portree on Skye, where tailored packages of support have been agreed with the Crown Estate.

These include agreements regarding leasing foreshore or seabed areas, support on project management and securing funds and in some cases investment from the Crown Estate.

All are designed to develop marine leisure facilities such as pontoons, moorings and visitor facilities to help the islands tap into a growing sector.

The Crown Estate made a commercial investment of £414,000 at Lochmaddy which is due to open later in the coming weeks. On Friday, Alan Laidlaw, the Crown Estate manager, announced at the Community Land Scotland annual conference there would now be the opportunity for organisations which own land to take ownership of neighbouring coastal areas.

He said: 'We want to help local groups realise their big ambitions for coastal developments. This initiative will give community organisations the chance to own foreshore adjacent to land they already have - that opportunity could really expand their business and development opportunities.'

'We can support by providing commercial expertise to develop proposals and helping them access support and resources to get projects off the ground. We're calling on community groups which may have land next to Crown Estate-managed foreshore to contact us and see how we can help.'

Interested organisations are asked to email Scotland@thecrownestate.co.uk to arrange an initial discussion.

The Crown Estate is an independent commercial business and its role is to make sure that the land and property it invests in and manages are sustainably worked, developed and enjoyed to deliver best value over the long-term.

Heating help for vulnerable households

SOME of Argyll and Bute's most vulnerable households will receive help to make their homes warmer, more environmentally friendly and cheaper through a £60 million energy efficiency fund, Housing Minister Margaret Burgess has said. The investment into the Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland (HEEPS) will enable Argyll and Bute Council to install energy efficiency measures such as solid wall, cavity and loft insulation in their communities.



CHANGE OF MINDSET: Andy Elkerton wants to launch a campaign to stamp out the apparent complacency over road deaths during summer.

16_124road01

There's nothing 'silly' about this - Oban people are being killed

THE DEATH of a woman following an horrific car crash on the A85 near Pennyfuir has forced a friend to speak out against the 'apathy' surrounding fatalities on roads in Oban and Lorn, writes Euan Paterson.

Andy Elkerton, who only moved to Oban five years ago, admits that he had been lulled into a mindset he calls the 'silly season', an acceptance that there will be deaths on Argyll's roads in the summer months - last year there were nine.

But Mr Elkerton said he was 'jarred into action' after hearing one of these casualties was his close friend, Catherine St Jean, and is now starting a campaign to reduce the number of casualties on Argyll roads, particularly the A85.

Catherine, who was originally from Canada but had lived in the Oban area for three years, was airlifted to the Southern General

hospital in Glasgow after her Ford Ka collided with a Fiat 500 on the A85 at around 2pm on Friday, May 30. She died in hospital of her injuries last Tuesday.

Mr Elkerton, who met Catherine when they worked together at Historic Scotland, said his friend, who until a month ago was manager of Oxfam in Oban, was 'a joy to know' and a pleasant face for the town in her roles at Historic Scotland and Oxfam.

He said: 'On the day of the crash, I called in at a shop in town and asked an assistant if she had heard anything about it.'

'She shrugged her shoulders and said, "It's that time of year again".'

'As soon as I found out it was a friend of mine involved in the crash, remembering that comment jarred me and I thought it wasn't right.'

'The thing that flabbergasted me was the acceptance.'

'People say it's the 'silly season'. It's such a light-hearted term to use for something that's killing people - people who are from the town.'

Mr Elkerton said he was supportive of the imminent formation of a dedicated road policing unit for Argyll and Bute but said roads organisation BEAR Scotland, the police and Argyll and Bute Council could work together to help reduce the number of deaths on the county's roads.

Traffic calming measures on the approach to Oban, speed cameras and more speed limits should be considered, he said.

'It is a crazy situation at the moment. If this was a major conurbation with the same number of accidents, something would have definitely been done.'

'How often does Argyll and Bute Council petition Transport Scotland? Are there plans to address this in the future? These

are the things I have been asking now. I'm not pointing the finger at anyone but people need to be educated.'

Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie, area commander for Oban, Lorn and the Isles (OLI) and for Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay (MAKI), said the formation of the new road policing team, which would have a unit based in Oban, should be established within the next month.

She added: 'It is totally unacceptable that we are losing lives on our roads and we would challenge any opinion that it is par for the course. We want to reduce the number of people losing their life on these roads to zero.'

Chief Inspector Baillie said the approach to changing this trend would be alongside other agencies but drivers would notice more of a police presence on the roads when the road policing team was established.

'This is not an Oban phenomenon; MAKI had the highest number of road deaths in the past year.'

Police Scotland has also begun reviewing its contingencies for traffic diversion when main arterial roads, such as the A85, are closed for long periods of time.

Last week, Oban's Inspector Julie McLeish told *The Oban Times* a review was necessary after the recent fatal crash closed the road for eight hours, bringing traffic in and around Oban to a standstill.

Chief Inspector Baillie said: 'We have a road policing inspector looking at the back roads through Glen Lonan and Connel and whether one can be used for eastbound traffic and another for westbound traffic.'

'We need to thrash that out with our partner agencies and the community. We are not going to solve this problem alone.'

Addict can't recall frenzied attack with screwdriver

A HEROIN user who had no recollection of attacking his friend with a screwdriver has been sent to jail for 204 days.

Marc John Pert, 30, of Solas, Oban, launched a frenzied attack on his young victim, striking him repeatedly on the head and body with a screwdriver.

The offence took place on April 21 this year at a flat in Shuna Terrace, Oban.

Jane Thomson, the accused's defence lawyer, told the town's sheriff court on Monday that Pert had since sent a letter of apology to his victim, whom he considered a friend.

'My client has fallen in with the wrong crowd and fallen back into that life of using heroin again,' she said.

Eoin McGinty, procurator fiscal, told the court that Pert had helped two younger men find a bed for the night at his girlfriend's home at Shuna Terrace.

When they became too noisy she asked them to leave but they refused and she then called Pert to remove the unwelcome guests. That is when the attack took place.

His victim received superficial cuts to his hand, jaw, chest and arm but he did not need medical attention.

Miss Thomson said: 'He has no recollection of what happened that night. These are two young people he knows and he does not want them to have the same life as he has had.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'This is a serious matter involving the use of a weapon, causing injury to the complainant. I don't consider this is the type of case where I can make a Drug Treatment and Testing Order. There is only one type of sentence I can impose, and that is custody.'

Caught in the act as collision driver drank eight pints

POLICE watched a man drink eight pints in an Oban hotel bar before he drove off, thanks to CCTV.

Another set of cameras showed the aftermath of the accident which followed.

Derek Fraser Ferguson, 37, of 40 Achlonan, Taynuilt, admitted driving when unfit through drink and drugs on the A85 at Dunollie Road, Oban, on November 14, 2013 and also failing to give his details and report the accident to the police with 24 hours.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the town's sheriff court on Monday: 'Thanks to the bar's exceptionally high-quality CCTV, police were able to count the number of pints he drank between 1.45pm and 6.33pm.'

Ferguson, who works offshore, then got into a hire car provided by his employer and drove away.

He got as far as the Bealach-an-Righ, before his car crossed the central line and collided with another. No one was injured.

His defence lawyer said that Ferguson had not intended to drive after drinking but foolishly decided to move the car to a friend's house and the whole event had been 'a wake up call' for him. Sheriff Douglas Small fined Ferguson £940 and disqualified him from driving for five years.



Gerald MacIntyre, Rachel Tonks of VAL and Councillor Allan Henderson.

Saying cheers to our great volunteers

BIG-HEARTED Lochaber charity workers have been recognised at a reception in Fort William. The event was organised as part of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations' Volunteers' Week 30th anniversary celebrations and presentations were made to school pupils, charity founders and long-serving citizens.

A family involved with Shopmobility Lochaber was recognised for its work in the community. Billy Ward, Tracy Ward and Gareth Russell have provided three generations of volunteers while Keith Gadsby won a long-service award for his work with the same charity.

Grace Watson and Joss Gosling were also praised for their long service with Adult Basic Education and the Royal Voluntary Service. Eight people were recognised for gaining an NQ certificate in volunteering skills through Voluntary Action Lochaber (VAL).



Graduating in style at lodge bash

ARDNAMURCHAN'S 27 graduating S6 pupils celebrated completing their high school education with a dinner at Kilcamb Lodge Hotel in Strontian.

Head teacher Chris Millar-Craig said: 'A number of guests at the hotel complimented me and the school on the self-assured, mature young adults they observed during the evening. All the staff of Ardnamurchan High School wish the young people every success for their future plans as they embark on the next stage of their lives.'

'Our thanks to the Kilcamb Lodge Hotel for making the evening such a success.'

Speak out for Gaelic tongue

A NEW Gaelic centre for Lochaber will be top of the agenda at a public meeting in Fort William tonight (Thursday).

Co-organiser Finlay MacLeod of the Moray Language Centre said: 'Most forward-looking Scots believe the Gaelic language and culture is a pride-giving part of Scotland's identity.'

'And if it is to continue in that role, then lots of people of all ages and from all walks of life will need to be speaking it and the best way to ensure they do is to open Gaelic Advancement Centres all round Scotland.'

'Accordingly, we wish to create centres of excellence in which people can learn Gaelic speedily on fast and effective courses that are further enhanced by a stimulating range of Gaelic-centred social activities.'

Finlay added: 'If this sounds exciting and something you would like to take part in we want to hear from you. Better still, we want to see you at the Fort William meeting, making a contribution.'

The Lochaber Gaelic Initiative conference will be held in the Alexandra Hotel at 7.30pm and anyone with an interest in the language is welcome to attend.



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Advance Notice – Office Refurbishment Works

Preparation has begun for substantial internal refurbishment works at our office in Aird's Crescent. With the exterior of the office having undergone a transformation (supported by BID4Oban's Business Frontage Scheme) we are now about to refresh the interior space so as to deliver an improved environment for customers and staff.

To facilitate these works, we will be closing the office at 12.00 noon on Friday, June 13th and will re-open at 9.00am on Monday, June 23rd.

During this time we will continue to meet all your insurance needs. You can reach us by:

Telephone – 01631 567675
Email – oban@clarkthomson.co.uk

We appreciate that this temporary closure may cause some inconvenience but have taken all possible steps to reduce the impact on our customers. We thank you for your patience, and look forward to welcoming you to our newly refurbished offices in the very near future.

Graeme Bass
Senior Account Executive
Clark Thomson Insurance Brokers.

KILBRANDON

THE KILBRANDON branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute, based on the Isle of Seil, celebrated its 90th birthday at the recent annual meeting.

President Julie Ferris honoured four members, Margaret Willoughby, Betty Clark, Betty Haran and Nancy Gardiner, with long-service certificates.

This was followed by bubbly and cake, then a supper and quiz.

Through a grant awarded by Awards for All in commemoration of the 90th birthday, Kilbrandon members were treated to an outing to Stirling Castle which took place on June 3.

Members travelled by minibus and spent a wonderful day at the castle, which included a tour, before travelling back to Seil in the evening.

DUNVEGAN

DUNVEGAN Castle will host a royal visitor next month when Princess Anne visits to tour the 13th-century building and grounds.

Her Royal Highness will also formally open the new John MacLeod of MacLeod Memorial gazebo, commissioned by current clan chief Hugh MacLeod, in memory of his father.

Mr MacLeod said: 'I am delighted to welcome Her Royal Highness to Dunvegan 58 years after Her Majesty visited in 1956. The occasion will also make the official opening of the new memorial to my late father, John MacLeod of MacLeod, who did so much to develop Dunvegan Castle and the MacLeod Estate as a vibrant heritage attraction.'

LISMORE

THE FINAL archaeological walkover at Fiart for this winter/spring attracted 12 enthusiasts on May 25 and was led by the local historian Douglas Breingan.

The southern part of Lismore was explored, focusing on ancient duns and on settlements from the 18th/19th centuries.

The data, photos and GPS coordinates, will be stored in the heritage centre's archive.

First site was Fiart farmhouse, an imposing ruin that looks as though it were built in the 1840s though it was not on the 1870 map.

Partly constructed in imported granite, and with some outstanding features, it may have been built by the Duke of Argyll in the 1870s after the area had lost most of its population.

A ruined settlement nearby is on the 1870 map but further on a very large enclosure, covering several hectares, with a significant ruined dyke was still discernible.

Its remarkable height had been noted by an antiquary in the 1870s, though its function remains a mystery.

Comann Eachdriadh Lios Mor is now planning next winter's walkovers and considering the



Spean Bridge Primary School pupils show off their energy challenge cartoons with Kendra Turnbull, back, of Lochaber Environmental Group.

Spean Bridge pupils relish energy challenge

SPEAN Bridge Primary School pupils have been doing their bit to save the planet by using less electricity.

The P6/7 class accepted a challenge from Lochaber Environmental Group to learn

more about their connection to climate change and how to reduce their carbon footprint.

Children took home energy meters to monitor electricity use and planned

ways to make their houses better for the environment. They then designed cartoons to show what they had learned which the environmental group made into an advice booklet.

north end of the island, which would be easily accessible to visitors.

This year's walks have been a great success with more than 30 sites from Kilcheran to Fiart explored.

Thanks go to organiser Douglas Thorburn and guide Douglas Breingan.

The opening of an arts exhibition by Colette Walker at the island's heritage centre on Saturday, June 1 attracted lots of interested and excited locals.

Ms Walker, an art therapist working in East Lothian, paints pictures which represent the point between abstract and reality.

Her work responds to the Scottish light and colours, the central theme is 'Shelter' whether that's in a harbour or a forest or within the earth itself.

She works with acrylics, applique, oils and pens to create peaceful and thought provoking paintings.

The exhibition is open until June 28 every day from 11am until 4pm.

All the paintings and drawings

Artist Colette Walker opened her exhibition on Lismore.



Artist Colette Walker opened her exhibition on Lismore.

are for sale, ranging from £35 to £400.

Colette's work can also be seen at the Patriot Hall in Leith, Edinburgh on June 20, as part of a Contemporary Art Practice collective show.

COLL

ISLAND girl Phoebe Smith is on top of the world after completing an amazing feat of hill walking endurance.

The 17-year-old Coll girl, who has just completed her sixth year at Oban High School, has managed to climb two of the highest peaks - Ben Nevis and Braeriach - in the United Kingdom in just one weekend.

She is now waiting for the right weather conditions, and her blisters to shrink, to tackle Ben Macdui - the second highest mountain.

Phoebe's tri-peak hike is to help raise funds for her year teaching in Thailand with Project Trust, a Coll-based charity, where her sister Gill also works.

Starting early on the Saturday, Phoebe was joined by her sisters Rhona and Hazel, mum Val and Val's partner Graham on the steep hike up Ben Nevis, 4,408ft, then, after her share of blisters and exhaustion, moved on to Braeriach on Sunday.

This time, just accompanied by Graham, the hardy duo took eight hours to summit the 4,251ft mountain and return, in less than perfect weather conditions.

Tested to her limits, Phoebe explains: 'When we finally got to the summit of Braeriach the cloud was closing in really quickly, so I hardly had any time for photos. We couldn't even stop for a break at the top

because we were worried that we wouldn't be able to find our way back if the cloud covered the mountain any more.

'It sounds silly, but it's amazing how easy it would be to get completely disorientated or just step off the ledge when visibility was poor. So we quickly got to the summit, had a quick breather and then scurried further down as fast as possible.'

Donning her hillwalking boots was a novelty to Phoebe, as Coll is hardly known for its mountains. But she decided that this challenge provided a great opportunity to improve her fitness. At the end of August this year, Phoebe will be leaving Scotland to live in Thailand for a year, in the Yasothon province

of Eastern Thailand, in a small town called Kut Chum.

Employed by the local council, she will be teaching English in three different primary schools. She needs to raise £5,600 to fund her teacher training, flights, an intensive Thai language course, accommodation, accident and medical insurance.

If you would like to sponsor her, please contact Phoebe's page at www.justgiving.com/phoebe-smith.

ARISAIG



A competitor feels the strain in this year's picturesque Jura Fell Race.

MORE than 200 runners made the annual pilgrimage to Jura for the island's fell race.

A total of 213 runners completed the course in warm conditions.

Hector Haines took first place in three hours, six minutes and 30 seconds and Jasmin Paris was the first woman back in three hours, 52 minutes and 53 seconds.

JURA

There was good local representation this year; Grant Rozga made it first back in 3:54.43, Mark Shaw, Ewen Cameron, Rhovan Rozga, Ross Rozga, Jan Snell and Ronald MacDonald all completed too.

Jill Darroch was praised for organising the children's races.

Precipitation for the year so far now stands at 663.8mm or slightly over 26 inches, well above average.

Mean minimum daily temperature for the month was 8.4°C (average) and the maximum 15.5°C, below average. Coldest night was 3°C with the warmest day reaching 21°C, lower than the hottest in April which was a scorching 24°C.

GLENGARRY

THE AGM of the Arisaig branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute was held on May 15.

After business was completed, the election of committee members was held: president, Vera MacDonald; secretary, June Cairns; treasurer, Anne Cameron, press secretary Yvonne MacDonald and vice president, Anne Lamont.

The raffle was won by Margaret MacEwen.

GLENELG

GLENGARRY will be filled with music tonight (Thursday) as a folk band are set to perform.

The Budapest Cafe Orchestra will play a folk-inspired set in Glangary Community Hall from 7.30pm.

PORTREE

HUNDREDS of Skye residents are to participate in dance performances in Portree at the weekend.

The Aros Centre will host 14 troupes specialising in everything from Scottish Country to Egyptian for the 10th anniversary of the Skyedance Showcase on Friday and Saturday night.

Rosie Harrison of the Aros Centre said: 'The showcase doesn't only show off the progress and moves of Skyedance students, it also presents the diversity of dancing groups and styles on the Isle of Skye outwith the organisation.'

'An evening spent watching dances from groups as different as the adorable Ballet Tots, the vivacious Bollywood Va Va Voom and traditional Highland dancers is fascinating and an experience you definitely won't get anywhere else.'

Limited tickets are available from the Aros box office or www.ticketweb.co.uk.

NEWSDESKS

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Morvern Lines

IF THERE is one subject that binds us together in the Highlands it is the weather.

Hardly a conversation starts without someone saying 'what a lovely day' or, unless you happen to own a hydro electric scheme, 'when is the rain going to stop?'

A fact of life well-illustrated in the following ditty:

'It rained and rained and rained
The average fall was well maintained
And when the tracks were simple bogs
It started raining cats and dogs
After a drought of half an hour
We had a most refreshing shower
And then most curious thing of all
A gentle rain began to fall.'

The first known rainfall records were kept by the ancient Greeks about 500 BC. The readings were correlated against expected growth and used as a basis for agricultural taxes.

The longest systematic rainfall record in the world is that for Kew Gardens in London which go back to 1690. In Scotland records began at different times and in different places until around the 1850s when some standardisation of equipment and measurement was fixed.

Fifty or so years ago most landowners in Lochaber had Met Office approved, manual weather stations. These, as often as not, were cared for by their gardeners who would turn out every day, Sunday included, rain or shine to check them.

One of the longest-running weather stations in this area that I know of is at Ardgour. It was established in 1890 by Alexander MacLean of Ardgour near Ardgour House and looked after by head gardener Alexander Boyd. On Alexander's retirement in 1950, his son, the late Donald Boyd, took over and in 2003 was honoured by The Queen with the M.B.E. in recognition of his meticulous record-keeping over so many years.

Still manning the Ardgour weather station is Donald's widow, Mrs Betty Boyd, who takes the readings every morning at nine o'clock at the far end of her garden at Clovullin and, without fail, sends them each month to the Meteorological Office in Edinburgh.

In 1899 Alexander Boyd recorded that one and a quarter inches of rain fell in June that year and three and a half inches in the same month the following year.

In connection with the long service given by father and son referred to above, surely there must be very few families in the West Highlands who can claim such a lengthy association with the same line of lairds as the Boyds, for it can possibly go back to close on 500 years.

Tradition states that the Boyds were galley men to the first MacLean of Ardgour who came up Loch Linnhe in the 15th century with a commission from the Lord of the Isles to attack the MacMaster clan and claim their land around Corran.

MacLean succeeded although some of the Boyds maintain to this day it was their ancestors who leapt out of the boat and did the business!

An old land transaction dated November 18, 1647, given by John MacLean of Ardgour to his third lawful son Donald, was witnessed by Duncan Boyd, gardener, at Coul - which was the old name for Ardgour House.

At Inverailort House, near the head of Loch Ailort, there is another well established manual weather station contributing valuable monthly data to the Edinburgh Met Office.

It too is checked daily and is manned by Miss Barbara Mackintosh who has kept the records there for over 40 years. Prior to the Met Office setting up their equipment at Inverailort, the weather station used to be at Arienskill close to the River Ailort where it was in the care of the Arisaig Estate water bailiff.

As a matter of interest the rainfall at Inverailort in June 2013 was a little over four inches (10cm).



The Acharn Suspension Bridge - the earliest surviving example of its kind in Europe.

RAIN means bridges and there is no shortage of them in Morvern. Some were built long before horse-drawn carriages arrived in the parish; others, including the new Acharn and Claggan concrete and steel wonders, were designed to carry the juggernauts of the modern age.

Standing a little way below Acharn and spanning the combined waters of the Black and White Glens, is another bridge reputed by Historic Scotland to be one of the earliest surviving examples of its kind in Europe.

It is a cast-iron and timber, single cable suspension bridge designed by Samuel Barham, the clerk of works on Ardtornish, who oversaw many of the estate buildings in the late 19th century.

This particular type of bridge is claimed to have first been invented by a German engineer, Fritz Leonhardt, as late as 1960 but estate records show the Acharn one was built in 1892, putting it nearly 70 years ahead of this claim. Few of its kind have ever been built and for this reason Historic Scotland has declared it a Listed Building and placed it in their second highest category.

The Acharn suspension bridge, which was built to assist fishing guests and children attending the nearby Claggan School, is now in a dangerous condition and cannot be used. The good news is the estate owners plan to restore it.

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com



Happy House garden party fun

The sun shone on Happy House's garden party in Oban where there was lots of fun with a bouncy castle, face painting, stalls, including home baking and various table top sales, games and crafts. Refreshments included strawberries and cream and hot dogs. The nursery and pre-school thanked everyone who helped to make it such a success especially the many local businesses which donated food and prizes. A total of £529.69 was raised.



Rare glimpse of new Taynuilt pavilion from air

Taynuilt residents are rightly proud of their new pavilion but one budding pilot has given them a rare glimpse of the new building from the sky. Sixteen-year-old Connor MacLeod, whose father Adrian comes from the village, got a flying lesson out of Connel Airfield as a Christmas present and decided to use it last week. The Glasgow teenager flew with his grandmother Rena MacDonald, Oban, and his little brother Jamie and made good on his promise to Taynuilt Sports Council member Davy Thomson by snapping this image of the pavilion and sportsfield as they passed by.

LEWIS

AN ILLUSTRATED booklet published recently by the Islands Book Trust features the text of the Angus MacLeod Memorial Lecture given last year by Kenny MacAskill, MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice in the Scottish Government.

Mr MacAskill has close family links with South Lochs and other parts of Lewis and the lecture outlines how this background influenced his political philosophy and values.

Copies are available from the Islands Book Trust by phoning John or Mairi on 01851 880737 or through www.theislandsbooktrust.com.



Inverie Primary School pupils show off their second eco-flag.

INVERIE

INVERIE Primary School has been awarded its second eco-flag for its efforts to improve the environment.

The children organised a community volunteering day to tidy the school grounds, created a rockery and planted carrots, onions and potatoes. Litter was removed from the nearby beach by Inverie's seven pupils and classes used their finds to research littering problems in Scotland, as well as their year-round efforts to recycle paper and other materials.

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First Caol council meeting for 10 years

THE NEW Caol Community Council has vowed to reach out to residents, as members discussed plans at the first meeting on Tuesday night.

The nine elected members of the group, representing the village just outside Fort William, met with Highland councillors and members of the public to discuss how they can improve Caol, which has been without a community council for almost 10 years.

Chairman Sandy Watson said: 'The first meeting went well, it'll take a bit of time to get things up and running properly but the enthusiasm is there. We want to communicate with residents to see what the most important

issues are to them so we can look at how to sort them. We already have a Facebook page set up for people to make suggestions and we've identified some things to work on. The community council should be secure for a good few years now.'

At the meeting members agreed to spend time out and about in the village, to reach out to people who don't use social media.

Mr Watson added: 'There are a lot of people who don't use Facebook and computers and we don't want them to be missed.'

The group will meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm in Caol Community Centre.

Residents warned over scam letter

LOCHABER residents are being warned against a postal scam disguised as a national competition.

A Glencoe resident received a letter from a company posing as the People's Postcode Lottery which said she had won £825,000 in a Madrid-based prize draw but was asked to pay a transaction fee before winnings could be claimed.

The woman, who asked not to be named, said: 'To me it was clear it was a scam but I want to make people aware of it because a vulnerable person could believe it and it could cause big problems if they give away their money or bank details.'

'The letter was from someone calling themselves 'Baron Wheels' and it tells you to call someone called Anthony Stan. These scams can be really dangerous.'

A Police Scotland Highland and Islands Division spokesman said they had not received any reports about this particular case

but advised anyone concerned about scam mail to inform police. An advice booklet used by police across the UK states: 'You cannot win money or a prize in a lottery if you have not entered it. Many mass market scams will trick you into parting with money or providing banking or personal details in the belief that you will win a cash prize. You do not have to pay a fee to claim a legitimate prize.'

A Highland Council Trading Standards spokesman said: 'This is an example of "advance fee fraud" where the scammer attempts to extract money for administration or some similar pretext, with the promise of rich rewards which never materialise. These scams are usually based abroad, far out of the reach of action by the UK authorities. Monies lost are seldom reclaimed. We advise never send advance fees in response to unsolicited mailings. If it seems too good to be true then it probably is.'



Chrissie Hamill was presented with a telegram by Iain Thornber, left, on behalf of HM the Queen and flowers from Highland councillor Thomas MacLennan. 20_124ffrom01

Chrissie celebrates 100 years

A 'WELL-LOVED' Fort William woman celebrated her 100th birthday on Tuesday, surrounded by friends and family.

Chrissie Hamill grew up in Camusnagual, just across Loch Linnhe from the town, and celebrated at her sheltered housing in Victoria Court with her daughter-in-law, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, along with many friends. Deputy lieutenant of Inverness-shire Iain Thornber and Lochaber area leader Thomas MacLennan presented a telegram from the Queen and a basket of flowers during the party.

Mrs Hamill trained as a nanny in Edinburgh before working in London. She later returned to Camusnagual, where her father Archibald MacLennan was the ferryman. There, she married her husband, Samuel.

The sharp-witted centenarian told *The Oban Times* how proud she is of her great-grandchildren, Chrissie, her namesake, aged 4, and Sam, 2, and

said the key to a healthy life is to eat good food and 'move yourself'.

She added: 'People go everywhere in cars these days, they need to work themselves. When they're not in cars they're walking around with a phone stuck to their ear.'

'It's a different world nowadays, people rely on computers for everything.'

'My husband had to go off to war when I was expecting our son so for the first two years I was on my own with him. I just got on with it, it was wonderful how people coped at that time, but we didn't have a choice. We just had to keep going.'

Mrs Hamill's grandson Stephen made a toast to his grandmother.

He said: 'There are many words to describe living to the age of 100, amazing is just one of them. I'm so happy you have so many friends and family here to celebrate with you who support you day to day and week to week.'

GPs to be offered trial jobs in west Lochaber

Residents unimpressed by new move in long-running saga to attract permanent doctor

THE LATEST plans to recruit GPs in the west Lochaber area have not impressed the communities who have been without a permanent doctor for almost two years.

NHS Highland staff are looking into allowing consultants to work in rural areas on a trial basis to see if they like it before making a commitment but one community council chairman called this 'sticking a plaster over the problem'.

Gill McVicar, north and west Highland director of communications for NHS, said: 'It's not just about the job it's about the lifestyle - living and working in rural areas. They [GPs] need to make sure they have partner employment, good schools for their children and somewhere to live. Finding suitable accommodation can often be the hardest part.'

'We're going to look at ways that people can come and try out a few different areas to see if they like it before they commit to a position.'

But Brian Evans, chairman of Sunart Community Council, said the area he lives in, along with Acharacle and West Ardnarnachan, have been coping with locum doctors for too long.

By EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

He added: 'That's fine if they actually decide to stay but we're looking at an area that has had locums for over 18 months and we're looking for a permanent solution. This is sticking a plaster over the problem, whereas we're looking for permanent GPs and a medical team including practice nurses and out-of-hours staff. We should be way past this stage by now.'

Ms McVicar also said her team was considering offering part time GP positions, so doctors could spend some time in West Lochaber and travel to urban areas to carry out specialist work.

Margaret Green of Acharacle Community Council agreed with this plan in theory, but was left wondering why it hadn't been set in motion before now.

She said: 'When the GPs first left in August 2012 we suggested a similar idea.'

'We set up a rota involving four part-time GPs and passed it on to NHS Highland and Alex Neil [Scottish Government cabinet secretary for health and wellbeing]. I just don't understand why this is still rumbling on. I'd like to know

what's changed in the last two years since we came up with the plan.

'It's getting ridiculous now, people's lives are at risk. Thankfully we haven't had any emergency situations yet but that's not to say we won't have in the future.'

Dave Thompson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, questioned Alex Neil on the progress of recruitment in Scottish Parliament last week.

The cabinet secretary for health and wellbeing said: 'A major recruitment campaign will be launched in the next few weeks, with the support of a marketing expert, to recruit the additional GPs who are needed to staff the model.'

'In the meantime, we have been fortunate to have some consistent locums who have provided continuity of care.'

'Along with NHS Highland, we are happy to look at any additional work that we can do to try to overcome the problems in west Lochaber and other remote and rural areas across Scotland.'

NEWDESK
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Woman almost four times over drink drive limit

THE BREATHALYSER reading for a woman stopped by police early on Monday morning was nearly four times over the legal limit.

Elizabeth Ann Gray, aged 51, of 47 Findhorn Place, Falkirk, appeared before Oban Sheriff Court on Monday afternoon and pled guilty to driving having consumed excess alcohol and driving without a licence.

Prosecutor fiscal Eoin McGinty said police officers on patrol had seen her driving slowly and her car hit the kerb. She was stopped and breath tested and the reading was 131; the legal limit is 35.

When stopped she told the police: 'Sorry I'm drunk, I'm over the limit.'

Sheriff Douglas Small fined her a total of £500 and banned her from driving for 30 months. Should she choose to take part in the drink-driver rehabilitation scheme, that would be reduced by six months.

Volunteer of the year awards

VOLUNTEERS will be recognised tomorrow (Friday) for their priceless contribution to their communities at the annual Argyll Voluntary Action Volunteer of the Year Awards.

Among the prizes given out at Kilmory Castle, Argyll and Bute Council's headquarters, will be Young Volunteer of the Year, Social Enterprise Volunteer of the Year, Argyll and Bute CHP - Health Volunteer of the Year, Time-bank and Volunteer Heroes, Individual Volunteer of the Year, Organisation of the Year Shield and Prize and Sargus Memorial Prize.

The keynote speaker will be Ian Welsh, CEO of the Health and Social Care Alliance (Scotland) and the theme for the day is the 'Age of Integration'.



Members of the class of 1961 got a tour of their former school from current head teacher Peter Bain. 16_124reunion02

Former high school pupils enjoy first class reunion

MORE than 50 years after they left for the big wide world, a group of former Oban High School pupils returned last Wednesday to see how things had changed.

The class of 1961 were given a tour by head teacher Peter Bain, who also gave them an insight into the new building which is in the pipeline.

Later that day they also visited *The Oban*

Times to look back at the archives of their time in Oban together. Over the last 20 years Patrick Maclean, who still lives in the town and whose father was a head teacher at the high school, has hosted several informal re-unions of the class, which started off as 1a in 1955 and was augmented by pupils from outlying junior secondary schools in 1958.

In May 2010 Patrick organised a class

reunion in Bergamo, Italy, with former pupils from Canada, America and all over the UK attending.

It was agreed that another get-together would be held in Oban in four years' time and this was arranged by Duncan Macdonald.

The highlight of this re-union was a meal for 38 in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on June 4.

Fort William primary pupils enjoy last summer fair

FORT William Primary School pupils enjoyed their last summer fair as they prepare to merge with Upper Achintore.

The 25 pupils will move into a new £10 million campus in August 2015 and parents said next summer a ceilidh will be held to celebrate the current school instead of the usual fair.

Gina Hough, chairwoman of the parent council, said: 'It'll be coming up to the end of our time at the school so we want to have a celebration rather than a fair, just to do something a bit different and special.'

'We're going to have a ceilidh and do lots of fun stuff.'



From left: Kieran MacDougall, Zoe Hough, Teresa MacDonald, Tara Sinclair and Zoe Sinclair enjoyed the bouncy castle at Fort William Primary School's last summer fair. 20_124ffair01

Call to Vodafone to give higher priority to Argyll and Bute service

MOBILE phone operator Vodafone has come under attack after a number of complaints about the service.

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid said: 'Vodafone must allocate a much higher priority to repairing faults in Argyll than they have done so far. Reliable mobile phone reception is essential for making

emergency calls. I will be meeting Vodafone representatives soon and I will press this point.'

MSP for Argyll and Bute Michael Russell said: 'I have met with Vodafone on several occasions and will be meeting them again this month.'

'I am very concerned that whilst we do talk, they don't seem to

listen to the concerns of people in Argyll. We have conversations but faults still take far too long to deal with.'

'The service is getting worse not better and there has been virtually no improvement in signal across the area.'

'I know that visitors to the town also find it inexplicable that such

an important centre is being so badly neglected by the company and indeed by all the mobile phone companies.'

'Not having good fast mobile access is now known to be a disincentive for tourists which should worry all of us given Oban's reliance on the tourist trade.'

'It is time the company realised

how badly they are treating all those who rely on them in this area.'

'I would be happy to be copied in to emails or letters to the company and I will pursue complaints on behalf of constituents as well.'

Vodafone had not replied to questions posed by *The Oban Times* at the time of going to press.

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Lochaber Provincial Mòd youngsters hit high notes



Some of this year's Lochaber Mòd winners at the final concert in Fort William RC Primary School.

Number of entries to popular festival up on last year

NEW faces at Mòd Ionadail Loch Abair (Lochaber Provincial Mòd) 2014 show the festival is as popular as ever, with numbers up from last year. More than 100 children put their talents to the test over two days in Fort William as competitors from Mallaig to Roy Bridge joined their peers from town schools to perform in front of audiences and adjudicators in Fort William RC Primary School and St Andrew's Church Hall.

For organisers Meur Loch Abair, the local branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach, the successful event was reward enough for all their hard work. Secretary Linda Campbell said: 'It was a great Mòd, a great success. It was fabulous to see some new names on the programme and there was a very high standard, particularly from the music competitions on Thursday night.'



Brothers, from left, Ronnie, Freddy and Ben Fulford won beginners fiddle, intermediate accordion and novice piping respectively.



Laura Robertson, winner of the fluent prescribed recitation age 9-10 category and poster competition.



Prize for girls learners prescribed solo (age 13-15) went to Hannah Calder.

Results

Fiddle: Advanced: 1 Hannah MacRae, Lochaber High School; Intermediate: 1 Lewis MacRae, Lochaber High School; Beginners: 1 Ronnie Fulford, Spean Bridge Primary; Accordion: Intermediate: 1 Freddy Fulford, Spean Bridge Primary; Accordion: Beginners: 1 Ronnie Fulford, Spean Bridge Primary; Clarsach: Beginners: 1 Aine O'Rua, Roinn Sgoile Ghàidhlig a' Ghearasdain; Fiddle Group: 1 Sgoil Chiuil Loch Abar; Chant: Under 10: 1 Laura Robertson, Lochaber Pipe Band; Novice Piping: Ben Fulford, Spean Bridge Primary School; Piping March: Under 15: 1 Rona Nicolson, Lochaber Pipe Band; Piping Strathspay & Reel: Under 15: 1 Rona Nicolson, Lochaber Pipe Band; Piping Slow Air 6/8 March: Under 15: 1 Rona Nicolson, Lochaber Pipe Band; Piping Slow Air & 6/8 March: Under 18: 1 Ally Weir, Lochaber High School; Piping Jig Under 18: 1 Rona Nicolson, Lochaber Pipe Band; Piobaireachd: Under 18: 1 Ally Weir, Lochaber High; Piobaireachd: Under

High School; Recitation Learners 7-8: 1 Arran Stephen, Roinn Sgoile Ghàidhlig a' Ghearasdain; Learners Conversation 7-8: 1 Regan Rodgers, Roinn Sgoile Ghàidhlig a' Ghearasdain; Fluent Conversation 16-18: 1 Ally Weir, Lochaber High; Fluent Solo 5-6: 1 Murdo Morrison, Bun Sgoil Mhalaig; Fluent Solo 9-10 (girls): 1 Faye MacKinnon, Roinn Sgoile Ghàidhlig a' Ghearasdain; Fluent Solo 9-10 (boys): 1 Calum Mews, Roinn Sgoile Ghàidhlig a' Ghearasdain; Fluent Solo 7-8: 1 Donald Henderson, Bun Sgoil Mhalaig; 13-15 Learners Solo (girls): 1 Hannah Calder, Lochaber High School; 13-15 Learners Solo (boys): 1 Fergus Munro, Lochaber High School; Traditional Solo 13-15: 1 Fergus Munro, Lochaber High; Fluent Traditional Solo: own choice; Under 13: 1 Floraidh Stevenson, Roinn Sgoile Ghàidhlig a' Ghearasdain; Learners Solo 7-8: 1 Owen MacRaild, Roinn Sgoile Ghàidhlig a' Ghearasdain; Learners Solo 5-6: 1 Katherine Rodgers, Roinn Sgoile Ghàidhlig a' Ghearasdain; Pre School Action Song: 1 Fort William RC Gaelic Nursery; Choral Unison: 1 Fort William RC Primary P5-7; Prescribed Puir a Beul: 1 Roinn Sgoile Ghàidhlig a' Ghearasdain Primary 5, 6 & 7; Drama: Under 13: 1 Roinn Sgoile Ghàidhlig a' Ghearasdain.

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Talent shines through on Skye

THE TALENT of children competing in this year's Skye Provincial Mòd was of a high enough standard to win future national contests, according to the committee's chairman. Numbers were up on last year with 548 participants taking part from Thursday to Saturday in Kilmuir Church and Portree Primary School, partly because entries were accepted from outside the island for the first time.

Disciplines included instrumental, Gaelic singing and recitation and bible and psalm reading. Chairman Stuart Jackson said: 'It was very successful. We had many Royal National Mòd gold medalists adjudicating and they all commented on the extremely high standard shown at competitions, particularly for Gaelic singing.'

'The talent for future national winners is definitely there. It's just a matter of hard work from now on.' Results: Piping: Chant: under 1 year's tuition: 1 Ina Cormack, Portree; 2 Declan Malloy, Stafainn; 3 Andrew Martin, Macdiarmid; Chant: over 1 year's tuition: 1 Cèitidh Smith, Portree; 2 Chrissie MacKinnon, Cille Mhoire; 3 Chiara MacLean, Dunvegan; Gàidhlig Air (Open to all Skye schools): 1 Eòghann Peutan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; 2 Frieda McKiggan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; 3 Katrina Martin, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; March under 14: 1 Dougal McKiggan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; 2 Jonathan Peutan, Stafainn; 3 Gillesbuig Mac a' Phioceir, Portree; March under 18: 1 Frieda McKiggan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; 2 Eòghann Peutan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; 3 Steven Macdiarmid, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; Strathspay & Reel under 14: 1 Archie MacLean, Edinbane; 2 Dougal McKiggan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; 3 Gillesbuig Mac a' Phioceir, Portree; Strathspay & Reel under 18: 1 Eòghann Peutan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; 2 Steven Macdiarmid, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; 3 Frieda McKiggan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; Hornpipe and Jig (Open to all Skye schools): 1 Frieda McKiggan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; 2 Eòghann Peutan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; 3 Dougal McKiggan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh and Archie MacLean, Edinbane. Oral fluent speakers: Poetry recitation: Age 5-6: 1 Isla MacKay, Cille Mhoire; 2 Isabel MacKenzie, Cille Mhoire; 3 Eòghann Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire; Age 7-8: 1 Anna Varwell, Cille Mhoire; 2 Emily NicDhòmhnaill, Sléite; 3 Louise Gates, Cille Mhoire; Age 9-10: 1 Holly Tait, Portree; 2 Chrissie MacKinnon, Cille Mhoire; 3 John Varwell, Cille Mhoire; Age 11-12: 1 Anna Morton, Cille Mhoire; 2 Emma MacPherson, An Ath-Leathann; 3

Mia Mutch, Cille Mhoire; 3 Faith MacKenzie-Page, Elgol; Beginners: 1 Eilidh NicDhòmhnaill, Portree; 2 Anna Nic An Tailleir, Portree; 3 Erin NicIlliosa, Stafainn and Isobel NicLleathain, Edinbane; Advanced: Kirsty Watt, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; Ensemble (primary): Elgol. Accordion: Beginners: 1 Anna Morton, Cille Mhoire; 2 Erin Baker, Portree; 3 Taylor MacMhathain, Portree; Intermediate: 1 Isla NicLeòid, Stafainn; 2 Rodachan MacFhionghuin, Sléite; 3 Iona NicAsgail, Portree; Advanced: 1 Maria NicAsgail, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh. Keyboard: Beginners: 1 Anna Morton, Cille Mhoire; 2 Eilidh Brown, Breacais; 3 Eilidh MacKinnon, Sléite; Intermediate: 1 Emily NicMhathain, Stafainn; 2 Isla NicLeòid, Stafainn; 3 Alys Deans, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; Any other instrument: Beginners: 1 Kristin Nic a' Phearsain, Portree; 2 Mairi NicIlliosa, Portree; 3 Rachel Shaw, Portree; Intermediate: 1 Calum MacKay, Dunvegan; 2 Alys Deans, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; Folk group: Primary: 1 Stafainn; 2 Portree 6/7; 3 Portree 5/6; Poster with Gàidhlig caption: Age 7-8: 1 Violet Matheson, Macdiarmid; 2 Ross MacLeòid, Stafainn; Age 9-10: 1 Erin NicIlliosa, Stafainn; 2 Cèitidh Nic a' Ghobhain, Portree; Age 11-12: 1 Emily NicMhathain, Stafainn; 2 Isla NicLeòid, Stafainn, Jonathan Peutan, Stafainn; Literary (open): 1 Isla NicLeòid, Stafainn, 2 Criosaidd

NicFhionghuin, Cille Mhoire; 3 Emily NicMhathain, Stafainn. Trophies: Presenting Mòd committee trophy: Isla NicLeòid, Stafainn; Junior Piping (open): Eòghann Peutan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; Gàidhlig Society of London: Frieda McKiggan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; Piobaireachd: (Murdo MacDonald, Borve Memorial); Eòghann Peutan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; Nicol Campbell Memorial Trophy (primary piping): Archie Maclean, Edinbane; Iain (Cordovox) MacDonald (accordion): Isla NicLeòid, Stafainn; Most promising clarsach player: Anna Taylor, Portree; Advanced violin (Tongadale Trophy): Rona Stewart, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; Choir: An Ath-Leathann; Drama: Portree clas 4/5; Luadh (Urras Fhìdhaigearraidh Trophy): Sgoil Stafainn; Folk group: (Run-Rig Trophy): Sgoil Stafainn; Ross Gillies Memorial (highest individual points in music/singing): Iain MacCarmag, Portree; Gàidhlig school with most points in oral competitions: Sgoil Chille Mhoire; Non-Gàidhlig school with most points in oral competitions (Oban rose bowl): Rosay Primary; Verse speaking P1-3: Sgoil Chille Mhoire; Verse speaking P4-7: Sgoil Stafainn; Action song P1-3: Portree 2/3; Action song P4-7: An Ath-Leathann; Clarsach ensemble (primary): Elgol Primary; Silver Medal girls 13-15: Anna NicAsgail, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; Fiddle Group Primary: Elgol Primary.

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Dialogue: Primary 1-3: 1 Ross MacLeòid & Lexy NicLeòid, Stafainn; 2 Evie NicIlliosa & Sadie NicDhòmhnaill, Portree; Primary 4-7: 1 Seumas Caimbeul & Aonghas Lamont, Cille Mhoire; 2= Isla NicLeòid & Emily NicMhathain, Stafainn; 2= Iain MacCarmag & Cameron Mac a' Phearsain, Portree; Secondary 1-2: 1 Anna NicAsgail, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; 2 Cairistiona NicDhòmhnaill, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; 2 Rachel NicFhionghuin & Maria NicAsgail, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; 3 Chloe NicFhionghuin & Mairi NicFhionghuin, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; Secondary 4-7: 1 Erin NicIlliosa, Stafainn; 2 Innes MacNeill, Portree; 3 Isla NicLeòid, Stafainn; Short Talk: Primary 4-5: 1 Calum MacLeòid, Portree; 2 Kathleen NicDhòmhnaill, Portree; 3 Megan NicMhathain, Stafainn; Primary 6-7: 1 Emily NicMhathain, Stafainn; 2 Iain MacCarmag, Portree; 3 Ciara MacKenzie, Cille Mhoire; Secondary 1-2: Cairistiona NicDhòmhnaill, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; Verse speaking (open): Primary 1-3: 1 Cille Mhoire; 2 Fear nam Fìclan, Portree; 3 An Ath Leathann B; Primary 4-7: 1 Sgoil Stafainn, 2 Cille Mhoire; 3 Clas 5/6 Portree; Original Play: Primary 4-7: 1 Portree 4/5; 2 Portree 6/7; oral learners: Poetry recitation: Age 5-6: 1 Neela Mutch, Cille Mhoire; 2 Catriona MacKinnon, An Ath Leathann; 3 Roslyn MacPherson, An Ath Leathann; Age 7-8: 1 Shannon Anderson, An Ath Leathann; 2 Molly Carson, An Ath Leathann; 3 Jack Mutch, Cille Mhoire; Age 9-10: 1 Mia Mutch, Cille Mhoire; 2 Andrew Martin, Macdiarmid; 3 Kirsty MacKay, Raasay; Age 11-12: 1 Jennifer MacLeod, Raasay. Vocal fluent speakers: Solo singing - Girls: Age 5-6: 1 Emma Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire; 2 Erin NicNeill, Sléite, 3

Beth NicDhòmhnaill, Portree; Age 7-8: 1 Emily NicDhòmhnaill, Sléite; 2 Evie NicIlliosa, Portree; 3 Carmen NicAsgail, Portree & Caramarie NicCalmain, Sléite; Age 9-10: 1 Beth Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire; 2 Erin NicIlliosa, Stafainn; 3 Mairi NicIlliosa, Portree; Age 11-12: 1 Eilidh Brown, An Ath Leathann; 2 Isla NicLeòid, Stafainn; 3 Emma MacPherson, An Ath Leathann; Age 13-15 (Silver Medal): Anna NicAsgail, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; Solo singing - Boys: Age 5-6: 1 Calum MacCormac, Portree; 2 Eoghann Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire; 3 Althe MacMath; Age 7-8: 1 Aonghas MacFhionghuin, Sléite; 2 Ross MacLeòid, Stafainn; 3 Charlie Lattin, Portree; Age 9-10: 1 Calum MacIlliosa, Portree; 2 Seumas Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire; 3 Donald Stewart; Age 11-12: 1 Iain MacCarmag, Portree; 2 Ruairi Lates, An Ath Leathann; 3 Matthew Culbertson, An Ath Leathann. Vocal learners: Solo singing - Girls: Age 5-6: 1 Catriona MacKinnon, An Ath Leathann; 2 Isabella Langlands, An Ath Leathann; 3= Iona Boyle, Roslyn MacPherson and Scarlett MacColl, An Ath Leathann; Age 7-8: 1 Alison MacFarlane, Macdiarmid; 2 Grace MacLaren, An Ath Leathann; 3 Lucy Livingstone, An Ath Leathann; Age 9-10: 1 Louise MacInnes, An Ath Leathann; 2 Morag Brus, Portree; 3 Eilidh Nic a' Phearsain, Portree; Age 11-12: 1 Trina MacColl, An Ath Leathann; Solo singing - Boys: Age 7-8: 1 Isaac Reeves-Wumble, An Ath Leathann; Traditional Song (Open): Primary: 1 Iain Cormack, Portree; 2 Isla NicLeòid, Stafainn; 3 Erin NicIlliosa, Stafainn; Secondary: 1 Anna NicAsgail, 2 Cairistiona NicDhòmhnaill, 3 Peigi Nic a' Phioceir - All Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; Primary Duet: 1 Ruairi Lates & Eilidh Brown, An Ath Leathann; 2 Matthew Culbertson & Emma MacPherson, An Ath Leathann; P1-3 song groups: 1 Ilean bithèabh sunndach, Portree; 2 Na Piseagan, Cille Mhoire; 3= Na Caillagan, Sléite and Na Smeòraich; Choral - Unison: 1 Bun-sgoil An Ath Leathann, 2 Bun-sgoil Phorthrigh, 3 Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire; Puirt a Beul: 1 Bun-sgoil An Ath Leathann; Action Song: Primary 1-3: 1 Portree; 2 Sléite; Primary 4-7: 1 An Ath Leathann, 2 Cille Mhoire, 3 Portree; Luadh: 1 Stafainn, 2 Portree; Violin: solo: Beginners: 1 Amy MacKinnon, Elgol, 2 Brooke Lamond, Elgol, 3 Alexandra Rouse, Portree; Intermediate: 1 Aoife Ni Bhaighill, Sléite; 2 Ceara Stoddart, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; 3 Jennifer Shaw, Portree; Advanced: 1 Rona Stewart, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; 2 Kirsty Watt, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; 3 Saoirse Stoddart, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; Fiddle group: Primary: Amy MacKinnon, Rachel Henderson and Brooke Lamond - Elgol Primary; Clarsach: Under 1 year's tuition: 1 Abi Davidson, Elgol, 2

Mia Mutch, Cille Mhoire; 3 Faith MacKenzie-Page, Elgol; Beginners: 1 Eilidh NicDhòmhnaill, Portree; 2 Anna Nic An Tailleir, Portree; 3 Erin NicIlliosa, Stafainn and Isobel NicLleathain, Edinbane; Advanced: Kirsty Watt, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; Ensemble (primary): Elgol. Accordion: Beginners: 1 Anna Morton, Cille Mhoire; 2 Erin Baker, Portree; 3 Taylor MacMhathain, Portree; Intermediate: 1 Isla NicLeòid, Stafainn; 2 Rodachan MacFhionghuin, Sléite; 3 Iona NicAsgail, Portree; Advanced: 1 Maria NicAsgail, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh. Keyboard: Beginners: 1 Anna Morton, Cille Mhoire; 2 Eilidh Brown, Breacais; 3 Eilidh MacKinnon, Sléite; Intermediate: 1 Emily NicMhathain, Stafainn; 2 Isla NicLeòid, Stafainn; 3 Alys Deans, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; Any other instrument: Beginners: 1 Kristin Nic a' Phearsain, Portree; 2 Mairi NicIlliosa, Portree; 3 Rachel Shaw, Portree; Intermediate: 1 Calum MacKay, Dunvegan; 2 Alys Deans, Ard-sgoil Phorthrigh; Folk group: Primary: 1 Stafainn; 2 Portree 6/7; 3 Portree 5/6; Poster with Gàidhlig caption: Age 7-8: 1 Violet Matheson, Macdiarmid; 2 Ross MacLeòid, Stafainn; Age 9-10: 1 Erin NicIlliosa, Stafainn; 2 Cèitidh Nic a' Ghobhain, Portree; Age 11-12: 1 Emily NicMhathain, Stafainn; 2 Isla NicLeòid, Stafainn, Jonathan Peutan, Stafainn; Literary (open): 1 Isla NicLeòid, Stafainn, 2 Criosaidd

Eye to eye with John Wallace

Holiday checklist

The flights and hotels are booked. Your passport is in date and you have organised all the necessary visas for your holiday. But have you organised everything you need for clear healthy vision? It really would not be much fun jetting off somewhere exotic only to discover you had left your spare contact lenses, glasses or prescription sunglasses behind. It is an almost daily ritual in my practice at this time of year for tourists to arrive having broken their only pair of glasses (that usually happens the night before a several-hundred-mile drive home) or having left their supply of disposable contact lenses at home. In the UK it is a legal requirement contact lenses must be prescribed by a registered practitioner e.g. optometrist, optician or ophthalmologist. You can only purchase them with a valid written prescription. You can avoid a lot of grief by simply ensuring you have up-to-date spare glasses and

you have a sufficient supply of contact lenses and solutions to last a few days beyond the length of your holiday. Remember about bottle sizes for solutions if you are flying (100ml max). Normal monthly supplies come in 360ml bottles and must be carried in your suitcase. I frequently get asked about swimming while wearing contact lenses. The answer is you should never swim while wearing your lenses. They are easily contaminated and rapidly absorb chlorine from swimming pools. The work around is to wear daily disposable lenses while swimming. When you finish in the pool remove and bin the daily lenses and replace with your normal lenses. Remember to organise spare glasses and/or contact lenses well in advance. Many of the more advanced glasses and contact lenses can take at least two weeks to be manufactured. Relax and enjoy your holiday.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
Wallace Optometrists
The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic
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Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES)
www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk

Mull filmmaker is trust ambassador

RENEWED wildlife filmmaker Gordon Buchanan has become an ambassador for the Scottish Wildlife Trust. Originally from Mull, Gordon is known for his ground-breaking natural history programmes including Wild Burma, The Dark: Nature's Nighttime World, Land of the Lost Wolves, Lost Land of the Tiger, Lost Land of the Volcano and Lost Land of the Jaguar. Gordon has also contributed to numerous award-winning BBC, Discovery and National Geographic wildlife programmes

and documentaries, including Winterwatch, which has seen him become a household name. Chief executive of the Scottish Wildlife Trust Jonny Hughes said: 'The Scottish Wildlife Trust is delighted to welcome Gordon Buchanan as an ambassador during our 50th anniversary celebrations. Gordon is a leading light in the wildlife world. He has captured some spectacular wildlife events during his career and his work has inspired millions to learn more about the wonders of nature. We are thrilled that Gordon will be joining forces with

Scottish Wildlife Trust members and supporters in our mission to protect Scotland's amazing wildlife for the future.' Gordon Buchanan said: 'I have spent my career inspiring people about the natural world and wildlife, so this role seems like a perfect fit, as it was Scotland's wildlife that first inspired me when I was growing up on Mull. 'I was honoured to be asked to become an ambassador and I look forward to being a champion for its continued dedication to preserving Scotland's wildlife for future generations.'

Music school's summer concert and fun day

KILMALLIE Hall will be filled with the sound of music on Sunday (June 15) as Lochaber Music School hosts its annual summer concert and fun day.

The event, starting at 2.30pm, will showcase the talent of the group's 150 youngsters, followed by an afternoon of activities including a bouncy castle, face painting, lucky dip and treasure hunt.

Home baking and a barbecue will be on offer during the day's festivities.

Lochaber Yacht Club regatta

LOCHABER Yacht Club's regatta kicks off on Monday evening with a keelboats and solings race.

Everyone is welcome to the event, starting at 7pm at the clubhouse on Achintore Road, and to all other activities throughout the week.

Various races will be held every evening next week and during the day on Saturday and Sunday. A barbecue and refreshments will be available between races. More information and entry forms are available at www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk.

Bike stolen from Nevis Range

A BIKE was stolen from Nevis Range on Saturday.

The white and red Trek Fuel 8 mountain bike was taken from its secure location at the Alpine Bike Park between 11am and 6.30 pm.

Police ask that anyone with information about the incident call 101 or the Crimestoppers anonymous line on 0800555111.

Pram theft witness appeal

A GREEN three-wheeled pram and rain cover was stolen from outside a house in Fort William sometime between 3.30pm and 5pm on Thursday June 5.

Police ask that anyone with information about the incident call 101 or the Crimestoppers line on 0800 555111.

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A newly-refurbished Cameron Square. 20_124cameron02

Residents enjoy sunshine in new-look Cameron Square

FORT William residents made the most of a rare sunny afternoon on Friday to enjoy the newly refurbished Cameron Square.

The town's newest event space, a £540,000 Scottish Government funded project, features terraced seating, grass areas and free wifi as well as plug points for event equipment and coloured lighting which can be changed to suit the season or mood.

'Suite'

But the talking point of the square, just off Fort William High Street, is a blue three-piece 'suite', made completely of concrete but designed to look like the real thing.

Leader of the Lochaber area, Highland councillor Thomas MacLennan, said: 'I am delighted to see the completion of this contract which will make such a difference to the High Street.

'The council is committed to improving the public realm areas and to increasing footfall in the town centre which we hope will lead to a more vibrant economy for all the High Street businesses.'



Two year-old Taylor Lauder was impressed with the square's new furniture. 20_124cameron01

Appeal to help children out of fuel poverty

6,000 suffer in Highlands and islands

ALMOST 6,000 children in the Highlands and islands are suffering from fuel poverty, a study has revealed.

Figures released by The Children's Society showed 779 youngsters in Ross Skye and Lochaber and 258 in the Western Isles could be living in homes which are too cold because of fuel poverty - when a person spends 10 per cent or more of their income heating their home.

Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant called for a 'warm home discount' to be offered to all families with children living in poverty.

She said: 'I am very concerned that parents face the choice of feeding their families with a decent meal and keeping the heating on.'

'I am giving my full support to the call by The Children's Society for the UK Government to make the warm home discount automatically available to all families with children who are living in

poverty. This will make a real difference to families who are struggling hard to pay energy bills.'

This was announced in the same week as figures released by Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) revealed that 61 per cent of people aged 60 and above in the Highland Council area are living in fuel poverty, with the figure rising to 76 per cent of those over 60 in the Western Isles - in urban areas the figure is 45 per cent.

Report editor Dr Sarah Skerratt said: 'The cost of household heating is just one area of poverty in which there is an imbalance between rural and urban Scotland. Poverty and disadvantage in rural areas often remain hidden because national policies and measuring tools do not cater sufficiently for needs of rural areas.'

But the situation could worsen for people in rural areas according to Age Scotland. The charity states home

improvement schemes are often focused on more populated areas in a bid to cut fuel poverty rates more rapidly.

A spokeswoman for the Scottish Government said: 'Through our Home Energy Efficiency Programmes we have distributed funding to every local authority in Scotland to make sure homes in their area are warmer and cheaper to heat.'

'A total of £42 million of the £60 million available this year is allocated on the basis of need which takes into account levels of fuel poverty and reflects the different types of properties within rural areas.'

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus MacNeil called the results 'an absolute scandal'.

He added: 'The wind-chill factor is a major challenge in our islands and should be recognised as such. The wind-chill makes our islands feel far colder and means that our pensioners require more energy to heat their homes.'

One step closer to abattoir

MEAT suppliers in Skye and Lochalsh are one step closer to their goal of an abattoir in the area as a project officer has been appointed to develop the plan.

Rachael Jackson, who farms at Orbst in north-west Skye, will use a report published by the Scottish Agricultural College to bring the project to a 'shovel-ready' stage over her eight-month contract with Skye and Lochalsh Meat Supply Group. This includes confirming a location, developing a funding package and starting planning discussions.

Mrs Jackson said a small abattoir would put an end to the current 150-mile drive to the nearest slaughterhouse in Dingwall or two-hour ferry trip to the Lochmaddy centre.

She added: 'Previous feasibility studies said it wouldn't work in this area but they were all for full-sized facilities, we're now looking at a micro service abattoir. This would suit crofters' needs

much better. This will be of great benefit to the economy because studies show when people spend £2.50 per head in the area it increases money circulating in the local economy by £1.3 million per year. It's a boost to the economy of the area but it will also have environmental benefits because of the reduction of driving miles as well as better welfare for the animals.'

Dave Thomson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, welcomed the news. He said: 'I am delighted to hear that the Skye and Lochalsh Meat Supply Group has appointed Rachael Jackson to bring the abattoir plans to fruition.'

'This will be great news for farmers and crofters in the area, as it will cut down on the lengthy treks that have to be made to get to the nearest abattoir in Dingwall.'

'I congratulate Rachael on her new position and look forward to working with her in the future.'



Sandy MacInnes was less than impressed with the oversized hat provided for his adventure in a police car.

Lochyside delight as fete raises thousands

PUPILS and staff at Lochyside RC Primary School were delighted with the £4,774 raised at the annual summer fete.

The evening offered face painting, games, and a chocolate fountain and children had the chance to explore the vehicles of local emergency services. Craft stalls, a wheel of

fortune, tombola, bouncy castle and fortune teller were all on offer during the fun-filled evening.

Anne-Marie Lopez, secretary at Lochyside, said: 'We are very grateful for the fantastic efforts and support given by the children, parents and the wider community.'

German artist takes up three-month residency at Skye's Gaelic college

A GERMAN contemporary artist has been awarded a residency at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI, Skye's Gaelic college.

Helmut Lemke specialises in sound and installation art and is the second person to receive the Jon Schueler Scholarship.

Kath MacLeod, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's arts development officer, said: 'We are delighted to be welcoming Helmut Lemke, an extremely interesting and accomplished contemporary artist, as our second Jon Schueler artist in residence.'

With well over 300 applications this year from around the world, the international scholarship is continuing to grow in strength. I am certain that Lemke's work, which will explore sound and language, will be fascinating for audiences here in the Highlands and islands and around Scotland.'

The Jon Schueler Scholarship was established last year to celebrate the life of its namesake, an abstract expressionist painter who died in 1992.

Mr Lemke said: 'I am very excited to be spending three months on Skye. I expect my time will give me great inspiration for new works in response to the sounds of the environment and the Gaelic language.'

Grant cash up for grabs

COMMUNITIES with ideas to improve their area are being encouraged to apply for funding from Highland Council.

Grants are available through the Community Challenge Fund to help groups take ownership of services, buildings or other assets in their area which can be managed by local people.

Highland Council's deputy leader Councillor David Alston said: 'We firmly believe that active communities make a real difference to the Highlands and want to further support the good work that is done through the development of community groups and initiatives. 'We are empowering our communities

to run Council services in their own areas with this £1million funding that we have set aside.

'This could be maintenance of public toilets, street cleaning, grounds maintenance and community works, or perhaps care services. We want to hear how your community might take up the Community Challenge.'

Interest

Expressions of interest are to be submitted by August 1 via www.highland.gov.uk/challengefund.

Further information or advice can be found at council service points or from ward managers.

'Town team' action call

FORT William residents are being urged to pitch in and help regenerate the town.

Following the recent ideas workshop and the enthusiasm shown by participants, Highland Council and Friends of the Old Fort are encouraging volunteers to set up a 'town team' to put plans into action.

Those interested have been asked to attend a public meeting at 7pm on

Thursday June 19 in the town's Council Chambers. Norrie MacLean, chairman of Friends of the Old Fort, said: 'Things are really beginning to happen in this town, all in a positive way.'

'It is great the leadership that is being shown from the council and now it is time for action.'

'It is amazing what can be achieved when a community pulls together.'

Grant seals land purchase deal for Carloway crofting community

A CROFTING community on Lewis will soon be the owner of the land it lives on, thanks to a £207,500 grant.

Carloway Estate residents voted in favour of Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh (Carloway Estate Trust) buying the 11,400-acre estate, together with sporting and mineral rights in February but it was dependant on securing the £250,000 required for the purchase, legal fees and wages for a development officer for the next two years.

Now it has been announced the Scottish Land Fund has agreed to provide 95 per cent of the cost, with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) providing £30,000 and the final

£38,000 being donated by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Carloway Estate Trust chairman Kenny MacLennan said he was 'delighted' that the funding was now in place.

He said: 'Now that we have the money we need that will allow us to progress to the legal aspects. The money will also allow us to look for a development officer for the next two years and deal with mapping.'

'We still have a long way to go and I'm not sure how long the legal proceedings will take but it's great to know that we can move on and we have the support of residents. We now have 300 members

of the trust which is more than the number who originally voted yes in the ballot so it's great to have that support and know we can move things forward for all of those people.'

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan welcomed the grant announcement.

He said: 'This is a very substantial boost for Urras Oighreachd, and all those working hard to ensure that the people on Carloway Estate have control over their own land and future. This follows a successful ballot recently in favour of the buyout, and I look forward to working with the community in the future to help ensure that their ambitions become a reality.'

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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Is best value worth a £1?

WE'VE heard it all before. Public authorities moving out of ageing buildings because they are no longer fit for purpose or cost too much to maintain. But don't worry, we're told, it will be sold on the open market and the money made will be put back into public services.

Then the term 'best value' comes into play - the building can't be sold to the community, a developer, a business, or organisation for anything less than market price because that wouldn't represent 'best value'. Offers are made and rejected. Ideas are put forward and dismissed.

Years pass and these buildings are left to sink into further decay, windows are boarded up after they become a target for vandals, the roofs begin to leak, the fabric of the building deteriorates to the point where the building is not worth anything other than £1 as a token gesture to take it off the authority's hands.

So much for best value then.

GLASGOW LETTER

Young Musician of the Year

APPLICATIONS are open for the BBC Radio Scotland Young Musician of the Year 2015.

Many previous winners of this prestigious competition have gone on to have successful musical careers and, as in the past, the final will be part of the Celtic Connections Festival. To enter visit www.scottishcultureonline.com/youngtrader/enter. Applications close on July 4.

Gruffalo's Child

ALL THREE to five-year-olds will be excited at the prospect of attending the Heart of Scotstoun Community Centre on Saturday June 21 at 2pm when the focus will be the story of Te Bheag a' Gruffalo.

The children will learn about the journey into the forest and will get the chance to play percussion instruments to mimic the sounds of the forest. Children are asked to bring along their Gruffalo or any other teddy. Booking is essential by calling 0141 341 1025 or email linda@anlochran.com.

Gaelic bus tour

ONCE again, as part of the West End Festival, a bus tour has been organised to highlight all the locations in the city which have featured in the lives of the many Gaels who have made such an important contribution to city life. On Saturday June 14, the bus will leave from An Leanaig, Mansfield Street, Partick, at 1pm and during the tour there will be music and song connected to specific places visited. To book call 0141 341 1025 or email linda@anlochran.com.

Glasgow Local Mod

THIS year's Glasgow Local Mod will take place in Sgoil Ghaidhlig Glaschu on Friday June 13 and Saturday June 14.

East Kilbride Local Mod

MORE than 100 primary school children took part in the recent successful Mod held in East Kilbride.

Unthank, Kilmarnock; Sgoil Ghaidhlig, Glasgow; Mount Cameron, East Kilbride; Condorrat, Cumbernauld and Riverside (Stirling) primary schools as well as Falkirk Junior Gaelic Choir and Mount Cameron School Choir took part.

The main prizewinners were: Gaelic Prose Competitions, Learners Age 5 - 6, 1 Mairi Smith, Condorrat; 2 Jack Mackenzie, Riverside; 3 Mairi Kennedy, Condorrat. Fluent, Age 5 - 6, 1 Liden Howat, Condorrat; 2 Lacey Ralston, Glasgow.

Learners, Age 7 - 8, 1 Francesca McNeil, Glasgow; 2 Korin Weir-Stewart, Glasgow; 3 Muirrean Dalton, Glasgow. Fluent, Age 7 - 8, 1 Seona Brown, Glasgow; 2 Arianna Pignatiello, Glasgow; 3 David Ralston, Glasgow. Fluent, Age 9 - 10, 1 Hannah Russell, Condorrat; 2 Eve Byrne, Condorrat; 3 Rebecca Shields, Mount

Cameron. Fluent Age 11 - 12, 1 Rhiannon Kilpatrick, Condorrat; 2 Eilidh McDougall, Mount Cameron; 3 Holly Freeman, Mount Cameron. Solo Singing and Junior Choir Competitions, Solo Singing Boys and Girls, Age 5 - 6: 1 Zoe Drysdale, Glasgow; 2 Mairi Smith, Condorrat; 3 Mairi Kennedy, Condorrat. Solo Singing Boys and Girls, Age 7 - 8, 1 Muirrean Dalton, Glasgow; 2 Caitlin Yule, Condorrat; 3 equal Arianna Pignatiello, Glasgow and Saorla Dickson, Mount Cameron. Solo Singing Girls, Age 9 - 10, 1 Hannah Russell, Condorrat; 2 Eve Byrne, Condorrat; 3 Rebecca Swallow, Condorrat. Solo Singing Girls, Age 11 - 12, 1 Rhiannon Kilpatrick, Condorrat; 2 Alison Bain, Mount Cameron; 3 Holly Smith, Falkirk Choir. Solo Singing Boys, Age 9 - 10, 1 Mitchell Kilpatrick, Condorrat; 2 Christopher Foster, Condorrat. Choral Singing Unison, Two Songs, 1 Falkirk Junior Gaelic Choir; 2 Mount Cameron School Gaelic Choir. Choral Singing Puir a Beul, 1 Mount Cameron School Gaelic Choir; 2 Falkirk Junior Gaelic Choir. The Ken MacAulay Memorial Trophy awarded for the highest Gaelic marks in the junior section was won by Seona Brown, Glasgow.

Diary dates

Thursday June 12: Eddi Reader, Oran Mor, 7pm.

Friday June 13: Glasgow Phoenix Choir Concert, Moncrieff Parish Church, East Kilbride, 7.30pm. Glasgow Local Mod - see above.

Saturday June 14: Glasgow Phoenix Choir with Govan and Dingwall Gaelic Choirs and Govan Schools Massed Choirs, pre concert reception in Govan Old Parish Church at 7pm followed by concert in Pearce Institute at 7.45pm. Gaelic Bus Tour - see above. Glasgow Local Mod - see above.

Sunday June 15: Glasgow Phoenix Choir with Dingwall Gaelic Choir, St Columba's Church, Largs, 1.30pm. Open Air Ceilidh, Kelvingrove Art Gallery piazza, 2pm-4pm.

Tuesday June 17: Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72a, Waterloo Street, 8pm - Tich Frier. Gaelic Singing Workshop - see above. Close Shave Chorus, Kibble Palace, 7.30pm.

Wednesday June 18: Rab Noakes, Webster's Theatre, Great Western Road, formerly Lansdowne Church, Kelvinbridge, 7.30pm.

Friday June 20: Talk with Jimmie MacGregor, Webster's Theatre. Jamie MacDougall and friends, Cottier's Theatre, 6.30pm. Family Ceilidh, Glasgow University Union, 7pm.

Saturday June 21: Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm - Charlie Kirkpatrick's Band. Dick Gaughan, Webster's Theatre, 7.30pm. Gruffalo's Child - see above.

Pub scene NICKY McMichan/ Martin Pottinger will be playing in the Park Bar on both Friday and Sunday evenings with Cool An Aire there on Saturday while in the Islay Inn it will be the Keelies on Friday and Black Velvet on Saturday.

Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.

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 an email, 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.

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It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA344HB giving your day-time telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct.

The views expressed in The Oban Times are not necessarily those of this newspaper.



2nd Argyll Taynuilt Scouts - 1983

David Meldrum of Taynuilt submitted this week's flashback photograph. It features members of the 2nd Argyll Taynuilt Scout Group on Remembrance Day 1983. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000 Fax: 01631 568001

Disbelief at Dalavich tourism claims

Sir, I read Irene McLoungan's letter in last week's Oban Times with interest and disbelief.

She describes Dalavich as a 'sustainable community of tourism-related businesses'.

Perhaps she - or someone else involved in the village's booming tourism industry - could tell me what a day-tripper who makes it to Dalavich with, say, £50 in his or her pocket could spend that money on?

After buying a pie and a paper from the village shop and going for a ride on a boat, I can't think of a single way for a tourist to spend money in the community, no matter how flush they're feeling.

On a wider note, we have read much in your pages from wind farm sceptics about the inducements that go to communities from these schemes.

I look forward to reading their alternative suggestions on how communities get their hands on millions of pounds in direct investment for much-needed regeneration. Or are they willing to allow these villages to just wither and die with the current, ageing generation?

Malcolm Innes, Winterburn, Strathearn.

Costa just what the doctor ordered

Sir, Come on Oban, Costa is just what the Station Square doctor ordered.

I do a lot of travelling and always hunt down a Costa because you know you'll get a good selection of quality coffee in nice surroundings.

The square is a great meeting place with plenty of paved areas. There's not really many reliable alternatives. The Bridge Café and Poppies are good but not handy for people waiting for buses, trains and ferries.

Why are people against Costa? Surely this is what tourists and local people want. We have plenty of fish and chips and charity shops. I'd rather have Costa than a money lenders or

another bookies! Competition is the way to progress and possibly the reason why some people are shouting louder than others.

Adam Reeves, Barcaldine.

Gaelic spelling

Sir, Your paper may be a champion of the Gaelic language, but the report in last week's issue about the desire of Argyll and Bute Council to change the spelling on a road sign up to Pulpit Hill from one version of Gaelic and the objection by a couple of councillors about these changes, raises the question of how any particular word should be spelt in the Gaelic language.

And I suspect there is no definitive answer. Two examples - we had a neighbour from England who bought a property here, and being willing to go along with local custom, consulted a knowledgeable Gael who said it should be 'Tigh'. This, despite everything else locally being 'Tigh'.

Secondly, when I took over as editor of our local newsletter, the title was the 'Seilachan'. During my term in office others referred to it as the 'Seilachan'.

In the interests of sorting out this discrepancy, I wrote to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and asked them an arbiter of the Gaelic language, which was the correct spelling. This fountain of Gaelic learning did not even have the courtesy to reply to my request.

I would suggest that, regardless of whatever the council decides upon, in the face of objections from their own elected members, not one member of the human race is going to be mis-directed because of any change in the road sign.

Jim Cunningham, Clachan Seil, by email.

Crannaig a Mhinister

Sir, In challenging the retention of the established spelling of Crannaig a Mhinister in Oban, councillors Currie and Devon may not be strictly correct.

Not only do 'Crannaig' and 'Mhinister' appear in Gaelic dictionaries but this spelling was used by the Gaelic speaking council at least 120 years ago.

Several spellings were being used for the road including

different name signs top and bottom.

On realising this, the authority identified all of the names and consulted the residents for their thoughts, opinions and preferences. The original title deeds of the older houses show that the spelling Crannaig a Mhinister dates back to at least 1892.

Argyll and Bute Council is thus planning to retain more than a century of regular use and this corresponds with the preferences of most residents.

All living languages change over time and the last 120 years has naturally brought changes to Gaelic spellings and interpretations. 'Crannaig a Mhinister' has no connections with Eng-

landshire and is as much entitled to its Gaelic heritage as any other spellings.

Mike Foster Sannox, Crannaig a Mhinister, Oban.

Thoughtless tower litter

Sir, On a recent return visit to McCaig's Tower I was saddened to discover that the entire central area was littered with foil hearts, obviously from a wedding.

The biodegradable paper equivalent might just be acceptable, but a bill to clear up the current mess might dissuade others from following this thoughtless example.

John Crichton, Forfar, Angus.

Follow us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes

ON OUR Facebook we asked readers: Do you live in Oban? Do you live in Pulpit Hill? How would you spell the Gaelic name for the area Crannaig a Mhinister or Crannaig-a-Mhinister? And what do you think it SHOULD be because Argyll and Bute Council is looking at anglicising it?

Lindsay Smith: Why is the council wasting money on signs when there are far better and more important things this town needs, such as fixing the roads? Andy MacArthur: Why the need for public bodies to anglicise place names? It's insulting to both our heritage and culture - and anyone that says 'the Buckle' instead of 'Buachaille' should be put in the stocks for a week and left for the midges.

Fiona C MacDougall: I would stick with Crannaig a Mhinister as that's correct in terms of Gaelic grammar. It's more commonly recognised as Pulpit Hill nowadays but it would make sense to keep the original place name as it tells you about the history of this part of Oban.

A bilingual sign would be a good option. Isabel Gibson: Crannaig a Mhinister is the correct spelling and as a Gaelic speaker, I think you should definitely keep the Gaelic name.

Frank McCulloch: As The Oban Times is so fond of the proper spelling of Gaelic road signs, will they be pushing for bilingual 'For sale' and 'To let' signs to be erected outside every empty shop in Oban. Gaelic street signs are down at the bottom of this sadly declining town's problems and the energy being wasted on this project should be diverted to something else that will contribute something more worthwhile to the town such as jobs, housing and civic pride.

John Panda Gallacher: I agree strongly with Frank McCulloch...concentrate on filling the empty premises in town and also do something about cleaning up the filthy beaches in town and never mind wasting money on unwanted signs!

Sarah Steward: My parents lived there for 25 years and it was always spelt the second way. Although incorrectly spelt Gaelic-wise, it is the way it has been spelt for however many years.

Don't understand why they would want to anglicise it when Gaelic signs are being put up everywhere else!

Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

THA MÒRAN ri chluinntinn a thaobh blas Gàidhlig fhad 's a tha mi a' sgrìobhadh an t-seachdain seo, ach mar a bhios tric a' tachairt tha am facal ga chleachdadh ann an dòighean beagan eadar-dhealaichte.

Dh'fhoillsich Oilthigh Obair Dheathain aithisg a' toigail dragh mu ire na Gàidhlig a thathas a' teagasg sna sgoiltean agus air an ao àm, nochd clàr de thachartasan aighearach misneachail airson an deicheadh Fèis Blas air Ghàidhealtachd.

'S neònach gun do chuir aithisg Oilthigh Obair Dheathain annas air an fheadhainn aig am bheil uidh ann am brìgh na Gàidhlig oir cluinnear gach latha mar a tha ire a' chànain a' dol bhuidhe ann na coimhearsnachdan. Ged a tha mi ag aontachadh gun bheil e deatamach dèiligeadh ris an dùbhlam mhòr seo, chan eil mi idir den bheachd gur e Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig air am bheil a' chòir gu leir. Foadaidh e bhith gun bheil cuid de luchd-teagasg a th' air Gàidhlig ionnsachadh agus a tha fhathast ag obrachadh a dh'ionnsaigh làn-fhileantachd, ach na mo bheachd fhìn tha e ceàrr a bhith a' cronachadh dhaoine a tha a' dèanamh dìchill gus an cànan a ghleidheadh is a leasachadh.

'S e fìrinn na cùise gun bheil cus de luchd-bruidhne Gàidhlig anns na coimhearsnachdan a sior fhàs leig a bhith a' cleachdadh fhacal agus gnàthasan-cainnt Gàidhlig, agus tha na faclan agus na h-abairtean Beurla a tha iad a' toirt a-staigh dhan cuid còmhraidh a' lagachadh a' chànain. Chan e rud iomair bhith a' seò agus a' fìos againn uile gum feum cànan gluasad neo gum bàisich iad, agus gu dearbh canaidh cuid de Ghàidheil gun deachaidh Gàidhlig fhagail tràighte le muir-làn an adhartais! Ach tha iomadach dearbhadh againn gun bheil mòran beatha anns a' Ghàidhlig fhathast agus 's e an dùbhlam a tha romhainn an luchd-cleachdaidh a bhrosnachadh gun an fharsaingeachd briathrachais a th' aice a thogail as ùr ach an cluinn luchd-ionnsachaidh, sean is òg, Gàidhlig mar is còir dhith a bhith. Agus mar a dh'fhaodadh i bhith a-rihtis le barrachd saothair bho luchd-obrach phroifeiseanta a' chànain, agus barrachd moit agus spàirn bhon choimhearsnachd.

Bidh adhbhar moit gu leòr anns na chluinnear is na chithear ann am Fèis Blas 2014 a bhios a' gabhail àite eadar 5 agus 13 den t-Sultain. Shaoilinn gum bheil rud sa phrògram seo eadar cèol, seinn, film, agus aithris a bheil toir-intinn dha neach sam bith agus a bharrachd air farsaingeachd Roinn Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd, bidh cuid ann an Earra-Ghàidheal agus an Glaschu am-bliadhna cuideachd. Tuilleadh air www.blas-festival.com.

Gaelic medium education involves teaching grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation to children with no knowledge of the language and the scale of this challenge is rightly addressed in a report from Aberdeen University.

All Gaelic-users have a responsibility for the quality and vibrancy of the language. The 10th Blas Festival will celebrate Gaelic music, song, and film between September 5 and 13, with some performances in Argyll and in Glasgow.

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

Le taic bho SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG www.smo.uhi.ac.uk

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THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Crossword grid with clues for Across and Down.

- Across: 1 Opposite meaning (7), 5 Tubes (5), 8 Creamy confectionary (4,9), 9 Plunge briefly (3), 10 Liveliness (9), 12 Found in liver and egg yolk (6), 13 A type of eucalyptus tree (3,3), 15 As the saying goes, there won't be a fire then! (9), 16 Used to carry (3), 18 For the young to drink from (7,6), 20 Documented series of names (5), 21 Understands the generally known fact (5,2).
- Down: 1 With the means of attack (5), 2 To aid sight into the distance (9,4), 3 Smooth peach (9), 4 Short sighted (6), 5 Ace (5), 6 Insect with long forelegs (7,6), 7 Chest protector (7), 11 Dislikes (9), 12 Sly (7), 14 Worthless trinket (6), 17 Rest (5), 19 Possession of (3).

LAST week's SOLUTION SUMMER EDITION OUT NOW www.scotsheritagemagazine.com

ISLAY LETTER

New Lifeboat station

THE ISLAND'S new lifeboat station will be officially opened and dedicated at a special ceremony at Port Askaig on Sunday June 29 beginning at 1.30pm.

The provision of the impressive new shore centre was made possible through the generosity of a number of donors headed by the Hugh Fraser Foundation and the R S Macdonald Charitable Trust.

There has been an RNLI presence at Port Askaig for more than 80 years, following the arrival in 1934 of the island's first lifeboat The Frederick H Pilley, previously stationed at the Lizard in Cornwall.

Her arrival saw the formation of the first administrative RNLI management committee and the appointment of a local working crew. She was replaced in 1935 by the Charlotte Elizabeth which became the longest serving lifeboat at the island station to date.

The new station, situated adjacent to the CalMac booking office at the island port, is now in use by the paid staff and volunteer crew of the current lifeboat The Helmut B Schroder of Dumlossit II. The former station is now used for storage and will be retained until such time as the new station is fully established. The new building also houses a shop selling RNLI products which is staffed by volunteers.

Attending the opening ceremony will be RNLI officials, guests representing the donors and members of the local management committee and volunteer crew members. They will be joined by local fundraisers and invited guests.

The Port Askaig station is widely



Islay lifeboat crew in front of their new station at Port Askaig. Photograph by Islay MacEachern.

regarded as one of the most scenic in Britain with its spectacular views overlooking the Sound of Islay to the towering Paps of the neighbouring isle of Jura.

Whisky Galore

MULL Theatre Company's production of Whisky Galore, staged in Bowmore Village Hall as part of Islay Festival, lived up to expectations.

The play, adapted by Paul Godfrey from Compton MacKenzie's best-seller based on real events which have now entered into Highland folklore, gave a strong sense of time and place.

The MULL production saw the play staged as a radio theatre performance with actors in evening dress and a studio manager creating a range of ingenious sound effects using a variety of ordinary and outlandish objects.

The actors portrayed a wide range of characters ranging from pompous officials to wily islanders with ease and the accents

and characterisations were convincing. Much merriment was caused by the invisible Paddy Baskerville, a hound of uncertain breed, whose vigorous and immodest behaviour had the house in stitches.

The play was produced by Mull Theatre's director Alasdair McCrone who has been at the helm of the island theatre since 1995.

The Bowmore performance was promoted by the Islay Malt and Music Festival committee in conjunction with the local arts association.

Holy Communion

HOLY Communion will be celebrated at Bowmore's Round Church on Sunday June 15 at 10am.

The service will be conducted by the Rev Pat Lang, currently locum minister for the vacant parishes of Kilarrow and Kildalton and Oa. Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay. Telephone 01496 810658.

THE FINEST pipers, athletes and dancers in the west Highland and islands will create a Scottish showcase for locals and visitors on this summer's Highland games circuit.

And with the newest games in Scotland being held next weekend in Oban, the celebrations start now.

Check out The Oban Times' guide to the biggest, best and bizarre events on offer and decide where you will be this summer.

LORNE JUNE 22 MOSSFIELD STADIUM

The newest Highland games in Scotland, the second Lorne Highland Games at Oban's Mossfield Stadium is out to prove itself and organisers have pulled out all the stops to impress in this Highland games heartland. There is something for everyone to see at the games on Sunday (June 22) and competition for men, women and children. A healthy dose of track and field, heavy events, pipers and dancing will complement the less competitive events and sporting exhibition matches. Come and support these fledgling games.

KENMORE HIGHLAND GAMES JULY 2 KENMORE SPORTS FIELD

Kenmore Highland Games organised by the Kenmore and District Sports Association was started in 1972. Known locally as the 'friendly' games, as it welcomes everyone who cares to join in with this small community in its annual event. Events include Highland dancing, heavy weight events, piping competitions, open foot races and Throwing the Tinnie Stone - an almost spherical stone found on Tinnie Farm, Kenmore weighing 101 lbs. The heavies have to throw this and see if they can beat the standing record.

TAYNUILT JULY 19 SPORTS FIELD

Often basking in sunshine and with an ideal venue in the shadow of Ben Cruachan, the Taynuilt Highland Games, on July 19, produces a big annual turnout. An afternoon highlight is the '12 o'clock toss', a caber-tossing competition with a £1,000 prize. It is well worth a visit.

ROSNEATH JULY 20 HOWIE PARK

Those visiting the Rosneath Peninsula Highland Gathering on July 20 are always sure to find a warm welcome to this fun family occasion. From the more serious St Modan's Stone Lift to the less serious bungee jump trampolines, this is a unique games not to be missed. There is something for all the family.

INVERARAY JULY 22 CASTLE GROUNDS

Steeped in tradition and talented athletes, the Inveraray Highland Games can justly claim to be the best one-day Highland games in Scotland. The games are a real spectacle of Highland tradition and will be held on Tuesday, July 22, at Winterton Park in the grounds of Inveraray Castle. As well as seeing elite heavyweight contests, including the world tossing the caber championships,

spectators can enjoy solo piping, Highland dancing, track and field events, cycling, wrestling and performances by pipe bands.

MULL JULY 24 ERRAY PARK

The Mull Highland Games take centre stage on July 24 at Erray Park in Tobermory. A traditional event, the games include a spectacular venue above colourful Tobermory with piping, dancing and track and field events. The games are a great day out for all the family. Ferries and buses from Oban.

SOUTHEND JULY 26 PLAYING FIELDS

Blessed with the stunning scenery of the surrounding Kintyre peninsula, Southend Highland Games, held at Hotel Park on July 26, are well worth a visit. A traditional Highland Games, it offers visitors piping, Highland dancing and a host of other events and activities.

BALQUHIDDER, LOCHEARNHEAD AND STRATHYRE HIGHLAND GAMES JULY 26

On July 26 at the Games Park in Lochearnhead there are the Balquhider, Lochearnhead and Strathyre Highland Games. These games always keep guests well entertained and also provide the spectacle of a traditional Highland clan gathering of the clans McLaren, Stewart, McGregor and Macnab.

KILLIN HIGHLAND GAMES AUGUST 6 BREADALBANE PARK

At Killin Highland Games on August 6, the village of Killin will come alive with a full range of events for the family. There are heavy weight events, piping competitions, dancing and a hill race alongside superb stalls and events for all the family to take part. The games have a wonderful parade along the high street from 1pm from the world-famous Falls of Dochart to the games field.

PERTH HIGHLAND GAMES, AUGUST 10 NORTH INCH

Perth Highland Games include the traditional events performed by the heavyweight athletes - throwing weights and hammers and tossing the caber. In addition, there is highland dancing, running for adults and youths, cycling, solo piping and the very popular pipe band contest with large numbers of overseas bands often taking part. The 2014 Games will be held at the North Inch, Perth on Sunday August 10.

GLENFINNAN GATHERING AND HIGHLAND GAMES AUGUST 16

For many the Glenfinnan Gathering is the focus of a celebration of a way of life now long gone. For one day in a year it is almost possible to transport back in time and envisage what it must have been like on that day in August 1745 when the Prince raised his Standard. The tradition of the Glenfinnan gathering was resurrected by Mrs Cameron-Head of Inverailort over 50 years ago. Sadly she died a few years ago, but the stalwart of the games, Ronnie Mackellaiig MBE, still carries on the job of organising the games as he has done for the last three decades.

ARGYLLSHIRE GATHERING OBAN AUGUST 28 MOSSFIELD PARK

At Mossfield Park on Thursday August 28, the Argyllshire Gathering Oban Highland Games is a very traditional Highland games with piping, Highland dancing competitions, athletics, heavy events, junior shinty and a fascinating heritage tent. The previous day's piping competition attracts some of the best in the world and the winner leads the march to the games field. A real feast of Scottish heritage.

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SUNDAY 20TH JULY 2013
HOWIE PARK, ROSNEATH, N. HELENSBURGH, G84 0RJ
9.00 am Gates Open.
12 noon Grand Parade
The St Modan's Manhood Stone Lift, "Walk on Water" Hamster Balls, Stalls, Children's Rides, Entertainments, Refreshment Stalls & Beer Tent And More!
Come along and join us for a fun day out for all the family.
Contact Katrine Wreford
Tel: 01436 831 112
www.rosneath.games@btinternet.com
Lottery Funded by Awards For All Scotland

MULL HIGHLAND GAMES
ERRAY PARK TOBERMORY
THURSDAY 24th JULY 2014
by kind permission of Tobermory Golf Club.

The band will lead the March from Main Street to the Field at 10.00am approx.
In attendance: Mull & Iona Pipe Band & Oban High School Pipe Band.
Piping, Dancing, Heavy & Light, Field & Track Events.
Refreshments available on the field.
A Great Day Out For All The Family.
Suitable boat & bus services.

Admission £10
Concessions £8
Child (under 14) £5
Family Ticket £25
Tickets available at park & Oban Tourist Centre
Car Park £5
Programmes Free

The Argyllshire Gathering OBAN HIGHLAND GAMES
Mossfield Park, Oban
Thursday 28th August 2014

March to Games Field leaves Station Square at 10.30am
OBAN HIGH SCHOOL PIPE BAND 12noon from Station Square
Highland Dancing • Track & Field Events • Traditional Heavy Events • Piping
Juvenile Exhibition Shinty (starts 9.30)
Tug O' War • Fun Races • Heritage Tent • Trade Stands

PREMIER PIPING COMPETITIONS AT VENUES ACROSS OBAN
Wednesday 27th August 2014

PIOBRAICHD Gold Medal MacGregor Memorial Competition Senior Piobairachd
LIGHT MUSIC: March, Strathspey & Reel (former winners)

PERTHSHIRE HIGHLAND GAMES ASSOCIATION

We are an organisation who supports and assists the promotion and running of Highland Games in Perthshire and the surrounding area. Visit our website www.pgha.co.uk for the latest news, events calendar, sponsors' list, entry forms, results and league tables.

Calendar of Events July 2014
Wed 2 5:30pm - Kenmore Highland Games
Sat 26 12:30pm - Balquhider, Lochearnhead & Strathyre Highland Games

August 2014
Wed 6 10:00am - Killin International Highland Games
Sat 9 9:30am - Aberfeldy Show and Highland Games
Sun 10 10:30am - Perth Highland Games
Sat 16 1:30pm - Rannoch Highland Gathering
Sun 17 10:30am - Crieff Highland Games
Sat 23 9:00am - Strathardle Highland Games & Agricultural Show
Sat 30 11:00am - Birnam Highland Games

September 2014
Sun 7 10:00am - Blairgowrie & Rattray Highland Games
Sat 13 10:30am - Pitlochry Highland Games

Balquhider, Lochearnhead & Strathyre Highland Games and Gathering
The Games Park, Lochearnhead
Saturday, 26th July 2014

Chieftain: Robert Gibbons Esquire
Clans march into the field at 12.00pm
Badenoch and Strathspey Pipe Band

"Pure Malt" traditional folk band will play in the beer tent from 4.30pm until 8pm

Food, refreshments, trade stalls and children's amusements on field

Adults £6 - Children and OAP £4
Free Parking

THE LORNE HIGHLAND GAMES
MOSSFIELD PARK, OBAN
Sunday 22nd June from 11am
Heavy events, track and field, Highland Dancing, Piping, fun events and much much more.
Games Chieftain John Beattie (BBC Radio and former Scotland and British Lion rugby player)
Featuring the Sean Batty Challenge and being filmed by STV and German TV

CASH PRIZES

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL GAMES

ADMISSION:
Adults £6 - Child £3 - Family £16
www.lorne-highland-games.org.uk

OBAN DISTRICT HIGHER SCHOOL

KILLIN HIGHLAND GAMES
Wednesday 6th August 2014
Breadalbane Park, Killin
Gates open 10am
Parade leaving Falls of Dochart at 1pm
Local Heavies, Hill Race, Highland Dancing, Children's Fun Fair
HOMECOMING FOR CLAN MCNAB
Contact: Yvonne Gillies
07836 514072 yvonnegillies@live.com

Inveraray Highland Games
Winterton Park, Castle Grounds
Tuesday 22nd July 2014
9.00am-5.30pm

SOLO PIPING, HIGHLAND DANCING, HEAVY, FIELD & TRACK EVENTS, CYCLING, WRESTLING (Incl WORLD CABER CHAMPIONSHIPS)
Inveraray & District Pipe Band (Grade 1)
will parade from Church Square led by His Grace The Duke of Argyll at 10.45am
Trade Stalls, Side Shows
Children's Activity Tent [FREE]
Full Catering Facilities
Adults £8.00: Seniors £5.00: Children £3.00
Family Ticket £18.00
FREE PARKING

For further details: Tel: 01499 302458
www.inveraray-games.co.uk

Kenmore Highland Games
Kenmore Sports Field
2 July 2014
5.30pm - 9.30pm
Heavy Events, Track Events, Highland Dancing, Hill Race, Children's Races
Contact: Sarah Kelly
Tel: 01887 830281 or mobile 07754 497889

TAYNUILT HIGHLAND GAMES
Saturday 19th July 2014 from 11am
1pm march from Taynuilt Hotel to the sports field led by Oban Pipe Band
Highland Dancing, Piping, Heavy Events, Athletics and Junior events, Hill Race

Southend Highland Games
Saturday 26 July 2014
Gates open 6pm - 9pm
Full range of field and track events with good cash prizes.
Highland Dancing competition, Children's Races... and much more!
Contact: Mr John Galbraith
01586 830235
Email: pollwilline@btconnect.com

The Glenfinnan Gathering and Highland Games
Saturday 16th August 2014 11.30am
Piping Highland Dancing Athletics Heavy Events
Telephone 01397 722234

what's on

THE OBAN TIMES
FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY 12TH JUNE
Ramblers Association guided walk, Spurr nan Eugalit, Kinloch Hourn
Coffee Morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban, 11am
Ralf Roeder at Markie Dans, Oban, 9.30pm
FRIDAY 13TH JUNE
Snow White and the seven dwarves, Corran Halls, 7.30pm
SATURDAY 14TH JUNE
Ramblers Association guided walk, Loch Morar and Loch Nevis, Mallaig
Coffee Morning, Barcaldine Primary School, 11am
Snow White and the seven dwarves, Corran Halls, 7.30pm
SUNDAY 15TH JUNE
Classic Vehicle Show, Corachie Garden Centre, Inverawe, 11.30am-4.30pm
Father's Day Beef & Beer BBQ at Creagan Inn, Appin, from 12noon
Father's Day Charity Victorian Afternoon Tea, Corran Halls, 12-4pm
THURSDAY 19TH JUNE
Ramblers Association guided walk, Meall an Damhain, Loch Sunart
FRIDAY 20TH JUNE
Clan Lachlan Gathering, Castle Lachlan, Argyll, 3 Day Event, Opens 11am
GRIT, The Martyn Bennett Story, Druimfin, Tobermory, 7.30pm
SATURDAY 21ST JUNE
Clan Lachlan Gathering, Castle Lachlan, Argyll
Oban Lifeboat Open Day, Lifeboat Station, South Pier, Oban, 11am-3pm
GRIT, The Martyn Bennett Story, Druimfin, Tobermory, 7.30pm
Worldwide Commonwealth Family Ceilidh Dance, Corran Halls, 8pm
SUNDAY 22ND JUNE
Clan Lachlan Gathering, Castle Lachlan, Argyll
Ramblers Association guided walk, Anach Eagach Ridge, Glen Coe
GRIT, The Martyn Bennett Story, Druimfin, Tobermory, 7.30pm

Email details of your event to
whatson@obantimes.co.uk.

holiday west highland

June Edition
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Kilmartin Museum in partnership with Scottish Crofting Federation are holding a series of 6 Practical Crofting Courses from June - November 2014

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For further info and booking contact Julia or Sally on 01546 510278
Email: education@kilmartin.org
www.kilmartin.org

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Val Hamilton hangs the first exhibit in the makeshift gallery on Soroba Road. 16_t24val01

Makeshift gallery ready for opening

A FOUR-foot high giraffe and a concrete welly boot are just two of the exhibits being used to showcase the array of artistic talent produced by Oban High School's former pupils. The exhibition, known as The Creatives, will feature work from former pupils of

art teacher Val Hamilton, who is organising the event to mark her retirement this summer. The Creatives will display work from more than 50 of her former pupils in the former Horse Box shop, Soroba Road from June 16 - 28. Among the exhibits will be paintings, photographs, textiles, costumes, jewellery, prints and graphics. As the first paintings were being hung this week, Val said: 'I am grateful to everyone who is helping to promote the event, including senior pupils at the school. It has certainly kept my mind off retirement. 'As the former pupils send in their art work the senior pupils having been taking it all in and seeing the work of people that used to be them - it's inspirational. 'It has also given me a great deal of satisfaction.'

Most of those contributing to The Creatives have gone on to study at Scotland's main art schools in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee. 'Some of them have contributed pieces of work from their school days and something specifically for this exhibition, book-ending their journey to this point. 'Others who have gone on to do something completely different tell me the opportunity to do this exhibition has re-ignited their passion for art. Val has taught at Oban

High since the 1970s and came up with the idea for The Creatives earlier this year as she planned her retirement. 'Some people say they would like a gold watch, or golf clubs for their retirement - I just wanted an exhibition,' she said.



Young Lewis musician Mischa MacPherson brings her Trio to GRIT FEST.

Tobermory set for GRIT Fest

GRIT FEST is an amazing weekend of music in Tobermory - a special series of performances to accompany GRIT: The Martyn Bennett Story. There will be performances from Lau, Mr McFall's Chamber, The Mischa MacPherson Trio, India Alba, Sorren Maclean and Hector MacInnes - all over the weekend of June 19-22. All the musicians have been specially chosen because of their connections with Martyn Bennett. Lau's fiddle player Aidan O'Rourke included a beautiful piece called One For Martyn on his 2007 solo album. Lau will be supported by Skye singer/songwriter Hector MacInnes, who recently won the Martyn Bennett

commission award at the Queen's Hall in Edinburgh. Mr McFall's Chamber will be playing Birds and Beasts, the music of Martyn Bennett arranged by Robert McFall. The Mischa MacPherson trio recently won the Young Folk Award at Radio Two Folk Awards at the Royal Albert Hall. India Alba, a Scotland/India collaboration, features the outstanding young piper Ross Ainslie, spotted by Martyn and tipped for a great career in music. Mull musician Sorren Maclean was inspired by Martyn as a teenager, and played electric guitar on the Grit track Liberation. For more information see www.comar.co.uk.

New bird's-eye view of Mull's eagles

PEOPLE from all over the world will now be able to see live footage of Mull's white-tailed sea eagles through a new satellite technology viewing project. Thought to be a UK first, the innovative project aims to complement the already successful ranger-led visits to see Mull's majestic sea eagles. The new satellite link will follow Cuin and Sula, the two famous sea eagles currently starring in the 10th series of the BBC's popular Springwatch. The live footage can be seen on Forestry Commission Scotland's website and on the Carnyx Wild website, whose team set up the camera and satellite equipment under licence from Scottish Natural Heritage in a remote corner of Mull. Fiona Murray, Forestry Commission Scotland's tourism development manager said: 'White-tailed eagles are sometimes known as 'flying barn doors' because of their huge size and majestic wingspan. 'They are an amazing sight and this new satellite project hopes to give a bird's-eye view of their daily lives to a world-wide audience.' Forestry Commission Scotland has been developing its wildlife viewing across a number of forests in Scotland. This new project teams up with existing partners working to promote the very successful five star Mull Eagle Watch. The partnership is run by Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland, Police Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Mull and Iona Community Trust, local volunteers and Forestry Commission Scotland. Dave Sexton RSPB Scotland's Mull officer added: 'For the first time you'll be able to log on and watch the fascinating family life of Scottish sea eagles Sula and Cuin and their rapidly growing chick. 'With live, dawn to dusk HD streaming from the

beautiful Isle of Mull, this project is a wonderful window on their world. 'Eagles really capture people's imagination so to be able to now share in their daily lives like this is very special indeed.' Previously there hadn't been an opportunity for live streaming of Mull's eagles because of expensive electricity connections and a lack of mobile signals. A new affordable satellite broadband link will now open up the viewing possibilities to a world-wide audience. The white-tailed eagles seen on the satellite link are a different pair to those viewed from the popular Mull Eagle Watch hide in Glen Seilisdur on Mull. Visits will continue to the Mull Eagle Watch hide nest only. This means that, for the first time, viewers will be able to follow two pairs of eagles on Mull via the blog and live streaming. The live link will be on air from 6am to 10pm every day.



Lewis Plate took this amazing picture of a Mull white-tailed sea eagle.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Oban Lifeboat Open Day
Saturday 21 June 2014, 11am - 3.00pm

- Step aboard Oban's Trent Lifeboat • Seafairi trips round Oban Bay • Meet the RNLI's Stormy Stan
- Teas • Home Baking • Burgers • Seafood • Tombola
- Treasure Map • Vintage Fire Engine • Lucky Duck Draw • Children's Painting Table
- SAMS Fun Science Experiments • Raffle

Come and join in the fun at Oban Lifeboat Station, South Pier, Oban

Worldwide Commonwealth Family Ceilidh Dance
Sat. 21st June, 8pm - 10:30pm
In Corran Halls, Oban
Neil Sinclair Sound
Tickets from Corran Halls
Adult £3, 13-15 £1
Under 13's free
RSCDS Lorn (Argyll) Branch
Registered Scottish Charity SC 025326
Contact Sue Porter 01631 563013

COFFEE MORNING
Saturday 14 June 2014
Barcaldine Primary School
11am - 1pm
Tea, coffee and home baking. Table top sale
Contact 01631 720391 for more info

Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club
Classic Vehicle Show
Corachie Garden Centre
Inverawe by Taynuilt
On Sunday 15th June
11.30 to 16.30

ARGYLL YOUTH THEATRE
Snow White and The Seven Dwarves
by John Barry
FRIDAY 13th JUNE & SATURDAY 14th JUNE
CORRAN HALLS 7.30pm
Tickets Adult £8 Concession £5
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Skipinnish single walks its way to number one

TRADITIONAL music group Skipinnish has flown straight to number one in the iTunes world music download charts with its single *Walking on the Waves*.

Angus spoke to Sky TV's Sunrise presenter Eamonn Holmes as part of an interview about the independence referendum on Monday. Accordion player Angus MacPhail also appeared on Sky News at 7.15am. Angus said: 'This instantly saw sales of the 79 pence download rocket'. The song went viral on iTunes just hours after it went on sale and the single was at the top spot by 9.45am. The band have just two days to make it up the UK download singles chart and are currently sitting at around 150 - just above Ellie Goulding.

The love song composed by Angus, who comes from the Isle of Tiree, and lead singer, Fort William-based Robert Robertson, was inspired by romance in the stunning background and spirit of the Scottish Hebrides.

'Since we first performed the song at Runrig's 40th anniversary party last year, it has proved very popular. 'It was the obvious choice to release as a single and the response to it has been totally overwhelming,' said Angus.



The new Skipinnish single *Walking on the Waves* has gone viral.

Beetlemania on Coll

A RARE flightless beetle found in only two locations in the UK has been counted in abundance on the Isle of Coll.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland and Buglife researchers visiting the island were surprised to discover over 150 short-necked oil beetles on survey sites, a 400 per cent increase on the last count carried out in 2010.

Teams also identified two new sites for the beetle on the island. Until 2008, short-necked oil beetles were thought to be extinct in the UK. However, recent surveys determined there are two small populations present - one in Devon and the other on Coll.

The beetle, named for the toxic oil secretions it produces, emerge in the early spring and immediately begin feeding on a wide variety of vegetation. After feeding on buttercups and other low growing plants, the beetles mate and the females begin the process of digging a burrow and laying over 1,000 tiny orange eggs which hatch in a few weeks.

Once the eggs have hatched, the young larvae (called triungulins) crawl on to vegetation, and wait for a passing solitary bee in order to reach the bee's nest.

The oil beetle larvae then eat the bee's egg as well as the protein-rich pollen the bee provides to its own larvae, emerging as a fully formed beetle the following spring. It is thought changes in farming practices across the UK have led to short-necked oil beetle declines.

The intensification of agriculture and the loss of flower-rich meadows have been linked to a decline in bee populations - with a knock-on effect on beetle populations.

James Silvey, nature recovery officer at RSPB Scotland, said: 'It is fantastic to discover so many individual beetles on Coll and a good sign that the population is healthy and continuing to grow.'

'The wildflower-rich habitat and the extensive dune systems found on this island make a fantastic home for bees and beetles alike.

'We will continue to monitor this population but it seems clear from this survey that Coll is the best place in the UK for this incredible species.'



Bags of Rock will play at the Corran Halls in July.

Bags of Rock and Friends

BAGS OF Rock 'can't wait' to play the Corran Halls on Saturday July 12, along with friends Reely Jiggled and the Oban Pipe Band.

The band have gone from strength to strength since forming in 2011, playing at festivals in Europe as well as across the UK and even playing for HRH The Queen.

The band describe their unique music as fusing cutting-edge heavy rock with the Great Highland Bagpipe.

This is linked to an electrifying, high energy stage performance which is guaranteed to get any audience fired up.

Musical influences range from Muse to Rammstein

with a bit of Martyn Bennett plain to hear in the mix. As the G-Man says, 'this is not for the faint hearted'.

The band have even had praise from TV music-guru, Simon Cowell, who, on hearing the band at a live event, said: 'Great ambassadors for Scotland - obviously very talented musicians.'

Scottish Chamber Orchestra to visit West Highlands as part of summer tour

OBAN and Skye are playing host to the Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO) as part of its summer tour this month.

Associate artist of the SCO and internationally-acclaimed violinist Alexander Janiczek will lead a strings and solo horn ensemble in a programme featuring music by Tchaikovsky and Grieg.

A highlight of the concert will be the Schoeck Horn Concerto with SCO principal horn Alec Frank-Gemmill, who was recently awarded a Borletti-Buitoni Fellowship - which helps outstanding young musicians to develop and sustain international careers with awards that fund their tailor-made projects.

The orchestra's annual summer tour across Scotland is now in its 36th year, and by dividing into smaller ensembles, this allows the orchestra to bring music to as many local communities as possible.

The orchestra played at Crear at Kilberry last night (Wednesday) and are in St John's Cathedral in Oban tonight (Thursday) and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Skye on Friday, June 13.

Artie's Tartan Tales in Cowal

ARTIE Trezise, who spent 30 years as one half of the famous Singing Kettle, will be returning to the Cowal Highland Gathering.

Last year, his 'Artie's Tartan Tales' shows proved a huge hit with hundreds of children.

Instead of a kettle, Artie's only prop is a tartan trunk filled with souvenirs and trinkets to weave into his traditional but interactive Scottish stories.

This year's Cowal Highland Gathering - which takes place in association with charity partner Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) - runs from August 28 - 30.

Oban Phoenix Cinema	Maleficent	Thurs 12th 16.00 2D Fri 13th 16.00 3D, 19.00 (screen 2) Sat 14th 13.00 2D, 15.30 3D, 19.00 (screen 2) Sun 15th 15.30 2D, 18.00 3D Mon 16th 16.00 3D, 19.00 (screen 2) Tues 17th 16.00 2D Wed 18th 16.00 3D Thurs 19th 16.00 2D, 19.00 (screen 2) Thurs 12th 19.00 (screen 2)	
	Edge of Tomorrow	Thurs 12th 19.00	Thurs 26th 14.00 (ENCORE)
	NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE	Fri 13th 18.30	Sat 14th 18.00
	A Small Family Business	Sun 15th 19.00 (screen 2)	Mon 16th 21.00
	Grace of Monaco	Tues 17th 16.00 (screen 2)	Wed 18th 18.30 (screen 2)
		Thurs 19th 18.00	
	How to Train Your Dragon 2	Sun 15th 13.00 3D (Advanced screening for Father's Day)	
	A Million Ways to Die in the West	Fri 13th 21.00	Sat 14th 20.30
		Sun 15th 20.30	Mon 16th 18.30
		Tues 17th 19.00 (screen 2)	Wed 18th 21.00 (screen 2)
	Thurs 19th 20.30		
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA LIVE	Tues 17th 19.00		
Terry Gilliam's Benvenuto Cellini			
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LIVE			
Henry IV Part II	Wed 18th 19.00		

Maleficent (PG)
From Disney comes 'Maleficent' - the untold story of Disney's most iconic villain from the 1959 classic 'Sleeping Beauty.' A beautiful, pure-hearted young woman, Maleficent has an idyllic life growing up, until one day an invading army threatens the harmony of the land. Maleficent rises to be the land's fiercest protector, but she ultimately suffers a ruthless betrayal - an act that begins to turn her pure heart to stone. Bent on revenge, Maleficent faces an epic battle with the invading king's successor and as a result places a curse upon his newborn infant Aurora. As the child grows, Maleficent realizes that Aurora holds the key to peace in the kingdom - and perhaps to Maleficent's true happiness as well.

Edge of Tomorrow (12A)
The epic action of *Edge of Tomorrow* unfolds in a near future in which an alien race has hit earth, unbeatable by any military unit in the world.

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE

A Small Family Business
A riotous exposure of entrepreneurial greed by playwright Alan Ayckbourn. A Small Family Business returns to the National Theatre for the first time since its celebrated premiere in 1987.

Jack McCracken: a man of principle in a corrupt world. But not for long. Moments after taking over his father-in-law's business he's approached by a private detective armed with some compromising information. Jack's integrity fades away as he discovers his extended family to be thieves and adulterers, looting the business from their suburban homes. Rampant self-interest takes over and comic hysteria builds to a macabre climax.

Grace of Monaco (PG)
Set in 1952, six years after her celebrated Wedding of the Century. This is an intimate snapshot of a year in the life of the twentieth century's most iconic Princess - Grace Kelly - as she strives to reconcile her past and her present. A yearning for a return to the big screen with her newfound role as a mother of two, monarch of European principality and wife to Prince Ranier III. The full-blown international crisis and impending French invasion that loomed would pose a crisis not just for her family, her marriage and her country but in Grace's private life. It would become the moment in which a cinematic icon, an American far from home would have to face a tough decision: return to her celebrated status as a movie star globally loved and adored or accept that she will never act again, embrace her new role and her new identity: her duty to her husband her children and the world.

How to Train Your Dragon 2 (PG)
The thrilling second chapter of the epic trilogy returns to the fantastical world of the heroic Viking Hiccup and his faithful dragon Toothless. The inseparable duo must protect the peace - and save the future of men and dragons from the power-hungry dragon.

A Million Ways to Die in the West (15)
After cowardly Albert backs out of a gunfight because he's never fired his gun, his tickle girlfriend leaves him for another man - the proprietor of the town's foremost moustache emporium. When he accidentally saves the life of a mysterious and beautiful woman,

she helps him find his courage and learn to stand up for himself. But when her husband, a notorious outlaw, arrives seeking revenge the sheep farmer must triumph over all of the hilariously awful dangers of the old west in order to save her.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA LIVE

Terry Gilliam's Benvenuto Cellini
With its stunning visual and musical set pieces such as the Mardi Gras carnival, Berlioz's first completed opera is based on the autobiography of celebrated 16th-century goldsmith and sculptor Benvenuto Cellini. Two entwined plots - Cellini's love for Teresa and his triumphant fulfillment of a commission to cast a bronze statue of Perseus - provide the framework for some of Berlioz's most vibrant, swashbuckling and tender music against a plot of thwarted love, eloquence, intrigue, disguise, mistaken identity, secular merry-making and sacred ceremony.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LIVE

Henry IV Part II
King Henry's health is failing as a second rebellion threatens to surface. He is uncertain that Hal is a worthy heir, believing him more concerned with earthly pleasures than the responsibility of rule. Meanwhile, Falstaff is sent to the countryside to recruit fresh troops. Amongst the unwitting locals, Falstaff gleefully indulges in the business of lining his own pockets. As the King's health continues to worsen, Hal must choose between duty and loyalty to an old friend.

The Oban Times OBAN TIMES READER OFFER

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Community Clan Culture Ceilidh
A Three Day Event - 20th to 22nd JUNE 2014

Gathering Together at Castle Lachlan
Opens Friday June 20th at 11am to Sunday 22nd at 4pm
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Memories are made of this



Betty Paxton, centre left, the oldest member of the Musical Memories group at 102 years of age, is joined by founder member Elizabeth Little, centre right, and Fumiko Miller, left, and Ali Barrow, right, 15. 124memories1

A LARGE group turned out in force to show their appreciation for four years of Musical Memories, formerly named Music for the Brain, at a party held in Oban.

The group, which meets in Glenrutton Road Church Hall once a week on a Tuesday, was in full

swing this week, when Councillor Elaine Robertson cut the birthday cake. Singing leaders, Ali Barrow and Fumiko Miller, who bring the church hall alive with songs from all eras from 1.30pm until 3pm, were on hand to raise the roof with their songs.

On June 22 Alzheimer Scotland will be hosting a

concert alongside the North Argyll Carer's Centre in the town's Corran Halls to raise money for support services and North Argyll Carer's Centre.

Ali Barrow's band The Lush Puppies will be playing at the event alongside other entertainers including people from the Musical Memories group.

INDIAN PETER'S COFFEE HOUSE 1752

A caffeine-fuelled, rip-roaring, swashbuckling tale of kidnap, shipwreck, slavery, murder, mayhem and skullduggery set in an eighteenth century Edinburgh coffee house

told by Mike Maran
with fiddle music played by Rona Wilkie

directed by Patrick Sandford

mikemaran PRODUCTIONS

Easdale Island Community Hall
21 June @ 8.45pm (doors & bar 8.00) late return ferry
tickets & info: www.easdaleislandhall.org



Tiree Show
FRIDAY 25TH JULY 2014
 The Rural Centre, Crossapol
 Judging starts 10.30am

CATTLE, SHEEP, HORSES & PONIES, POULTRY, PET SHOW, HOME INDUSTRIES, CLYDESDALE HORSES, PIPE BAND, VINTAGE TRACTORS

Main Attraction "ELITE FALCONRY"
 www.tireeshow.co.uk

Kintyre Agricultural Show
 Friday 1st August 2014
 Anderston Park, Campbeltown
 Gates Open 8am

Dairy & Beef Cattle, Sheep, Clydesdales, Horses & Ponies, Old Tractors & Dogs

Entry: Adults £6.00, Children £3, Family Tickets £12.00
 Free Parking

BUNESSAN SHOW
 Friday 1st August 2014
 Bunessan School Ground
 Gates open 9.30am

Traditional Highland and Island Agricultural Show
 Entry: Adult £4.00, Conc £2.00, Car Parking £2.00

Licensed Dance to follow in Village Hall
 Robert Robertson Ceilidh Band 9pm
 Admission £7.00

Lorn Agricultural Show
 Saturday 2nd August 2014
 Common Grazing's Tralee, Benderloch
 Showfield opens 9.00am
 Amazing venue on the beach at Tralee, All the usual attractions + many more

Entry Adults £5.00, Child £2.00, Family £12.00

SALEN SHOW
 THURSDAY 7TH AUGUST 2014
 SHOWFIELD AT GLENAROS
 GATES OPEN 10AM

ENTRY ADULT £5, CONC £3, FAMILY £14
 DANCE TO FOLLOW

MID-ARGYLL SHOW 2014
 Saturday 9th August at Kilmory, Lochgilphead
 Showfield Opens at 9am

All the usual competitions plus a few new ones!
 Entry Fee: Adults £6, Conc. £3
 Family Ticket (2 adults, 2 children) £15.00
 www.mid-argyllshow.co.uk

Sunart & District Agricultural Society Show & Family Fun Day Out
 Saturday 9th August 2014
 Strontian Showfield
 Judging Commences 9.30am

Sheep, Cattle, Dog show & Local Crafts, Highland Dancing, Riders of the Storm, Horse Stunt Show
 Open to public by Pipe Band at 12.30pm
 Entry: Adults £ 5.00, Children & Conc £2
 Family Concessions. Free Parking

Islay, Jura & Colonsay Agricultural Show
 Thursday 14th August 2014
 Bridgend, Islay
 Judging starts 10am

Cattle, Sheep, Horses, Dogs, Flowers & Vegetables, Baking, Handicrafts and Childrens Competition.
 Above and Beyond High Wire Artists, Woodcarver, Islay Youth Pipers, Highland Dancers, Caricature Artist, Dog Display, Heavy Events, Shearing, Vintage Vehicles, Stalls & Games, Pet Corner

Adults £6, OAP & Children under 16 £3
 Under 5's free, Family Tickets £15

Appin Agricultural Show
 Saturday 16th August 2014
 Stalker Croft, Appin
 Judging Starts 10am

Sheep, Cattle, Highland Cattle, Dog show, Handicrafts, Floral Art, Flowers and Veg, Highland Dancing, Vintage Engines and Lots More

Entry: Adults £ 5.00, Children & Conc £3
 Free Parking

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TIREE SHOW
 Friday, July 25 2014

BUNESSAN SHOW
 Friday, August 1 2014

KINTYRE SHOW
 Friday, August 1 2014

LORN SHOW
 Saturday, August 2 2014

SALEN SHOW
 Thursday, August 7 2014

MID ARGYLL SHOW
 Saturday, August 9 2014

SUNART SHOW
 Saturday, August 9 2014

ISLAY, JURA & COLONSAY SHOW
 Thursday, August 14 2014

APPIN SHOW
 Saturday, August 16 2014

LOCHABER SHOW
 Saturday, August 23 2014

DALMALLY SHOW
 Saturday, September 6 2014

Lochaber Agricultural Show & Family Fun Day Out
 Saturday 23rd August 2014
 INVERLOCHY CASTLE FARM, TORLUNDY, FORT WILLIAM
 Showfield Opens 9.30am

Entry Adult £7, Senior Citizens £5, Under 16s Free
 www.lochaberagriculturalshow.co.uk

Dalmally Agricultural Show
 Saturday 6th September 2014
 The Mart Park, Dalmally
 Gates open 9am

Main ring attractions, Horse ring display team and vintage Tractors, Climbing poles Plus Junior shinty

Entry fee: £7 Adult, £4 Sen. Citz., £3 Child
 www.dalmally-show.co.uk



AGRICULTURAL SHOWS ACROSS THE WEST HIGHLANDS ARE MUCH MORE THAN JUST STOCK JUDGING COMPETITIONS.

While the shows are centred around the farming and crofting community, you'll find there is something for everyone at these cultural gatherings. They are a blend of all that is best in the west Highlands and islands, viewed in its stunning natural environment but presented in a manner that provides entertainment and interest for locals and visitors alike.

The period from the end of July until the beginning of September sees the west coast show circuit reach its peak with a combination of mid-week and weekend events.

TIREE
 Our show trail opens on the Isle of Tiree on Friday, July 25 with one of the smaller local shows but one with a big reputation for the exceptional quality of its livestock, stunning beach backdrops and the warmth of the welcome from the islanders. However, you should be warned that this show, and its after-show dance, can become highly addictive with many people arranging their annual holidays around this date. Book your travel early to avoid disappointment.

BUNESSAN
 From Tiree, we cross the sea to the south end of the Isle of Mull and a trip to Bunessan Show on Friday, August 1. Again, wonderful scenery and a warm welcome awaits at this traditional island show.

KINTYRE
 On the same day is the Kintyre Agricultural Show, which features a fine field of livestock and, unlike many of its north Argyll equivalents, the Kintyre event boasts a strong showing of dairy cattle. Those who head to Kintyre show, held in Anderston Park in Campbeltown, are the earliest risers on the circuit - gates open at 8am.

LORN
 The following day, Saturday, August 2, one of the bigger shows on the circuit, The Lorn Show, will be held in a beautiful setting close to Tralee beach, Benderloch. Another west coast show famed for its quality of livestock, this event attracts competitors and spectators from throughout Argyll and further afield, and is easily accessible from the main road with ample parking and plenty of attractions for a great day out for all the family.

SALEN
 On Thursday, August 7 it's back to the Isle of Mull for the Salen Show. Again a wonderful scenic backdrop, set conveniently beside the main Tobermory road, it provides a combination of local and open livestock competitions, trade stands and great catering. Climb the hill to enjoy the view and find the horse and pony competitions which are an increasing part of the Salen set-up. Like its island counterpart, Bunessan, there is a traditional show dance that is well worth waiting for - if you can stand the pace.

MID ARGYLL
 Mid Argyll Show, on Saturday, August 9 is another of the bigger county events. Held on the outskirts of Lochgilphead it offers a large entry of all types of livestock on an easily accessible showground. In addition to the traditional farming based stands there are several good craft, home industries and information marquees to be browsed at leisure.

SUNART
 Sunart and District Show, also held on August 9, promises a fun day out for all the family with Highland dancing, vintage engines and a pipe band sharing the field with a fine livestock competition and variety of local crafts. The showfield opens at 9.30am.

ISLAY
 Breaking away from its customary Thursday in August, the Islay, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Show opens its gates at Bridgend, Islay on August 14 this year. This event is a true showcase for

Islay stock, which is known up and down the west coast for its quality. The large showfield is filled with stands and attractions that will ensure a well-spent day.

APPIN
 The self-proclaimed most scenic show in Scotland, the Appin Show is held in Stalker Croft on August 16. Situated on the shoreline, by Stalker Castle, the view situation alone is worth going to see. An important community event, the Appin Show attracts a large local crowd for sports, Highland dancing and even vintage tractors.

LOCHABER
 Slightly further north, the Lochaber Show, held on the outskirts of Fort William on Saturday, August 23, is another of the larger shows which regularly attracts fine quality livestock from the high hills of the west and blends them with a host of activities for the visitor. The show, which nestles under the shadow of Ben Nevis and benefits from a regular bus service from Fort William, attracts around 1,500 locals and visitors and is a celebration of what rural Lochaber has to offer.

DALMALLY
 Marking the finale of the west coast show season is Dalmally Show on Saturday, September 6 when again tradition ensures that there will be a top class field of livestock on offer, particularly from the Highland cattle breeders, who consider a win in Dalmally a feather in the cap. This is matched by a large entry of Black-face sheep from some of the top hill farms in Scotland. The show, at Dalmally Mart beside the A85, also has the added attraction of shinty, a wealth of arts and crafts and a bulging home industries tent. Whatever shows you find your way to in the coming months, you will find a warm welcome and a day out to remember.





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Farming



A one-year-old Suffolk ewe hogg, pictured with owner Audrey MacDonald of Arisaig, was overall show champion. 20_124agrishow01

Road to the Isles Show enjoyed by hundreds

HUNDREDS of locals and visitors enjoyed a sunny afternoon at the Road to the Isles Agricultural show, held at the idyllic Camusdarach showground, Arisaig. Audrey MacDonald of Portnadoran, Arisaig won overall show champion with a one-year-old Suffolk ewe hogg. The animal is a home-bred Suffolk gimmer, by Ashton Sweetie Pie, last

year's reserve winner. Cattle champion was last year's overall winner, a three-year-old Highland heifer, owned by Sydney and Maureen O'Hara, from the Cnoc Lodge fold, Appin. Bridein 4th of Kynedor, from sire Eoin Mhor of Beinn-Latheir, is with calf by Adhamh 1st of Achnacroish, a young bull used for the first time. Afternoon entertainment

was well received, despite the anticipated birds of prey display being cancelled. Show secretary Elizabeth Fleming said: 'We felt that the day went well. It's always difficult beforehand, hoping that everything goes okay but I think everyone enjoyed it. 'It was unfortunate that the birds of prey didn't come but the afternoon seemed to go alright.'



Bridein 4th of Kynedor, with calf, was cattle champion, shown by stockhandler Iain McKay for Sydney and Maureen O'Hara, Appin. 20_124agrishow02

Road to the Isles Agricultural Show results 2014 (livestock):

Commercial Cattle: Breeding cow (any breed): 1 D. Wright, Clovullin, Ardgour; 2 D. Campbell, Camusdarach, Fort William; 3 W. Henderson, Traig, Arisaig; Breeding beef cow with calf: 1 D. Wright, 2 W. Henderson, 3 W. Henderson; In-calf heifer: 1 D. Campbell, 2 D. Wright; Heifer born before 01/09/13: 1 D. Campbell; Bullock calf born between 01/09/13 and 30/11/13: 1 W. Henderson; Bullock calf born after 01/03/14: 1 I. Stewart, Skye View, Arisaig; Heifer calf born between 01/09/13 and 30/11/13: 1 D. Campbell; Heifer calf born after 01/03/14: 1 D. Wright; Commercial Cattle Champion: D. Wright with Breeding Cow & Calf; Reserve: D. Campbell with In-Calf Heifer. Highland Cattle: Highland heifer, 3-year-old: Mr & Mrs O'Hara, Cnoc Fold, Appin; Highland heifer, 2yo: 1 Forestry Commission, Lochaber, 2 Mr & Mrs O'Hara, 3 Forestry Commission; Highland heifer: Iyo: 1 Forestry Commission; Highland bull: 1 Forestry Commission; Undressed cow/heifer: 1 W. Henderson, 2 W. Henderson, 3 I. Stewart; Undressed calf: 1 W. Henderson, 2 I. Stewart, 3 W. Henderson. Highland cattle champion: Mr & Mrs O'Hara with 3yr-old heifer. Reserve: Forestry Commission with 2yr-old heifer. Overall cattle champion: Mr & Mrs O'Hara, Reserve: D. Wright. Blackface sheep: Aged tup: 1 S. MacKenzie, Acharacle; Shearing tup (Born 2013): 1 N. MacPhail, Mull, 2 S. MacKenzie, 3 J. MacLean, Mull; Tup lamb (Born 2014): 1 K. MacKenzie, Acharacle, 2 S. MacKenzie, 3 A. MacGillivray, Acharacle; Homebred Blackface shearing: 1 S. MacKenzie, 2 J. MacLean; Ewe in milk: 1 N. MacPhail, 2 M. Cherry, Mull, 3 M. Cherry; Ewe hogg (Born 2013): 1 N. MacPhail, 2 M. Cherry, 3 K. Burgess, Acharacle; Ewe lamb (Born 2014): 1 M. Cherry, 2 N. MacPhail; Ewe and lamb(s): 1 N. MacPhail, 2 A. MacGillivray; Champion Blackface sheep: N. MacPhail with Ewe in milk, Reserve Blackface sheep: K. MacKenzie with Tup lamb. Any breed or cross other than Blackface: Aged tup: 1 F. Boa, Mull; Shearing tup (Born 2013): 1 F. Boa, 2 A. MacDonald, Arisaig; 3 A. MacDonald; Tup lamb (Born 2014): 1 A. MacDonald; Ewe in milk: 1 A. MacDonald; Ewe hogg (Born 2013): 1 A. MacDonald, 2 F. Boa, 3 F. Boa; Ewe and lamb(s): 1 A. MacDonald. Non Blackface Champion: A. MacDonald with Suffolk ewe hogg, Reserve: F. Boa with Texel shearing tup. Overall sheep eChampion: A. MacDonald with Suffolk ewe hogg. Overall livestock champion: A. MacDonald with Suffolk ewe hogg. Trophy Winners: Sheep: Frank O'Donahue Cup: Blackface Champion: Norman MacPhail; Invergusseran Cup: Blackface Shearing - Norman MacPhail; MacGillivray Trophy: Home Bred B.F. Shearing Tup: Sam MacKenzie; Arisaig Stores Salver: Champion other Breeds: Audrey MacDonald; Knoydart Cup: Best B.F. ewe in milk: Norman MacPhail; Best B/F Ewe and Lamb Cup: Norman MacPhail; Mointeach Mhor Trophy: Best Non B/F Ewe & Lamb: A. MacDonald; Steven Ferguson Cup: Best Blackface Lamb: Kris MacKenzie; Cameron Head Trophy: Overall Sheep Champion: Audrey MacDonald. Cattle: Phosyn Shield: Best in calf Heifer: Donald Campbell; Scamadale Cup: Best Native Animal: Mr & Mrs O'Hara; Iain Stewart Cup: Best Highland Animal: Mr & Mrs O'Hara; Roshev Cup: Reserve Highland Cattle: Forestry Commission; MacMillan Shield: Overall Cattle Champion: Mr & Mrs O'Hara; Alick Craig-Mhor Cup: Reserve Cattle Champion: David Wright; Bank of Scotland Cup: Overall Livestock Champion: Audrey MacDonald. Dog Show: Cameron Macintosh Cup: Nicky Parish with a Collie; Best Visiting Dog: Rainy Rae, Stirling with Pointer. For results from Road to the Isles Show Industrial categories, see page 23.

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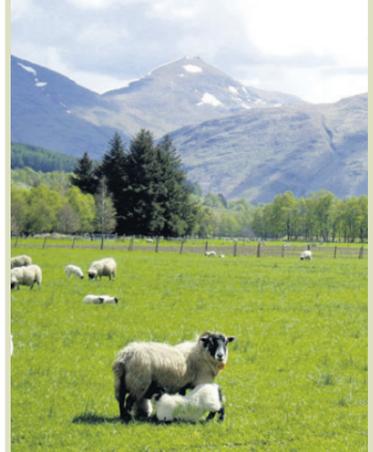
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Farming Focus with Ewen Campbell, SRUC farm manager for Kirkton and Auchtertyre

LAMBING is now finished at SRUC Kirkton and Auchtertyre research farms, near Crianlarich and while it is always a busy time, the good weather this year has made it a lot more straightforward. The early grass growth has allowed the ewes to produce plenty of milk and the lambs are now thriving. All the Kirkton (Blackface and Lyleys lambs (roughly 900) are recorded at birth. This recording involves tagging and weighing the lambs and recording their dam within 24 hours of the lambs being born. This is nice and easy when the ewes and lambs are in the shed but involves a bit more energy when catching lambs out in the field. This year the Blackface single lambs weighed on average 3.8kg and Lyleys singles slightly more at 4.4kg. It won't be long until all the ewes and lambs are brought in for marking at the end of this month. We will also find out then how many lambs have been born from our Auchtertyre Blackface flock, which is lambed out on the hill. So we are making the most of a few quieter weeks after lambing before the busy part of the summer begins. At the moment we are crutching (shearing off the wool around the tail and rear end) the ewes and treating them with pour-on to keep parasites at bay and are also just about to start shearing, with the rams being first in the queue. Thoughts have also turned to the grassland and weed control. We plan to re-seed about 3 hectares of grass and sow about 1.5 hectares of forage crop this year. Last year we weed wiped an area of land which was densely covered with rushes and achieved 100% kill rate so we have purchased a weed-wiper with the aim of reducing rushes, thistles and other weeds across both farms. We also had some interesting research results on the farms. One of our BSc Applied Animal Science students (Grace Cutthill, from the Black Isle) studied the effect of Plochteach on lamb performance. Plochteach is a photosensitisation disease, which manifests itself in young lambs with lesions to the skin of the face, ears and back. It is known to be linked to the plant Bog Asphodel, which grows on the hills of our farms. Not much is known about this disease or its occurrence in Scotland, but up to 10 per cent of lambs born on hill farms in Western Scotland are believed to be affected. Grace used data collected from our farms last year, which was a bad year for Plochteach. Out of 712 lambs, 39 showed the external signs of the disease. She found that lambs with the disease had lower marking and weaning weights than those without it, with a 2-3 kg difference. The presence of Plochteach was also strongly linked to the pastures on which the lambs and their mothers had been grazing during the summer. It is a topic that the researchers on the farm are keen to investigate in more detail. Finally, I may see some of you at the Highland Show this year. SRUC is having its usual stand, but this time we will be showcasing some of the research kit that we use here on the research farms. It should be an entertaining four days.



One of the Blackface mothers with her lamb.

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Market reports

UNITED Auctions held its annual June sale of all classes cattle and sheep at Dalnally Auction Mart last Saturday, when 135 head of cattle and 698 sheep of all classes were sold. Top prices per head: Cattle: Bullocks: CHARx: £730 and £702 - Colintrave Farm; LIMx: £760 (4) - Garraron and Melfort Farms; SIMx: £910 - Duallin Farm; £850 - Barnakill Farm. £700 - Torran Farm. Heifers: AAX: £770 - Barnakill Farm; CHARx: £755 - Colintrave Farm; LIMx: £735 (4) & £730 (5) - Garraron & Melfort Farms; SIMx: £915 & £720 - Barachander Farm; £710 - Colintrave Farm. Top prices per kilo: Bullocks: CHARx: 267p - Couston Farm Company; 265p (3) - Ballygowan Farm; 250p - Colintrave Farm; LIMx: 254p (5), 244p (4), 241p (2) and 233p (3) - Garraron and Melfort Farms; Luim: 229p - Colintrave Farm; SIMx: 237p (2) - Ellary Farms; 232p and 226p (3) - Torran Farm. Heifers: CHARx: 226p (3) - Ballygowan Farm; SIMx: 252p - Colintrave Farm; 244p (2) - Torran Farm; 236p - Barachander Farm. Breeding cattle: Heifers with calves to £1,880, Barguilean Farm. Cows and calves: £1,600 - Barguilean Farm; £1,210 - Curacoa; £1,150 - Barguilean; £1,060 - Tombuie. OTM cows: £990 - Duallin. Sheep: Hogg: TEXx: £70 - 6 Leanish, Barra; CROSS: £75 and £67 - 6 Leanish, Barra; £64 - Ellary Estate; BF £56 - 6 Leanish, Barra. Widders: £76 - 15 Ardmhor, Barra. Ewes with twin lambs: Mules: £182 - Dunans; £180 - Dalnabreac; £160 - Barguilean Farm; £150 - Drimore Farm, Uist; CROSS: £157 - Strathorchy; £147 - Ellary Farms; £136 - Maam Farm; BF: £146 & £120 - Ellary Farm; £120 - Strathorchy; TEXx: £148 - 138 Stilligarry, Uist; CHEVx: £124 - Dunans. Ewes with single lambs: CROSS: £124 - Strathorchy; £117 and £108 - Maam Farm; £108 - Drimore Farm; £91 - 15 Ardmhor, Barra; CHEVx: £124 & £116 - Dunans; £122 - Maam Farm; BF: £108 - Ellary Farm; £93 - Strathorchy; £83 - Drissage; CROSS: £110 - Ellary Farm; £94 and £90 - Strathorchy.

Business

Award-winning sea salt launched on wider market

A MOTHER-of-two turned salt connoisseur is launching her award-winning product on to a wider market just two years after she launched Hebridean Sea Salt.

Already 1,600 packs of the salt, sourced from the clear waters of Loch Erisort on the east coast of Lewis, are produced each day.

But company founder Natalie Crayton feels it is time to widen her market beyond the 300 independent stockists it currently supplies.

Having tasted success at the Scotland and Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards, the company is now looking forward to further growth as it launches to almost 400 Co-op and Scot Mid stores this month.

The salt contains more than 60 naturally occurring trace elements which are essential to good health and well being and has been used in top restaurants including Gleneagles, The Three Chimneys and Edinburgh School of Food and Wine.

Loch Fyne Oysters' award success

ARGYLL seafood producer Loch Fyne Oysters won the fish and seafood category with its Kinglas salmon fillet at the Scottish Food and Drink Awards.

The win comes on the back of a Queen's Awards for Enterprise: International Trade 2014.

David Adams McGill, VisitScotland's regional director, said: 'This award is richly deserved. Loch Fyne Oysters has built and maintained an international reputation for quality produce and first-class customer service. The company is one of Argyll's best-known brands and does much to promote Scotland as an international destination.'

'May they enjoy continued success.'

Newsdesks

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Oban beautician Ailsa Hurst, left, with Ocho Spa business partner Pauline Stevenson.

Oban beautician wins top award

A BEAUTICIAN from Oban is all smiles after her business won a national award at the first attempt.

Ailsa Hurst opened Ocho Spa in Port Dundas, Glasgow, four years ago with business partner Pauline Stevenson and in that time has built up a strong reputation in the Glasgow area.

That culminated in the fledgling business being named best spa/day spa at the awards ceremony on June 1 in Glasgow's Thistle Hotel, which was attended by the Lord Provost of Glasgow and celebrity couple Michelle Keegan and Mark Wright.

'I burst into tears when we won,' said Ailsa. 'I think it was just total shock. We didn't even know we had been nominated until they told us we had made the final a few weeks beforehand, so we had managed to convince ourselves we wouldn't win.'

'It was our first ever time at any awards ceremony and were playing with the big boys, so it was just so unexpected.'

The 28-year-old said there were plans to expand the business further by offering more training opportunities to existing staff, as well as adding to the five-strong staff by the end of the year.

SAMS opens office in Abu Dhabi



Back from left, Dominic Jermy, British Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, who hosted a reception following the signing, Mohammed Eid Al Mazrouei, Rabia Choudri, Reed Smith LLP, Abu Dhabi, and Tom Marchbanks, Scottish Development International. Front, from left: HE Eid Bakheet Al Mazrouei and Dr Tracy Shimmield.

THE MARINE science research establishment at Dunstaffnage is forging links to the Middle East by setting up a branch office in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

An agreement was recently signed between the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) Research Services Ltd (SRLS) and HE Eid Bakheet Al Mazrouei to develop commercial, research and educational links with UAE clients.

The aim is to build a marine economy in the country using the regional workforce based on the model of the Scottish Marine Institute and European Science Park near Oban.

SRLS began trading in 2002 at Dunstaffnage and has since built a reputation for delivering independent and high-quality marine environmental survey and consultancy services, underpinned by cutting-edge research which takes place at SAMS.

The company mission is to enable clients to understand and mitigate the risks involved with industrial interaction with the marine environment.

Work starts on power project

WORK has begun on the 900-kW Kames small hydro power project along the eastern shore of Loch Awe in Argyll and Bute.

Initial feasibility work started on the project in 2009. Planning permission and a Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) licence were received in late 2013 and construction started in May 2014.

As well as being an investment partner in the project, Gilkes Energy is also the lead engineer, providing design, project management and construction supervision services.

The lead civil contractor is George McNaughton and Son, an experienced civil contractor based in Lochgilphead.

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Lease second homes to avoid tax hit

OWNERS of second homes in the Argyll and Bute area are being urged to put their properties up for lease to avoid being hit by new rules doubling council tax rates.

Argyll and Bute Council brought in new council tax rules in April this year, increasing the rate for unoccupied homes by 100 per cent - the maximum granted by the Scottish Government.

Property expert, Bell Ingram, based in Oban, believe leasing is the most obvious solution and is encouraging people who own second homes to explore the profitable alternative.

The new rules apply to any property that has been 'unoccupied' for a period of two years or more.

Rather than qualifying for a discount these properties are now subject to double the standard rate.

'Unoccupied' is defined as 'used for less than 25 days in any rolling 12-month period'. Properties which have been unoccupied for less than two years, but more than one year, will also be subject to the double council tax unless they are actively marketed for sale or let.

Jackie Moore, residential



Jackie Moore, residential lettings manager.

lettings manager at Bell Ingram, says leasing properties not only makes financial sense, it's good for the area.

She said: 'These new rules really give owners food for thought on what they should do with second properties and leasing seems the obvious choice.'

'Instead of their money being sunk into council tax they can get someone into their home and make a profit from their unused

asset. Letting these properties will not only help financially, but it will also drum up business in and around Oban, encourage more people to move to the area and help with the housing shortage.'

Exemptions are still made under these new rules where a number of circumstances such as forced moves through disability or necessary renovations allow owners to avoid paying increased council tax.

Jackie added: 'We've had a number of enquiries since the council announced the new rules back in August 2013 and there has been a ramp-up in activity since April.'

'If local residents have any questions regarding their unoccupied properties, I would encourage them to get in touch.'

The Scottish Government gave local authorities discretionary powers to charge up to 100 per cent more for unoccupied properties from April 2013.

Councils in Scotland have announced various scrapping of discounts and increased charges with Argyll and Bute and Fife among the strictest implementing the full 100 per cent increase this year.

Landlord's astonishing offer to find a tenant

A DISGRUNTLED landlord got so frustrated with the demand for double council tax on his empty flat that he offered to lease the part-furnished, two-bedroom property in Campbeltown free.

Mark Everett recently managed to find a tenant, a young fisherman based in the town and has managed to avoid paying the increase.

'I had been struggling to find a new tenant since the top floor Burnside Road property became vacant in September 2012,' he said.

But then Argyll and Bute Council warned him that it would be doubling the council tax from £1,000 a year to £2,000 if the flat was not occupied by September.

'I was looking for £230 a month rent and still had no joy when I dropped it to £100.'

'The place is fine, well maintained and clean and in a central location, and I know I am not the only landlord in the town struggling to find tenants.'

'I consider myself a responsible landlord and I feel I am being punished unfairly with unreasonable rates.'

'I have told the council I was trying hard to rent the

place, but there seems to be no understanding or room for manoeuvre.'

Mr Everett, 44, who is based in Galashiels and works with Borders Council, said: 'I bought the property seven years ago when prices were at a peak. I can't sell it because it is worth a lot less today. The new build on the old site of Park Square has made it even harder for landlords to find tenants.'

Mr Everett said he was happy the property was now let and he had come to an agreement with his tenant that it would be rent-free for the first six months and after that it would be a minimal rent.

Argyll and Bute recently decided to double council tax on unoccupied properties to crackdown on the number of places left unoccupied. The new ruling came into effect on April 1 this year.

Kintyre councillor Rory Colville was unsuccessful in opposing the change.

He said: 'The council took the decision and we have to get on with it. My concern is that it was aimed at speculators in the Oban area where properties are much sought after and people were

happy to keep them unoccupied while their value went up. That is not the case in Campbeltown, and we need to look at the situation here separately.'

The *Oban Times*' sister publication *The Campbeltown Courier* recently highlighted how properties in the town were being left to deteriorate by absentee landlords.

Low property and rental values are making them unattractive to maintain or upgrade.

A council spokesman said this week: 'We have a dedicated empty homes officer who can provide information, advice and assistance on a wide range of issues including property condition, financial assistance, legal advice, renting or selling your property, and matching empty homes with prospective occupiers.'

'There are circumstances where discounts are available before double council tax will be applied.'

'There are also some situations where there could be six months' relief from double council tax.'

'Each application is considered on its own merits but it would not be appropriate to comment on an individual situation.'

Skye firm leads way with digital baby book

THE LITTLE red medical record book which is given to every parent when their child is born is to go digital thanks to a Skye-based company.

The Personal Child Health Record (PCHR) is given to record the early health and development of a new baby and medical milestones thereafter.

Innovative software developer Sitekit Ltd is developing the first 'eRedbook', which as well as being trialled in the UK could potentially be rolled out worldwide.

The company is based in Portree on Skye and employs staff in Edinburgh, Oxford, and Cambridge.

An additional 16 employees have been taken on to work on the development of the eRedbook and related digital health projects the company is involved in.

Campbell Grant of Sitekit said: 'The paper-based red book has been an important part of early life for families across the country for 20 years.'

'As a platform technology, the eRedbook has the potential to open up many other ways of delivering health and lifestyle services - such as the eSilver-book app we are developing for an older generation.'

Highlands and Islands Enterprise has approved £300,000 towards the research and development phase of the project.

Eilidh Ross, development manager at HIE, said: 'We have worked with the company now for a number of years and Sitekit's proven track record provides a firm foundation for growth within the eHealth sector, bringing real benefits to both the public and healthcare professionals.'

Training reminder

HOLDERS of personal licences for selling alcohol in Argyll and Bute are being asked to ensure that their legally-required training is up to date.

The licences are issued for a period of 10 years but holders are legally required to undertake refresher training within five years of the date of issue, as set out in the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, section 87.

If they do not complete the training within the correct timescale they could have their licence revoked and have to stop selling alcohol with immediate effect.

Anyone who is issued with a personal licence with effect from September 1 2009 must complete training by August 31 this year and also provide evidence of this to Argyll and Bute Licensing Board by November 30 2014.

More information about the refresher training requirement can be found at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/personal-licence-refresher-training.

Specialist advice to help Argyll businesses grow

WHEN things are going well in business, it can be tempting to just keep doing what has been done already and hope it all works out.

But the 'good times' are often the best times to look for options to change.

And when entrepreneurs take those opportunities, their business can really expand.

Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway is flagging up two events being held this month in Argyll that could help businesses prepare for change, and prepare to export.

Both these free events will be delivered by specialists and anyone wanting to attend should book their place now.

'Preparing for Change in your Business' event is a business breakfast at The Enterprise Centre in Kilmory at 8am on June 25, hosted by the Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service

in partnership with Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Business Gateway.

The focus is on how to prepare for and manage change in a business, helping to set out steps to understand, plan, implement and embed change. To book a place please call 0845 607 8787.

Businesses which are considering exporting are encouraged to come along to the 'Preparing to Export' workshop on June 16 and 17 in Inveraray.

This free workshop is aimed at companies which are thinking about exporting for the first time or are in the very early stages of exporting and wish to develop their export capabilities to grow their businesses.

If anyone is looking to develop their export and trade skills, and are based in the Highlands and Islands Enterprise region, call 01463 244212 to book a place.

Business Gateway has a wealth of resources, fresh perspectives and new ideas to help growing businesses - all of which can be tailored to specific needs.

It also has qualified growth advisers who are experienced in helping businesses consider their options and develop their strategy for growth.

Social media and web-building workshops return

FOLLOWING the success of the 'Introduction to Social Media' and the more advanced 'Developing a Social Media Strategy' workshops, these half day workshops are being repeated in Lochgilphead on 17 June.

The 'Build your own Business Website' workshop will run in Oban on June 24, with 'Improve

your Website Performance' on June 25. Places are also available at the 'Practical Basic Book-keeping' on July 1st in Oban.

Places at these popular workshops are limited so book now by calling 01546 604 555.

Funding for business growth

THE BUSINESS Gateway Plus growth grant, launched towards the end of last year, provides discretionary grant funding to growing small and medium sized businesses based in Argyll and Bute.

The grant can provide 50 per cent of project costs up to a maximum of £3,000.

Nine Argyll and Bute based businesses have already had their applications approved, for support with growth projects ranging from website development, to quality

scheme accreditation, attendance at trade fairs and new equipment.

Anyone looking to apply should contact the local Business Gateway team in the first instance to confirm their eligibility and request an application form which also contains the terms and conditions.

Business Gateway has a team of local business advisers on hand to answer questions and to help interested parties progress their application.

A restriction applied with the European funding means that retail businesses are not eligible for support.

The project is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund under the 2007-2013 Structural Funds Programmes.

To find out more about how Business Gateway can help your business, contact the local office on 01546 604 555 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Get the best from your business with help from Business Gateway.

Free, practical advice and support to help grow your business. Call your local office on 01546 605 459 or visit www.bgateway.com/argyllandbute

business gateway
slighe gnothachais

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01631 568000

New firm at helm of three Skye hotels

A NEW management company has been appointed to run three Isle of Skye hotels after the previous firm running them went into administration.

Perle Hotels Limited has been awarded a long term contract to run the Broadford, Marmalade and Bosville hotels following the collapse of Skye Hotels Limited.

Perle Hotels has said it is 'business as usual' with day to day trading and bookings all continuing as normal.

Staff will transfer with immediate effect to the new company.

The management change is the second for the hotels in under a year.

Skye Hotels was appointed to provide a management service following the administration of the previous business, MacLeod Hotels, in July 2013.

Joint administrators, Iain Fraser and Tom MacLennan of FRP Advisory, said the administration of Skye Hotels was caused by severe cash flow problems and rapidly rising operating costs.

Mr Fraser said: 'It was not sustainable for Skye Hotels to continue providing a management service and hence the only alternative for the company was administration.'

'The hotel owners moved very quickly to appoint Perle Hotels Limited, thus ensuring minimum disruption to customers, staff and suppliers.'

'For the avoidance of doubt, the three hotels and their owners are not in administration and remain in a strong financial position. It is only Skye Hotels that has gone into administration.'



Twins Cameron and Struan Smith, aged 28, spotted a gap in the market for private and commercial boat charters on returning to Oban after studying in Edinburgh and spending time abroad.

Jobs cheer as Argyll and Bute Council takes on 25 modern apprentices



Mid Argyll girls Jenny Blair and Samantha Newlands are modern apprentices at Argyll and Bute Council's Kilmory base.

MORE young people in Argyll and Bute will have the opportunity to increase their skills, qualifications and work experience as the local authority takes on apprentices.

Twenty-five young people will be joining Argyll and Bute Council as part of the Modern Apprenticeship scheme this year. Alongside valuable work experience and on-the-job training, the modern apprentices will have the chance to gain accredited qualifications - meaning they can learn and earn at the same time.

The 25 apprentices will be joining Mid Argyll girls Samantha Newlands, 18, and Jenny Blair, 19, who have been working with the council's customer services team.

Samantha from Ardrishaig said: 'My family lives in Argyll and I really want to be able to stay here and have a good career. This is a chance for me to do that.'

Argyll and Bute Council leader Dick Walsh said: 'The young people are Argyll and Bute's future and, by investing in them now, we can make sure that we continue to deliver the very best services that we can for local people, both now and for many years to come.'

Grant helps twins navigate new waters

Brothers' big plans for business growth

A PRIVATE boat charter and tour company that was set up in Oban six years ago by two brothers, has been awarded a Business Gateway Plus Growth grant to expand their business.

Twins Cameron and Struan Smith, 28, spotted a gap in the market for private and commercial boat charters on returning to Oban after studying in Edinburgh and spending time abroad.

The duo consequently set up Coastal Connection and now with a growing customer base and support from Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway, Cameron and Struan are hoping to maintain steady growth in the tourism sector while developing the commercial side of their business.

Struan said: 'The response since we began in 2008 has been great.'

'Word of mouth has had a fantastic impact on our business with many people coming

to us based on their friends' recommendations. We have a solid reputation in Oban now and we are really pleased we were able to come home and establish a growing business.'

'We have invested in a new boat aimed at the commercial market as it is less seasonal and means we can accept work all year round.'

'We are confident and positive that increasing the amount of commercial work we do will have a huge impact on our growth.'

Coastal Connection applied for the Business Gateway Plus growth grant in order to gain an ISO 9000 quality standard accreditation.

By securing this, the company would be in a strong position to tender for larger contracts in growing industries.

Struan added: 'We are aiming to get the quality standard this summer and it would be a major boost for us if we achieved it.'

Being awarded the grant means that we can go for it earlier than we had hoped which in turn should lead to quicker than expected growth. We have worked with Business Gateway for a while and in particular we have enjoyed having a business mentor who can give us an outside view on how we are doing.'

Barbara Halliday, business adviser, Business Gateway said: 'Cameron and Struan have big plans for Coastal Connection and have a growth strategy in place that will benefit from receiving our growth grant.'

'We have supported the business through our one-to-one advisory service in a number of topics and we've helped them take advantage of various networking opportunities.'

To find out more about how Business Gateway can help you set up and develop your own business call 01546 604 555 or visit www.bgateway.com.

Oban firm welcomes upturn in shellfish orders from Spain

A WEST Highland indicator is showing that the Spanish economy is on the mend: as a nation they're going out and treating themselves to shellfish again.

Caley Fisheries in Oban says orders are up from the Spanish lorries which arrive in the town every Monday and Tuesday to stock up their on-board tanks for live exports of velvet crabs

and lobsters. Spain was hit hard in the global economic crisis of 2008-9; its severe austerity measures saw unemployment peak at 27 per cent.

Slowly but surely things are on the mend and what better way to celebrate than with a plateful of the finest West Highland seafood?

'We are looking at continuing slight improvement in the

Spanish market,' said Peter Tosh of Caley Fisheries; island shellfish is forwarded through the firm to buyers.

The West Highland fishing industry has had a tough winter and catches have been slow to improve.

'Things haven't really come on after winter. This time last year it was going like a fair as the saying goes,' said Mr Tosh.

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warranty on parts and labour when installed by one of Panasonic's qualified PRO Partners. Recent financial incentives by the Government, including the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), have made it easier for homeowners to consider renewable heat technologies, moving away from traditional, expensive systems such as LPG, oil or direct electric.

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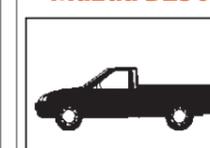
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With an outgoing personality and the ability to deliver customer service both face to face and by telephone you will be responsible for effective operations and efficient administration controls.

The ideal candidate will be familiar with transport logistics, planning, invoicing, ordering, stock control as well as possessing strong people management skills.

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For background information on JDP refer to: www.jdpipes.co.uk
The closing date is 02/06/2014

JDP

We are a profitable and growing National Distributor of Pipe Products with 26 Branches in the UK JDP is part of Tesselario Chemicals Group: a Multi National Business

Keyline
Yard Sales Assistant/
Relief Driver Class 2
Lochgilphead Branch (Salary + benefits)

Great benefits and plenty of opportunities for career progression - join our expanding team at Keyline as a Yard Sales Assistant / Relief Driver Class 2 and share our success and good times with a hard-working, friendly bunch of people.

This is a key customer-facing role, so your people skills will have to be razor-sharp. As a Yard Sales Assistant / Relief Driver you will service all our customers with a smile and complete all necessary paperwork accurately to make sure they are absolutely satisfied with the products they buy and the service they receive. Full product training will be provided so the most important thing is that you have a flexible and can do approach.

Keyline is the UK's number one supplier of civils, heavy building materials and drainage solutions, with a nationwide network of branches and our aim is to be 'Best in Town' for product knowledge, availability and customer service. We're part of the Travis Perkins Group a FTSE 100 Company that's been recognised as one of Britain's Top Employers since 2010. If you aim to be the best you can be, then we'd like to hear from you.

If you would like to be considered for these positions please apply in writing to John Vallis, Branch Manager, Keyline Builders Merchants, Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RR. No agencies please.

MacPhee & Partners
Solicitors and Estate Agents

We are seeking an enthusiastic, experienced and highly motivated Estate Agent to manage our expanding Oban office.

You will be responsible for delivering professional advice to our many clients and growing our current Estate Agency business and services throughout the area, while managing our Estate Agency team in Oban, working closely with our Fort William office.

For further details please visit www.macphee.co.uk
Qualifications and/or experience essential.
Salary commensurate with experience and skills.
Please forward your CV and covering letter to katielamont@macphee.co.uk

Chainsaw operator
must have all certificates to work in North Argyll/ South Lochaber.

Also Chockerman
to work with Skyline team preferable with some chainsaw experience.

Good rates for the right applicant
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BASED AT TOROSAY COURT, OBAN
£28,725 - £30,894 (pro rata) per annum + car allowance

At Bield we are committed to providing care and support which enables older people to make their own choices and lead independent lives.

We are looking for a Housing Officer to provide an efficient and responsive tenancy management service to all tenants in rented and shared ownership housing within the Oban area. With a background in providing housing and support services to older people you will have demonstrable experience of assessing the needs of older people, dealing with tenancy related matters and managing and supporting a staff team. You will also be required to liaise with our Property Officers in relation to property issues within the area and should have experience of low level maintenance inspections, planned works and adaptations.

An HND, or equivalent, in Housing, Public/Business Administration or Social Welfare or substantial relevant experience which reflects accurately the requirements set out in the person specification for this role and, a track record of continuous professional development (in housing and /or systems management and customer services) is essential. As you will be required to travel between developments, a current driving licence and access to a roadworthy car, with insurance for work purposes, is essential.

Hours of employment are 10.5 per week worked on Monday and Tuesday, however, the arrangement of hours/days can be flexible and agreed with the successful candidate. * This post is temporary until 31 December 2015, reviewable on a 6 monthly basis, to cover the secondment of the current postholder.

In return we offer excellent benefits including a choice of pension schemes, opportunities for development and 7 weeks annual leave.

For more information about the role and an application pack, please visit our website www.bield.co.uk
Closing date for returned applications is Friday 27 June 2014.

Bield Housing & Care Scottish Charity No. SC006878

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As the position will be based in Fort William, knowledge of the area would be an advantage. Financial assistance for accommodation where relevant may be available for the first three months.

We offer a good, competitive salary
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- ✓ Shorthand
- ✓ Ambition and enthusiasm
- ✓ Talent, self motivation and commitment
- ✓ A full current driving licence



Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

Administrative Officer FTA

Oban
£18,990 – £20,425 plus benefits

To apply, please visit our website
www.forestry.gov.uk/vacancies

✉ resourcing@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Please quote ref 0342.

Closing date: 18 June 2014

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www.forestry.gov.uk/vacancies

Driver / Escort

£15,433 - £16,340 (pro rata) Glassary, Lochgilphead Ref: CTF00895
10 hours per week on a term time basis

Driver / Escort

£15,433 - £16,340 (pro rata) Isle of Luing Ref: CTF01106
17.5 hours per week

Housing Officer - Home Energy Efficiency (Temporary)

£27,301 - £30,750 Lochgilphead Ref: CMC00538

Driver / Escort

£15,433 - £16,340 (pro rata) Dalmally/Oban Ref: CTF01107
13.75 hours per week

Attendance Officer

£14,599 - £15,457 Campbeltown Grammar School Ref: CME36322

Administration Assistant

£17,975 - £19,088 Lochgilphead or Campbeltown
35hrs Ref: CTI00037
17.5hrs Ref: CTI00162

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join our busy HR & Payroll Transactional Team. Applications are invited from computer literate, self-motivated individuals who have the ability to work competently and confidently under pressure to strict deadlines with a high volume and accurate work turnaround.

☎ 01546 604334

Closing date unless otherwise stated: 27th June 2014.

To apply visit our website



www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs



Supporting People & Communities

Carr Gomm is a Scottish social care charity & not-for-profit company with more than 15 years' experience of providing quality person-centred support to individuals with a wide range of support needs. We provide care & support in people's own homes, in specialist supported living services & through our community development initiatives.

RELIEF SOCIAL CARE CALL HANDLERS – Oban or Lochgilphead

Relief: £8.12 per hour.
Job Ref: 451 when applying for this vacancy please state your preferred locality.

You will be responsible for responding to all calls which are received by the Social Work Emergency Service outwith normal office hours.

SUPPORT WORKER – Oban - Fulltime

£15,827 – 17,879 (pro rata) Job Ref: 448
All applicants for the Support Worker post must be able to drive and have their own transport.

SUPPORT ASSISTANT – Oban Housing Service - Part time

£13,821 – 15,437 (pro rata)
Job Ref: 449 when applying for this vacancy please state your preferred locality and hours.

This role involves supporting homeless people, previous experience and computer skills desirable. Being a driver and having your own transport is desirable for this post.

SUPPORT ASSISTANTS – Oban, Lochgilphead, Campbeltown - Full & Part time

£13,821 – 15,437 (pro rata) Shift Work & Night Shifts available in Oban
Job Ref: 450 when applying for this vacancy please state your preferred locality and hours.

Being a driver and having your own transport is desirable for this post.

RELIEF SUPPORT ASSISTANTS – Oban, Lochgilphead, Campbeltown

Relief: £7.09 per hour.
Job Ref: 422 when applying for this vacancy please state your preferred locality.

Being a driver with your own transport is desirable for this post.

We offer competitive terms and conditions including: pension, enhanced annual leave and sickness, and training opportunities. We aim to provide services and recruit staff without discrimination. A mileage allowance will cover travel expenses.

For more information & to apply

If you would like to have an informal chat about these roles, please call Silvia Jost on 07788 668 842. Application packs are available on our website: www.carrgomm.org/work-for-us

Alternatively, please contact our Recruitment Team:

- Email: recruitment@carrgomm.org
 - Phone: 0131 659 4770
 - Post: Carr Gomm, SPACE, 11 Harewood Road, Edinburgh EH16 4NT.
- Closing Date: Monday 23rd June 2014 (noon)

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You will be responsible for calling new and existing clients to generate and maintain lasting business relationships. The successful applicant will benefit from on-going training, first class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort. A full driving licence is essential.

Please apply by email with full C.V and covering letter to: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

Marine Harvest Workboats Skipper and Deckhand posts

Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd is the largest Aquaculture Company operating in Scotland. Our marine and freshwater sites are located throughout the West Coast and Outer Isles.

Due to further expansion of our workboat fleet, we are currently looking to employ boat crew for our 35m work vessel the Sara Maatje VIII. The vessel will be based in Kyle of Lochalsh and will provide a valuable service to the Company's sites assisting with sea lice treatments, net changing and other general farm duties across our seawater sites in Scotland.

The successful candidates will be required to work closely with Farm Managers to provide an operational plan and must therefore possess strong interpersonal and organisational skills as well as the ability to problem solve. In addition the successful applicants will be required to ensure that their vessel is cleaned and maintained to a high standard and that up to date bio-security records are priority.

Skipper applicants must be strong team players who hold a valid Master 500GT certificate of competence. They should also possess relevant experience in operating vessels of a similar size. Deckhand applicants should hold relevant certificates for sea survival, radio, first aid and fire-fighting. STCW95 certification is a requirement, as is EDH.

In return the successful candidates will benefit from an attractive salary package, including bonus.

If you feel you have the necessary skills for one of these posts, please apply in writing, detailing which post you wish to apply for, enclosing copies of relevant certificates, no later than Friday 20th June 2014 to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 7PT.



Tha an sanas seo a' buntainn ri tidsearan Gàidhlig/Meadhan-Gàidhlig/Luchd-obrach Tràth-bhliadhnachan a tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a' sireadh, agus dhan bheil fileantas is litreachan sa Ghàidhlig nam feartan riatanach.

DREUCHDAN BUN-SGOILE

'S i Bun-sgoile Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis a' chiad Sgoil airson Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an Alba, a thogadh gu sònraichte airson an adhbhair sin.

Bidh 217 air clàr na sgoile airson seisean 2014/2015 le Seiseanan Sgoil-àraich airson mu 70 leanabh.

Tha neartan dha-rìribh aig an sgoil ann a bhith a' brosnachadh thachartasan cultarail Gàidhlig agus tha i air duaisean nàiseanta a chosnadh ann an ceòl, bàrdachd agus pròiseactan iomairteach.

Bidh 9 clasaichean san sgoil agus tha an sgoil a' tabhann goireas cùraim a tha a' gabhail a-steach club bracaist, lòn agus cùram às dèidh sgoile.

Tha na leasachaidhean làithreach stèidhichte mu thimcheall air Matamataig Intinneil agus Conaltradh Gàidhlig agus tha an sgoil airson barrachd dùbhlain is doimhneachd a leasachadh a thaobh ionnsachadh sgoilearan le profaidhleachd sgoileir.

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Tidsear Sealach Bun-sgoile airson seisean 2014/2015
Neach-obrach Tràth-bhliadhnachan (2 dhreuchd) 23 uair a thaidhe

Faodar ceistean neo-fhoirmeil a chur gu Seumas Lyon, Ceannard, air 01463 725980.

Cuiribh a-steach IARRTAS AIR-LOIDHNE aig www.myjobscotland.gov.uk. Mura h-urrainn dhuibh iarrtas a chur a-steach air-loidhne agus sibh airson pasgan iarrtas far-loidhne fhaighinn, cuiribh fios gu Business Support HR Hub C&L, Fòn: 01349 868640 (post-gutha 24 uair) a' toir seachad àireamh fiosrachaidh na dreuchd a gheibhear gu h-ìosal.

Mus tèid an neach-dreuchd a dhearbhadh, feumaidh tagraichean soirbheachail ballrachd a ghabhail ann an Sgeama Dion nam Buidhnean So-leònte.

Tha pasgan ath-shuidheachaidh cuimseach aig a' Chomhairle agus dh'fhaodte gum bi seo ri fhaotainn dhan tagraiche shoirbheachail airson dreuchdan maireannach.

Ceann-latha: Dihaoine 20 Ògmhios 2014

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www.crinanhotel.com

COWAL DESIGN CONSULTANTS

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER/TECHNICIAN

Cowal Design Consultants provide engineering consultancy services throughout Argyll, The Highlands and Islands and Central Scotland from their offices in Dunoon and Oban. There is currently a vacancy in the Dunoon office for a chartered engineer or technician. The right candidate will have experience in residential and commercial developments.

Interested applicants should send their CV and covering letter to: info@cowaldesign.co.uk

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TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
A830 CALLOP
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
DETERMINATION BY THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS
UNDER SECTIONS 20A AND 55A OF THE ROADS
(SCOTLAND) ACT 1984

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that they have determined that their proposal to carry out resurfacing works on 1.2 kilometres or thereby section of the A830 is:

(a) not a project which falls within Annex I of Council Directive No. 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment as amended by Council Directive No. 97/11/EC and Council Directive No. 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and Council;

(b) is a relevant project within the meaning of Sections 20A(9) and 55A(7) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, and falls within Annex II of the said Directive but that having regard to the selection criteria contained in Annex III of the Directive it should not be made subject to an environmental impact assessment in accordance with the Directive, and accordingly the project does not require the publication of an Environmental Statement.

J J MORAN
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Trunk Roads Bus Operations,
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF
3 June 2014

The Independence Referendum
Guest Speakers:
Michael Russell MSP
Patrick Harvie MSP
Bill Crossan
Chair: Donald Harrison
Dalmally Community Centre
16th June at 7pm
Organised by
Yes, Lorn and the Isles

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NS the voice of local media **the wanted ads**

*Source: WARC (Advertising Statistics Yearbook 2009). Paid and free newspapers.
**Source: The Wanted Ads STAGE 1. GFK NOP Base all adults

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/00954/PP	Installation of 16 ground mounted photovoltaic panels (retrospective)	Kellan Old Farm Killechrochan Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA27 6UY	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
14/00973/PPP	Site for the erection of one dwellinghouse	Land South West Of East Kames Kilmelford Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4XA	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
14/00983/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land South Of Dunstaffnage House Connel Oban Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Connel
14/01011/PP	Erection of holiday lodge	Salen Pier Ardmore Road Salen Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
14/01114/PP	Erection of 4 holiday letting units	Land East Of Crossapoll Farm Crossapoll Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute	Tiree Area Office
14/01116/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Plot 2 Deerview Ichrachan Taynuilt Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
14/01211/PPP	Demolition of existing buildings and site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South West of Durran Cottage East Lochaweside Dalmally Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally
14/01135/MFF	Formation of new mussel farm	Seil Sound East Of Torsa Isle Of Torsa Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Balvicar
14/01292/PP	Alterations and change of use of dwellinghouse to self catering holiday accommodation	Rubha Nan Gall Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6NU	Tobermory Area Office

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
14/01070/LIB	Installation of pole mounted ticket validator	Dalmally Railway Station Dalmally Argyll And Bute PA33 1AA	Sub Post Office Dalmally
14/01168/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse to provide manager's accommodation	Land South East Of Penningate Lodge Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Craignure
14/01187/PP	Demolition of outbuilding, alterations and change of use of existing dilapidated storage building to form biomass boiler room, wood chip store, workshop and store, erection of building consisting of guest and staff accommodation, installation of solar panels on hotel roof and formation of culvert	Taynuilt Hotel Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1JN	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
14/01188/LIB	Demolition of outbuilding, alterations and change of use of existing dilapidated storage building to form biomass boiler room, wood chip store, workshop and store, erection of building consisting of guest and staff accommodation, installation of solar panels on hotel roof and formation of culvert	Taynuilt Hotel Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1JN	Sub Post Office Taynuilt

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgilphead Brae 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. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/01199/PP	Demolition of shed and byre and erection of dwellinghouse	9 Livingstone Way Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7EP	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

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
14/01115/PP	Renovation of existing stone ruin	17 Shore Street Portnahaven Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA47 7SH	Sub Post Office Portnahaven

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Valuation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

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.

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (GALLANACH ROAD, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2014

On Monday 9th June 2014, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for any person to cause or permit a vehicle to wait on the length of road on the dates and at the times as detailed in the schedule hereto. The restrictions imposed by this Order which are required in order to permit the unhindered passage of HGVs, will be in operation when indicated by traffic cones.

SCHEDULE - PROHIBITION OF WAITING

a. 1600 hours on Thursday 19th June to 1600 hours on Friday 20th June 2014
b. 1600 hours on Wednesday 25th June to 1600 hours on Thursday 26th June 2014

Name of Road in Oban	Extent of restriction	Side of road to which restriction applies
Gallanach Road (C34)	From the centre of the access to Port Beag Slipway, extending in a westerly direction for a distance of 120 metres or thereby	South

Jim Smith, Head of Roads & Amenity Services, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

Scottish Power Renewables (UK) Ltd
ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 (SECTION 36)
THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2007

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Power Renewables (UK) Ltd, (Business Address: Cathcart Business Park, Spean Street, Glasgow, G44 4GB, and Company Registration Number: NI028425 28425) has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent to construct and operate an offshore demonstration tidal energy array within the Sound of Islay (central grid reference 143683E 667551N). The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be 10 MW, comprising of 10 turbines. This application is to amend the consent awarded to Scottish Power Renewables (UK) Ltd by the Scottish Ministers in March 2011.

Scottish Power Renewables (UK) Ltd has also applied for a direction under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended), that planning permission for the ancillary onshore development be deemed to be granted.

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

Argyll and Bute Council Jamieson Street, Bowmore, Isle of Islay, PA43 7HL	Islay Energy Trust Custom House, Main Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JJ
Jura Service Point Schoolhouse, Craighouse, Isle of Jura, PA60 7XG	Oban Service Point Municipal building, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW

The Environmental Statement can also be viewed at the Scottish Government Library at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

Copies of the Environmental Statement and supporting documentation may be obtained from Scottish Power Renewables (UK) Ltd, Telephone number: 0141 614 3112 or Email: gary.parker@scottishpower.com at the following charges: Paper copies of the Environmental Statement and the Environmental Report at a cost of £300.00; CD's of the Environmental Statement and the Environmental Report at a cost of £20.00; Paper copy of the Environmental Report £30.00; and Non-Technical Summary free of charge.

Any representations to the application should be made by email to The Scottish Government, Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team mailbox at sprislays2@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

OR

by post to The Scottish Government, Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB, identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for representation, not later than 25th of July 2014.

Representations should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making representations. When initial comments from statutory consultees are received further public notices will give advice on how this information may be viewed by members of the public, and how representations may be made to Scottish Ministers. During the consideration of the proposal, Scottish Ministers may formally request further information to supplement the Environmental Statement and this will also be advertised in such a manner.

Where Scottish Ministers decide to exercise their discretion to do so, Scottish Ministers can also cause a Public Inquiry to be held.

Following receipt of all views and representations, Scottish Ministers will determine the application for consent in one of three ways:

- Consent the proposal as it stands; or
- Consent the proposal with conditions; or
- Reject the proposal.

Scottish Power Renewables (UK) Ltd
ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 (SECTION 36)
THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000
(AS AMENDED)

Further to the notice of an application for consent to construct and operate an offshore demonstration tidal array within the Sound of Islay (central grid reference 143683E 667551N). The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be 10 MW, comprising of 10 turbines.

Notice is hereby given that additional information (in the form of a statutory consultee response) has been received by the Scottish Ministers on this application. Copies of this information have been forwarded to Argyll and Bute Council to be made available for public inspection by being placed on the planning register.

Any queries about this additional information should be directed in the following ways:

Writing to The Scottish Government, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB or emailing to ms.marinelicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

OR

Writing to Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT

Any subsequent additional information received by the Scottish Ministers before determination of the application, if considered to be materially relevant, will be similarly forwarded to Argyll and Bute Council to be placed on the planning register and made available for public inspection. However, no further public notice will be issued.

Any representations should be made in writing to The Scottish Government, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB or by emailing sprislays2@scotland.gsi.gov.uk identifying the proposal and specifying grounds for objection or support, not later than 25th of July 2014.

Representations must state the reasons for objecting or supporting a proposal, be dated and clearly state the name of the person, or persons, representing and include a full return email or postal address of those making the representation. Representations that do not include all of the above information will be considered invalid.

All previous representations received in relation to this development remain valid.

Fair Processing Notice

The Marine Scotland's Licensing Operations Team process applications under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Electricity Act 1989. During the consultation process, letters of representation can be sent to Scottish Ministers in support of or objecting to these applications.

Should Scottish Ministers call a Public Local Inquiry (PLI), copies of these representations will be sent to the Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals for the Reporter to consider during the inquiry. These representations will be posted on their website with personal email address, signature and home telephone number redacted (blacked out).

Copies of representations will also be issued to the developer on request, again with email address, signature and home telephone number redacted.

You can choose to mark your representation as confidential, in which case it will only be considered by Scottish Ministers and will not be shared with the Planning Authority, the developer, the Reporter (should a PLI be called) or any other third party.

If you have any queries or concerns about how your personal data will be handled, please email the Licensing Operations Team at ms.marinelicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or in writing to The Scottish Government, Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

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MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 WORKS, LOCATION

Notice is hereby given that Mallaig Harbour Authority has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of works at Lovat Beach and East Bay Road, Mallaig Harbour:

Cost	£78000	
Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Lovat Beach	57° 00.318'N	005° 49.708'W
Mallaig Harbour	57° 00.315'N	005° 49.705'W
	57° 00.334'N	005° 49.684'W
	57° 00.335'N	005° 49.694'W
East Bay Road	57° 00.274'N	005° 49.672'W
Mallaig Harbour	57° 00.258'N	005° 49.612'W
	57° 00.255'N	005° 49.620'W
	57° 00.264'N	005° 49.640'W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at the Mallaig Harbour Authority, Harbour Office, Mallaig, PH41 4QB during normal working hours.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.Marinelicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: **FKB/A1470 & FKB/A1471 Mallaig Harbour Authority**

www.highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://www.highland.gov.uk>

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
14/01201/PIP	Land 200m North East of Strathview, Lower Scotstown, Strontian	Formation of house plot (previous permission 07/00264/OUTLO)
14/02119/PIP	Crannoch, Nevis Bridge, Glen Nevis, Fort William	Erection of house
14/02136/FUL	Land North of Drumbeg Kinlochell, Fort William	Installation of 500kW run-of-river hydro scheme on Abhainn Bheagaig
14/02162/FUL	Claymore, Glence Ballachulish	Siting of catering caravan renewal of planning permission 09/00220/FULLO

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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BRASS ORNAMENTAL WREN perched on a branch over a brass goblet with leaf pattern engraving. Seems to be very old but not sure, £15 Telephone 01631 720751.
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WEST HIGHLAND SLATES approx 4500 good sizes. Telephone 07721 623854.
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AGA/NOBEL COOKER oil fired, £1,000 on Telephone 07554 541548.
BREAD MAKER Morphy Richards, excellent

INTERNAL DOOR

condition, £50 Telephone 01546 606612.
DEHUMIDIFIER Challenger, excellent condition, cost £140 new, £80 Telephone 07790 685182.
EVAC INDUSTRIAL Dehumidifier, £45 Telephone 07557 399806.
LEC UNDER COUNTER FRIDGE with small freezer compartment, 50cm wide, white, good condition. Collect from Barcaldine, £40 Telephone 01631 720751.
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MARRIAGES

DAIRON - DOUGLAS - At Chichester on May 22, 2014 the marriage took place of Lionel James Thomson, only son of Catriona and James, Dunblane and Michelle Susan, younger daughter of Jill and Austin, Chichester. A celebration to mark the marriage was held in Club Nautico Altea, Spain, on Wednesday May 28, 2014. A great day was enjoyed by family and friends from near and far.

THORNTON - MACLEOD - At Crear, Kilberry, Argyll on May 17, 2014 by the Rev Jeff McCormick, Helen Isabella Thornton, daughter of Edward and Seonaid, North Connel to Kenneth James MacLeod, eldest son of Kenneth and Grace MacLeod, Castleton, Lochgilphead.

DEATHS

HOLMAN - David McArthur, peacefully in his sleep on May 29, 2014. Husband of Valerie, father of Mark, Michael and Andrew. Funeral Service for immediate family only at St Mary's Church, Crundale. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, to The Salvation Army. Memorial Service to be announced. All enquiries: www.holmans.co.uk

McLAREN - Suddenly while attending to his garden on Sunday, June 1, 2014, in his 80th year, Donald (Donnie) McLaren, dearest husband of Cressia Ann, a dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle and friend to many. Funeral service was held at Kilmonivaig Parish Church, Spean Bridge on Friday, June 6, 2014.

REID - Very peacefully at Abbeyfield Care Home on June 4, 2014, aged 91. Mary Reid, beloved wife of the late William. Much loved mother, gran and great gran. Sadly missed by all.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FRASER - Sheana would like to extend since gratitude to everyone for their messages, cards, flowers and ongoing support following her recent sad loss of Tommy, her dearst loved and loving husband. Special thanks to Dr A Massie and colleagues of Tweeddale Medical Practice, to Scott and John of McLellan Funeral Directors for the highly professional, caring and respectful manner in which they conducted their duties, to Rev Dr A Varwell for the beautiful and poignant service, to May MacIntyre for organ music and playing some of Tommy's favourite pieces, to Megan Fraser for piping Tommy to his final resting place, to Gail Young, Margaret Bellwood and Heather Shore for their assistance and also to Brian Hume and staff at the Alexandra Hotel for catering in the Church Hall. Finally, thank you to all who attended the funeral for their support. Your kind donations raised £1,000 for the RNLI.

GALBRAITH - Joey, Christine, Valerie, Colin and all their families wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their support, messages and cards following the very sad loss of Jim Galbraith. Sincere thanks to the staff at Oban and Lorn Hospital for their care and attention, Rev Dugald Cameron for a lovely service at the Church and at the graveside and Catriona at Hamish Hoey & Sons for the exceptional service and support. Also all the carers from Carr Gomm and Helen and Catriona. Jim could not have carried on living in his own home without you. You were very much appreciated. Thank you to all who attended the funeral service where over £500 donations was received for Carr Gomm and a special thanks to James MacPherson whose piping at the graveside created very special moments.

JOHNSTON - The family of the late Donnie Johnston would like to thank all relatives and friends for the kind expressions of sympathy and support extended to them following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to Rev Morag Muirhead for her comforting service, to Dr Chris Robinson for his eulogy and to John Cameron and Kevin Cameron for the music in the church. Thanks to the staff at Glen Mor Medical Practice especially Dr Craig MacMillan and Nurse Catherine Cameron whose care of Donnie was exceptional. Sincere thanks to Scott of John McLellan Funeral Directors for his sensitive and dignified funeral arrangements. Finally, thanks to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside and donated so generously towards Glen Mor Medical Practice and Macmillan Nurses.

MACCONNELL - The MacConnell family would like to thank all friends and neighbours for the many thoughtful expressions of sympathy extended to them following their recent sad loss of Michael 'Twig'. Thanks to Rev Morag Muirhead for her compassionate service, special thanks to Meg and staff at the Railway Club for the catering,

Scott at John McLellan Funeral Directors for his support and organisation during this difficult time, McDonald Bros for the beautiful flowers and all those who paid their last respects on the day and kindly donated over £500 towards Diabetes UK.

McGARRY - The family of the late Dolina, Ballachulish, would like to thank neighbours and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy at this sad time. Thanks to the Ballachulish Hotel for the lovely lunch provided. Many thanks to all who came to pay their last respects. The sum of £80 was raised for Budhmoor House, Portree. Mary and family.

TURNER - The family of the late Mary Turner would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, phone calls and support following the sad loss of their mother. Special thanks to all at the North Argyll Carers Centre who were so good to Mum with such loving kindness. Thanks to the Rt. Rev. Mgr James Canon McNeil for words of comfort and support. Also to Catriona and the family of Hamish Hoey & Son funeral directors for the professional and attentive care of all the funeral arrangements.

MEMORIAMS

BANEY - Treasured memories of my beloved wife Helen, who died June 16, 2007.

- Trevor
FERGUSON - Precious memories of a beloved husband, dad and grandpa, Angus, died June 11, 1993. Sadly missed along life's way. Quietly remembered every day.

- Catherine and family.
LANGLEY - Precious memories of Stewart, beloved husband and loving father, who passed away June 12, 2011. In our hearts you will always stay.

Loved and remembered every day.
- Ann and Craig, Tice and Exmouth
LOPEZ - Elio. Dearest Elio. Forever in my heart.
- Love Gail, Australia.

MACALLISTER - In loving memory of our dear parents and grandparents Margaret who died on June 17, 1995 and William who died July 20, 1996.

Always in our thoughts. Forever in our hearts.
- Phemie and Alex, Margaret, John, Fay and family
MACDONALD - With fond memories of Angus, a beloved husband, father and grandfather who passed away at Inverness on June 11, 1993 aged 67 years.

No longer in our lives to share. But in our hearts you are always there.
- Katie and family, Tortlum, Benbecula

MACKENZIE - In loving memory of my son Alexander, drowned June 14, 1998. Sadly missed.
- Mum, Gordon, Michael, Lynda, Louis and Mhairi. R.I.P.

MACKINNON - Remembering Allan and Isabella our parents and grandparents, who passed away 20 years ago in June, 1994.
- Ian, Fiona and Nicola.

MACNEIL - Michael, died June 16, 2007. Always with me.
- Maree.

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 on June 12, 1982.

No matter how life changes. No matter how we do. A special place within our hearts. Is always kept for you.
- Dorothy and David.

McLENNAN - In loving memory of Isa, who passed away June 15, 2005. A loving granny and great granny. We think of you in silence. We often speak your name. What would we give to hear your voice and see your face again.
- Jacqueline, Donna, Christine and girls.

ROBERTSON - In loving memory of Iain MacKinnon Robertson, who passed away June 15, 2012. Husband of Mary and father of Marion and Niall, a loving caring grandfather and great grandfather.
- Dearly loved and sadly missed by us all.

SMITH - Treasured memories of James dearly loved husband, father, father-in-law, granddad and great-granddad who died June 14, 2000. Memories are precious.
- Rena and family, 31 Glencruitten Drive.

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WEDDING



Ross MacGregor and Dawn MacGregor (formerly Cameron), were married on July 19, 2013 in St. Mary's Church, Inverness, by Fr Wynne, Roy Bridge and held their reception in the Glenmoriston Hotel, Inverness. Ross is the son of Alastair and Lorna MacGregor of Achnabobane, Spean Bridge and Dawn is from Tain, Ross-shire.

Dunollie hosts Vintage Day

VISITORS to Dunollie House and Museum took a step back in time as the attraction hosted a Vintage Day last Sunday. Classic cars dating back to the early part of the last century were complemented by staff dressed in period costume, then joined visitors for afternoon tea, while classical music from an old record player added to the authentic atmosphere.

Members of the Rolls Royce Enthusiasts Club from across Scotland brought 12 cars of varying vintage and were joined by members of Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club at the event.

Classic vehicle club member Ken Groom, from Creagan, near Appin, brought along his Model T Ford, which dated back to 1924 and former Oban man David MacQueen, of

the Rolls Royce Enthusiasts Club, had along his 1934 Rolls Royce Phantom II. Mr MacQueen, who is brother of Oban businessman Graham and now lives in Glasgow, had organised the trip as one of his club's monthly outings.

He said of Dunollie: 'I think it is fantastic what they have done at the museum because it feels as if a lot of the artefacts

have just been discovered.'

The day also served as an official opening for the Old Draper's Shop at Dunollie Museum. The outlet sells a variety of Dunollie products, including Dalriada tartan and Heritage MacDougall tartan.

The museum also has plans to work with businesses in the town to create Dunollie branded, locally produced chocolate and jewellery.



Robin Morley, Younger of Dunollie, welcomes Rolls Royce enthusiast David MacQueen to the museum. 16_t24dunollie01

Sponsored walkers raise cash for Oban Community Play Park

AN ALL-ages sponsored walk saw more than 230 people turn out on a drizzly morning to raise much-needed cash for Oban Community Play Park.

All ages, from a few days old to octogenarians were involved on the popular walk. Pre-school children, parents, Oban Health Walks and the Senior Forum took the short circular walk along the footpath from the Corran Halls to Dunollie Castle and Grounds.

Dunollie Castle Museum Castle and Grounds are kindly

donating soft drinks/water. Building Community Bridges project (Argyll Voluntary Action) are kindly donating goody bags for the children at the end of the walk, and there will be a competition to decorate the T Shirt (inside the bag).

The aim is for the children to decorate their T-shirt based on the theme of Play is for everyone. Photographs of the T shirt designs can then be sent to the Project Worker at AVA by the closing date of Friday, June 20.



An all-ages walk was a very successful event with people of all ages taking part.

Thought for the week

Prayer is available to us all

Throughout the world many people have discovered the experience of answered prayer, sustaining us and bringing us into harmony with our Creator. Prayer is available to us all. It is essential that we make space in our busy lives to give God the opportunity to answer in His own time enabling our lives to become closer to God so we discover the grace to recognise His will and accept the answers.

Many of us turn to God in prayer in times of extreme difficulty, hoping that God may remove the sorrow or hardship from our life. While this may sometimes be the case, it may also be that the answer to prayer is the gift of wisdom, fortitude, and patience which will give us the strength to come through these times and allowing us to grow in spirit.

Geoff Fairbairn

Road to the Isles Agricultural Show Results 2014 (Industrial)

Floral Decoration: Arrangement using 3 flowers and foliage: 1 Helen Lamb, 2 Angela Simpson, 3 Pauline Elwell; Arrangement in a wine glass: 1 June Cairns, 2 Angela Simpson, 3 Helen Lamb; Flowering Pot Plant: 1 Angela Simpson, 2 Claire Hobday. Handicrafts & Knitting: Pair of Gents socks or Kilt Hose: 1 Isobel MacPhie; Child's Sweater or Cardigan - Max. 28": 1 Audrey MacEachan, 2 Ann MacGillivray, 3 Pauline Elwell; Wedding Invitation: 1 Ann MacGillivray, 2 Residents of MacKintosh Centre; 3 Christine Haynes; Baby Jacket in any craft: 1 Ann MacGillivray, 2 Audrey MacEachan, 3 Christine Haynes; Something New from Something Old: 1 Lorraine Crawley, 2 Ann MacGillivray, 3 Day Care MacKintosh Centre; Draught Excluder: 1 Ann MacGillivray, 2 Angela Simpson, 3 Day Care MacKintosh Centre; Doorstop: 1 Ann MacGillivray, 2 Lorraine Crawley, 3 June Cairns; Pin Cushion: 1 June Cairns, 2 Angela Simpson, 3 Ann MacGillivray; Knitted Hat: 1 Audrey MacEachan, 2 Isobel MacPhie, 3 Christine Haynes; Picture in any medium: 1 Andrew Fairbairn, 2 Angus MacIntyre, 3 Gill Carver; Photograph - Nature is Wonderful: 1 Gayle McGeever, 2 Andrew Simpson, 3 June Cairns; Wooden Article: 1 Ryan MacKenzie. Baking & Produce: Soda Bread: 1 Keith Elwell, 2 Ann Lamont, 3 June Cairns; Quiche Lorraine: 1 Christine Haynes; 3 Meringue Shells - unfilled: 3 Christine Haynes; 3 Welsh Cakes: 3 June Cairns; 3 Oven Scones: 1 Pauline Elwell, 2 Vera MacDonald, 3 Christine Haynes; 3 Pieces Flapjack: 1 Pauline Elwell, 2 Christine Haynes, 3 Audrey MacEachan; Sultana Cake: 2 June Cairns; Lemon Drizzle Cake: 1 Christine Haynes, 2 Keith Elwell, 3 Ginger Nuts: 1 Pauline Elwell, 2 Audrey MacEachan, 3

Andy Barker; Thermos of Soup: 1 Pauline Elwell, 2 Vera MacDonald, 3 Andy Barker; Jar of Marmalade: 1 Anne Cameron, 2 Angela Simpson, 3 Isobel Morton; Jar of any Fruit Jelly: 1 Annie MacDonald, 2 Isobel Morton, 3 June Cairns; Jar of Lemon Curd: 1 June Cairns, 2 Pauline Elwell, 3 Christine Haynes; Jar of Chutney: 1 Annie MacDonald, 2 Isobel Morton, 3 Angela Simpson. School Children: Pre-School: Drawing of 'My Hand': 1 Christian MacKenzie, Arisaig Nursery, 2 Declan Matheson, English Medium Nursery, 3 Mairie MacLeod, English Medium Nursery; Painted Shell: 1 Hugh MacEwen, Muck Nursery, 2 Christian MacKenzie, Arisaig Nursery, 3 Willow Moffat, Muck Nursery; Primary 1 - 3: Pencil or Crayon Picture of an Animal: 1 Greg MacDougall, Arisaig Primary, 2 Megan Macleod, Gaelic Medium Primary, 3 Corran MacKenzie, Arisaig Primary;

Painted Shell: 1 Corran MacKenzie, Arisaig, 2 Chloe Harkins, Arisaig, 3 Archie MacDougall, Arisaig; Primary 4 - 7: Don't Drop Litter Poster: 1 Emily MacDonald, Lady Lovat Primary, 2 Kiera Stephen, Mallaig Primary, 3 Fraser MacIntosh, Lady Lovat Primary; Item from Recycled Materials: 1 Heather Nicolson, Lady Lovat Primary, 2 Elaine Coull, Mallaig Primary, 3 Amy Kane, Arisaig Primary. Trophy Winners: Dorothy Simpson Rosebowl: Best Exhibit: Andrew Fairbairn; Camusdarach Rose Bowl: Floral Art: Angela Simpson; Jessie Corson Trophy: Handicrafts: Ann MacGillivray; Bill Henderson Trophy: Best Wooden Article: Ryan MacKenzie; Old Library Trophy: Baking & Produce: Pauline Elwell; Lochaber SWRI Trophy: Institute with most points: Morar WRI; Achateilaisaig Trophy: Best School: Arisaig Primary; Jamieson Quatch: Best Pre-School: Arisaig Nursery.

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An annual walk to raise funds for diabetes research has raised at least £1000. More than 30 adults and children joined a walk from the railway station in Oban to the War Memorial and back again in order to raise the cash. One of the organisers John Twort, said a big thank you to everyone who came along and helped raise the cash.

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Some of the volunteers who helped make this year's Am Am a great success. (c) (23amam)

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CHARITIES, community groups and clubs in the Oban and Lorn area are set to benefit from the most successful Am Am ever run by Rotary Club of Oban.

The golfing event, which attracted more than 40 teams in its 29th year, made more than £9,000 for good causes.

The 2014 tournament, supported by Glencruitten Golf Club, also saw an increase in sponsorship.

Teams pay for the privilege of taking part in the hugely popular event and local businesses sponsor

holes and give to the prize fund.

Rotarians all pull together, taking on various roles in the successful event, and their efforts paid off with a fine day for golfing on Sunday, June 1 in almost perfect golf playing weather.

Iain MacIntyre, Am Am convenor, said: 'We are absolutely over the moon with the efforts of this year.'

'The feedback I get from the sponsors is they are extremely proud to be associated with the event because they know all

the money raised will go to local good causes.

'The Rotary club has sent out a certificate of acknowledgement to the sponsors, thanking them for their support, and that is important.

'They can display that in their office window to show they were part of it and that can help generate a sense of civic pride.

'I want to raise the profile of the Am Am in the local consciousness, so people realise this is a significant event

in the Oban calendar.'

The Am Am is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the town's Rotary club.

Among the organisations that have already benefited from recent Rotary donations are Oban Com-muni-



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ty Playpark, Glencruitten Golf Club, OLDS, Oban Sea Cadets and various schools.

Although the £9,000 made at this year's Am Am will help a great deal within the community, Mr MacIntyre insists there is more work to do for next year.

'I think we could have reached the £10,000 mark,' he said. 'We have more than 90 monetary

Getting into the swing of it: Christine Cameron was one of nearly 200 golfers taking part in this year's Am Am. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

sponsors but that is a toe in the ocean compared to the number of businesses in the area.

'The Rotary club motto is 'Service before self' and there are a huge number of worthy causes out there. We have to try and make money available.'

The first beneficiary from the golfing day has already banked its donation - Mary's Meals attended the Am Am and raised £500 from the raffle which was held in the clubhouse.

The winning team at this

year's Am Am was Lorne Walton Electrical with a score of 92 points (winning with the best inward half) and winning the Bank of Scotland Trophy and £200.

The team were - Robert MacIntyre, Sean Dunstaffnage, Sean O'Rourke and Neil MacFarlane.

In second place and winning the Allan McDougall Memorial Cup and £120 were Laird and MacCallum also with 92 points - Hugh McIvor, David Laird, Peter Laird and Keith MacCallum.

Third place, winning the

Angus Simpson Memorial Trophy and £100, went to Oban Camanachd B with 90 points - Andrew MacCuish, Ian Campbell, Scott Macmillan and Aidan MacIntyre.

The leading visiting team were Ross Electrical (Glasgow) with 89 points and £60 - Craig Thompson, Peter Mundie, George Mundie and Gerry Henry.

Winners of the coloured ball competition and £60 were KW Plumbing and Heating with a score of 64 - Kenny Wotherspoon, Gavin Hill, Brian MacKechnie and David MacInnes.



Rally ace Mark Higgins sets new lap record around famous TT circuit in all-new Subaru WRX STI

New four-wheeled lap record for the 37.8-mile course stands at 19:26 - beating 2011 record established by Higgins in previous-generation WRX STI

Minimal modifications to record-beating road car

The Subaru WRX STI has once again broken the four-wheeled lap record around the famous Isle of Man TT circuit, with British rally champion Mark Higgins setting a new record of 19 minutes 26 seconds in a production version of the newly launched high-performance saloon.

Higgins's lap around the challenging 37.8-mile TT Mountain course saw him post an average speed of 116mph and a top speed of over 160mph.

Manxman Higgins completed his timed run under closed road conditions as part of the TT schedule and beat his previous record, set in 2011, when he set a time of 19 minutes 56.7 seconds.

That was done at the wheel of the previous-generation WRX STI, breaking a record that had stood for 21 years.

As with the previous record-breaking car, the WRX STI used for Higgins's run was a standard Subaru production car (US specification), equipped with a 300ps 2.5-litre horizontally-opposed turbocharged Boxer engine.

The only modifications to the car involved the springs and dampers, which were adjusted to minimise any potential damage when the car encountered the course's many bumps and jumps at high speed. The WRX STI was also equipped with essential safety enhancements, including a roll-over protection system and fire suppression system and was fitted with Dunlop Derezza tyres.

Mark said of his run: "It was quite a lap we did today and I am really happy to have another record in the bank. The chassis of the new car is so much better it really allowed

me to pick up time in each sector in the more technical parts of the course.

"There is nothing like the TT course in all racing. Not just because of its length but the elevation changes, constant surface variations as you shift from town to country roads and the fact we run from 30mph and then up to 160mph plus for much of the race."

The outright lap record on the TT course was set in 2013 by John McGuinness on a Honda CBR1000RR 'Fireblade'. McGuinness posted a time of 17 minutes 11.6 seconds, equivalent to an average speed of 131.7mph.

The all-new Subaru WRX STI is now on sale in the UK for £28,995 (on-the-road) - representing a price cut of £4,000 compared to the previous version of the car. To find out more about the new WRX STI, and Subaru's range of All-Wheel Drive models, visit www.subaru.co.uk.

S & S SERVICES

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John Spicer will be at the Mid Argyll Show on Saturday 9th August. If there is any specific model you would like to arrange to test drive that weekend please contact him now to discuss your requirements. Tel: 07831808702

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Inverlochty's Braxi Boys won the Alastair Campbell Shield for the P5 and under section. 16_t24sixes12



Macaulay Sixes champions for 2014, Kyles. 16_t24sixes12



Bunessan, from Mull. 16_t24sixes01



Rothesay, winners of the Peter English Trophy for development teams. 16_t24sixes12



Players of the tournament Ross Campbell and Ellie MacInnes, both of Park Primary School, Oban. 16_t24sixes15



Ballachulish. 16_t24sixes02



Caol. 16_t24sixes11



The Inverlochty teams. 16_t24sixes03



Taynuilt fielded a team in each age group. 16_t24sixes05



Park Primary School fielded three teams. 16_t24sixes06



Appin. 16_t24sixes08



Beauly. 16_t24sixes09



There were two teams from St Columba's Primary. 16_t24sixes04



The three teams from Rockfield Primary School. 16_t24sixes10



Inveraray. 16_t24sixes07

Macaulay Sixes success

THE SIX hardy players from Kyles battled all the way to victory in this year's Artemis Macaulay Sixes at Mossfield Stadium in Oban.

The players from Tighnabruich and Kilmodan played every minute of every game, including extra time and penalties in the final against Oban team Park, before lifting the Ian Cumming Memorial Trophy.

In pleasant and sunny conditions in Oban a total of 35 teams played out the group matches but the rain started to pour in the late afternoon as the semi-final stages were underway.

Champions Kyles had already topped their group and saw off Inverlochty at the semi-final stage.

Park, meanwhile, had edged a penalty shoot-out against Taynuilt after their semi-final ended goalless.

There was some consolation for runners-up Park, however, when Ross Campbell was named the tournament's best male player and Ellie MacInnes, who played in the section for development teams with Park Sparks, was named best female player.

The Alastair Campbell Shield, for teams of primary five age and under, went to Inverlochty's Braxi Boys, who needed a penalty shoot-out to see off Beauly and Ord.

In the final of the development trophy, Rothesay were the clear winners, defeating Eilan Boys 3-0.

David Hamilton, secretary of the Macaulay Association, which organised the event, said: 'Everything ran smoothly and we managed to get the majority of the fixtures played before the rain started.'

'Our thanks go to the sponsors, Artemis - which gave every team a set of training bibs - the referees, the schools, clubs and players, and the Macaulay Association's helpers.'

Graham Mitchell, Artemis' fund manager presented the medals and trophies.

Golf News

Glencruitten
THE winner of the Glencruitten Centenary Open on Saturday was Callum Michie with a score of 59 (76-17 = 59). In second place were Aidan McCuish with a score of 60 (67-7) and Allan MacPhee (71-11).

In the Tuesday Stableford the winner was George MacKenzie (21) with 42 points and in second place was Dean Smith (13) with 40 points.

In the McVitie and Price Trophy played on Sunday Louise MacLeod and Donald MacLennan were the winners with a score of 72 (96-24).

Runners up were John and Mary Plunkett with a score of 74 (91-17).

The first round of the Handicap Championship played on May 31 saw Charles MacIntyre lead with a score of 63 (68-5), and in the senior championship first round Alfie MacKenzie leads with a score of 64 (77-13).

Saturday is the first round of the George Smith Trophy, the Club Championship 1st round and the Monthly Medal.

In the ladies' section the Stableford results on Thursday, May 29 were SLGA Brooch (Stableford) - Winner: Angela McLaughlan 34 pts (25), 2 Helen Pearson 31 pts (36); 3 Wilma Frew 31 pts (14).

Killin
LADIES Open: Saturday June 7: Scratch - 1 Laura Aitken (Killin) 76; 2 Sandy Bushby (Blairgowrie) 80; 3 Heather Anderson (Blairgowrie) 81.

Handicap - Sandra Johnson (Kilbirnie Place) 69 BIH; 2 Susie MacDougall (Aberfeldy) 69 3 Diane Gannon (Muthill) 70.

Killin Cup (best overall handicap) - Sandra Johnson (Kilbirnie Place) 69.

Bridge of Lochay Salver (Best Local Handicap) - Laura Aitken (Killin) 68.

Dochart Trophy (Best overall Scratch) - Laura Aitken (Killin) 68.

Dalmally
THE CLUB championship season is well underway for the gents of Dalmally Golf Club.

On Sunday, holder Des McNulty shot into a commanding lead after the first round of the Scratch Championship with his score of 70 seeing him open up a six-shot advantage over nearest challenger Shaun Squire.

Meanwhile, after two rounds of the Handicap Championship, only four shots separates the top six players.

At the top of the leaderboard on 141 are Jim Livingstone and Joe Black with last year's winner Terry McNair hot on their heels just one shot back.

Islay
SUMMER League played Wednesday June 4 - 1 C Campbell 39 Pts; 2 N Johnston 35 Pts; 3 R McIntyre 35 Pts. Css 71. The June medal was played Sunday June 8 - 1 D Melrose 86-18 = 68; 2 K MacDonald 77-7 = 70; 3 C Robertson 85-14 = 71 Css 72.

Isle of Skye
ISLE of Skye Golf Club Skye Championship Round 1, Wednesday June 4: 1 Sandy Ross 69; 2 Chris MacKinnon 76; 3 John Finlayson 77; 4 Martin Bird 82; 5 Euan Forrest 83; 6 Dave MacVicar 87.

Skye Cup Round 3, Saturday June 7 and Sunday June 8: 1 Sandy Ross 62 (66-4); 2 Martin Bird 64 (68-14); 3 Kyle Pirie 64 (81-17); 4 Murdo Gordon 65 (73-8); 5 Jonathon MacKinnon 66 (78-12).

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COMPETITION

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We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

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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.

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 Wykes Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

J Matheson, Ichrachan, Taynuilt

M MacIntyre, Millpark Avenue, Oban

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

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Badenoch derby crunch match in Macaulay Cup

Fort William lift first silverware of the season as they defeat Skye in RBS MacTavish Plate

Macaulay Cup

GLENORCHY coach John Smith said referee David Stafford had no option but to send off three of his players and three of the opposition in the clash against Caberfeidh last weekend.

In an ill-tempered final 15 minutes a total of six players were dismissed as the tension from a closely-fought encounter spilled over.

First Duncan Smith and Blair Morrison were sent off following a heated exchange and Caberfeidh's Liam Symonds was dismissed for using foul language towards an official. A fracas involving Glenorchy's Fulton Ronald and Kieran Gallagher and Caberfeidh's Jack Pilcher saw all three red carded.

The dismissals over-shadowed an exciting game that saw Glenorchy goalkeeper Andrew Smith - moved up front after an injury to Duncan MacDougall - score his team's only goal and almost getting a second, but for an offside decision.

Smith said: 'I can't blame the referee because he followed the letter of the law. Some referees might have let things go a bit more but that can easily spill over. It's a fine line.'

OBAN CAMANACHD manager Gussie Campbell says weather conditions at The Meadows in Bute were the worst he had encountered in his career.

However, the Oban boss was happy to come away with two points and a clean sheet.

The omens also look good for the team's second trip to Dalmanly in two weeks - on the last occasion Camanachd scored five without reply.

Campbell said: 'There was a rumour going round the shinty world that our game on Bute had been cancelled but the referee deserves praise for getting the game finished.'

'Those were the worst weather conditions I have ever seen at a shinty match I've been involved in and I think the weather caused us more problems than the opposition did.'

Youngster Connor Howe grabbed a brace, while Scott MacMillan scored a trademark 25-yard goal to seal the points.

Campbell says he expects a tough response from Glenorchy this time out but is buoyed by the returns of Daniel Cameron and Ally Gunn this week.

KINGUSSIE made it through their first game of the Camanachd cup winning 2-1 against Lovat.

Coach Russell Jones said: 'I'm delighted, it was a fantastic team performance. I'd say we were the better team and probably deserved the win. It was a fairly even first half but we were the stronger side in the second half. Saying that, the Lovat goalkeeper made some absolutely fantastic saves and they nearly got a second goal in the last few minutes but we got there so we're chuffed.'

This weekend Kings will host rivals Newtonmore in the Macaulay Cup.

Jones said: 'We're really looking forward to this one, playing Newtonmore is always one of our best games. It's always tough against Newtonmore and there's a bit of a rivalry but we always look forward to playing them so we'll just need to see how we get on.'

NEWTONMORE had to fight for a victory against Lochaber in their home Orion Group Fixture at the weekend.

Last year's champions took an early lead but when Lochaber equalised in the 50th minute the game could have gone either way until Glen MacIntosh scored the winning goal.

On Saturday Newtonmore face rivals Kingussie in the MacAulay Cup.

LOVAT will be looking to bounce back from a painful Camanachd Cup exit at the hands of Kingussie when they line up against Fort William this weekend.

The Artemis Macaulay Cup fixture gives the Kiltarilty men an opportunity to restore the winning feeling they have had so often this season.

A Kevin Bartlett goal on 90 minutes was not enough to save the home side, which had been 2-0 for much of the game.

FORT WILLIAM have won the first silverware of the 2014 season after defeating Skye 2-1 in the final of the RBS MacTavish Plate at Invergarry.

Gordie MacKinnon was the

two-goal hero as the Fort sealed the win in extra time.

Fort co-manager Victor Smith said: 'Gordie was my man of the match. He got the goal for us in the first half and from 60 minutes until the end of extra time he was non stop, helping out in the midfield.'

'He is 39 now but he is all heart and a great example to any young player.'

The plate was introduced this season for teams who were knocked out of the MacTavish Cup in the early rounds.

However, Smith said the win was as welcome as any trophy. He added: 'The club is where it is just now for whatever reason but you can only play for what is in front of you.'

'This is a great win, particularly for the young players, and everyone involved with the club is delighted.'

The cup games are coming thick and fast for Fort William, which now face a tough away tie to Lovat in the Artemis Macaulay Cup.

The management team will have to chop and change from the side that won the MacTavish Plate because of injuries and players unavailable.

Balliemore Cup

SKYE will need to lift themselves for another cup tie after losing out in the final of the RBS MacTavish Plate.

Hopes were high at last week's final in Invergarry when Jordan Murchison cancelled out Gordie MacKinnon's opener but it was heartbreak for the islanders when MacKinnon scored his second in extra time.

This weekend the Skye men take on Inverness away in the Balliemore Cup.

Bullough Cup

LOCHSIDE Rovers have the chance to avenge their exit from the Sutherland Cup at the hands of Kyles Athletic when they host the same team for a Bullough Cup tie this Saturday.

The two teams fought out a 1-1 draw in Tighnabruich to take the tie to penalties and the Kyles men held their nerve to book a place in the next round.

Man of the match Lorne Dickie had missed the chance to score from the spot on 85 minutes but his overall contribution did not go unnoticed by interim coach Gareth Evans, who said Dickie may soon be due a step up to the

good support from the locals. That really goes up the players, I can see that from the sidelines.'

Inverary cruised through their Camanachd Cup tie at Inverness last Saturday with a 6-1 win.

The north team went ahead after four minutes but Inverary responded with goals from David MacPherson and Neil Campbell before half time.

A second half hat trick from Peter MacIntyre and an extra from Christopher Crawford completed the rout.

Nicholas Crawford will be unavailable for this weekend but MacPherson has Allan MacDonald available following suspension and the fit again Douglas Dando could make a start after coming through 45 minutes last week.

LOCHABER'S performance improved this week but it was not enough to secure a win as they suffered a 2-1 defeat against Newtonmore in the Orion Group Premiership.

Coach Robert Johnstone said: 'It was a close game, the team played much better than they have been recently. Our problem is consistency, we've never had the same team since the start of the season.'

'It's a culmination of a few different things, there's no one person or thing to blame but it

SHINTY

first team.

Evans praised the efforts of youngsters Daniel and Craig MacMillan, with the former scoring Lochside's only goal of the game.

Orion Group Premiership

INVERARAY manager Garry MacPherson says his team's strong home form this season is down to the vocal home support from the Royal Burgh.

And he is urging the 'A'ray faithful to get behind the team at the Winterton again this Saturday as they prepare for one of the most difficult games of the season against Kinlochshiel.

MacPherson said: 'Kinlochshiel gave us the toughest game of the season so far. They are really quick up front, so we will need to be at it from the start to get anything from this game.'

'We have been playing well at home and we have been getting

has an effect on our performance.'

This Saturday Lochaber face Glenurquhart at home for another Orion Premiership.

Johnstone said: 'That's going to be another tough one. It's hard to prepare or look ahead to it because I won't know what kind of squad I'm going to have until Friday night or Saturday morning. We'll do our best but it will be hard going.'

KINLOCHSHIEL, without a game last Saturday, travel to the Winterton to take on Inverary in a premier division fixture.

GLENURQUHART faced a disappointing 1-0 defeat by Kyles Athletic in the Orion Group Premiership on Saturday.

Roddy MacDonald scored for Kings in the fourth minute and Glen spent the rest of the match determined to equalise.

This week Glenurquhart will travel to Spean Bridge for another Orion fixture against Lochaber.

KYLES ATHLETIC'S good run of form has come to a halt, but only because they have no game this weekend.

The Tighnabruich men, written off by many at the beginning of the season, have put together a string of good results.

The latest was a 1-0 home win over Glenurquhart, with Roddy MacDonald getting the crucial goal early on.

Kyles trainer James Perlich said: 'The heavy rain didn't make for much of a game but we dominated and gave a solid defensive performance.'

From next week Kyles have a run of three cup games, including the AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup at the end of this month.

National Division

KILMALLIE host a depleted Caberfeidh in this weekend's National Division tie.

The visitors had three men sent off in their win over Glenorchy last week.

Kilmallie's second team trounced Inverness 11-0 last week, thanks to goals from Bryan MacKay (3), Craig MacIsaac (2), Martin Munro (2), Iain MacIntyre (2), Donnie MacRae and Ewan Mowat.

BUTE will be hoping to get back on track after last weekend's disappointing home defeat from Oban Camanachd. The island-

ers, without a league win this season, travel to play Glasgow Mid Argyll

South Division One

TAYNUILT supporters might not always be happy but they are regularly entertained and last week's 5-5 thriller against Aberdour was a great example.

In the last three games at Taynuilt Sportsfield, supporters have seen 26 goals.

Manager Davy Thomson admits the shinty is very entertaining, but not good for his nerves.

Taynuilt were 3-0 down after 20 minutes but a brace from young Fraser MacMillan kick-started the fightback.

Further goals from David Campbell, Willie Gillies and Stuart Scott in the final 15 minutes salvaged a point for the home side.

Taynuilt have another home game this weekend as they take on high-flyers Ballachulish, a game Thomson wants at least a point from.

He added: 'We have a few more players to pick from now and Willie Neilson is back from a shoulder injury.'

'We seem to have sorted out our problem scoring goals, now we just have to stop conceding so many!'

BALLACHULISH made the trip to Kilmory keen to make up for their last visit there when they were soundly beaten.

They were not helped by John MacDonald being unwell and goalkeeper David MacPhee being unable to travel because of work commitments, meaning youngster Cameron Sutherland made his senior debut for the visitors.

The home team started well and took the lead in the 15th minute through Ewan MacNeil. This seemed to spur Balla' into action and they raced ahead through goals from Grant MacKenzie, Michael Slezas, David Grant and Lorne Brown to lead 4-1 at half time.

A second half fightback from the home side was not enough to deny Balla' victory.

Ballachulish travel to play Taynuilt this weekend.

A 20-MINUTE onslaught before half time saw **KILMORY** concede four goals to Ballachulish on Saturday.

Despite starting strongly with a goal in the first 15 minutes courtesy of Ewan McNeil, Kilmory struggled to find their

form and allowed the visitors to dominate. On the 20-minute mark Grant MacKenzie equalised and goals soon followed via Michael Slezas, David Grant and Lorne Brown. The game ended 3-4.

Kilmory's Alister MacArthur said: 'We had a really poor first half and we gifted them three goals basically and that's what really killed us.'

Kilmory travel away on Saturday to the on-form Aberdour and will be without captain Duncan MacBrayne and vice-captain Bruce Johnston, with both men injured.

Strathdearn Plate Competition

THE draw for The Strathdearn Plate Competition was made recently.

Quarter finals - Saturday June 14

Lovat v Lewis

Beaully v Lochaber

Kingussie v Caberfeidh

Bye: Inverness.

Semi finals - Saturday July 5

Beaully/Lochaber v Inverness

Kingussie/Caberfeidh v Lovat/Lewis.

Bullough Plate Competition

THE draw for The Bullough Plate Competition was made recently in the Camanachd Association Office.

Aberdour v English SA

Glasgow MA v Glenorchy.

Games to take place on Saturday July 5.

Blas Festival to celebrate shinty's cultural links

ONE of the most successful arts events in the Highlands has reached a significant milestone with Blas 2014 marking the festival's tenth anniversary.

This year's international event, spread over around 100 venues in the Highlands and Argyll between 5 and 13 September, returns to its roots with a greater emphasis on the place of communities, young people and Gaelic.

Shinty's cultural associations will feature prominently, as will the work of Gaelic writers past and present.

Blas is the first of a number of national and international events scheduled to take place in the Highlands this summer.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Newtonmore 9 8 0 1 25 8 16

Lovat 8 6 1 1 22 9 13

Kingussie 9 5 1 3 20 16 11

Glenurquhart 8 4 1 3 13 8 9

Inverary 9 2 2 5 14 21 6

Kyles Athletic 8 2 2 4 8 15 6

Kinlochshiel 7 2 0 5 11 17 4

Lochaber 8 0 1 7 8 27 1

Marine Harvest National Division

Oban Camanachd 7 6 0 1 19 5 11

Beaully 8 4 1 3 19 14 9

Caberfeidh 5 3 1 1 15 7 7

Kilmallie 4 3 0 1 17 4 6

Fort William 3 2 1 0 9 4 5

Glasgow MA 6 2 0 4 13 15 4

Glenorchy 8 1 1 6 8 28 3

Bute 4 0 0 4 2 22 -2

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Glengarry 8 5 1 2 15 14 11

Fort William 6 5 0 1 22 12 10

Boleskine 9 4 0 5 21 31 8

Lochcarron 6 3 1 2 16 13 7

Aberdeen Uni 8 2 2 4 19 21 6

Skye 7 2 1 4 16 16 5

Lochaber 7 2 1 4 15 19 5

Kinlochshiel 7 2 3 15 13 4

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Kyles Athletic 7 4 2 1 26 10 10

Aberdour 6 3 2 1 20 13 8

Ballachulish 4 3 1 0 18 6 7

Lochside Rovers 7 2 2 3 17 23 6

Kilmory 7 2 1 4 11 13 5

Strachur 5 1 2 2 7 11 4

Taynuilt 5 1 1 3 12 20 3

Oban Celtic 5 1 1 3 4 19 3

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Tayforth 10 9 1 0 37 4 19

Inverary 9 7 2 0 32 5 16

Col Glen 10 5 2 3 36 13 12

Glasgow MA 9 5 0 4 33 21 10

Ballachulish 11 4 0 7 19 36 8

Bute 8 3 1 4 15 21 7

Glenorchy 9 2 0 7 12 27 4

Aberdour 10 0 0 10 7 64 0



Taynuilt's David Campbell celebrates scoring his side's third goal against Aberdour last Saturday. The game ended in a 5-5 draw. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Fort William's Gordie MacKinnon, who scored both goals for the Lochaber during last Saturday's RBS MacTavish Plate final in a challenge for the ball with Skye's Chris Rose. Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



Inverary's Peter MacIntyre was a hat-trick hero as his side defeated Inverness 6-1 in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup second round last Saturday. Photo: Donald Cameron

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	9	8	0	1	25	8	16
Lovat	8	6	1	1	22	9	13
Kingussie	9	5	1	3	20	16	11
Glenurquhart	8	4	1	3	13	8	9
Inverary	9	2	2	5	14	21	6
Kyles Athletic	8	2	2	4	8	15	6
Kinlochshiel	7	2	0	5	11	17	4
Lochaber	8	0	1	7	8	27	1

Marine Harvest National Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Camanachd	7	6	0	1	19	5	11
Beaully	8	4	1	3	19	14	9
Caberfeidh	5	3	1	1	15	7	7
Kilmallie	4	3	0	1	17	4	6
Fort William	3	2	1	0	9	4	5
Glasgow MA	6	2	0	4	13	15	4
Glenorchy	8	1	1	6	8	28	3
Bute	4	0	0	4	2	22	-2

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skye	5	5	0	0	16	1	10
Newtonmore	8	4	1	3	22	10	9
Strathglass	7	4	1	2	22	13	9
Kingussie	7	3	1	3	18	20	7
Beaully	7	3	1	3	13	19	7
Glenurquhart	6	2	2	2	13	13	6
Inverness	7	1	2	4	16	23	4
Lovat	7	1	0	6	7	28	2

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kyles Athletic	7	4	2	1	26	10	10
Aberdour	6	3	2	1	20	13	8
Ballachulish	4	3	1	0	18	6	7
Lochside Rovers	7	2	2	3	17	23	6
Kilmory	7	2	1	4	11	13	5
Strachur	5	1	2	2	7	11	4
Taynuilt	5	1	1	3	12	20	3
Oban Celtic	5	1	1	3	4	19	3

Marine Harvest North Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glengarry	8	5	1	2	15	14	11
Fort William	6	5	0	1	22	12	10
Boleskine	9	4	0	5	21	31	8
Lochcarron	6	3	1	2	16	13	7
Aberdeen Uni	8	2	2	4	19	21	6
Skye	7	2	1	4	16	16	5
Lochaber	7	2	1	4	15	19	5
Kinlochshiel	7	2	3	2	15	13	4

Marine Harvest South Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tayforth	10	9	1	0	37	4	19
Inverary	9	7	2	0	32	5	16
Col Glen	10	5	2	3	36	13	12
Glasgow MA	9	5	0	4	33	21	10
Ballachulish	11	4	0	7	19	36	8
Bute	8	3	1	4	15	21	7
Glenorchy	9	2	0	7	12	27	4
Aberdour	10	0	0	10	7	64	0

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Mix of testing conditions at Oban Town Regatta

Amber Haze takes overall honours for the weekend

OBAN Town Regatta saw a mix of testing sailing conditions varying from flat calms to excellent winds on Sunday of the weekend event.

Eric and Irena Chapman's Amber Haze took the overall honours for the weekend lifting the trophies for both days' racing and the Diamond Jubilee Trophy for the best overall performance of the weekend. The Sigma 33 was sailed by the family - Eric raced the boat on Saturday with sons Andrew and Jamie helming the morning and afternoon races on Sunday respectively.

Saturday's promising start to the circumnavigation of Kerrera to port gradually faded as the winds died and only the fast class managed a finish.

Amber Haze won Class 1 from Colin Crawford's Dehler 34 Nimrod with Joey Gough's Tangle o' the Isles third. Race Officers were Richard Shellcock

and Richard Beith. Sunday's race officer Duncan Martin set the first race in Oban Bay. With the breeze up, reefs were taken. The beat down the Sound of Kerrera and offwind leg to the Corran Esplanade saw an interesting mix of gusts, headers and lifts for the 10-strong fleet.

Stiff breeze
Race officer Duncan Martin sent the fleet out of the bay to Ganavan in the afternoon via Sgeir Dhon off Kerrera with the stiff breeze making for a challenging beat back, particularly through the north entrance to the bay.

Amber Haze again won both races in the fast class clinching the top prize for the weekend.

Second overall was Joey Gough with Colin Crawford's Nimrod third. Hot Toddy took the win in the slow class. Kenny Manderson was second in Calvador with Commodore

SAILING
John Peden and family third in Hecla.

Winners received vouchers courtesy of Nancy Black's Chandlery, the main sponsor for the regatta weekend. The prizegiving was held in the clubhouse after racing with trophies being presented by Mandy Peden.

Thanks were accorded to everyone who had contributed to the excellent catering for both the barbecue and Sunday lunch.

Sailors now look forward to the Glencoe Regatta this weekend with the feeder race, from Oban to Onich Pier this Friday, preceding the event.

A good turnout of both keelboats and dinghies for regatta day is expected, complemented by the legendary hospitality of Glencoe Boat Club.



The combined teams from Oban high and Taynuilt primary schools.

Argyll pupils progress well in Scottish Schools Orienteering Championships

PUPILS from Argyll schools gained a host of top three finishes at the annual Scottish Schools Orienteering Competition.

Teams from Oban High School, Lochgilhead High School and Taynuilt Primary School joined others last Friday from across the country in Drumpellier Park, Coatbridge.

The racing was flat and fast and the smallest mistake was costly in terms of overall position but some great results were achieved.

Tessa Hill from the GB Squad was on hand to congratulate competitors and hand out prizes.

From Taynuilt Primary School, Daniel Baird managed to achieve third place in the primary seven boys' section, despite the complications involved in holding a map and compass with a hand in a cast, while Ellis Hunter had the fastest run of the day to gain first place on the primary five to six boys' course.

Jura MacMillan from Lochgilhead High

ORIENTEERING

School placed second in the S2 girls, while Tom Lines beat strong competition in the S3 boys to bring home a third for Oban High.

Roanne Lilley, Emma Baird and Jade Dowell together placed second as a S3 girls' team.

Taynuilt Primary School placed third in the overall schools category while Oban High School placed second.

Thomson Cup final for Oban Athletic

FOOTBALL

OBAN Athletic will be hoping to emulate their town counterparts Oban Saints by lifting some silverware this weekend.

The Oban side travel to Broadwood Stadium, Cumbernauld to take on Nia Roo in the final of the Thomson Trophy kicking off at 6pm.

This will be a tough match for Athletic as Nia Roo are the West of Scotland Premier Division champions having gone through the league campaign without losing a game.

However, the Oban side have been playing well recently and with a bit of luck they can cause an upset and bring the trophy back to the town.

Trophies on display

THE TWO trophies won by Oban Saints senior team this season - The Scottish Amateur League Premier Division Championship Trophy and the Jimmy Marshall Cup - are on display in the window of The Sports Shop, McGregor Court, Oban.

Islay results

ISLAY Football League results Bowmore 2, Islay Wanderers 1. Kilchoman 1, Port Ellen 3.

Oban Saints players lift their third trophy in two weeks



Oban Saints players Alex Craik, Donnie Campbell, Ross Maitland and Jamie Graham pictured with the Joe Paterson Memorial Trophy after Argyll's 4-2 win over the SAFL Select at Ropework Park, Lochgilhead last Sunday.

FOOTBALL

FOUR Oban Saints players - Alex Craik, Donnie Campbell, Ross Maitland and Jamie Graham - travelled to Lochgilhead last Sunday to take part in the annual Joe Paterson Memorial Trophy match between an Argyll Select and a Scottish League Select.

Argyll were represented by four players each from Oban Saints, Campbeltown Pupils, Tarbert and club Lochgilhead Red Star. Argyll won a pulsating contest 4-2 thanks to goals from Ross Maitland, James Prentice, John McCallum and Gary Grumoli.

After the game both teams retired to the Stag Hotel for a reception where Scottish Amateur League president Frank McCann handed over the trophy and medals.

This is the third trophy the Oban boys have picked up in as many weeks in what has proved to be a very successful season for Argyll clubs in the SAFL with Campbeltown Pupils winning the Premier Division One title setting up an Argyll derby with Saints next season.



The winning team from the invitation triples, from left: Gus MacGillivray, Elizabeth MacGillivray and Ian Smith.

Invitation triples at Oban rink

OBAN Bowling Club's annual invitation triples were held last Saturday in perfect conditions but heavy rain put a bit of a dampener on the final.

Qualifying
Twelve teams played through the qualifying stages.

Ardrihaig, always welcome visitors, gained a final place with Fiona MacLachlan, Jim Dolan and Tommy McCrae competing

against the Oban trio of Ian Smith, Elizabeth MacGillivray and Angus MacGillivray.

Despite the miserable conditions, the final was a high quality match and went to the final bowl before victory went to the Oban team.

Last fixture
The following day Oban travelled to Lochgilhead with four triples for their last fixture in

BOWLS

this year's West Argyll League. All games were closely contested with Oban eventually winning all four games and earning 12 points to Lochgilhead's two. However, the win was not enough to overtake the Mid Argyll side, which have won this year's league.

Oban Saints youths' results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST week's results Arden-capple 3, Under 13s 4. Saints goal scorers were Cameron Hill and Rory Down with two goals apiece. Baljafay 2, Under 14s 1. On target for Saints was Kenneth MacDonald. Blair Thistle v Under 15s postponed.

This weekend fixtures: Saturday - Westerton v Under 14s; Sunday - Under 14s v Renton; Drumchapel Utd v Under 15s.

Stewart signs on for the Albion

YOUTH FOOTBALL



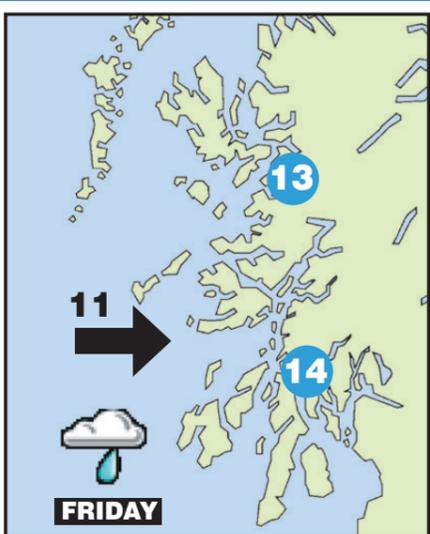
Stewart McAllister from North Connel, an Oban High School pupil, is currently part of Stirling Albion's youth development programme and has just been re-signed for their under-15 squad for next season following a successful first season with the club.

Weather Tides The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with

Thursday Heavy rain
Winds moderate south south westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 15°C

Friday Rain showers
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.

Weekend Outlook Sunny periods on Saturday
Cloudy on Sunday
Winds moderate westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.



Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, June 12, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	04.48 3.7 11.06 0.9 17.14 3.8 23.20 0.7	
Fri	05.30 3.8 11.48 0.7 17.55 3.9 *** **	
Sat	00.09 0.6 06.11 3.9 12.32 0.5 18.36 4.0	
Sun	00.58 0.5 06.54 3.8 13.17 0.5 19.19 4.0	
Mon	01.47 0.5 07.38 3.7 14.04 0.5 20.05 3.9	
Tues	02.37 0.6 08.24 3.5 14.54 0.6 20.55 3.7	
Wed	03.30 0.8 09.15 3.3 15.47 0.8 21.49 3.5	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-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		

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First Caol council meeting for 10 years

THE NEW Caol Community Council has vowed to reach out to residents, as members discussed plans at the first meeting on Tuesday night.

The nine elected members of the group, representing the village just outside Fort William, met with Highland councillors and members of the public to discuss how they can improve Caol, which has been without a community council for almost 10 years.

Chairman Sandy Watson said: 'The first meeting went well, it'll take a bit of time to get things up and running properly but the enthusiasm is there. We want to communicate with residents to see what the most important

issues are to them so we can look at how to sort them. We already have a Facebook page set up for people to make suggestions and we've identified some things to work on. The community council should be secure for a good few years now.'

At the meeting members agreed to spend time out and about in the village, to reach out to people who don't use social media.

Mr Watson added: 'There are a lot of people who don't use Facebook and computers and we don't want them to be missed.'

The group will meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm in Caol Community Centre.

Residents warned over scam letter

LOCHABER residents are being warned against a postal scam disguised as a national competition.

A Glencoe resident received a letter from a company posing as the People's Postcode Lottery which said she had won £825,000 in a Madrid-based prize draw but was asked to pay a transaction fee before winnings could be claimed.

The woman, who asked not to be named, said: 'To me it was clear it was a scam but I want to make people aware of it because a vulnerable person could believe it and it could cause big problems if they give away their money or bank details.'

'The letter was from someone calling themselves "Baron Wheels" and it tells you to call someone called Anthony Stan. These scams can be really dangerous.'

A Police Scotland Highland and Islands Division spokesman said they had not received any reports about this particular case but advised anyone concerned about scam mail to inform police. An advice booklet used by police across the UK states: 'You cannot win money or a prize in a lottery if you have not entered it. Many mass market scams will trick you into parting with money or providing banking or personal details in the belief that you will win a cash prize. You do not have to pay a fee to claim a legitimate prize.'

A Highland Council Trading Standards spokesman said: 'This is an example of "advance fee fraud" where the scammer attempts to extract money for administration or some similar pretext, with the promise of rich rewards which never materialise. These scams are usually based abroad, far out of the reach of action by the UK authorities. Monies lost are seldom reclaimed. We advise never send advance fees in response to unsolicited mailings. If it seems too good to be true then it probably is.'



Christie Hamill was presented with a telegram by Iain Thornber, left, on behalf of HM the Queen and flowers from Highland councillor Thomas MacLennan. 20_1241rnt001

Christie celebrates 100 years

A 'WELL-LOVED' Fort William woman celebrated her 100th birthday on Tuesday, surrounded by friends and family.

Christie Hamill grew up in Camusnagual, just across Loch Linnhe from the town, and celebrated at her sheltered housing in Victoria Court with her daughter-in-law, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, along with many friends. Deputy lieutenant of Inverness-shire Iain Thornber and Lochaber area leader Thomas MacLennan presented a telegram from the Queen and a basket of flowers during the party.

Mrs Hamill trained as a nanny in Edinburgh before working in London. She later returned to Camusnagual, where her father Archibald MacLean was the ferryman. There, she married her husband, Samuel.

The sharp-witted centenarian told *The Oban Times* how proud she is of her great-grandchildren, Christie, her namesake, aged 4, and Sam, 2, and said the key to a healthy life is to eat good food and 'move yourself'.

She added: 'People go everywhere in cars these days, they need to work themselves. When they're not in cars they're walking around with a phone stuck to their ear.'

'It's a different world nowadays, people rely on computers for everything.'

'My husband had to go off to war when I was expecting our son so for the first two years I was on my own with him. I just got on with it, it was wonderful how people coped at that time, but we didn't have a choice. We just had to keep going.'

Mrs Hamill's grandson Stephen made a toast to his grandmother.

He said: 'There are many words to describe living to the age of 100, amazing is just one of them. I'm so happy you have so many friends and family here to celebrate with you who support you day to day and week to week.'

GPs to be offered trial jobs in west Lochaber

Residents unimpressed by new move in long-running saga to attract permanent doctor

THE LATEST plans to recruit GPs in the west Lochaber area have not impressed the communities who have been without a permanent doctor for almost two years.

NHS Highland staff are looking into allowing consultants to work in rural areas on a trial basis to see if they like it before making a commitment but one community council chairman called this 'sticking a plaster over the problem.'

Gill McVicar, north and west Highland director of communications for NHS, said: 'It's not just about the job it's about the lifestyle - living and working in rural areas. They [GPs] need to make sure they have partner employment, good schools for their children and somewhere to live. Finding suitable accommodation can often be the hardest part.'

'We're going to look at ways that people can come and try out a few different areas to see if they like it before they commit to a position.'

But Brian Evans, chairman of Sunart Community Council, said the area he lives in, along with Achacrae and West Ardnamurchan, have been coping with locum doctors for too long.

By EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

He added: 'That's fine if they actually decide to stay but we're looking at an area that has had locums for over 18 months and we're looking for a permanent solution. This is sticking a plaster over the problem, whereas we're looking for permanent GPs and a medical team including practice nurses and out-of-hours staff. We should be way past this stage by now.'

Ms McVicar also said her team was considering offering part time GP positions, so doctors could spend some time in West Lochaber and travel to urban areas to carry out specialist work.

Margaret Green of Achacrae Community Council agreed with this plan in theory, but was left wondering why it hadn't been set in motion before now.

She said: 'When the GPs first left in August 2012 we suggested a similar idea.'

'We set up a rota involving four part-time GPs and passed it on to NHS Highland and Alex Neil [Scottish Government cabinet secretary for health and wellbeing]. I just don't understand why this is still rumbling on. I'd like to know what's changed in the last two years since we came up with the plan.'

'It's getting ridiculous now, people's lives are at risk. Thankfully we haven't had any emergency situations yet but that's not to say we won't have in the future.'

Dave Thompson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, questioned Alex Neil on the progress of recruitment in Scottish Parliament last week.

The cabinet secretary for health and wellbeing said: 'A major recruitment campaign will be launched in the next few weeks, with the support of a marketing expert, to recruit the additional GPs who are needed to staff the model.'

'In the meantime, we have been fortunate to have some consistent locums who have provided continuity of care.'

'Along with NHS Highland, we are happy to look at any additional work that we can do to try to overcome the problems in west Lochaber and other remote and rural areas across Scotland.'



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- 10 60 Volkswagen Golf GTI.....£11,495
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Thousands flock to Fort for Mountain Bike World Cup

MORE than 9,000 people descended on Fort William at the weekend for the annual Mountain Bike World Cup, doubling the population.

The town was buzzing with the 7,000 sports fans who visited on Saturday, with an even higher 9,000 on Sunday.

Lesley Benfield, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce chief executive, said: 'UCI Mountain Bike World Cup was a phenomenal success and tourism businesses in Fort William and across Lochaber rose to the occasion.'

'Not only was the event a major sporting success which attracted cycling's elite, it was a statement of our ability to stage world-class events. The World Cup has brought a seismic shift in how our destination is perceived around the world and indeed how we see it ourselves. This event has really strengthened our position and confidence in the tourism industry is high.'

Businesses in the town have noticed a direct benefit. Brandi Lee MacLean of MacLean Guest House, said: 'We're already fully booked for this time next year. It's nice to have that stability.'

Even more people flooded into Lochaber for a charity event involving 100 teams from across the UK climbing Ben Nevis, cycling 25 miles and canoeing across Loch Lochy. Organisers Dream Challenge said they will change the date next year to avoid a clash of events.



Inverloch Primary School hosted an international racing team when they visited Fort William for the Mountain Bike World Cup. The five members of Trek World Racing, from Britain, America and New Zealand, spent a morning telling the pupils about their sport and how they made it to the World Cup, as well as showing videos of the team in action. Pictured with pupils, back from left, are Ryan Fender, Jamie McConnell, Shannon MacCallum and Johnny Forster. 20_1241nverloch01

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Music school's summer concert and fun day

KILMALLIE Hall will be filled with the sound of music on Sunday (June 15) as Lochaber Music School hosts its annual summer concert and fun day.

The event, starting at 2.30pm, will showcase the talent of the group's 150 youngsters, followed by an afternoon of activities including a bouncy castle, face painting, lucky dip and treasure hunt.

Home baking and a barbecue will be on offer during the day's festivities.

Lochaber Yacht Club regatta

LOCHABER Yacht Club's regatta kicks off on Monday evening with a keelboats and solings race.

Everyone is welcome to the event, starting at 7pm at the clubhouse on Achintore Road, and to all other activities throughout the week.

Various races will be held every evening next week and during the day on Saturday and Sunday. A barbecue and refreshments will be available between races. More information and entry forms are available at www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk.

Bike stolen from Nevis Range

A BIKE was stolen from Nevis Range on Saturday.

The white and red Trek Fuel 8 mountain bike was taken from its secure location at the Alpine Bike Park between 11am and 6.30 pm.

Police ask that anyone with information about the incident call 101 or the Crimestoppers anonymous line on 0800555111.

Pram theft witness appeal

A GREEN three-wheeled pram and rain cover was stolen from outside a house in Fort William sometime between 3.30pm and 5pm on Thursday June 5.

Police ask that anyone with information about the incident call 101 or the Crimestoppers line on 0800 555111.

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A newly-refurbished Cameron Square. 20_124cameron02

Residents enjoy sunshine in new-look Cameron Square

FORT William residents made the most of a rare sunny afternoon on Friday to enjoy the newly refurbished Cameron Square.

The town's newest event space, a £540,000 Scottish Government funded project, features terraced seating, grass areas and free wifi as well as plug points for event equipment and coloured lighting which can be changed to suit the season or mood.

'Suite'

But the talking point of the square, just off Fort William High Street, is a blue three-piece 'suite', made completely of concrete but designed to look like the real thing.

Leader of the Lochaber area, Highland councillor Thomas MacLennan, said: 'I am delighted to see the completion of this contract which will make such a difference to the High Street.

'The council is committed to improving the public realm areas and to increasing footfall in the town centre which we hope will lead to a more vibrant economy for all the High Street businesses.'



Two year-old Taylor Lauder was impressed with the square's new furniture. 20_124cameron01

Appeal to help children out of fuel poverty

6,000 suffer in Highlands and islands

ALMOST 6,000 children in the Highlands and islands are suffering from fuel poverty, a study has revealed.

Figures released by The Children's Society showed 779 youngsters in Ross Skye and Lochaber and 258 in the Western Isles could be living in homes which are too cold because of fuel poverty - when a person spends 10 per cent or more of their income heating their home.

Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant called for a 'warm home discount' to be offered to all families with children living in poverty.

She said: 'I am very concerned that parents face the choice of feeding their families with a decent meal and keeping the heating on.'

'I am giving my full support to the call by The Children's Society for the UK Government to make the warm home discount automatically available to all families with children who are living in

poverty. This will make a real difference to families who are struggling hard to pay energy bills.'

This was announced in the same week as figures released by Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) revealed that 61 per cent of people aged 60 and above in the Highland Council area are living in fuel poverty, with the figure rising to 76 per cent of those over 60 in the Western Isles - in urban areas the figure is 45 per cent.

Report editor Dr Sarah Skerratt said: 'The cost of household heating is just one area of poverty in which there is an imbalance between rural and urban Scotland. Poverty and disadvantage in rural areas often remain hidden because national policies and measuring tools do not cater sufficiently for needs of rural areas.'

But the situation could worsen for people in rural areas according to Age Scotland. The charity states home

improvement schemes are often focused on more populated areas in a bid to cut fuel poverty rates more rapidly.

A spokeswoman for the Scottish Government said: 'Through our Home Energy Efficiency Programmes we have distributed funding to every local authority in Scotland to make sure homes in their area are warmer and cheaper to heat.'

'A total of £42 million of the £60 million available this year is allocated on the basis of need which takes into account levels of fuel poverty and reflects the different types of properties within rural areas.'

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus MacNeil called the results 'an absolute scandal'.

He added: 'The wind-chill factor is a major challenge in our islands and should be recognised as such. The wind-chill makes our islands feel far colder and means that our pensioners require more energy to heat their homes.'

One step closer to abattoir

MEAT suppliers in Skye and Lochalsh are one step closer to their goal of an abattoir in the area as a project officer has been appointed to develop the plan.

Rachael Jackson, who farms at Orbst in north-west Skye, will use a report published by the Scottish Agricultural College to bring the project to a 'shovel-ready' stage over her eight-month contract with Skye and Lochalsh Meat Supply Group. This includes confirming a location, developing a funding package and starting planning discussions.

Mrs Jackson said a small abattoir would put an end to the current 150-mile drive to the nearest slaughterhouse in Dingwall or two-hour ferry trip to the Lochmaddy centre.

She added: 'Previous feasibility studies said it wouldn't work in this area but they were all for full-sized facilities, we're now looking at a micro service abattoir. This would suit crofters' needs

much better. This will be of great benefit to the economy because studies show when people spend £2.50 per head in the area it increases money circulating in the local economy by £1.3 million per year. It's a boost to the economy of the area but it will also have environmental benefits because of the reduction of driving miles as well as better welfare for the animals.'

Dave Thomson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, welcomed the news. He said: 'I am delighted to hear that the Skye and Lochalsh Meat Supply Group has appointed Rachael Jackson to bring the abattoir plans to fruition.'

'This will be great news for farmers and crofters in the area, as it will cut down on the lengthy treks that have to be made to get to the nearest abattoir in Dingwall.'

'I congratulate Rachael on her new position and look forward to working with her in the future.'



Sandy MacInnes was less than impressed with the oversized hat provided for his adventure in a police car.

Lochside delight as fete raises thousands

PUPILS and staff at Lochside RC Primary School were delighted with the £4,774 raised at the annual summer fete.

The evening offered face painting, games, and a chocolate fountain and children had the chance to explore the vehicles of local emergency services.

Craft stalls, a wheel of

fortune, tombola, bouncy castle and fortune teller were all on offer during the fun-filled evening.

Anne-Marie Lopez, secretary at Lochside, said: 'We are very grateful for the fantastic efforts and support given by the children, parents and the wider community.'

German artist takes up three-month residency at Skye's Gaelic college

A GERMAN contemporary artist has been awarded a residency at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI, Skye's Gaelic college.

Helmut Lemke specialises in sound and installation art and is the second person to receive the Jon Schueler Scholarship. Kath MacLeod, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's arts development officer, said: 'We are delighted to be welcoming Helmut Lemke, an extremely interesting and accomplished contemporary artist, as our second Jon Schueler artist in residence. With well over 300 applications this year from around the world, the international scholarship is continuing to grow in

strength. I am certain that Lemke's work, which will explore sound and language, will be fascinating for audiences here in the Highlands and islands and around Scotland.'

The Jon Schueler Scholarship was established last year to celebrate the life of its namesake, an abstract expressionist painter who died in 1992.

Mr Lemke said: 'I am very excited to be spending three months on Skye. I expect my time will give me great inspiration for new works in response to the sounds of the environment and the Gaelic language.'

Grant cash up for grabs

COMMUNITIES with ideas to improve their area are being encouraged to apply for funding from Highland Council.

Grants are available through the Community Challenge Fund to help groups take ownership of services, buildings or other assets in their area which can be managed by local people.

Highland Council's deputy leader Councillor David Alston said: 'We firmly believe that active communities make a real difference to the Highlands and want to further support the good work that is done through the development of community groups and initiatives. 'We are empowering our communities

to run Council services in their own areas with this £1million funding that we have set aside.

'This could be maintenance of public toilets, street cleaning, grounds maintenance and community works, or perhaps care services. We want to hear how your community might take up the Community Challenge.'

Interest

Expressions of interest are to be submitted by August 1 via www.highland.gov.uk/challengefund.

Further information or advice can be found at council service points or from ward managers.

'Town team' action call

FORT William residents are being urged to pitch in and help regenerate the town.

Following the recent ideas workshop and the enthusiasm shown by participants, Highland Council and Friends of the Old Fort are encouraging volunteers to set up a 'town team' to put plans into action.

Those interested have been asked to attend a public meeting at 7pm on

Thursday June 19 in the town's Council Chambers. Norrie MacLean, chairman of Friends of the Old Fort, said: 'Things are really beginning to happen in this town, all in a positive way.'

'It is great the leadership that is being shown from the council and now it is time for action.'

'It is amazing what can be achieved when a community pulls together.'

Mull Hotel picks up top awards

WINNING two rosettes from the AA is an achievement for a hotel on the edge of Mull. The hotel is one of only two properties on the island with such an accolade.

Tiroran House Hotel, the Scottish Hotel Awards Country House Hotel of the Year 2014, doesn't take anything for granted including sourcing and knowing the provenance of every product on the plate.

Katie Mackay, along with husband Laurence have owned the hotel for ten years. The hotel is described by visitors as 'exceptional' and



'charming and beautiful' It started out as a five bed roomed guest house and now is one of the top 25 romantic hotels in the UK with ten

individually designed rooms. Katie said the secret to the restaurant's success was 'doing everything we can to sourcing our products from

Scotland. 'Renowned chef Craig Ferguson and sous-chef Alex Dashwood-Baker understand the importance of local, foraged, fresh and seasonal produce being imaginatively prepared and presented to the highest possible standards.'

And the reviews are spectacular as the two rosettes quality standards testify.

Katie explains that the focus is a modern Scottish menu. While the hotel itself is often busy, the chef is keen to open the restaurant to people who are not staying with them.

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Grant seals land purchase deal for Carloway crofting community

A CROFTING community on Lewis will soon be the owner of the land it lives on, thanks to a £207,500 grant.

Carloway Estate residents voted in favour of Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh (Carloway Estate Trust) buying the 11,400-acre estate, together with sporting and mineral rights in February but it was dependant on securing the £250,000 required for the purchase, legal fees and wages for a development officer for two years.

Now it has been announced the Scottish Land Fund has agreed to provide 95 per cent of the cost, with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) providing £30,000 and the final

£38,000 being donated by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Carloway Estate Trust chairman Kenny MacLennan said he was 'delighted' that the funding was now in place.

He said: 'Now that we have the money we need that will allow us to progress to the legal aspects. The money will also allow us to look for a development officer for the next two years and deal with mapping.'

'We still have a long way to go and I'm not sure how long the legal proceedings will take but it's great to know that we can move on and we have the support of residents. We now have 300 members

of the trust which is more than the number who originally voted yes in the ballot so it's great to have that support and know we can move things forward for all of those people.'

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan welcomed the grant announcement.

He said: 'This is a very substantial boost for Urras Oighreachd, and all those working hard to ensure that the people on Carloway Estate have control over their own land and future. This follows a successful ballot recently in favour of the buyout, and I look forward to working with the community in the future to help ensure that their ambitions become a reality.'

Asking price for 'eyesore' - yours for £1

ONE OF Oban's grandest Victorian buildings is set to be sold for £1 - and then reduced to rubble, writes Louise Lee.

Despite the fact that an offer of £350,000 is still on the table to redevelop the former Rockfield primary school.

Another offer made seven years ago for £405,000 for the building was shelved by Argyll and Bute Council, it is also claimed.

Councillors told *The Oban Times* that they have been kept in the dark about either cash offer.

Furthermore, it is understood that councillors were told there was no feasible interest in the building, despite an offer still being available to them.

At least four members of the council's Oban, Lorn and the isles area committee were told

it was only social housing charity, Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) which was willing to take the former school off the council's hands and demolish the building.

The former primary school building has lain empty for seven years with many people in the town calling it an 'eyesore' and demanding action.

Last year, a bid from ACHA to undertake a feasibility study on the site - with the authority picking up the £50,000 bill - was regarded as the only viable option by councillors.

As *The Oban Times* went to press, councillors were due to discuss a document, in private, which will see the council hand the building and car park over to ACHA for £1.

ACHA intends to demolish

the building and build 27 social housing flats.

Redevelopment specialist Paul Molinari, from Glasgow, said his solicitor had given a verbal offer of £350,000 to Argyll and Bute Council. The businessman spent thousands of pounds on architect's drawings to detail his plans for flats and lay out his blueprint for the rundown building.

Council papers show this bid was not put before councillors.

Mr Molinari has completed two similar redevelopment projects since bidding for the school. Earlier this year, the businessman again put a second verbal offer, via his solicitor, to the council. This time there was no cash on the table, but he pledged to invest £2.5 million into the redevelopment of the building.

At that time he asked for a letter of agreement in order to complete a feasibility study on the building. He said he was never given that letter.

But despite recent setbacks, Mr Molinari hasn't given up hope of acquiring the building.

Mr Molinari said: 'It would be a disaster to take down that fine Victorian building. I would still be keen to undertake the project - but the council are just not willing to work with me to make that possible.'

'If my first offer had been accepted it would now have a beautifully developed site of 17 flats in a refurbished Victorian building. Instead, they are giving the building away in order that it can be demolished.'

Oban businessman John MacGregor made an offer of £405,000 in 2007 for the site. His offer, he claims, is the only one to have been given in writing but was never discussed by councillors, he claims. Area committee papers from this period back up his assertion.

Mr MacGregor said: 'The council has only ever received one bid for the building, and that was mine. It took Argyll and Bute council eight months to reply to my solicitor's offer - and it was a 'no'.'

'But it is good they are finally going to make a decision about the future of the building, because right now it is an eyesore.'

In a statement ACHA said: 'ACHA's preferred option is for demolition and new build on housing and economic terms.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said it was unable to comment as the matter was to be discussed as an excluded item at the area committee.



POUND LAND: an option to sell the former Rockfield primary school for £1 is on the table.

GOOD TIMES BOY



READ ALL ABOUT IT: Popular TV broadcaster Eamonn Holmes catches up with all the breaking news in *The Oban Times*. Eamonn left the comfort of his London studio on Monday to take his early morning Sky TV show to the town as part of a fact-finding mission. Turn to page three for full story. 16_124eamonn04

Posed as qualified nurse and tricked elderly couple

A HEARTLESS fraudster conned her way into an elderly couple's home as a carer, Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday.

Lisa Angela Grant, 54, who now lives at Dalchork Cottages, Dalchork Farm, Lairg, pleaded guilty when she appeared before Sheriff Douglas Small on Monday to pretending that she was a qualified nurse.

She admitted that she provided a forged ID badge stating that she was a registered nurse and also a false National Insurance number in order to trick a woman living in Appin to employ her as a carer.

She was paid £688 in wages for her bogus services along with getting the sole use of a cottage.

She worked there between December 9, 2013 and January 14 this year.

'This is a serious offence. I am going to need to get background reports,' said Sheriff Small.

Sheriff Small will hear the full details of the case once these reports have been prepared, and sentence has been deferred until July 22.

It's new orders at Tobermory hotel in year-long saga

AN ISLAND hotel has been sold, taking it out of the hands of the family who have owned it since 1869.

Tobermory's Mishnish Hotel has been at the centre of a bitter row for the past year, after owner Robert MacLeod, 62, was declared bankrupt.

Solicitors handed the business to Mr MacLeod's family to run it for a year until a buyer could be found.

Robert was the fifth generation of his family to run the famous yellow waterfront hotel.

The battle for ownership ended on Tuesday morning when it was announced that Meg and Les MacLeod, of Lunga House at Ardfern, had taken ownership of the building.

They are not related to the original owners.

NEWDESKS

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Woman almost four times over drink drive limit

THE BREATHALYSER reading for a woman stopped by police early on Monday morning was nearly four times over the legal limit.

Elizabeth Ann Gray, aged 51, of 47 Findhorn Place, Falkirk, appeared before Oban Sheriff Court on Monday afternoon and pled guilty to driving having consumed excess alcohol and driving without a licence.

Prosecutor fiscal Eoin McGinty said police officers on patrol had seen her driving slowly and her car hit the kerb. She was stopped and breath tested and the reading was 131; the legal limit is 35.

When stopped she told the police: 'Sorry I'm drunk, I'm over the limit.'

Sheriff Douglas Small fined her a total of £500 and banned her from driving for 30 months. Should she choose to take part in the drink-driver rehabilitation scheme, that would be reduced by six months.

Volunteer of the year awards

VOLUNTEERS will be recognised tomorrow (Friday) for their priceless contribution to their communities at the annual Argyll Voluntary Action Volunteer of the Year Awards.

Among the prizes given out at Kilmory Castle, Argyll and Bute Council's headquarters, will be Young Volunteer of the Year, Social Enterprise Volunteer of the Year, Argyll and Bute CHP - Health Volunteer of the Year, Time-bank and Volunteer Heroes, Individual Volunteer of the Year, Organisation of the Year Shield and Prize and Sargus Memorial Prize.

The keynote speaker will be Ian Welsh, CEO of the Health and Social Care Alliance (Scotland) and the theme for the day is the 'Age of Integration'.



Members of the class of 1961 got a tour of their former school from current head teacher Peter Bain. 16_124reunion02

Former high school pupils enjoy first class reunion

MORE than 50 years after they left for the big wide world, a group of former Oban High School pupils returned last Wednesday to see how things had changed.

The class of 1961 were given a tour by head teacher Peter Bain, who also gave them an insight into the new building which is in the pipeline.

Later that day they also visited *The Oban*

Times to look back at the archives of their time in Oban together. Over the last 20 years Patrick Maclean, who still lives in the town and whose father was a head teacher at the high school, has hosted several informal re-unions of the class, which started off as 1a in 1955 and was augmented by pupils from outlying junior secondary schools in 1958.

In May 2010 Patrick organised a class

reunion in Bergamo, Italy, with former pupils from Canada, America and all over the UK attending.

It was agreed that another get-together would be held in Oban in four years' time and this was arranged by Duncan Macdonald.

The highlight of this re-union was a meal for 38 in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on June 4.

Fort William primary pupils enjoy last summer fair

FORT William Primary School pupils enjoyed their last summer fair as they prepare to merge with Upper Achintore.

The 25 pupils will move into a new £10 million campus in August 2015 and parents said next summer a ceilidh will be held to celebrate the current school instead of the usual fair.

Gina Hough, chairwoman of the parent council, said: 'It'll be coming up to the end of our time at the school so we want to have a celebration rather than a fair, just to do something a bit different and special.'

'We're going to have a ceilidh and do lots of fun stuff.'



From left: Kieran MacDougall, Zoe Hough, Teresa MacDonald, Tara Sinclair and Zoe Sinclair enjoyed the bouncy castle at Fort William Primary School's last summer fair. 20_124fortfair01

Call to Vodafone to give higher priority to Argyll and Bute service

MOBILE phone operator Vodafone has come under attack after a number of complaints about the service.

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid said: 'Vodafone must allocate a much higher priority to repairing faults in Argyll than they have done so far. Reliable mobile phone reception is essential for making

emergency calls. I will be meeting Vodafone representatives soon and I will press this point.'

MSP for Argyll and Bute Michael Russell said: 'I have met with Vodafone on several occasions and will be meeting them again this month.'

'I am very concerned that whilst we do talk, they don't seem to

listen to the concerns of people in Argyll. We have conversations but faults still take far too long to deal with.'

'The service is getting worse not better and there has been virtually no improvement in signal across the area.'

'I know that visitors to the town also find it inexplicable that such

an important centre is being so badly neglected by the company and indeed by all the mobile phone companies.'

'Not having good fast mobile access is now known to be a disincentive for tourists which should worry all of us given Oban's reliance on the tourist trade.'

'It is time the company realised

how badly they are treating all those who rely on them in this area.'

'I would be happy to be copied in to emails or letters to the company and I will pursue complaints on behalf of constituents as well.'

Vodafone had not replied to questions posed by *The Oban Times* at the time of going to press.

new car index

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Independence day as TV anchorman Eamonn talks about the big question

THE INDEPENDENCE campaigns need to 'pick up a gear' and drive the national debate forward, said TV presenter Eamonn Holmes in an exclusive interview with The Oban Times, writes Louise Lee.

The Sky news reporter and popular breakfast TV broadcaster, was in town to discuss independence, marking 100 days before the September 18 referendum.

Eamonn, who presents the Sky News flagship show *Sunrise* as well as STV show *This Morning*, said he would be hard pushed to find somewhere more beautiful in the world than Scotland. He said: 'It is Northern Ireland with knobs on.'

In a frank interview, he said he thought people in Scotland were finding it hard to engage fully in the referendum debate.

The TV presenter said he understood the frustrations of people on the west coast of Scotland because the climate and culture was similar to that of Northern Ireland, where he grew up. He said: 'I have four brothers and we were all set to be carpet fitters.'

But a turn of fate saw Eamonn enter a career that spanned the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland, having his own show at the age of 21, before moving to Manchester and then to London where he was one of the first breakfast television presenters on GMTV.

He said: 'I had to prove to my dad, who worked hard every day of his life, that my job was worthwhile.'

He said he inherited the gift of conversation from his dad as well as a love of gossip and nosiness. He said: 'I feel blessed that I have been able to do this job and raise issues on a diverse range of subjects.'

'I learned from those early days in Northern Ireland that we have nothing to fear from telling



COVER STORY: The Oban Times reporter Louise Lee meets popular Sky TV broadcaster Eamonn Holmes who was in town on a fact-finding mission. 16_124eamonn01

the truth. Local papers are the lifeblood of news. *The Oban Times* is, as far as I can see, very good in recording local news and keeping people informed.'

Eamonn has spent 35 years in television with one of the longest news careers in the business - and even presenting a game

'It's just like Northern Ireland with knobs on'

show in the United States of America. He played host to many people from Oban for his early-morning show, which was held in the Great Western Hotel on the Esplanade. His guests included Angus MacPhail from Skipinnish and Alan MacLeod from the Ee-usk restaurant.

Youth service is an oasis for kids hooked on drink and drugs

A YOUTH addiction service is dealing with children as young as 12 in Oban, writes Louise Lee.

The shocking statistics that 32 young people use the specialist service provided by OASIS (Oban Addiction Support and Information Service), was revealed in an interview with the OASIS project manager.

The group was set up in response to pleas for help and support from local families, schools and young people who realise they have a problem.

Nichola MacGillivray, project manager, believes the service offers young people, between the ages of 12 and 21, an opportunity to think differently about their lives.

She said: 'I believe that people should not focus on the past and begin to think about where they are going.'

'We want young people to believe in themselves again. We can only do that by taking small steps. We have found that you cannot measure success by the large things - it is all about small steps.'

'Some clients, who have not been using the service regularly in the past, often come back and say how much they get out of the service and that it makes a difference.'

'People make choices in life, and we are here to offer an alternative to addiction. It is not always easy to choose to accept help.'

'OASIS is the sort of place that people can take time out to do something different and see that there are other ways in which to live their lives.'

OASIS also works with Oban High School, providing drug and alcohol awareness sessions to pupils from S1 to S4.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon said that while she was 'incredibly' saddened to hear the number of children who were using the service, she was pleased that it existed for young people who were in need of help.

Councillor Devon, Argyll and Bute council's children and families policy leader, said: 'There will be very few families who are not effected by addiction of one type or another.'

'It is a very difficult thing to ask for help therefore OASIS is doing an outstanding job in getting people involved.'

'If young people are accessing the services there is a likelihood they will find coping mechanisms - if not, the future is very bleak for our young people.'

For more details on the service, contact Nichola MacGillivray on 01631 571348. The group also has a Facebook page.

Kay makes her splash on ferry trip

MONDAY afternoon saw the first ever live TV broadcast from a Scottish ferry, thanks to Sky TV and CalMac ferries (CalMac).

Kay Burley, top Sky News anchor, was able to make an early evening news programme thanks to a helicopter flying above the MV Isle of Mull.

Passengers were amazed by the high-flying technology involved in beaming the pictures down the line from the ferry via the helicopter to London, and then on to the international station.

News reporter Kay was on hand to interview passengers and to discuss the 'special' challenges of ferry travel.

She asked CalMac finance director Robbie Drummond if the company ever had to cancel ferries because of the weather.

He replied: 'We have an excellent record.'

Robbie continued: 'It has been really interesting to be involved in Sky live TV coverage from a CalMac ferry. We believe it to be the first time this has ever happened in Scotland.'



Above: Kay Burley. 15_124kay01



ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH: Sky reporter Kay Burley interviews CalMac finance director Robbie Drummond. 15_124calmac1

Rhuriah wins games logo design contest

Right: Rhuriah Cottier, 6, from Dunbeg Primary School, won the Lorne Highland Games competition to design a logo for the front page of its programme. This year the event takes place on Sunday June 22 and has a number of new events such as a produce tent, a dog show and a piping competition. Organiser Dale Cupris, active school's co-ordinator, said he had a difficult time choosing from the 400 entries. For more details visit the group's website at lorne-highland-games.org. 16_124picture1



SCOTTISH Water's executive leadership team will visit Oban next week to meet customers at a public meeting.

The event will be an opportunity to discuss the company's performance and plans for the future as well as creating an opportunity to meet customers from across Argyll and Bute.

Chief operating officer Peter Farrer said: 'At Scottish Water our customers are our main priority.'

'In building value and trust in the essential services we provide, it's vital that we give communities the chance to tell us what matters most to them.'

The meeting, on Wednesday June 18, will be held in the Argyllshire

Gathering Halls, Breadalbane Street, Oban, at 5.30pm for refreshments and an informal discussion for a 6pm start.

Anyone can confirm their attendance online at: www.scottishwater.co.uk/consult or by calling 01383 848 272.

A COFFEE morning at Barcaldine Primary School may serve up a few treasures for visitors.

The annual fundraiser, this Saturday June 14, will see staff and pupils offer home baking alongside a table top sale between 11am and 1pm.

THE Kilmore 100 club's May winner was Duncan Mudie.

June winners were D White and T Storr.

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Troy Brosnam from Australia tackles the Aonach Mor course. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Fans flock to Mountain Bike World Cup in Fort William

MORE THAN 7,000 fans had plenty to cheer about as they witnessed the best riders take on the Aonach Mor slopes at the Fort William Mountain Bike World Cup this weekend.

In a nail-biting finale to the Four Cross Pro Tour finals, Katy Curd gave the expectant crowd their first British win of the weekend, with Tomas Slavik from the Czech Republic smashing his way through the field to win the men's title in incredible style.

Curd said: 'I'm ecstatic for taking the win here at Fort William. I was up against some really tough competition, but I knew what I had to do and just went for it. I tried to keep focused at the top of the course, but all you can hear is the crowd going wild, it's incredible.'

Slavik said he loves the course at Nevis Range, calling it 'one of

the best'. He added: 'It's always so good to come back here. The crowd this year has blown me away.'

'The atmosphere throughout training and the competition has been incredible and the fans

have cheered non-stop since they arrived this morning. It has made this win even better.'

It was a disappointing year for Ben Cathro, from Benderloch, who didn't make it past the qualifying rounds on Saturday, a

MOUNTAIN BIKING

major drop from his position in 43rd place in the men's elite final last year, just 14 seconds behind champion Gee Atherton.



Ben Cathro from Benderloch didn't do enough to qualify for the men's elite competition.

Arrows fly as Martyn moves to the top of table

DARTS

MARTYN Cameron went to the top of the Tradewinds Singles League in Week 6, beating Graham Irving 3-0 in the final.

Cameron also achieved the only 180 this week.

Duncan Carmichael and John Matheson were the losing semi-finalists.

League Standings	Pts
1 Martyn Cameron	33
2 James Whyte	30
3 Duncan Carmichael	23
4 Graham Irving	22
5 Duncan Rogers	21
6 John Matheson	19
7 John Woods	17
8 Darren Sutherland	16
9 Bobby Watson	14
10 Alex MacInnes	13
11 Curly Cameron	13
12 Craig Howden	11
13 Paul Shearer	9
14 Kenny Fraser	6
15= Stevie Clydesdale	3
15= Bryan Simpson	3
15= Martin Keenan	3
15= Declan Shearer	3
15= Gary Dunlop	3
20 David Fairgrieve	1

Campbell pipped at the post

HALF MARATHON

A SELECT group of runners took part in the second Kilchoan half marathon, as two people took on the full route while another two opted for the shorter 10k.

It was a home and away battle to the finish line as visitor Paul Brien beat local Geoff Campbell from Kilchoan House Hotel to Ardnamurchan lighthouse and back with less than a minute in it.

Brien completed the run in 1hour 44minutes and 55seconds, with Campbell close behind in 1hour 45minutes and 25seconds.

Campbell, who set up the race last year, said: 'This is something we want to make an annual run so hopefully the numbers will grow because it's a fantastic run with some great views and some gruelling hills.'

United stay in pole position

WELFARE FOOTBALL

MALLAIG scraped a victory against Caol Cosmos, winning 7-6 on penalties after a 2-2 draw in the John Baird Cup.

Meanwhile in the Marine Harvest League, Lundavra beat Inverloch 4-0, Caol United celebrated a 4-1 result against Ballachulish and Mallaig thrashed Nevis Range 4-0.

Lochaber managed a close win against Caol Cosmos, with a final result of 4-3.

Narrow win for Wilson and Eddie

BOWLS

FORT William Railway Bowling Club held the MacKleeners Pairs Nominated Competition on Saturday. A close fought final saw Wilson Thain and Eddie Downs narrowly winning against Agnes Boyle and Bobby Lawson at the club's green in Inverloch.

Ardnamurchan sports won by Acharacle Primary School

SCHOOL SPORTS

ACHARACLE Primary School pupils were the proud winners of this year's Ardnamurchan sports day.

Children from all of the peninsula's primary schools enjoyed an obstacle race, steeple chase, long jump and marathon.

Sports leadership students from Ardnamurchan High School helped out on the day and the headteacher of Strontian Primary, Mindy Ogilvie, said: 'I was impressed with their willingness, the way they were

proactive, and their ability to see what was needed without being told.'

'I felt immense pride in my former pupils and others from the peninsula. It was heart-warming to see them in action.'

'They were all enthusiastic and lovely with the primary pupils. They are a great credit and made a huge difference to the success of the primary sports day.'



Plockton's under 18s in the Brewin Dolphin Bowl regional final against Nairn Academy.

Plockton reach regional final

PLOCKTON High School's under-16s rugby team made it to the final of a regional competition for the first time.

The boys thrashed Inverness Royal Academy 50-0 in the semi-final of the Highlands and Islands regional Brewin Dolphin Bowl in March and the team are now gearing up for their fixture against Shetland Schools.

The game was scheduled for yesterday (Wednesday) but had to be postponed. When *The Oban Times* went to print another date had not yet been scheduled.

Head of PE and rugby coach Charlie Smith said: 'They've never made it to a final before so they're quite happy. Plockton is only a small school of 300 and I know we're playing a combined team of the high schools in Shetland but we've never met them or seen them play so we have no idea what to expect.'

'Ring rusty' because they've been off on study leave but they're confident and looking forward to it. They've had a good season and have been

RUGBY

playing well so I'd like to think they have a good chance.'

The pressure will be on to follow in the footsteps of Plockton's under-18s squad who won the same title for their age group in a final against Nairn Academy in April. A final score of 23-5 saw them take home the Bowl.

Smith added: 'The older guys won their league and they were delighted so it would be great if the under-16s could do it too.'

Spean Bridge golfers win competition at Dragon's Tooth

GOLF

SPEAN Bridge Primary School golfers were delighted to pick up the shield for the winning group at the Lochaber school's competition.

Max Campbell, Darren Whyte and Callum Neil made up the first place team with a combined score of 132 at the Dragon's Tooth course in Ballachulish.

Second place went to Inverloch with 142 and Banavie were third with 146.

The individual competition was won by David Wilson from Kinlochleven Primary School for

his score of 35. Evan Atkinson from Inverloch was just three strokes behind, finishing with 38 points while Max Campbell picked up a medal for third to add to his team win with a score of 40.

Active Schools coordinator Alison Martin thanked John Ross from Fort William Golf Club for organising the event and to Dragon's Tooth Golf Course for hosting it.



Dragon's Tooth Golf Club captain Graham Hayden presented the winning players with their medals and shield. From left: David Wilson, Evan Atkinson, Graham Hayden, Max Campbell, Callum Neil and Darren Whyte.



Ardnamurchan High School pupils helped out at the primary school sports day.

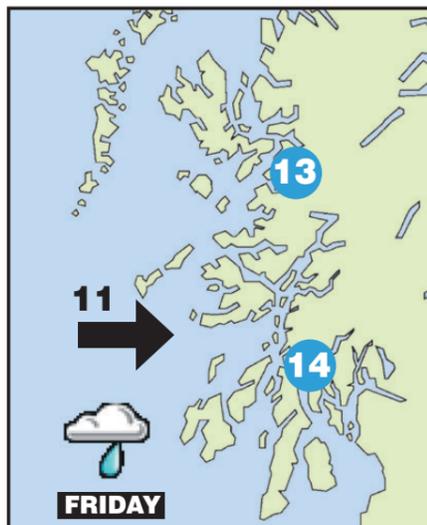
Weather

Thursday Heavy rain
Winds moderate south south westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 15°C

Friday Rain showers
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.

Weekend Outlook Sunny periods on Saturday
Cloudy on Sunday
Winds moderate westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, June 12, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

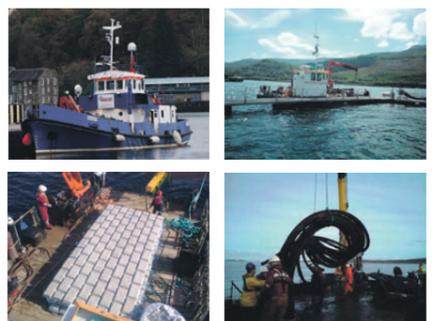
Date	am	pm
Thur	04.48 3.7 11.06 0.9 17.14 3.8 23.20 0.7	
Fri	05.30 3.8 11.48 0.7 17.55 3.9 *** **	
Sat	00.09 0.6 06.11 3.9 12.32 0.5 18.36 4.0	
Sun	00.58 0.5 06.54 3.8 13.17 0.5 19.19 4.0	
Mon	01.47 0.5 07.38 3.7 14.04 0.5 20.05 3.9	
Tues	02.37 0.6 08.24 3.5 14.54 0.6 20.55 3.7	
Wed	03.30 0.8 09.15 3.3 15.47 0.8 21.49 3.5	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-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		

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