

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Life's a Beach

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Mòd special

- Oban
- Skye
- Islay

three pages of photos and results **INSIDE**



Islands unite after ferry firm's U-turn on vessel's deployment

Huge public response to road petition

MONICA GIBSON

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A 'FAILURE in community engagement' has prompted opposing sides to unite following a U-turn on a crucial ferry service.

MV Coruisk has been a major talking point among residents of Lochaber, Oban, Skye and Mull following CalMac's decision in 2015 to redeploy the ferry from the Mallaig to Armadale route to operate between Craignure and Oban.

But following a campaign by Sleat Transport Forum, MP Ian Blackford announced late last week that after a meeting with managing director Martin Dorchester, CalMac planned to reverse its decision and return the ferry to the Mallaig-Armadale crossing.

These claims were then quashed five days later when CalMac issued a statement saying that no further changes would be made to the Mallaig to Armadale route this year.

In the statement, Mr Dorchester said he regretted plans for the Mallaig-Armadale route had fallen short of some expectations and he said that after listening to community concerns, CalMac will review vessel deployment for summer 2017 in consultation with affected communities.

He continued: 'Every change to our summer timetable was made after consultation with the local communities and each change was made in good faith with the sole intention of enhancing ferry services and addressing local concerns, some long-standing, about

services in their area. We should also not lose sight of the fact that the vast majority of these changes have been warmly welcomed by those local communities.'

The about turn came as a relief to those on Mull, with councillor Mary-Jean Devon summing up her reaction by saying: 'Hurray!' She added: 'The whole thing took up most of my weekend, writing letters and asking for information.'

Others were less impressed, not so much with the decision but with the way it was handled. Rob Ware, secretary of Sleat Community Council for Sleat Transport Forum, said CalMac's silence throughout the process, and especially since Mr Blackford's announcement last week, was his biggest grievance and he believed it has created community warfare.

He added: 'Customer confidence in the Mallaig to Armadale route is at its lowest ebb. Since the decision earlier this year there have been revisions to the revised timetable and every time it is the customer who is losing out. There is no doubt Mull, too, needs extra capacity but to describe the way in which CalMac has treated this issue and the people concerned as a shambles is putting it nicely.'

Brendan O'Hara, SNP MP for Argyll and Bute, described the situation as a pantomime.

He said: 'I am delighted for the people of Mull that the *MV Coruisk* will be staying where it is and I sincerely hope the needs of those in Skye are addressed and made a priority. This was never meant to be a

case of Mull versus Skye.

'There has been a complete failure in community engagement on behalf of CalMac.'

'The decision is almost playing second fiddle. It was the uncertainty which has caused problems. After Mr Blackford's announcement I asked Martin Dorchester to contact me. I still have not had a response.'

'In the lead up to what will be the busiest time of the year, businesses could not operate properly with this hanging over them. Customers would have been put off making bookings and residents were in disarray.'

'Even if it wasn't going to be the decision people wanted, they had to know one way or another.'

When contacted by *The Oban Times* regarding the complaints about its community engagement, a CalMac spokesman said: 'We needed to look at a range of options to address reliability issues on the Mallaig-Armadale route, including timetable amendments.'

'This took some time and inevitably generated speculation about what was happening to the *MV Coruisk*, which was unfortunate.'

'As soon as a final decision was made in consultation with Transport Scotland on what was the best options for these two routes, working within the resources we have, communities were advised.'

As *The Oban Times* went to press it is understood Mr Blackford was arranging an emergency meeting with Transport Scotland, and Sleat Transport Forum will invite Mr Dorchester to attend a public meeting in Sleat.

Bethan is jester the job at Mòd



Young Bethan Neil was game for a laugh last week at the Oban Mòd. The seven-year-old played the jester in Rockfield's drama group at this year's big event. 17_t24ObanModFriday11.

THERE has been a huge and immediate response to an urgent call for action to make the A85 safer in the Dunbeg area.

Within days of its launch, 750 people had signed Dunbeg Community Council's online petition.

And *The Oban Times* is backing the demand for action in the wake of a series of accidents that have caused traffic chaos in recent days.

Full story: page three.

School sports day special

SEVEN primary schools held their annual sports days in glorious sunshine last week – and *The Oban Times* was there to record all the fun and games.

And it wasn't just the youngsters who were having a grand time of it: mums and dads also showed their competitive side as they took part in their own races.

Picture special: page four.

It's all set for charities day

OBAN is gearing up to party this weekend with the annual charities day in the town.

This year, there is the added attraction of a street party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. Dozens of charity stalls will be set up in Station Square and there will be all kinds of entertainment laid on, including a parade.

Fun day preview: page eight.



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Bail bid launched to free Billy

SANDY NEIL

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BILLY IRVING could be allowed out of an Indian jail to attend his son William's christening in a Chennai cathedral, when William and Billy's fiancée Yvonne MacHugh fly out next month.

Billy, from Connel, is one of six ex-British soldiers who were arrested and imprisoned in 2013 when their boat protecting merchant seamen, the *MV Seaman Guard Ohio*, strayed into Indian territorial waters carrying weapons without permission.

All charges were dropped in

2014 but later reinstated. After a two-year battle to return home, on January 11, 2016, a court in Tamil Nadu found the men guilty of border and weapons violations, and sentenced them to five years' hard labour.

A bail petition should be submitted tomorrow (Friday) and, if successful, it would mean Billy would be freed until the end of his appeal hearing, which has been adjourned until June 15.

'I fly out on July 11 and I hope to get William christened,' Yvonne told *The Oban Times* yesterday. 'It would be great if Billy was out on bail. It just gives you time as a family. It would mean a few days Billy could

spend with his son, rather than looking through a prison cell. We can maybe go on a date.'

Last week, on May 31, Billy received a morale-boosting visit from Hugo Swire, Foreign Office minister, lifting hopes that Whitehall is making positive steps to put pressure on the Indian government.

If bail is not granted, Mr Swire told Yvonne he would be asking the Indian government to release Billy for a few hours for William's christening at St Thomas Cathedral. He tweeted: 'I again raised their cases with the government in Tamil Nadu and Delhi.'

Speaking on the campaign

website change.org, Yvonne said: 'Despite the lack of communication between us and our men, I am more than certain this has been a huge boost to the morale of our men who are languishing in horrific conditions in an Indian prison.'

'Would a government official fly to another country to visit men who are guilty of a crime? Of course not and this is the first time a government minister has visited a British citizen in a foreign prison.'

'The British government know these men are innocent and we want the world to know what a huge miscarriage of justice this whole case has been.'

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Concert raises £800 for refugees

CHILDREN of Taynuilt gave a concert in Muckairn Church on April 22, raising £805 for Syrian refugee children.

The youngsters ranged in age from primary to senior secondary pupils and sang and played various instruments, both solo and in groups. They were warmly praised for their talents and enthusiasm.

The concert was organised by the World Mission Group and helpers.

It was compered by Rhona Camerson and the director of music was Jo Landon, assisted by Moira Carswell and Jane McCracken.

The performers were Bridget Cox (bagpipes), Eliza Cox and Matthew Houston (reading), Megan Day and Mo Inall (clarinet and flute), Ashleigh Sim and Megan Day (piano), Ashling Duncan, Sophie Houston, Christie Cameron and Rhona McCracken (clarsach), Neil McCracken (saxophone and piano), Gemma Carswell (piano), Rowan Chisholm (guitar), Taynuilt Primary After-School Choir, Claire Bryden (talk), Cantina Band (Eliza Cox, Katie Houston, Oran Charlton, Finn Charlton, Sophie Carswell, Neil McCracken, Sorley Inall and Matthew Houston), Sophie Carswell (piano), Emily Reid (song), Christie Cameron, Katie Houston and Rhona McCracken (fiddle, flute and clarsach), Emma Baird (songs) and Bregha Charlton (clarsach).



An Oban court case heard last week that the West Coast is 'awash with drugs' but the police and other agencies are joining forces with new initiatives to tackle the problem

Ban on legal highs could mean prison for traders

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SO-CALLED legal highs have been banned across the UK following more than 100 deaths.

The blanket ban, which began on Thursday last week, means the production, distribution, sale and supply of what are otherwise known as new psychoactive substances (NPS) will be criminal offences.

The substances are designed to give users the same effect as drugs such as cannabis and cocaine.

These chemicals were blamed for more than 100 deaths in the UK last year, as well as a rise in violent assaults in prison. Under the new law, anyone convicted of offences under the Psychoactive Substances Act could be jailed for up to seven years.

Products such as nicotine, alcohol, caffeine, food and medicinal products are exempt from the Act. The Home Office has also said that "Poppers", or alkyl nitrates, will not fall under the Act.

However, there is concern that the ban could mean people accessing NPS from what is known as the 'dark web' -



Anyone caught selling psychoactive substances faces seven years in jail.

a section of the internet that does not show up on traditional search engines.

Research conducted recently for the charity YMCA showed two-thirds of young people who currently take the drugs are likely to continue using them despite the ban.

Under the new ban, authorities will have powers to seize and destroy psychoactive substances, as well as carry out searches of people, premises and vehicles.

If a person is found to be in possession of a NPS in prison, they could face having up to two years added to their sentence.

The legislation has come under intense scrutiny since it was first proposed by the government last year.

It had been widely expected that the measures would be rolled out in April but the start date was pushed back.

The Act doesn't replace the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) so laws around

existing illegal (controlled) drugs will remain the same.

An anti-drugs website called Know the Score said: 'NPS mimic the effects of controlled drugs such as cannabis and cocaine that are already illegal and can be just as harmful. The ease with which they can be produced and subsequently altered and their ease of availability through shops on the high street and the internet has presented a constantly evolving challenge.'

'The existing legislative framework has meant that these substances have remained legal up to now as they don't come under the traditional radar of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 which controls drugs.'

'This new legislation will give police and other law enforcement agencies greater powers to tackle the trade in psychoactive substances.'

'Making the sale and supply of these dangerous substances unlawful, and therefore less visible and available, will help to reduce the harm caused by them.'

For more information about NPS, go to <http://knowthescore.info/help-and-support>. For free and confidential advice and information call the Know the Score helpline on 0800 587 5879.

Public can help put the drug dealers away

By Chief Superintendent Grant Manders, commander of L Division.

IT SEEMS like every other week there's another story in the papers about a youngster dying after taking so-called 'party drugs' or 'legal highs'.

The latest one to stick in my mind related to a 15-year-old girl and took place recently in West Lothian. Such a tragic waste of a very young life.

But we've had our own tragedies closer to home in very similar circumstances. I can't go into detail about the cases because there are still investigations or proceedings taking place but I can tell you that when I read the statements I was struck by the sheer depth of the effect on the families and friends left behind.

Grief that may diminish over the years but will never go away came through in



Chief Supt Grant Manders.

every statement.

I'm sure every teenager has read or heard about the possible consequences of taking drugs, but often they think

that they know better - some of them genuinely believe that the bad stuff will never happen to them, that these drugs are harmless and just a bit of fun.

I can tell these young people that all too often the bad stuff can and does happen to people just like them, and the consequences for whole families are certainly not just a bit of fun.

We'll keep trying but, sadly, I don't think we'll ever be able to stop all young people from experimenting with drugs. However, we can do something about the sick individuals who exploit youth and waste lives by selling the poison.

And that's why I make no apologies for doing everything I can to put the drug dealers behind bars. Last year we locked up 237 dealers in Argyll and Bute and West Dunbartonshire. This year it will be around 260. And I'd be happy if we locked up even more next

year.

We have also taken hundreds of thousands of pounds away from these same individuals - either in cash or assets like cars, TVs, watches or even houses.

We can't and don't do this in isolation. We need you to talk to your kids about drugs. We need our youngsters to understand the dangers and believe that drugs are harmful, whether they are legal or not. We need them to stand up to peer pressure and not take risks.

We need your help to take these killer drugs in all their guises, including the so-called legal highs, off our streets. We need you to tell us who the dealers are. We need your help.

You can give information about drug dealers in confidence by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. You have my assurance that we will act on the information we receive.

Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

Godred Crovan

SITUATED close to the main road leading to Kintra in the Kildalton and Oa parish is the standing stone known as the Carragh Bhàn and reputed to mark the burial place of the Norse warrior king Godred Crovan who, it is claimed, died in Islay in 1095.

Little is known about Godred's earlier life before he became a celebrated 11th-century warrior. He certainly acted as adjutant to the King of Norway at the Battle of Stamford Bridge in 1066 before he set his sights on the Isle of Man and Islay.

Norse and Gael supporters flocked to his standard, the besieged city of Dublin surrendered to him before he proclaimed himself king and set up the dynasty which embraced the Kingdom of the Isles, Dublin and Man.

Legend has it that he was particularly revered on Islay after he successfully destroyed a dragon which had its lair at Imerachonart on the outskirts of Ballygrant and which had caused death and destruction among the Ilich.

He is also the subject of one of local bard Duncan Johnston's best known songs, *Birlinn Ghoraidh Chrobhain*, and whose theme relates the passage of the Godred's Royal galley from the Isle of Man to Islay's shores.

The jury is still out on whether the Carragh Bhàn marks the warrior king's final resting place as another school of thought suggests that he was buried along with other royal personages on Iona.

What is not in doubt is that the gallant Godred was the progenitor of the Clan Donald who became the Lords of the Isles and held sway over Scotland's western seaboard for more than two centuries.



Carragh Bhàn, standing stone reputed to be the burial place of Norse warrior king Godred Crovan.



Saltire Award winners Sean Logan and Connor Glover with Edinburgh Lord Provost Donald Wilson.

Awards for volunteers

TWO young local volunteers were greatly surprised when they ended up at the receiving end at the Community Resource Network Scotland annual awards dinner in Edinburgh's opulent Balmoral Hotel.

Sean Logan and Connor Glover, volunteers with the local recycling agency ReJIG, were firmly under the impression that their dinner invitation was a mere token of thanks. To their utter amazement they were called up on stage where they were presented with their Saltire awards by the capital's Lord Provost Donald Wilson in front of 300 people.

Both boys received the Ascent Award which marks 500 hours of volunteering and Connor also scooped the additional Summit Award which recognises more than 1,000 hours of volunteering.

As well as volunteering, these awards taken into account cash handling, beach rangers, customer services and working in a production environment.

ReJIG chair Robert Smith said: 'We would like to sincerely thank both young men on their efforts and the Saltire scheme for their recognition. We have thoroughly enjoyed working with the recipients and commend them on their commitment to ReJIG.'

Preparing to Be Prepared

AARON Gardner, a recent arrival from London, is in the process of setting up a Scouts group on the island which will be known as the 3rd Argyll (1st Islay) Scout Group.

Aaron has been heavily involved in Scouting activities down south and looks forward to setting up in the island group which will be hopefully up and running at the beginning of September.

Current plans are that the Scouts, Beavers and Cubs will meet in the Bowmore village hall on Monday evenings. So dib, dib and toggles at the ready!

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750 back 'killer' road petition

SANDY NEIL
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'ATROCIOUSLY dangerous', 'a death trap', 'horrendous', 'terrifying', 'a killer'.

These were just a few descriptions of the A85 Dunbeg to Oban carriageway posted on an online petition to improve its safety, which attracted 700 signatures in a day.

Dunbeg Community Council began distributing paper petitions last week in its campaign to cut the number of crashes on the main road into Oban and, on Monday, community councillor Sean MacIntyre put the appeal online at www.change.org.

Mr MacIntyre, a Dunbeg resident, is demanding Transport Scotland upgrades the A85 stretch 'with double white lines and address the speed limit to stop the countless accidents that happen on a regular basis'.

Within a few hours the online petition reached 100 signatures, the minimum target needed to send it to Transport Scotland, and numbers grew rapidly over the next 24 hours.

Almost all argue an upgrade

is 'urgent' and 'overdue', citing the road's 'appalling record of traffic accidents', and the disruption caused by closures.

Iain Davidson, from Dunfermline, wrote: 'The section between the Halfway House and Pennyfuir is a killer.'

'I've lost two good friends on this stretch of road and there have been countless dozens either taken from us or very badly injured as a result of the treacherous visibility there.'

Gail Lockhart from Oban also appealed: 'My son was in a road traffic accident on this road. Thankfully he walked away. Far too many haven't.'

Some are cutting back their visits to Oban because of the 'crazy driving'.

Connell resident Jenny Brady wrote: 'So many times I come around a corner on this stretch of road to come face-to-face with a car overtaking and on the wrong side of the road.'

Kim Entwistle, also from Oban, posted: 'Sirens on that road every day this week, already half a dozen folk injured and the summer hasn't even really begun yet.'

Eric Smith, another Oban

resident, agreed: 'This road is a notorious death trap for unwary or foreign holiday-making motorists, pure and simple. Avoidable deaths and serious injuries will occur this summer if immediate action is not taken.'

Shopper Liz Paul of Duror said: 'I have the choice of the A82 or the A85 when I want to go shopping - toss a coin, pick your danger.'

Commuter Rachel Young of North Connell suggested solutions: 'There should be double white lines on the whole road and the speed limit should be reduced.'

Irene Mackinnon of Oban said: 'The amount of accidents could be greatly reduced if there was a 40mph speed limit.'

Robert Turnewitsch of North Connell, a regular user of the road between Connell and Oban, also supported the petition: 'Significant measures need to be taken to reduce the risks/hazards on this road and the need for overtaking.'

He requested 'adequate use of white lining, [a] widening of foot/cycle path between Dunbeg and Oban, [and the]

extension of foot/cycle path from Dunbeg to Connell.'

Claire McHardy of Oban argued accidents will only get worse: 'The volume of traffic using this road has increased significantly over the years and is only going to get busier given the increase in the population of Oban and surrounding area and ferry traffic to the islands.'

Mr MacIntyre said he was 'over the moon' with the response.

To sign the online petition, go to <https://www.change.org/p/transport-scotland-dunbeg-community-council-demand-the-upgrade-of-the-a85> or fill in the petition form.

■ **TRAFFIC** into and out of Oban was disrupted again early on Thursday morning following a two-vehicle accident on the A85.

The crash happened between Pennyfuir and the filling station close to Oban shortly after 6am.

Police said no-one was seriously injured but a woman had to be cut free from her car.

A contraflow was put in place while emergency services attended to the incident.

Dunbeg Community Council DEMAND THE UPGRADE OF THE A85

This petition is to support the demand for the upgrade of the A85 Dunbeg to Oban carriageway, for it to be upgraded with double white lines and to address the speed limit all the way along this stretch of road to stop the countless accidents that happen on a regular basis.

To sign the petition, please fill in your name and address and send this form to:

A85 UPGRADE, PO Box 1, The Oban Times, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB

Name: _____

Address: _____

Island to host slate festival

THE ATLANTIC Islands Centre on Luing will be buzzing this weekend as it holds its annual slate festival.

Held over three days, the event will provide a fascinating insight into the island's history as a slate-producing location.

It starts tomorrow night (Friday) with a tapas night when visitors can tuck into Spanish delights.

On Saturday, there will be two slate mosaic workshops by artist and geologist Dugald MacInnes, the first from 10am until noon and the next from 1pm to 3pm.

At 4pm there will be an illustrated talk on the rise and fall of the slate industry, followed later by a slate islands ceilidh.

Sunday sees slate tiles dressing demonstration at noon and a slate sculpture competition at 1.15pm. There will also be a slate exhibition in the Atlantic Islands Centre throughout the month.

Book events at info@atlanticislandscentre.com or call 01852 314096.

Anniversary for youth cafe

OBAN Youth Café will be celebrating its 15-year anniversary this Saturday June 11.

The youth café offers high school aged youngsters a range of clubs, drop-ins, sports and other activities.

The youngsters have created a photo gallery to mark this milestone, entitled '15 Years of Fun'.

At the celebration, which will run from 12pm till 3pm in the youth café, there will also be: a birthday cake and other home baking, tea and coffee, party games, raffle prizes, pool and face painting.

For more information call 01631 567 399.

Walk of ages: generations join play park fight



MORE than 300 strollers took part in a sponsored inter-generational walk on Thursday, along the footpath between the Corran Halls and Dunollie Castle.

The mile walk was organised by Elaine Craig and Aileen Michie, of Friends of Oban Community Play Park, to raise funds towards £60,000 still needed to build the £100,000 under-fives play park.

In bright sunshine, as walkers stopped for refreshments laid out by Dunollie staff, Elaine Craig told *The Oban Times* there had been 'a good turnout'.

'It's lovely to see young children and the older generation together,' she added.

Many mums and grannies were joined by Oban Health Walks and Seniors

Forum and pre-school and primary 1 children from Lochnell, Rockfield and Park primary schools and from Little Learners, Stramash and First Steps nurseries.

The amount raised, Ms Craig said, would become clear as it comes in from the groups, schools and parents during the coming weeks.

MSP urges action to improve the A82

AN MSP has called for action to improve the A82.

Scottish Liberal Democrat transport spokesperson Mike Rumbles urged the new transport minister to prioritise investment in the route.

In his first act as transport spokesperson, Mr Rumbles tabled a number of parliamentary questions pressing the Scottish Government to step up plans to upgrade the A82.

Mr Rumbles said: 'It is not surprising that the omission of any

A82 upgrade plans from the SNP manifesto has cast doubt on the priority the Scottish Government gives this vital artery connecting the West Highlands and islands with the central belt.'

'Given the appointment of Humza Yousaf as the transport minister, I hope he takes this opportunity to ensure the Scottish Government commits fully to much-needed upgrades on the A82, particularly between Onich and Fort William.'

New opposition to boundary changes

'TINKERING' boundary changes for Argyll and Bute Council elections are 'driven by irrelevant number-based formulae' with 'no financial savings', the region's MSP has told Local Government Minister Kevin Stewart.

Michael Russell, the SNP MSP for Argyll and Bute, wrote to Mr Stewart asking him not to implement the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's recommendations, submitted in May to Scottish ministers for approval.

The commission's fifth electoral review looked at the number of councillors and the electoral ward boundaries in each of Scotland's 32 local authorities, ready to be implemented in time for local government elections in May 2017. There were two consultations in 2014 and 2015 and the public can again have their say until July 7. The recommendations reduce Argyll and Bute's councillors by three to 33 and propose changes to the Oban North Ward and the new Mid Argyll Ward, now running from the top of Loch Fyne to the Garvellachs.

Before becoming Oban North and Lorn's newly-elected councillor on June 2, Kieron Green called for a cross-party consensus to oppose the proposals. He said: 'The



Michael Russell opposes the changes.

Oban South and the Isles ward remains unchanged, but the Oban North and Lorn ward is still proposed to have Luing, Seil, Kilninver and Kilmelford, Avich and Kilchrenan and the east Lochaweside section of Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council moved to the Mid Argyll ward. The only change made to earlier proposals has been to keep Dalmally and Glenorchy within Oban North and Lorn.

'While these proposals only directly affect five community council areas,

they affect the entire area through the reduction in Argyll and Bute councillors representing our area and the changes to the area boundary. They cut the link between natural community boundaries and the councillors representing these areas which could lead to councillors unfamiliar with local concerns, as well as potentially affecting service delivery in future if more administrative boundaries are changed to match the new wards.'

'We previously met to discuss these proposals and submitted a joint response on behalf of 10 of our community councils concerning this issue. It is vital we make it clear there is a consensus from our communities that is cross-party in opposing these proposals. Now is the time to be contacting our local MSP, the Highlands and Islands MSPs as well as the minister responsible for local government to make our feelings clear - both as individuals and community councils.'

Any comments on the reports and their recommendations should be submitted by July 7 to: Tony Romain, Scottish Government, Local Government Policy and Relationship Unit, Directorate for Local Government and Communities, Area 3J, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

Cancer support service ready to open

A NEW Macmillan Cancer information and support service in Oban Library will be officially opened by Provost Len Scoullar and Brendan O'Hara MP on Monday June 20.

The service has been developed in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, Argyll and Bute Council, NHS Highland and Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface to provide much-needed support for people living with cancer, their families and carers.

A team of specially trained volunteers run the service and offer one-to-one emotional support, guidance with information materials on various aspects of cancer and its treat-

ment or simply a listening ear over a cup of tea.

They can also point people in the right direction for other specialist services such as financial advice, walking groups and local support organisations. There is a dedicated drop-in area as well as private rooms. The drop-in runs on Wednesdays from 2.15pm to 4.15pm in the library.

Elsbeth Atkinson, director of Macmillan Cancer Support in Scotland, said: 'It is thanks to the hard work and dedication of our supporters in Argyll and Bute who raise so much money for us that we are able to establish such a vital service. Macmillan believes that no-one should face cancer alone and the continued support

from people locally will help us to ensure that no one does.'

Provost Scoullar added: 'Everyone who is part of a community can play a part in supporting and developing that community. We recognise the need to support people through times of ill health and in setting up this innovative initiative, we are providing a comfortable, welcoming environment for community volunteers to meet people living with or affected by cancer.'

Christina West, chief officer for Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, said: 'This is an invaluable service to the local community and I am delighted it is providing information and support to our patients, their families, carers and friends.'



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Youngsters shine at school sports

YOUNG athletes from seven Argyll primary schools had great fun at their summer sports days last week.

Strath of Appin Primary School held a joint sports day with Achaleven, Kilchrenan, Barcaldine and Lismore Primaries on Tuesday May 31.

Special guest at the event was Wilma Lawrie, the gold, silver and bronze paralympic swimmer who had travelled from Edinburgh to present certificates to the best boy and girl in each year group and the nursery.

Commenting on the event, acting head teacher Christine MacLean said: 'It was a fun-filled event enjoyed by all. The planning and preparation all paid off and the parent council kept everyone refreshed with tea and coffee and delicious home baking throughout the day.'

Also on Tuesday, Rockfield Primary held their sports day.

The school's head teacher, Caroline Fothergill said: 'We were delighted to host our annual sports day, which is a real community event for Rockfield.'

'The children did us proud with their enthusiasm, good sportsmanship and representing the school so positively.'

Meanwhile, Park Primary had its sports day on Friday June 3.

Head teacher Gillian Carney told *The Oban Times* that the event was 'a highly successful day'.

She went on: 'It was excellent and well supported by parents. The sun shone all day and the children had a great time.'



Paralympian Wilma Lawrie awarded the children their certificates at Strath of Appin. t24appin01 (KM)



Tug of War is hard work in the sun as the pre-fives give it their all at Strath of Appin. t24appin02 (KM)



Centre right: Park school senior champs Katie Macpherson and Thomas MacCrindle. t24park07 (KM); Right: It's too hot for the bean bag race at Appin. t24appin03 (KM)



These Rockfield youngsters are totally focused as they head for the finish line in the 60m race. t24rockfield01 (KM)



Setting the pace in the skipping race at Rockfield sports day. t24rockfield05 (KM)



This Rockfield pupil gives it his all in the primary three race. t24rockfield02 (KM)



Getting the low down on the egg and spoon race at Park Primary School's sports day. t24park01 (KM)



These Park Primary youngsters are having great fun in the sun with their own version of the horse and rider race. t24park02 (KM)



Above: Rockfield prize winners with retiring teachers Nina Graham and Jan Kersel who presented the prizes. t24rockfield07 (KM); Left: We won! This Park pupil celebrates. t24park03 (KM);



The competition was fierce between the mums and dads in the egg and spoon race at Park Primary sports day. t24park04 (KM)

As seen on TV

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Eye to eye with John Wallace

The Beauty of Light

One of the great pleasures I get from my chosen profession is I travel to several west coast islands both professionally and also occasionally on holiday. For years I used to sail up and down the west coast in late May. That was when May and June were normally sunny and were considered the best time to admire the scenery. My favourite time on board the yacht was the early morning watch just as the sun rose especially if we were at anchor in some remote sea loch. The waves would gently lap against our hull and the seabirds would start calling. As dawn broke and the sun rose the land would be bathed in a wonderful soft orange glow. A perfect start to the day.

As we age our eyesight changes. The lens inside each eye changes shape and colour. You probably have noticed your glasses usually need updated every two years. That's because the lens inside each eye gradually decreases in optical power. The most obvious sign is when we need to push books and newspapers further away to see them clearly. Another sign is when we need more light to read. By the age of sixty we need four times the level of light we needed at age twenty one. In my household the older generation is putting all the lights on while the youngsters are turning them off.

If you have started to develop cataracts your lenses absorb large quantities of red and yellow light so sunrises and sunsets can become less spectacular and sunlight or car headlights make distant object hazy. If you notice any of these changes you should arrange an eye examination. Cataracts are easily treated and you could start to enjoy our spectacular scenery just as you did when you were younger.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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Trust has office hit by thieves

A PUBLIC recycling charity has had its premises broken into and a cash register stolen.

The GRAB Trust's (Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute) Lorn and Oban Reuse Initiative (LORI) cabin at the Moleigh Recycling Centre was broken into last Tuesday morning (May 31).

Julie Fairbrass, project manager of the GRAB Trust, told *The Oban Times* that the cabin door had been forced open using a crowbar and the till had been stolen.

Ms Fairbrass said: 'Nothing else was taken but the team are deeply shocked and angered that someone would target this site. Our signs clearly state we are a charity but this obviously doesn't make any difference. I don't feel this was an opportunist, as they knew exactly what cabin to break into and no other damage was done to any other part of the site and no other cabins were broken into.'

She added: 'The LORI project is a great project but can barely afford to take this hit and, although we have insurance, it has saddened and disappointed me that an incident like this could occur.'

The damage to the doors was so severe that the lock had to be replaced and the doors repaired.

Police inquiries into the break-in are ongoing.

Disabled man's case for review

DISABLED Mull pensioner Alex Fletcher, who faces becoming 'a prisoner in his own house' in Bunnessan if the UK government takes back his car under its new disability benefit scheme, is having his case reviewed.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) should decide by mid June if the 61-year-old, who lives in constant pain due to severe arthritis, can keep the car until an appeal decides in a year or two.

Mr Fletcher, who retired on doctor's orders from the construction industry six years ago, qualified for a car funded by Motability under the Disability Living Allowance Scheme.

But he failed to qualify for the car benefit under its new replacement, the Personal Independence Payment (PIP), because at the time he filled in the form last year he could walk over 20m, which now he cannot.

The appeal will decide if Mr Fletcher is eligible for the higher rate of disability benefit. Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara also visited Mr Fletcher in Bunnessan at the weekend, and promised to take up his case in Westminster and with the DWP.

Birthday girl Caroline is just dancing in the park



Surprise! Caroline and her sister and friends were treated to a luxury limo.

OBAN resident Caroline MacDonald had a rather grand 50th birthday surprise on Wednesday (June 1).

Caroline knew she was going to see Bruce Springsteen - but she was unaware that her sister, Liz MacLean

of Benderloch, had booked a limo to take them, along with another four ladies, including Liz's neighbours Megan and Chloe MacDonald, who had turned 21 and 18 respectively in the past year.

Liz told *The Oban Times* that she and her sister had been Springsteen fans for many years but her sister had not seen him live in quite a while.

She said: 'She loves him and was really happy. It was a combination

of the limo and seeing Bruce Springsteen. It was a fantastic trip.

'The limo took us all the way to Hampden Park and all the way back and we had a Springsteen CD so we sang all the way!'

Island's projects turning tide on population decline

TWO MAJOR projects are coming to fruition on the isle of Ulva after a lengthy campaign.

After four years, Ulva School Community Association (USCA), supported by Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) local development officers, has made progress with its projects to reverse population decline and increase the sustainability of Ulva Primary School.

With funding from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the local development officers have helped to build on the enthusiasm and determination of the local volunteers who campaigned vigorously and successfully against the planned closure of the school in 2010.

Work has started on the Ulva Ferry pontoon, which will provide opportunities for economic development in the area on a seasonal basis and also improve facilities for local boat operators including tour and fishing boats.

The seven-berth pontoon is now under construction and will be in operation during the summer. Part of the scheme is to provide a fuel berth which, it is hoped, will reduce fuel costs for local sailors.

The £451,000 grant funding



Ulva Primary children Matilda Munro and Issy Greenfield cut the first sod, above, while, below right, Ulva Ferry development steering group Iain Morrison, Jeanette Cutlack, Mark Millward and Jeanie MacColl at the ceremony and supervising Torosay Sandpit Ltd pouring concrete for the foundation.



from Coastal Communities Fund also allows for MICT to employ Mark Millward as full-



time pontoon manager this season as local employment is one of the objectives of the project. For more information about the pontoon, contact either Cally Fleming cfleming@mict.

co.uk or Mark Millward markmillward@mict.co.uk.

The Ulva Ferry community bus, specially converted to include a wheelchair lift, provides a valuable service to locals, particularly those who would otherwise be isolated.

Thanks to the Bus Investment Fund, the vehicle also provides six part-time jobs for residents in an area with few such opportunities.

For more information visit the website www.ufcb.org.uk or contact Mike Hogan 07775531301 info@ufcb.org.uk or Helen MacDonald.

Together, these projects will contribute to the long-term sustainability of the Ulva Ferry area, providing income, employment and secure housing for residents.

Iain Thomson, convener of USCA, said: 'The latest news about the grant from the Rural Housing Fund is a fantastic boost to the project. So much time and work has been put in and many challenges overcome.'

'It is the result of a community pulling together in the face of the school closure and keeping hope alive for the future of the area. I look forward to see construction begin soon.'

TIMESLINE

Lifeboat races to aid of yacht

OBAN lifeboat was launched on Sunday to go to the aid of a yacht south of Croabh Haven. The RNLI boat was called out by Stornoway Coastguard at 5.35pm to assist a yacht with five people on board after it suffered engine difficulty. Shortly after leaving the berth, the volunteer crew were requested to stand down as the yacht had been taken under tow by another boat in the area. Oban lifeboat returned to station where she was refuelled and made ready again by 6.15pm.

Orwell Society to visit site of book

THE ORWELL Society is visiting Jura this week to see where author George Orwell wrote his novel 1984. Society members, led by Orwell's adopted son Richard Blair, will be on the island from tomorrow (Friday) until Monday. The society will visit Barnhill at the invitation of the Fletcher family and enjoy a trip around Jura to see some of the features of the island, including the Gulf of Corrievreckan, where Orwell nearly drowned in 1947.

Cheers for pubs in line for awards

TWO pubs in Oban are leading the way in a national competition that recognises excellence in the industry. The Barn and Markie Duns are among the top three bars in several categories in the Scottish Bar and Pub Awards 2016.

Island tourist centre to close

NA H-EILEANAN an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan has written to VisitScotland following the announcement that the Lochboisdale Tourist Office will not reopen due to staff shortages. Many in the community have voiced concern at the proposed closure of the facility. Mr Allan said: 'This move would leave Lochboisdale as the only place in the Western Isles where tourists disembarking from a ferry are not able to find a tourist information centre.'

Making a splash for leisure centre

TWENTY-ONE hardy souls will take part in the Lochindaal swim on July 2 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the opening of Mactaggart Leisure Centre, Islay. Thirteen centre staff and eight staff from Islay Medical Services will swim from Port Charlotte to Bowmore. The fundraisers hope to raise £5,500 for the leisure centre and its activities. The distance from Port Charlotte to Bowmore is 5,500 metres. To sponsor the event visit crowdfunding.justgiving.com/isobel-mclean

Island turbine has never turned a blade

COLL'S controversial 77-metre wind turbine at Gallanach 'hasn't turned a blade' since it was installed more than six months ago.

Councillors Roddy McCuish and Neil MacIntyre were 'astounded' to learn at an island surgery last week that the 252ft turbine 'has never worked'.

'All that grief and it doesn't work,' Councillor McCuish told *The Oban Times*. 'It's like a big Wicker Man. The islanders want to decommission it.'

In October 2012, islander Neil Smith, director of Gallanach Green

Generation Ltd (GGG), was granted planning consent to erect the 252ft turbine at Gallanach Farm, despite more than 100 of the island's 137 inhabitants signing a petition against the 750kw turbine.

Argyll and Bute Council expected the developer to upgrade the island's single-track road to transport the giant components.

But on the May bank holiday weekend last year, furious islanders watched in horror as barges landed construction equipment on the pristine white sands of Gallanach beach,

and rock pecker machines began channelling a route through the cliff face.

Council officers served an interdict to halt the work because, they argued, Mr Smith had not been granted planning permission to create a track on his land running 500m from the beach to the turbine site.

Permission was later secured, with conditions agreed by the council, and the turbine was erected several months ago.

A council spokesperson said: 'The council understands that the

apparatus is currently not generating electricity due to a broken generator.

'The applicant has stated that the repair can be carried out using like for like parts and small apparatus/crane.

'There is a condition that states that if the wind turbine fails to produce electricity supply to a local grid for a continuous period of 12 months, then it will be deemed to have ceased to be required.

'We will continue to monitor the situation.'

Mr Smith could not be contacted for comment.

Kieron takes council seat after by-election victory

INDEPENDENT candidate Kieron Green beat the SNP's Breege Smyth by 22 votes to become Oban, North and Lorn's new councillor in last Thursday's by-election.

Mr Green polled 755 first preference votes compared to Ms Smyth's 1,055, but he was elected at the fourth stage after the two candidates with fewest votes were eliminated.

Scottish Conservative and Unionist Andrew Ross Vennard came third with 591, while Scottish Liberal Democrat David Pollard came fourth with 294 first preference votes. The total number of valid ballots cast was 2,651, with 16 rejected, representing 33.46 per cent of the electorate.

The next day an 'overwhelmed' Mr Green quit his job as a school technician at Oban High School and he will also be resigning his post on Oban Community Council.

Its chairperson, Marri Malloy, congratulated him. She said: 'Argyll and Bute Council's gain is Oban Community Council's loss. Thanks for all your hard work and good luck for the future.'

This week Mr Green told *The Oban Times* he had joined the council's administration as part of The Argyll, Lomond and the Isles Group, known as TALAIG, following talks with groups' leaders.

The by-election was triggered in March when the ward's SNP councillor Iain Angus Macdonald resigned.



Kieron Green won narrowly after second preferences were counted.

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Benderloch

A BENDERLOCH business has won a prestigious national award.

Scottish Sea Farms took the top honour of the year in the food and drink industry when it won Business of the Year at the Scotland Food and Drink Excellence Awards at Edinburgh's International Conference Centre.

Dubbed the food industry Oscars, the company was singled out for praise by the judges at the event. The awards recognise businesses and individuals in Scotland who are leading the way with innovation, enterprise and quality.

Jim Gallagher, managing director of Scottish Sea Farms, said: 'These two awards are a wonderful accolade for Scottish Sea Farms, our product and our entire workforce. Our employees work extremely hard, in often challenging conditions in the Highlands and Islands, to produce our quality salmon.'

'It is a real honour that is especially important because we have been judged among so many great businesses in Scotland, all producing fantastic food and drink.'

'Our commitment to staff and the development of young people in the business is clearly evident and we continue to innovate across all aspects of fish farming, particularly in sustainable farming methods. Our relationship with our amazing clients is also worth mentioning as these long-term partnerships have helped us to continuously improve and deliver great tasting salmon that Scotland can be truly proud of.'

Dalmally

A DALMALLY-BASED charity has won a prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Mary's Meals is celebrating its thousands of UK volunteers as its work is recognised with the honour. It is the highest award given for voluntary work.

Mary's Meals is a volunteer-led global movement that provides a daily meal in school to more than 1.1 million children in 12 different countries. Mary's Meals not only combats the effects of hunger experienced by many children in the world's poorest communities but encourages youngsters into the classroom.

The Queen's Awards for Voluntary Service recognises the outstanding work of volunteer groups within their communities. The awards were created in 2002 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Mary's Meals is one of 193 charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to receive the respected award this year.

Mary's Meals is a low-cost charity, committed to spending 93p in every £1 on its charitable activities. It costs just £12.20 to feed a child for a whole school year through Mary's Meals.

For more information or to donate, please visit www.marysmeals.org.uk.

Taynuilt and Kilmore

WOULD you like to help ensure over £46,000 of funds are invested to the benefit of your local communities each year? New members of the Carraig Gheal Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Steering Group are needed from Taynuilt and Kilmore community council areas. The Steering Group meets twice a year to decide on the best use of funds. This includes working to funding criteria and making decisions on individual funding applications for the main grant scheme.

If you would be interested in becoming a member, please email Averil@greenpowerinternational.com for further details. There is also information available on the Carraig Gheal website: <http://www.carraigheal-windfarm.co.uk/community-2/new-members-needed-for-carraig-gheal-wind-farm-community-benefit-fund-steering-group.html>.

Craignish

CRAIGNISH Knit and Natter group and Carol Graham's Junior Knitting Club are co-hosting one of many World Wide Knit in Public Day events taking place globally on Saturday June 18.

Started in 2005, this year 41 countries across Europe, America, Asia and Africa are hosting such events, with 72 groups participating in the UK.

Everyone is welcome to take part in the knitting day at the Crafty Kitchen in Ardfarn from 10.30am.

Tuition at all levels from beginner to experienced will be available so this is an opportunity to learn to knit for those who don't know how or to learn a new technique such as lace or cables.

Further information available at www.wkipday.com.



Martine Scott, remote and rural programme manager; Fiona Matheson, business and performance manager; Melanie Meecham, primary care manager (north); Gill McVicar, director of operations (north and west) and Dr Angus Venters.



Small isles' health and social care support workers, left to right, Berni McCoy and Clare Miller, both from Eigg, and Julie McFadzean from Muck are looking forward to working from the new health centre, a former doctor's house.

Doors open on new small isles health and wellbeing centre

RESIDENTS of the small isles of Eigg, Muck, Rum and Canna have a new health centre.

A team from NHS Highland has been working on the conversion of the former doctor's house on Eigg to a health and wellbeing centre.

Eigg's newest resident, three-week-old Bryn Lovatt, officially opened the centre during a special community health fair on the island.

Director of operations for NHS Highland's north and west unit, Gill McVicar, said: 'The resident GP on Eigg died three years ago and we needed to review the model of care for the people of Eigg, Muck, Rum and Canna. It provided us with an opportunity to do something

different. We identified and trained four health and social care support workers based in the local communities to deliver health care in the small isles.'

The health and social care support workers are part of an extended team supporting them from the mainland. 'They report to the integrated team leader in Mallaig and medical care comes from Skye using our rural support team model,' explained Mrs McVicar. 'We have three GPs who visit all the islands regularly.'

Camille Dressler, chairman of Small Isles Community Council, added: 'We couldn't imagine any other way of working than having a resident GP. We had to go through

the process of exploring every alternative. In doing so, we began to realise that the way GPs work has changed in the past 30 years. They are now very much part of a team.'

'We liked the idea of having more community involvement and more say in how our care was delivered. We may have lost a resident doctor but we are gaining access to more services.'

The small isles community health fair was held to mark the opening of the new health centre. NHS Highland healthcare professionals travelled to the island to deliver basic health checks, smoking cessation clinics and heart health sessions to the residents.



The major harbour development at Ardevenish is nearing completion.

Barra and Vatersay

THREE major capital projects funded by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar on Barra and Vatersay are making significant progress as shown in recent aerial photographs by photographer John MacDougall.

A £1.6m major development at Ardevenish harbour is finally nearing completion and is expected to be opened in July. The project was awarded £1.2m from the Comhairle's Capital Programme 2008-2013 and received £283k from the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) along with £125k from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

The Vatersay Community Hub project is a major £1m redevelopment of Vatersay Hall, led by the local community.

The project was awarded £100k by the Comhairle and, as a component within their South Uist & Barra Regeneration Programme, also received a substantial sum from the Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (SGRCG). Further financial contributions from the CCF and HIE completed the funding.

A further project is the construction of two new business units on its development site in Castlebay. This 900k project funded through the SGRCGF and by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is just getting under way but is expected to be completed and have business tenants in-situ, by spring 2017.



Vatersay's community hub in the early stages of construction.

MORVERN lines

The real John Macnab

THE EXPRESSION 'John Macnab' is well known in the world of Scottish field sports.

It is used when someone manages in one day to kill a red deer stag, catch a salmon and shoot a brace of grouse – although wild goats and other 'achievements' of a less notable nature are often substituted. Exciting as these may be for today's participants, they are a pale imitation of the original plot first enacted in Inverness-shire more than a century ago which became the source of the best known of all Highland deer stalking and salmon fishing novels.

It all began at a dinner held in Inverness in 1897 by the officers of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, when Lt James Brander-Dunbar of Pitgaveny, near Elgin, announced somewhat provocatively, that as he had not been invited to stalk anywhere that year he would be reduced to poaching and laid a £20 bet (over £1,500 today) that he could kill a stag without being caught on any forest in Scotland. A fellow officer, Captain James Scarlett, 4th Lord Abinger and owner of the 80,000 acre Inverlochty Estate near Fort William, immediately took up the challenge.

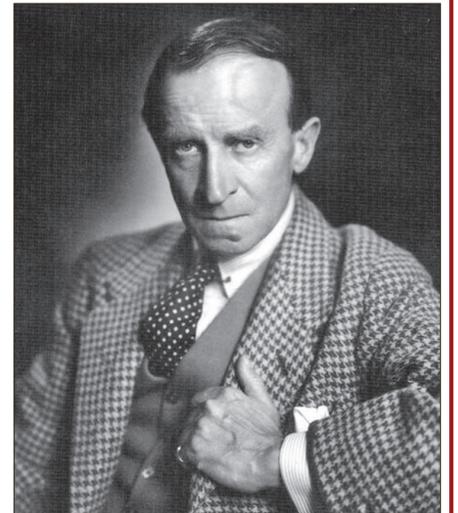
James Brander-Dunbar (1875-1969) was no ordinary mortal and became a legend in his own lifetime as a traveller, soldier, forester, sportsman and laird, and, of particular relevance to the tale of 'John Macnab', an inveterate deer poacher.

For his foray into Lochaber he enlisted the help of Col William MacDonald whose family owned the famous 'Dew of Ben Nevis' whisky distillery and lived at Keppoch House near Spean Bridge on the edge of Lord Abinger's estate. Brander-Dunbar's escapade almost failed before it began when Lady Middleton, who knew of the challenge, recognised him getting off a train at Newtonmore and about to board the Fort William stage coach carrying an unusual piece of luggage. "What on earth are you doing with a golf-bag here?" she enquired. To which her friend replied, "Look at my patent long-shooter." On seeing a .303 rifle Lady Middleton said, "Oh, I know where you are going and I don't at all approve, but I hope you will be successful", and went on her way without telling anyone.

For two days Brander-Dunbar left Keppoch House at dawn in search of a stag but without success until the third morning, when less than a mile into the forest, he saw a heavy six-pointer with about half a dozen hinds ahead of him.

The stag caught sight of him and in the poor light thought he was a rival and came trotting towards him presenting an easy heart shot. No sooner had Brander-Dunbar gralloched it and started off down the hill with the antlered head as proof of his success, than he saw two of Lord Abinger's stalkers coming straight towards him. Thanks to his fitness and hill-craft he managed to get out of their sight. He raced down the hill, waded the River Spean, still with the head, and from the safety of Keppoch, waved them goodbye!

According to one account he called at Inverlochty Castle later that afternoon to show off the head and collect his cheque for £20. Another tells of him bribing the chef and the butler to serve part of the gralloch on a silver meat salver to his lordship for his breakfast the following morning.



John Buchan, author of John Macnab (copyright Lord Tweedsmuir)

There the saga ended until 1925 when John Buchan (1st Baron Tweedsmuir), one of Scotland's best known soldiers, diplomat, Governor General of Canada and an experienced and enthusiastic stalker with a love of the Highlands, heard about it. Thus the thrilling adventure story, 'John Macnab' was born.

Buchan's version of events was not based at Inverlochty but on Ardtornish Estate on the Morvern Peninsula where he was a frequent stalking and fishing guest of landowner Gerard Craig Sellar and his sister Mrs Rosalind Maitland.

In his gripping tale Buchan tells how three professional men in London – a lawyer (Sir Edward Leithen), a cabinet minister (Lord Lamancha) and a banker (John Palliser Yeats) hatched a plan to live up their lives by issuing a challenge to three Highland lairds under the composite pseudonym, 'John Macnab'. A salmon or a stag (note no grouse) would be poached from each, and the fish or carcass returned to its rightful owner within a certain time; if unsuccessful 'John Macnab' would forfeit £100 or pay £50 to any named charity.

The story of how they stalked a stag, and took a salmon is one of the most exciting and satisfactory sporting accounts ever written, which explains why 'John Macnab' has sold almost 200,000 copies since it was first published 91 years ago.

The wild red deer and the Atlantic salmon have largely gone now from John Buchan's stamping ground – swept aside to make way for butterflies, wind farms and hydro electric schemes. Yet now and again a few stags can still be heard sending their lusty primeval calls over the Sitka spruce plantations. Will a new James Brander-Dunbar appear again one day to take up the challenge of a real 'John Macnab' or has political correctness laid his ghost to rest forever?

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Islands unite after ferry firm's U-turn on vessel deployment

MONICA GIBSON

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A 'FAILURE in community engagement' has prompted opposing sides to unite following a U-turn on a crucial ferry service.

MV Coruisk has been a major talking point among residents of Lochaber, Oban, Skye and Mull following Caledonian MacBrayne's (CalMac) decision in 2015 to redeploy the ferry from the Mallaig to Armadale route to operate from Craignure to Oban.

But following a campaign by Sleaf Transport Forum, MP Ian Blackford announced late last week that after speaking to managing director Martin Dorchester, CalMac planned to reverse its decision and return the ferry to the Mallaig-Armadale route.

These claims were then quashed five days later in a CalMac statement saying no further changes would be made to the Mallaig to Armadale route this year.

In the statement, Mr Dorchester stated regret that plans for the Mallaig-Armadale route have fallen short of some expectations and said that after listening to community concerns, CalMac will review vessel deployment for summer 2017 in consultation with affected communities.

He continued: 'Every change to our summer timetable was made after consultation with the local communities and each change was made in good faith with the sole intention of enhancing ferry services and addressing local concerns,

some long-standing, about services in their area. We should also not lose sight of the fact that the vast majority of these changes have been warmly welcomed by those local communities.'

The clarification came as a relief to those on Mull, with councillor Mary-Jean Devon summing up her reaction by saying 'hurray!'. She added: 'The whole thing took up most of my weekend, writing letters and asking for information.'

Others were less impressed, not so much with the decision but with the way it was handled. Rob Ware, secretary of Sleaf Community Council for Sleaf Transport Forum, said CalMac's silence throughout the process, and especially since Mr Blackford's announcement last week, was his biggest grievance and he believes it has created community warfare.

He added: 'Customer confidence in the Mallaig to Armadale route is at its lowest ebb. Since the decision earlier this year there have been revisions to the revised timetable and every time it is the customer who is losing out. There is no doubt Mull, too, needs extra capacity, but to describe the way in which CalMac has treated this issue and the people concerned as a shambles is putting it nicely.'

Brendan O'Hara, SNP MP for Argyll and Bute, described the situation as a pantomime.

He said: 'I am delighted for the people of Mull that the *MV Coruisk* will be staying where it is and I sincerely hope the needs of those in Skye are addressed and made a priority.

This was never meant to be a case of Mull versus Skye. There has been a complete failure in community engagement on behalf of CalMac. The decision is almost playing second fiddle. It was the uncertainty which has caused problems. After Mr Blackford's announcement I asked Martin Dorchester to contact me. I still have not heard a response. In the lead up to what will be the busiest time of the year, businesses could not operate properly with this hanging over them. Customers would have been put off making bookings and residents were in disarray.

'Even if it wasn't going to be the decision people wanted, they had to know one way or another.'

When contacted by *The Oban Times* regarding the complaints about its engagement with the communities, a CalMac spokesman said: 'We needed to look at a range of options to address reliability issues on the Mallaig-Armadale route, including timetable amendments. This took some time and inevitably generated speculation about what was happening to the *MV Coruisk*, which was unfortunate. As soon as a final decision was made in consultation with Transport Scotland on what was the best options for these two routes, working within the resources we have, communities were advised.'

As *The Oban Times* went to press it is understood Ian Blackford was arranging an emergency meeting with Transport Scotland and Sleaf Transport Forum will invite Martin Dorchester to attend a public meeting in Sleaf.

Fiddlers hit all the right notes



These five youngsters from Elgol Primary School are all smiles after winning the fiddle group category at Skye Mod. For results and more photographs from the event turn to page 14.

Support group's first meeting a success

A NEW support group that offers help to bereaved families in Lochaber has had a positive start.

Following a story in *The Oban Times* on May 19 about the Simpson's Memory Box Appeal (SiMBA), the group's Highland Ambassador Susan Simpson said the inaugural meeting of the group in Fort William was a great success.

Ms Simpson said: 'Much of

the difficulty is the thought of walking in to a group of strangers and to help this we have spent a good deal of time speaking on a one-to-one basis with families. We are honoured to have sent memory boxes out to some of them and would encourage anyone who feels this would be of comfort to get in touch.'

The group also gained support from Lochaber Rotary

Club this week, who pledged to help SiMBA find a place for their Tree of Tranquillity in Lochaber. Ms Simpson continued: 'We were delighted to attend the Rotary on Wednesday June 1 where we explained the services the charity offers in Lochaber. The members were very receptive to what we shared and some came forward to share personal stories of loss.'

Essential roadworks

ESSENTIAL resurfacing works are due to get under way for two weeks at three locations on the A830 starting this weekend.

East of Dearg and West of Glenfinnan: Sunday June 12 to Tuesday June 21, eight nights, avoiding Friday and Saturday nights, 9pm-6am.

Caol Farmfoods junction: Wednesday June 22 to Thursday June 23, two nights, 7pm to 6am. A road closure is required between Glenfinnan and Dearg each night. The A830 will remain open with temporary traffic lights in place. The Caol Farmfoods junction will be closed during the road work hours and a signed diversion will be in place.

On her bike for charity

BIG-HEARTED Skye midwife Natalie Scott is travelling to Africa to raise money for charity next month.

The 42-year-old will join the Women v Cancer cycling challenge on June 10 and hopes to raise £3,000 by completing the 350km ride across Tanzania. Starting in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro, it will take Natalie a week to complete the ride.

Natalie thanked everyone who has sponsored her and friends and colleagues from the Mackinnon Memorial Hospital in Broadford who attended two curry nights she organised before the race.

She said: 'I'm really grateful to everyone who contributed to the Iolanthe Midwifery Trust on my behalf.'



Epic marathon takes team all the way round

NINETY coastal miles round Mull, two skiffs, one safety boat and a team of 14 rowers.

Last Thursday afternoon at 5pm two skiffs set off from the Tobermory pontoon to complete the first leg of what was to be a three-and-a-half-day coastal marathon.

The row round Mull is one of many fundraising efforts to raise money to resurface the Dervaig sports pitch. It was inspired by the single-handed row round Mull more than 10 years ago by Nick Turnbull to help fund the original sports pitch.

So 24 hours and 39 minutes of rowing later, they returned to Tobermory. It was now 4pm on Friday and with two Tobermory High School pipers and a cheering crowd of supporters, the tired but jubilant rowers were welcomed back home.

The Turnbull family, John and Lynn Addy, supported by numerous others from the village and around the islands of Mull and Iona ensured that this was both a memorable and successful adventure.

A celebration ceilidh on Saturday was a great way to mark the row.



The tired but successful rowers and their supporters celebrate the end of the adventure.

Argyll volunteers are needed to aid veterans

THE BRITISH Legion in Scotland is hoping to boost its numbers of 'befrienders' during National Volunteers' Week, which runs until June 12.

Almost 60 people have approached the ex-services charity about helping veterans in the past month following a drive for volunteers but there are still more needed in Argyll and Bute.

Last year, more than 2,200 requests for befriender support were made to Legion Scotland to combat common issues faced by veterans such as loneliness, unemployment and housing problems.

There are three key areas of Legion Scotland's work: comradeship, wellbeing and remembrance.

Stephen Baird, head of wellbeing at Legion Scotland,

said: 'We are thrilled that so many people are interested in becoming befrienders but the figures from last year show that we need more.'

'Our befriending service is simple but highly effective and makes a real difference to the lives and wellbeing of our veterans. During volunteers' week, we hope this message can inspire even more people in Argyll and Bute to contact us to find out more about the role.'

Local befrienders receive training and are asked to spend at least two hours a week with a veteran. Ideally, volunteers will have a military connection, be it personal or through family or friends.

To find out more about Legion Scotland's befriending service, including information on how to volunteer, contact Stephen on s.baird@legionscotland.org.uk.



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Street party adds to excitement for Oban Charities Day

OBAN is set to party this weekend when it holds its annual charities day.

This year, though, there is also the added attraction of a fabulous street party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

The street party in Station Square is a welcome addition to Oban and Lorn Lions Club's Charities Day on Saturday and could even be the biggest event of its kind in Scotland.

Judging of the charity stalls starts at 12.30pm before the big parade sets off from the Corran Halls at 1pm. Winners of the best stalls and best in parade titles will be presented with their prizes at 2.15pm.

A vintage Rolls Royce will transport the Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute to the street party in Station Square, where he will toast the Queen's official 90th birthday at 2.20pm, and then cut a whopping birthday cake, provided by *The Oban Times*, at 2.30pm.

At 2.45pm the Lord Lieutenant, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's representative in Argyll and Bute, will present *The Oban Times'* David Buchanan with the British Empire Medal for his voluntary service to football and the Oban Winter Festival Committee with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Entertainment will be provided during the afternoon by

the *HMS Neptune* Babcock Band, the Sequence Choir, Oban FM, Oban Pipe Band, Boogies Choir and Laura Munro School of Dance.

Free fishermen's lunches will be provided by MacGillivray's Tartan Shack, Oban's branch of Costa will be laying on free coffee, cakes and biscuits, free shortbread will be supplied by McCaig's Warehouse, the Olive Garden restaurant will be serving tea and donations have been made by Booker's Cash and Carry.

Graham MacQueen, one of the organisers, was quick to praise the generosity of town businesses.

He said: 'These firms have been fantastic. Gordon MacGillivray is providing 250 free lunches, which is remarkable.'

'And Costa is putting two members of staff at our disposal and giving us up to 550 coffees with cakes and biscuits, which is fantastic, as is McCaig's, which is providing shortbread.'

'We were a bit concerned about the roadworks but Land Engineering has been extremely helpful and assured us the bulk of the work will be cleared away.'

'It is most certainly trying very hard to make sure charities day is a success and has said any remaining unfinished work will have feathered edges to avoid

tripping hazards. The arrangements are moving ahead at pace now.

'We will have a 50ft table for the street party for the Queen. It will be free but on a first come, first served basis. People have been in touch about buying tickets but all we are asking for will be donations to go to charities.'

'We've been trying to find out what other street parties are being planned in Scotland but have not been able to discover any other than quite minor ones so it is entirely possible ours will be the biggest in the country.'

Residents and visitors should be aware that no vehicles will be allowed into Station Square and there is likely to be other traffic disruption as a result of the festivities.

Corran Esplanade and George Street will be closed to traffic for the duration of the party and parade.

Part of the run-up to the big day was the Argyll and Bute primary schools competition to design a birthday card for her majesty. The competition was in two categories – P1-P3 and P4-P7. The winners were Eoin Quinn, a primary two pupil at Castlehill Primary School in Campbeltown, and Charlotte Johnson, who is in primary seven at Rhu primary. The winning cards have been sent to the Queen.

ROCKFIELD



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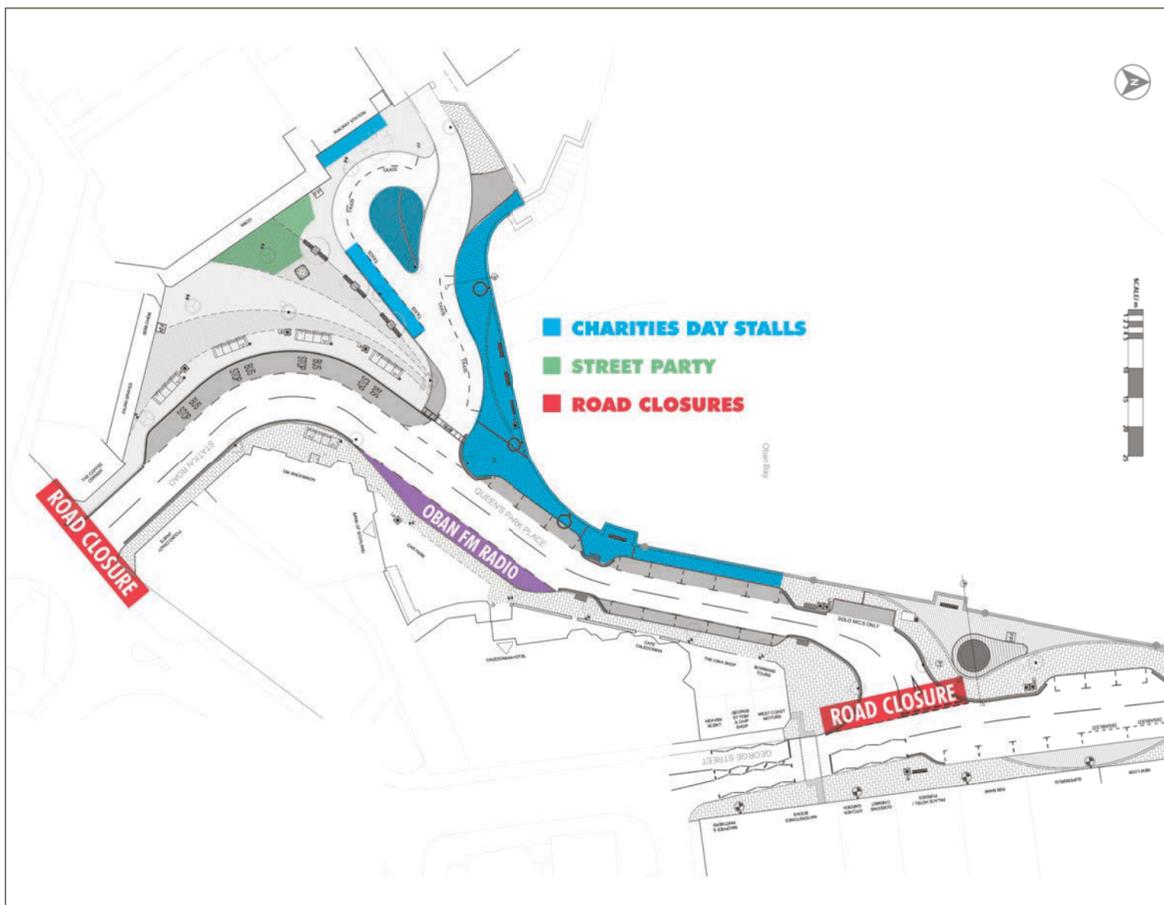
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There will be loads of stalls along the harbour and in Station Square. Among those setting out their wares will be Breathe Easy Oban, Oban Sea Cadets, Oban Link Club, Soroba Viewpoint, Oban Phoenix Cinema, Oban Community Sensory Garden, Oban Boys' Brigade, Animalasia, Lorn Garden Club, the Scottish Wildlife Trust, Oban Camanachd, Pelendaba Orphans Zimbabwe, the Royal Voluntary Service, Angel Wings, North Argyll Diabetes UK, Alzheimer Scotland, Oban Lorn Shinty Club, Oban Lifeboat, H2O Green Shoots, Oban and Lorn Lions Club, Lorn Model Engineering Club, Oban Knights, Oban Mountain Rescue Team, Argyll Animal Aid, Oban High School PTA, MS Therapy Centre, Schools Out Oban, ABCD Trust, Soroba Young Families, Spotlight Theatre, Oban Concern for Palestine, Oban Royal British Legion, Hope Kitchen, Oban and Lorn Dementia Support Group, Small Paws Rescue, Oban Rotary Club, Oban Riding for the Disabled, the Rockfield Centre, British Heart Foundation and Home Start Lorn.

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Deadline looming for WestPlan comments

WITH the deadline for the WestPlan consultation period just a day away, the Highland Council is making one last appeal for people to get their comments in.

As reported in *The Oban Times* last week, Caol Community Council asked the local authority for the consultation period to be extended, but this was declined.

Councillor Allan Henderson, who also asked for an extension, said: 'The council was very understanding when I asked for the consultation period to be extended.'

'Although it couldn't extend the period it has made the provision that if the four area community councils of Caol, Kilmallie, Fort William and Inverlochty want to get together and come up with common consensus about what they want, then the council will look at that option.'

Scott Dalgarno, development plan manager at the Highland Council, told *The Oban Times*: 'Rather than changing the time scale, we are saying let's keep the consultation deadline the same and if community councils want to submit supplementary comments to ones they have already made before the deadline, then they can.'

'The most important message is that we want community councils to get their comments in before the deadline, but we understand they are working on a joint decision within the community.'

'There is normally a last minute flurry of comments, but so far we have had a good number of responses from the public. We want people to get their responses in, so everyone's views are represented.'

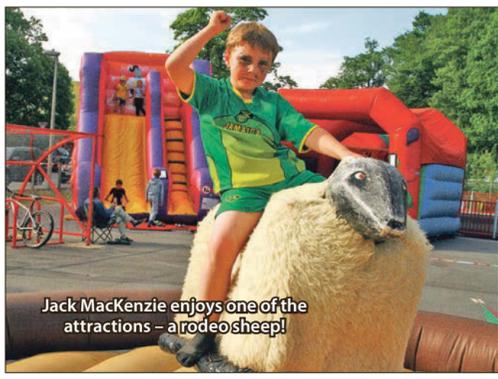
Roy Bridge fun night smiles



Brothers Calam, aged 9, left, and Ruairidh Flux, 12, tuck into a tasty hotdog at the Roy Bridge Primary School fun night.



Brother and sister Riley and Eve Cockburn have their faces painted at the event.



Jack MacKenzie enjoys one of the attractions - a ride on a sheep!

Fort spotlight on EU debate

MONICA GIBSON
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

AN ORGANISED debate to discuss Scotland's future saw participants finding some common ground.

More than 30 people attended the EU Referendum debate in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church Hall, which was arranged by Lochaber Common Weal, a group of volunteers who aim to educate and inform the public.

The lead speakers represented a cross section of the political spectrum, with Kate Forbes MSP (SNP) and John Finnie MSP (Green) for 'remain', and environmental author and member of Assemblies for Democracy Penny Cole, and Bob Fotheringham, Socialist Workers Party, representing Lexit, 'Left for leave'.

The evening kicked off with the toss off a coin - a euro instead of a pound - inviting speakers to choose 'maps or eagles'.

It was the eagle which landed and meant Kate Forbes would be first to pitch.

Ms Forbes highlighted some of the main reasons she thinks justifies an 'in' vote ahead of the fast approaching May 23.

Describing herself as an 'internationalist', she said matters of peace, international relations and freedom of movement would be better protected if we stay within the status quo, adding: 'In terms of renewable energy and agriculture, the highlands have benefited more than anywhere in the UK from EU trade ties.'

Ms Forbes was also keen to

stress that Scotland will never be properly represented so long as it is represented as the UK - a notion which was shared by many in the room.

Penny Coleman was next to have her say, and while speaking on behalf of leave, she said it is not a case of fortress Britain in favour of fortress Europe. Sceptical of Boris Johnson among other things, she believes there are fundamental problems with the constitution and said what is really needed is a constitution that is fit for purpose.

She added: 'What we have had tonight is the left of the leave and the left of the remain. No-one here is chasing Cameron or Johnson. The overarching theme is that we want to make our own framework.'

When the topic of human rights was raised, Ms Coleman was also keen to stress: 'Human Rights is not a function of the EU and actually the framework was put together by an English man.'

'The common weal asks how can we come together in a democratic way to develop a new constitution that is fit for purpose.'

John Finney reiterated some of the points made by Ms Forbes when it was his turn to present, picking up on immigration and globalisation in particular.

He added: 'There is a huge humanitarian crisis going in at the moment but Scotland, and the highlands especially, needs people to come to the country to live and to work - to keep our schools running and towns thriving.'

Bob Fotheringham was last of the four to speak. He referenced recent polls where people are undecided. He said austerity is a main reason for his vote to leave the union. He pointed to the Greek situation in particular, where he said the majority of Greek people voted against the bailout package.

He said: 'Look at the people on Islay - they are running away from the EU because of the way it has affected things on the island. There is a better future and it's not within the EU. If we begin to ask the questions then we can help shape the world that we would live in outside the EU.'

After the initial presentations members of the room were invited to speak and raise any questions. John Hutchison, secretary of the Lochaber Common Weal, acted as mediator and offered discussion points throughout the evening to keep things moving.

Globalisation was raised as a key concern and the subsequent implications for the highlands, and while the speakers played the role of opposition, most shared dissatisfaction on how the referendum has been framed by the media and a lack of transparency when it comes to being able to make an informed decision.

Eddie Morgan brought proceedings to a close by thanking all who attended and added: 'Even though we may have different opinions, what tonight is about is getting people to participate in the discussion - this is a vote for Scotland's future and that's what we need to do.'

TIMESLINE

Lochaber stop for fundraiser, 76

A 76-YEAR-OLD man began a long voyage this week that will see him travel to the most northerly, southerly, westerly and easterly point of the country on a tuk tuk.

Steve Gibbs, 76, from Leicester, will be making a stop off in Fort William next week before heading to the Ardnamurchan Point, and back again, when his wife will join him for the trip north. Proceeds will go to The British Heart Foundation and Diabetes UK.

Rebuilt engines back on track

THE CALEDONIAN Sleeper now has five of its six Class 73/9s engines available for Scotland.

May 27 was the first day all three sleeper routes used the rebuilt electro-diesels on the same day. Four '73/9s' were in action on sleeper trains to Aberdeen, Fort William and Inverness - 73966 and 73969 were used on the Edinburgh-Inverness section of the Caledonian Sleeper, while 73967 worked to Aberdeen and 73968 hauled the Fort William carriages.

High Life summer fun for youngsters

HIGH Life Highland has a summer programme packed with more than 1,000 fun things for children and young people to do across the highlands.

From swimming lessons to Bookbug, mountain biking to crafting challenge days, there are activities offering exercise, inspiration and entertainment. Download activity programmes from summer.hIGHLIFEhighland.com

Primary pupils on their marks for swimming and athletics contests

NINETEEN schools from across Lochaber entered almost 200 children to the Lochaber Primaries inter-school swimming gala and athletics competition last week.

The event, organised annually by High Life Highland staff from Lochaber Leisure Centre, the Active Schools team and Lochaber PE teachers, began at Lochaber Leisure Centre, where the children raced individual 25m heats and 50m finals in front crawl, breast stroke and back crawl.

Five new records were made in the six individual races.

The first of these went to Poppy Valentine from Banavie in the backstroke who, in a time of 35.41, smashed her own record from last year by 4.5 seconds.

The next record broken was by Gabriel MacCallum from Invergarry who swam the backstroke in 40.72 - more than three seconds off the previous record.

Next up it was Inverlochty's Evie-Jay Clark who set her lane on fire by swimming the 50m breaststroke in 43.68,

a clear four seconds faster than the previous record.

Alice Anne MacPherson got on the record breaking action in the 50m front crawl. Her swim of 33.28 was enough to beat the record by 1.5 seconds.

The final record breaker of the morning was Kai Malcolm from St Brides primary school.

He swam his 50m front crawl final in 35.24, which meant he was also 1.5 seconds faster than the previous record holder.

After the prizegiving the event moved to Claggan Park, where the athletics competition got under way with the children competing in hurdles, 100m, 200m and team relays on the track and shot putt and long jump in the field.

Once again there were some great displays of natural athletic ability.

Sam Langan of Spean Bridge primary blew everyone away with his shot putt of 7m86, 1m31 further than his nearest competitor Kai Malcolm.

In the girls' competition, Faye Henderson from Mallaig took the win from Elle Bisset of Caol with a throw of 5m54.

In the boys' competition there was only 1cm between first placed Ethan Linfield, who jumped 3m34, and second placed Ivan Davies.

Onto the track events and it was here that some new finish line technology adopted by the Active Schools staff came into play.

To qualify for the finals the children were racing for the fastest times in their heats, which meant that the races were tight.

The six fastest children from all of the heats went through to the final and more than one photo finish was checked and double checked.

In the 100m boys' sprint it was Johnathon Ewers from Acharacle Primary who took a comfortable win over second equal placed Tyler White from Spean Bridge and Josh Wallace from Lundavra.

The hurdles competition was won for the girls by Alex MacMaster from Lundavra Primary School and for the boys it was Josh Wallace, also of Lundavra.

The final event of the day was the mixed 4x100m relay, and it was Caol which proved to be the strongest in this race.

In the overall schools competition, the trophy for small schools will be shared this year by Roy Bridge and St Brides, who each gained five points.

The medium schools winner this year was Invergarry, with Mallaig in second and Ballachulish in third.

The large school with the most points was Lundavra, in second was Caol and in third, Lochside.



Top: Large schools overall athletic winners: 1 Lundavra; 2 Caol; 3 Lochside.

Above: Large schools overall swimming winners: 1 Inverlochty; 2 Caol; 3 Banavie.

Left: Children compete in the relay competition.

Scottish Field

JULY ISSUE OUT NOW

ALEXANDER MCCALL SMITH

The celebrated author on the uncommon appeal of niceness

Plus: A STUNNING BORDERS GARDEN MAKING OF THE MIKADO THE FORGOTTEN HEROIC EXPLORER BIRTHPLACE OF PHOTOGRAPHY

10 The alien wildlife invading Scotland

CASTAWAY - Dumped on an uninhabited Hebridean island with no food or shelter, how would we survive?

THE CELEBRATED AUTHOR ON THE UNCOMMON APPEAL OF NICENESS

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Viewpoint

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
email: editor@obantimes.co.ukThe Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

The campaign to free Billy Irving received a welcome boost recently when Foreign Office minister Hugo Swires visited him at the Indian prison where he is being held.

Next month Billy's fiancée, Yvonne MacHugh, and their son William will fly out for a visit. She is hoping Billy's bail hearing will be successful and he will be allowed out to spend time with his family and see his son christened.

Pressure needs to be kept on the British government

to, in turn, keep pressure on the Indian government, so that when Billy's appeal is heard next Wednesday (June 15), it will be successful. Anyone wishing to add their signature to the petition, started by Yvonne to free the six British ex-soldiers, including Billy, from the Indian jail, can find it at www.change.org/p/british-foreign-secretary-free-the-6-british-ex-soldiers-from-indian-jail.

Let us hope that by this time next week the nightmare will be over for this family, and Billy can finally come home.



Days gone by – The Oban Times presents £500 to town's Atlantis Leisure – 1996

This week's flashback photograph comes from the 1996 files of *The Oban Times*. It shows the celebrations as a £500 cheque from *The Oban Times* was presented to Atlantis Leisure chairman Hugh MacLean bringing the total raised for extensions to the Oban centre to £250,000 in one year. Digital versions of flashback photos for *The Oban Times* can be sent to editor@obantimes.co.uk or prints sent to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped-addressed envelope.

Glasgow Letter

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

An Lòchran song session

WHAT a lovely time myself and Gillebride MacMillan had in Dram on Saturday afternoon hosting An Lòchran's Gaelic song session.

There were wonderfully enthusiastic singers from as far afield as Germany, Chicago – and even Kilmarnock – in attendance.

Well done to Shona Masson at An Lòchran for organising the event.

'Seeker Reaper' by Kenneth Thomson

AS SOON as I finish writing this column, I am going to return to the thoroughly enjoyable task of learning my music for *Seeker Reaper*, a fantastic piece of music composed by Kenneth Thomson, based on the Kintyre Scots poetry of George Campbell Hay. I am excited to

perform it alongside pianist Andrew Dunlop and Kenny's GG choir on Thursday June 16 at 8pm in St John's Renfield Church, Beaconsfield Road, as part of the West End Festival. I will include more details about this concert in next week's paper. Until then, keep the date free.

Uist and Barra AGM

AT ITS recent annual general meeting, Glasgow Uist and Barra Association made a few changes to its committee management.

Julia Maclsaac resigned from her office as Lady President, a post she held for five years, as she is moving to Eriskay. Christine Bradford resigned from her office as treasurer, a post she held for two years, and is also leaving the committee as is past treasurer Janette McHugh.

Members thanked them for their hard work and commitment to the association. Congratulations to Margaret Sproat who became the

new Lady President and Joan MacNeil, the new treasurer.

The committee welcomed four new members: Alasdair MacPhee, Megan McGrath, Kirstie MacDonald and Seretta Bryden.

The association will continue to hold monthly ceilidh dances from October to April, as well as its annual piping competition in March. Details of their 2016/2017 syllabus, which begins with a ceilidh dance in the Crawford Hall on Friday October 28, will appear in this column in due course.

What's on

Monday June 13: Briseadh na Cloiche, Webster's Theatre, Ceòl's Craic in the Centre for Contemporary Arts (CCA), Sauchiehall Street.

Tuesday June 14: Togaibh Fonn, An Lòchran Gaelic Song Workshops as part of the West End Festival in An Léanag, 22 Mansfield Street.

Tuesday June 14: Club Film @ Ceòl's Craic in the Centre for Contemporary Arts (CCA), Sauchiehall Street.

Wednesday June 15: Feuch ris! – Dannsa Ceum: An Lochran Step Dance Workshop as part of the West End Festival, Annexe Communities.

Saturday June 18: Gaelic Choirs at Voice at the Bandstand, Kelvingrove Bandstand – An Lochran at the West End Festival.

Saturday June 18: Fèis Spòrs Glaschu, Lochinch (Police Club) Park.

Saturday June 18: Ceòl's Craic (ie An Lòchran), in the CCA.

Pub scene

Park Bar, Friday June 10: Nicky McMichan. **Saturday June 11:** Deoch 'n' Dorus. **Sunday June 12:** Martainn Skene. Islay Inn.

Friday June 10: The Raggaels. **Saturday June 11:** The Keelies. **Wednesday June 15:** quiz night.



A few of us who enjoyed sharing songs and stories at An Lochran's recent Gaelic song session in Dram.

Unstaffed libraries a national disgrace

Sir, Argyll and Bute Council, from August, will be the only education authority where secondary pupils will attend schools with unstaffed libraries, according to the Times Educational Supplement Scotland survey, published on May 20. It is a national scandal.

Parents across Argyll and Bute have written and talked to their councillors, expressing their concern.

A petition asking the council to reconsider its decision to remove all school librarians in August has gathered more than 1,500 signatures. Many of the supporters have added comments.

Jen Weir from Ardrishaig wrote: 'Education is a right, not a privilege. Librarians have an equally important role in educating our children as teachers and are also supporting their entry into the world of work. The council is showing either a serious lack of understanding, or worse, a callous disregard by continuing down this route and we need to stand firm against them.'

It is a disgrace to deny youngsters access to specialist librarians. It will seriously compromise their learning, their development, their attainment and their future careers.

What will it take to get the council to reconsider its disastrous plan for a short-term saving with long-term negative impact on every young learner in Argyll and Bute?

Jenny Des Fountain, 2 Creagan Villa, Tobermory, Mull.

SNP needs to protect frontline services

Sir, Instead of obsessing about a second referendum, this SNP government needs to act urgently to protect our frontline council services and take heed of the damning report by PwC.

It reveals that faith in councils is at an all-time low among the public and senior public sector staff.

The survey also shows only 13 per cent of Scots think their council has become more effective in the past five years, while 50 per cent do not feel well informed about public closures or service reductions.

In 2015, the SNP allocated £9.9 billion to councils but that figure dropped significantly to just £9.6 billion in 2016/17. Now councils are being forced to make even more tough spending decisions.

Here in Argyll and Bute that squeeze can be seen everywhere with our local council forced to reduce bin uplifts and road repairs to name but a few cost-cutting measures.

Many councils in Scotland have also raised concerns about the central belt-obsessed SNP sucking power out of local communities yet as ever those concerns are being ignored in the constant drive towards central control.

It's high time the Scottish Government stopped passing the financial burden on to our local councils and

started using its new devolved powers rather than constantly blaming Westminster for all of its troubles.

Alastair Redman, Islay.

Moth recording on the island of Muck

Sir, I write in response to Iain Wilkie's letter, published in *The Oban Times* on May 26, regarding moth recording on the isle of Muck.

Clearwing Ecology undertook the trip to Muck in response to an appeal from the National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS) to concentrate recording on under-recorded 10km squares.

Prior to going, we undertook a search for records online, on the NMRS database and the National Biodiversity Network. Also, Butterfly Conservation and members of the MacEwen family, who own Muck, knew of no previous moth recording for the island. This perhaps highlights the issue of inaccessibility of historic published papers outwith academic institutions.

We have since sourced a copy of Dr Dobson's 1990 paper from the Glasgow Naturalist and will ensure the 130 macro moth species he lists will be added to the NMRS database, making it accessible to everyone.

Clearwing Ecology would like to thank Mr Wilkie and *The Oban Times* for bringing Dr Dobson's work to our attention.

We were extraordinarily fortunate with the weather on our trip to Muck, a real gem of the small isles, and are delighted we have added new species to Dr Dobson's list.

Kerry MacKay and Jessie Wormell, Clearwing Ecology.

Callous disregard for iconic landscapes

Sir, Scotland today resembles the plundered wild west.

Multinational giants gallop through our glens and over our mountains spearing industrial hardware into our iconic landscapes. White monsters with outstretched arms and metal-latticed eyesores with buzzing, glistening transmission lines strung across the skyline.

Visitors on the newly-promoted North Route 500 will take in hundreds of such structures, standing like invading aliens in landscapes that were once the envy of the world. They will feel cheated and probably not return.

SSE says it will cost 25 times more to put cables underground from Beaulieu to Kintore rather than overhead lines. That's some increase, even for SSE.

Its claims that the Beaulieu to Denny abomination would be 10 times the cost to bury was considered to be wildly exaggerated at the time.

Although volatile wind factories require massive grid upgrades, the likes of SSE ignoring what they are doing is unacceptable to many citizens and visitors.

Pylons are a hideous addition to a natural landscape and will be a

permanent symbol of the callous disregard for the land they are erected in. Burying cables would have an environmental impact but the landscape could recover, eventually.

Pylons will probably remain forever as government policy seems to be once a landscape is trashed, keep on trashing it.

Underground and subsea cables would be protected from winter storms and blizzards. People wouldn't have to struggle in freezing temperatures without heat and light. Engineers wouldn't have to risk their lives battling to fix power outages in dangerous conditions.

We need less speaking with forked tongue and solutions we can live with.

In the real wild west, Chief Seattle may not have been talking about our power lines but we can draw parallels from what he said.

'When the green hills are covered with talking wires and the wolves no longer sing, what good will the money you paid for our land be then?' No-one has ever put it better but who will listen?

Lyndsey Ward, Beaulieu.

Keeping the peace in Europe is NATO's job

Sir,

On page three of *The Oban Times* last week there was an article by Brendan O'Hara, SNP MP for Argyll and Bute. Mr O'Hara stated the European Union (EU) has delivered peace and tranquillity over the past 70 years to a continent traditionally at loggerheads.

This information is wrong as the EU was founded on November 1 1993 as a result of the Maastricht Treaty becoming effective.

The organisation which has kept peace in Europe is NATO, which was founded on April 4 1949, 67 years ago.

I suggest that in future Mr O'Hara does his homework before submitting articles for publication in *The Oban Times*.

Douglas W Tott, Islay.

Oban by-election campaign thanks

Sir, I stood as a candidate in the recent Oban North by-election on June 2 and I am writing to thank everyone across the far-flung ward who voted for me.

Although I did not win, I enjoyed every minute of the campaign.

In glorious weather and wonderful surroundings, meeting people on the doorstep was a pleasure and even those who admitted they would not be voting for me did so politely and with a smile.

May I also offer my congratulations to the eventual winner, Kieron Green, who I'm sure will make an excellent councillor for Oban North. Finally, I would like to thank Charles Reppke and his staff for the efficient way they conducted the election, especially the polling clerks, stuck in village halls from 7am to 10pm on such a lovely day but who welcomed us so warmly.

David Pollard, Salen, Mull, LibDem candidate.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

THA RIAGHAILTEAN CÙRAIM agus smachdachaidh nam prìomh bhunait siobhaltachd ach tha cuid de na h-eisimpleirean a nochd anns na naidheachdan bho chionn ghoirid gu math gràineil!

Bheil duine ceart sam bith nach biodh air uabhasachadh mun dìol a dh'fhuiling an leanabh Liam Fee bho a mhàthair agus a companach, an fheadhainn air an robh an dleasan gaol, dìon, agus aire a thoirt dha na òige?

Saoidh mi nach do nochd fianais sheasmhach sam bith anns a' chùirt a bheireadh leisgeul dha na boireannaich seo Liam a smachdachadh, gun ghuth air dochann den t-seòrsa a thachair dha. Bheil peanas iomchaidh ann a tha gu bhith na smachdachadh freagarrach air leithid de neo-thruacantachd?

Chaidh màthair eile a dhìtheadh airson a bhith a' cleachdadh coillear, a bh' air a chiallachadh airson a bhith a' liubhairt gathan dealain gus cù a cheannsachadh, air a mac òg. A rèir na fianais a thug i dhan chùirt, bha i den bheachd ma bha seo freagarrach

airson cù ionnsachadh gun robh e gu bhith iomchaidh cuideachd airson balach beag a smachdachadh!

Dè an seòrsa breith a tha gu bhith freagarrach airson leithid sin de bhrùidealachd agus aineola? An dèidh binn prìosain bheil cinnt gu bhith nach dèan na daoine sin an aon seòrsa cron a-rhìst?

Saoidh mi gum bheil Rùnaire an Fhoghlaim, Iain Swinney, ceart nuair a thuir e gum bheil ionnsaigh air clann dol a thachairt a dh'aindeoin laghan a bhios ann gus an dìon, ach tha uallach oirnn uile obrachadh gus a' chon sin a lùghdachadh.

Bho chunnaic mi fhìn na ciad eisimpleirean de bhurraidheachd anns a' bhun-sgoil, tha a leithid air a bhith gràineil dhomh, agus tha mi uasal às an innealachd far am bheil "caraidean" gan comharrachadh dhan chloinn anns a' chiall bhliadhna aca san sgoil. Chan eil mi cinnteach am bheil an aon rud a' tachairt sna h-àrd-sgoiltean, mur a bheil bu chòir oir na mo bheachd tha fhios gum bheil seo na chofhurtachd agus na mhisneachadh dha feadhainn a tha a' dèanamh slighe

ann an saoghal a tha ùr dhaibh. Agus ag èisteachd ris an fhianais bhrònach mu na bha a' tachairt anns a' champa airm aig Deepcut, bhuail e orm gur dòcha nan stèidheachadh an t-arm siostam den aon seòrsa dha feadhainn òga a tha air an togail às ùr gun gluaiseadh e nas luaithe a dh'ionnsaigh cur às dhan a' bhurraidheachd agus an leth-bhreith gnè mhaslach a tha, a rèir choltais, na thrioblaid fhathast.

Agus a' fuireach air cuspair smachd, saoil cò aige bhios smachd air càr neo bus gun dràibhear? Am bi e ceadaichte drama òl ma tha an càr ga dràibheadh fhèin dhachaigh?

SOME recent cases of parental controlling of their children have been heart-breakingly horrible and it is difficult to decide how such cruelty should be punished.

Control means responsibility, and I wonder who will be deemed to be in control of driverless cars and buses. Will car-owners be free to drink as the car is in control?

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

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

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

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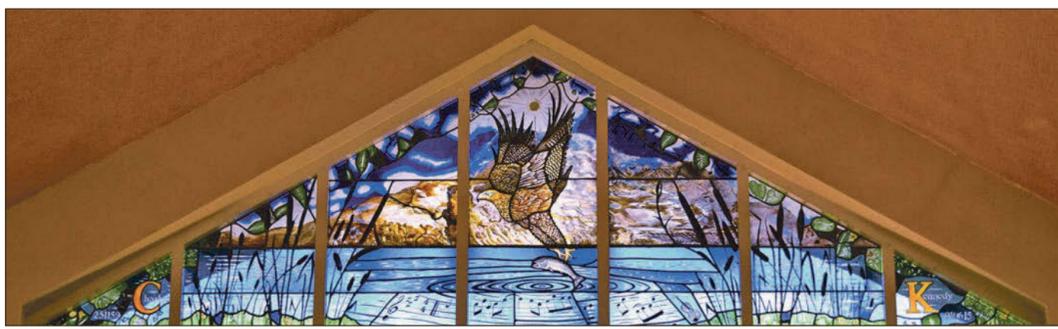
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The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and

postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number 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.



Church unveils 'stunning' window in memory of Charles Kennedy MP

INSPIRATIONAL artwork was unveiled in a Caol church marking the tenth anniversary of a 'popular but humble' man.

More than 200 people attended a service in St John's Parish in remembrance of former MP Charles Kennedy, when a specially designed stained glass window displaying his name was seen for the first time.

Father McAuley, parish priest at St John's said: 'It was just a lovely, lovely service - a beautiful coming together. But the thing is, it's not just about Charles - the service went beyond that. We also paid tribute to Charles' parents Ian and Mary who played music at the church for more than 40 years.'

'The window is a stunning addition. It adorns the church and is more of a symbol. It represents Lochaber and the community as a whole. It's an inspiration to everyone really and I think Charles would like that because he was a very kind and humble man.'

Costing £7,500 and part-funded by donations from local residents, the window features a golden eagle, Ben Nevis, violets and bullrushes to represent Charles' personality, according to the Perth-based artist.

Children from Lochside Primary School sang a psalm and *Amazing Grace* during the service and Charles' older brother Ian Kennedy unveiled the window.

Mr Kennedy died suddenly at his Lochaber home on June 1, 2015 at the age of 55. He had been a Highland MP for 32 years and led the Lib Dems for more than six years.

Father McAuley added: 'The children sang *Lord You Search Me And Know Me*, the same psalm that was sung at Charles' funeral, so that was very fitting.'

'More than 200 people turned up to pay their respects to Charles, but also to meet and catch up with each other. Afterwards many stayed and enjoyed teas, coffees and sandwiches. So many people played their little part in putting on this service so even in remembering someone lost, we can find happiness and inspiration for the future.'



Father McAuley with Charles' brother, Ian, seated; and right, Charles Kennedy.



It was just a lovely, lovely service

Father McAuley
St John's parish priest



TIMESLINE

Five days of work at A82 crossroads

WORK to improve embankments and drainage on a northbound section of the A82 is due to start on Monday June 20.

The repairs, at Anachan Crossroads, are scheduled to last for five days. Traffic management will include three-way traffic lights on the A82 and High Bridge road.

Pedestrian, 21, killed on Skye

A 21-YEAR-OLD Australian woman died on Monday after being hit by a Vauxhall car on the A87, on Skye.

Police attended the incident near the Sligachan Hotel at about 1.15am.

The male driver of the car was uninjured.

The woman is believed to have been returning home after enjoying a day off with her boyfriend. They had been living and working at Kinloch Lodge Hotel in Sleat.

The road was reopened at around 11.10am the same day. Police Scotland urge any witnesses to contact them on 101.

Parade celebrates volunteers' effort

A PARADE of volunteers made their way along Fort William High Street last Thursday (June 2).

The parade, part of Volunteers' Week, featured volunteers from a wide variety of local and national organisations led by Lochaber Pipe Band and team members from Voluntary Action Lochaber (VAL), which organised the event.

Groups represented included Lochaber Environmental Group, Nevis Partnership, Alzheimer Scotland, Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland, Lochaber Town Team and the Presbytery of Lochaber.

The parade ended outside Duncansburgh MacIntosh Memorial Church and there was a volunteering fair in the church hall afterwards.

Gerald McIntyre, chairman of VAL, said: 'This is the first year we've done a parade as

part of Volunteers' Week, which is really a fortnight this year. We're hoping the parade and fair in the Duncansburgh church hall will raise the profile of volunteering in general and of the local groups in particular and encourage more volunteers to come forward.'

Mhairi Wylie, chief officer of Highland Third Sector Interface, of which VAL is one of eight local group partners, said: 'Volunteering fortnight is really important as volunteers provide the backbone for so much of our social and cultural activities. They are important in ensuring that the most isolated and most vulnerable people get support and it's important that we stop and appreciate them, and say thank you.'

This celebration of volunteers in the community will conclude today (June 9) with the Vocars - volunteer awards ceremony.



The parade finished up outside Duncansburgh MacIntosh Memorial Church. 21_f24 volunteer parade4



The parade was led by Lochaber Pipe band. 21_f24 volunteer parade2



A volunteering fair took place in the Duncansburgh church hall after the parade. 21_f24 volunteer parade5

Canoe challenge boosts Tree Aid

A FUNDRAISING effort has seen a group of intrepid foresters canoe across Scotland.

The six-strong Forestry Commission team were inspired to take on their 95km task, from Fort William to Inverness, after reading about the Tree Aid charity's effort to build a 'Great Wall' of trees in the sub-Saharan Sahel region.

Malcolm Wield, from the FCS Social Policy team, said: 'Tree Aid has been working at this for years but it's a monumental task, so we thought we'd chip in and do our bit to help our African colleagues.'

'It was a great adventure and a real accomplishment. We've had a fantastic amount of support so far and we're always happy to receive donations.'

The team steered four canoes through the Great Glen over five days from May 18 to May 22, carrying their kit and food with them and making camp along the way.

They braved everything that Scotland could throw at them, with varying temperatures and all manner of weather.

So far their team effort has raised £1,200, more than twice their target amount.



Top fiddler heads to Nevis Centre

THE 'KING of gypsy music' is coming to Lochaber.

Tcha Limberger, hailed as the most celebrated gypsy musician of his generation, will perform in the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Friday June 24.

Car parked in Caol is damaged

POLICE are appealing for information after a Nissan car was damaged in Caol.

The incident took place sometime between 5.30pm on Sunday May 29 and 8.50am on Monday May 30 when the car was parked in Fern Court.

Anyone with information should contact local police on 01397 702000 or Crime-stoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or online at crimestoppers-uk.org.

Planning review favours islands

AN INDEPENDENT review into Scottish planning procedures has recommended island authorities should have more flexibility in deciding planning applications.

The report of the Independent Review Panel Empowering Planning to Deliver Great Places stated: 'Given their special circumstances, the island authorities should be given more flexibility where this would better reflect the distinctive local context for planning in an island setting.'

Public wifi live on CalMac network

ALMOST half of the 200-mile long Caledonian MacBrayne network now has free public access wifi, with the remainder to be completed in early July.

There is little 3G or 4G provision across most of the network so this new connectivity is a welcome boost to both business and travellers who can now work and communicate in real time.

CalMac public manager Jim McKillop said: 'We are now almost halfway through the rollout programme for CalMac public access wifi. Already we have had some great feedback from communities involved and we are committed to rollout completion by early July.'

Community volunteers dig deep to bring lease of life to unloved plots in Lochaber

UNLOVED plots in Lochaber have been given a new lease of life thanks to a community-wide effort.

'Adopt A Plot' is a scheme orchestrated by Fort William Town Team. The group of volunteers aims to compensate for shortfalls in council funding to keep plant and garden areas in the local area looking respectable.

The team recently appealed for individuals to adopt eight outdoor areas and, according to members, each one is now receiving the attention it requires.

Sue Keen, town team secretary, said: 'We've had such a great response to the programme. It's been just wonderful. All of the plots have been sponsored.'

As part of the incentive, the town team provided tools and plants in exchange for valuable 'manpower' to help with weeding and planting of flower beds. She added: 'The reason we have to do this is because the council just doesn't have enough money to tackle all the areas. It does a bit, but we don't have a common good fund here yet we live in such a tourist area, so it's important those visiting have a fabulous impression



Above and left: Children from Lundavra Primary school do their part.



and want to return. We do it for the residents as well. The drive or walk to work is so much more enjoyable if the place is well kept.'

Ms Keen said some of the most impressive transformations have been to the Lundavra butterfly plot which faced being mowed over and the work being done to the parade in the town centre.

She added: 'Gardenstop and Lundavra Primary School joined forces to keep the butterfly 'alive'. It's been there for 20 years and would have been a real shame to lose it but the Gardenstop at Blar Mhor donated the plants and school pupils volunteered to get out there and get their hands dirty.'

'With the parade, it is Tesco and the Salvation Army who have worked their magic. The fact that businesses, schools and charities have all become involved is just terrific. We will put up a plaque at each plot showing who was involved. We can't wait for the plants to bloom and to see what all the different groups have done with their area.'

The town team would still appreciate help from volunteers for ongoing projects, including the Belford Gardens.

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Record number of bands signed up for piping at Forres

A record 127 bands have signed up for this year's Piping At Forres on June 25, including Oban Pipe Band.

Formed in 1920, Oban Pipe Band is approaching its centenary. The band wears the MacLean of Duart tartan and their pipe major is Euan Dewar and leading drummer is Bobbie Davie. After a lapse of a number of years the band returned to the competition circuit in 2011 competing in Grade 3A and after a successful season became World Champions in that grade. In 2012 the band was promoted to Grade 2 where they remain.

A spokesman said: 'The band is looking forward very much to the European Championships in Forres. It is probably the best organised championships and the welcome from the town of Forres is second to none.'

Oban High School will also be taking part also in the Novice Juvenile section.

The list includes 11 grade 1 bands - from the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Scotland including the current World Champions, Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia and 2015 European winners, Field Marshal Montgomery. Bands have also signed up to play from Denmark, the Netherlands, the Republic of Ireland and 5 school bands from Australia.

Of the bands from Scotland - 35 Bands are from Glasgow and the West of Scotland, 26 from Lothian and Borders and Fife, 18 from Dundee, Perth and Angus, 28 from the North of Scotland and 6 from Ayr, Dumfries and Galloway. Local

bands from Forres, Elgin and District, RAF Lossiemouth, 2622 Highland Squadron RAF, Badenoch and Strathspey and City of Inverness have all signed up to play in front of their home crowd.

Chieftain for 2016 is former Runrig frontman and critically acclaimed solo artist Donnie Munro.

The competition in Forres is now in its fourth year after the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, who run the competition, awarded the rights to Piping At Forres to host the competition until 2018.

New for 2016 is a Prosecco bar, run by Forres Mechanics FC, which joins the Scottish Gin Bar run by the team from The Drouthy Cobbler, Elgin, to add to the beer tents, that includes craft beers. The entire competing area within Grant Park is licensed allowing adult spectators to enjoy a drink whilst watching the bands. There will also be a Brodie Countryfare's piping hot café, serving teas and coffees in a seated area.

Several charities will benefit from a free stand at the event: 2Wit2 Woo, Owl Rescue; Help for Heroes; Erskine, Morayvia; Speyfest and RAFA.

Whilst the competition is the responsibility of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association the practical arrangements for the event in Forres are the responsibility of Forres Events Ltd, a small group of Forres business men and women who volunteer their time to put Forres on the piping map and

run a world class event for an economic benefit to the local economy.

Alan James, Chairman of Forres Events Ltd, which runs the event as not-for-profit said: "We are delighted to see so many bands signed up for Piping At Forres and each can be assured of a warm Forres welcome. This a truly magnificent day out and the sight and sounds of all these bands - some the best in the world - is one not to be missed. We work hard to ensure that the day has something for everyone from all ages including the very young. Our loyal sponsors and our fantastic band of volunteers to whom we are indebted help keep the park looking great and keep ticket prices low.

Ian Embelton, Chairman of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association said: "With so many bands signed up, the Europeans look set to be a great competition this year. Forres is a wonderful venue and much enjoyed by the bands and I am always so impressed by the effort that goes in by the team in Forres to make this such a great day out for the whole family."

The event, which is sponsored by Benromach Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky, will be held on Saturday 25 June in Grant Park. Advance ticket will be on sale online until June 19. Prices are as follows

Adult (18-59) £11.00 (£13.00 on day)
Youth (12-17) £7.00 (£8.00 on day)

Senior Citizens (60+) £10.00 (£11.00 on day)
Children under 12 Free of charge when accompanied by an adult, although they must be in possession of a wristband.

Family Ticket 2 adults, 2 youths £30.00 (£32.00 on day).

In addition to the Piping there will be a Retail & Craft village and a Food & Drink village, including a Walkers shortbread sponsored marquee featuring some of the finest produce in Moray and the surrounding area. Brodie Countryfare's café will be serving teas and coffees in a seated area. There will also be beer tents, including craft beers, fairground areas, and other entertainment and stalls for all the family including the World Tattie Scone Championship.

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Opera company pops up in Oban car park

SCOTTISH Opera performers entertained audiences in Oban with cut-down performances of Figaro and Mikado last Wednesday, June 1.

The Corran Halls was just one of the many stops for the Pop Up Opera Road show as it tours the country this summer.

The mobile theatre has the capacity for up to 22 audience members for each 25-minute performance and both operas

were sold out in Oban. In fact, there were two showings of A Little Bit of Figaro put on here.

David Sneddon, the company stage manager for the road show, told *The Oban Times*: 'It's lovely coming to Oban, especially with this fantastic weather, and it's lovely to get such a good reaction.'

'Not many opera shows come here so it's good that we are bringing an art form that's not as accessible to Argyll and Bute. If

people can't come to the opera, we bring opera to them.'

The mobile theatre was designed as a miniature re-creation of the Theatre Royal in Glasgow to promote its renovation and extension four years ago, and proved so successful that it has carried on touring since and been sold out the past two years.

The pop-up tour was then at Mount Stuart in Rothesay on June 2.



The Scottish Opera performers do 'A Little Bit of Figaro'. 15_T24 Scottish opera 2_figaro

Molly and Mac bring madcap fun to the Phoenix Cinema

YOUNGSTERS in Argyll are in for a special treat next Tuesday when Molly and Mac bring their Sticky Kids Move it and Groove it singalong show to Oban.

Mac is taking a break from his farm to come to the Phoenix Cinema to tell everyone how he is keeping fit and healthy.

Mac has been in serious training, getting lots of exercise feeding and looking after all the animals, growing and eating healthy food - and preparing to go to Rio this summer to take part in the Olympic Games.

So come and join Molly

and Mac and enjoy lots of singing, lots of audience participation and lots and lots of fun. The show is ideal for two- to six-year-olds.

Molly and Mac will be at the Phoenix Cinema on Tuesday June 14, at 10.30am and also at 1.30pm.

Tickets are £5 (£4.50 for concessions and groups of 10 or more).

To book, call the cinema on 01631 562905 or visit www.obanphoenix.com



Photographic club puts pictures in public frame

PICTURES taken by members of Oban Photographic Club will be on display in Waterstone's bookshop over two weeks this summer.

The exhibition, which will run from Sunday June 19 to Saturday July 2, will feature prints by members of all levels of experience, from dedicated hobbyists to everyday snappers.

There will also be a variety of subject matters, from landscapes, portraiture, travel, wildlife, sport and more.

The club meets on Monday evenings from October to March in the Regent Hotel and its programme includes talks and presentations from successful photographers, competitions, practical opportuni-

ties to take photos in studios or on field trips, and lessons on how to use the tools of photography.

Anyone wishing to join the club when it restarts this autumn should either email alhstchris@yahoo.co.uk or leave their details in the visitors' book at the exhibition.

More information can be found at www.obanpc.co.uk.



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WIN FOUR MEMBERSHIP PASSES TO BLAIR CASTLE INTERNATIONAL HORSE TRIALS & COUNTRY FAIR



Blair Castle International Horse Trials is Scotland's largest equine event, attracting over 40,000 spectators from 25 to the 28 of August for four days of thrilling competition. This year sees the launch of the Event Rider Masters; an innovative new eventing series with a £50,000 prize fund which is set to attract world class riders from the UK and abroad. Alongside eventing there is entertainment for all ages in the Bruadar Country Fair Arena, with

a jam-packed schedule including Stunt Riding, Falconry Displays and Terrier Racing. Readers have the chance to win four passes to the Members' Enclosure across all four days of competition, worth £380 and allowing regular event admission as well as forward car parking and access to a dedicated grandstand. The stage is set for four days of top flight competition in the spectacular Highland setting of Blair Castle.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question:

How much is the prize fund on offer to the winners of the Event Rider Masters series?

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

To enter, send your answer, name, address, telephone number and email address to Braid Hills Competition, Wyvex Media, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh, EH5 2DL. Closing date is 31 July 2016. Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Wyvex Media rules apply. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications. Please note this prize is available to be booked until 29/12/16. All dates are subject to availability and 1-31 August is excluded.

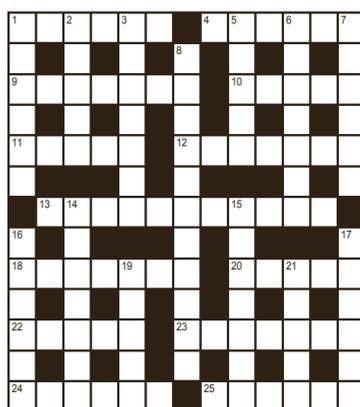
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Across

- Freehold tenure of land (6)
- Play (6)
- Learner (7)
- Agave plant (5)
- One who speaks up for another's whereabouts (5)
- Dispeller of dark (7)
- Beneath our feet (11)
- Whole figure (7)
- Satellite of a planet (5)
- Herring of the east North Atlantic (5)
- State of freedom (7)
- Austonesian language (6)
- Leisure pants (6)

Down

- Small-time dictator (6)
- Of the raccoon family (5)
- Explosive sound (7)
- Man-made fibre (5)
- Stand (7)
- Small fissure (6)
- Hostile (11)
- Not man-made (7)
- Too big for one's boots (7)
- Dumplings (3,3)
- Chronicles (6)
- Urchin (5)
- Headgear (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION





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Friday 10 - Thursday 16 June

A ROYAL NIGHT OUT | 12 100 MIN

Mon: 19:00
On V.E. Day in 1945, as peace extends across Europe, Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret are allowed out to join the celebrations. It is a night full of excitement, danger and the first flutters of romance.

ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS | PG | 133 MIN

Fri: 19:00, Sat: 15:15, Sun: 13:45, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 16:00
Alice Kingsleigh has spent the past few years following in her father's footsteps and sailing the high seas. Upon her return to London, she comes across a magical looking glass and returns to the fantastical realm of Underland and her friends the White Rabbit, Absolom, the Cheshire Cat and the Mad Hatter, who is not himself.

ANGRY BIRDS | U | 115 MIN

Sat: 13:10, Sun: 11:30
The movie takes us to an island populated entirely by happy, flightless birds — or almost entirely. In this paradise, Red, a bird with a temper problem, speedy Chuck, and the volatile Bomb have always been outsiders. But when the island is visited by mysterious green piggies, it's up to these unlikely outcasts to figure out what the pigs are up to.

ARGYLL YOUTH THEATRE - ALADDIN | 180 MIN

Fri, Sat: 19:30
Argyll Youth Theatre presents Aladdin - Evening Performance

KIDS CLUB: CARS 2 | U | 122 MIN

Sat: 11:00
Children's Classic. Star race car Lightning McQueen and his pal Mater head overseas to compete in the World Grand Prix race. But the road to the championship becomes rocky as Mater gets caught up in an intriguing adventure of his own: international espionage.

LOVE & FRIENDSHIP | U | 113 MIN

Fri: 16:30, Sat: 14:30, Sun: 12:00, 19:30, Mon: 18:25, Tue, Wed, Thu: 16:30
Parent & Baby Screening: Tue: 11:30
Lady Susan Vernon takes up temporary residence at her in-laws' estate and, while there, is determined to be a matchmaker for her daughter Frederica — and herself too, naturally.

OUR KIND OF TRAITOR | 15 | 128 MIN

Fri: 16:45 Sat, Sun: 17:00, Mon: 20:30 Tue, Wed, Thu: 18:45
A couple find themselves lured into a Russian oligarch's plans to defect are soon positioned between the Russian Mafia and the British Secret Service, neither of whom they can trust.

SILVER SCREEN - FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS | PG | 130 MIN

Sun: 14:30
FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS is a drama, based on real events, about a New York heiress and patron of the arts who dreams of becoming an opera singer despite having a poor singing voice.

SING STREET | 12A | 126 MIN

Fri: 14:30, Sat: 17:40, Sun: 16:15, Mon: 16:30, Tue, Wed, Thu: 18:30
A boy growing up in Dublin during the 1980s escapes his strained family life by starting a band to impress the mysterious girl he likes.

THE JUNGLE BOOK | PG | 126 MIN

Sat: 12:00
The Jungle Book is an all-new live-action epic adventure about Mowgli (newcomer Neel Sethi), a man-cub raised in the jungle by a family of wolves, who embarks on a captivating journey of self-discovery when he's forced to abandon the only home he's ever known.

X-MEN: APOCALYPSE | 12A | 170 MIN

Sat: 20:00, Sun: 19:00
Since the dawn of civilization, he was worshipped as a god. Apocalypse, the first and most powerful mutant from Marvel's X-Men universe, amassed the powers of many other mutants, becoming immortal and invincible. Upon awakening after thousands of years, he is disillusioned with the world as he finds it and recruits a team of powerful mutants, including a disheartened Magneto (Michael Fassbender), to cleanse mankind and create a new world order, over which he will reign.

STICKY KIDS
Tue 10:30 & 13:30
(with Molly Muddle and Sticky Kids)

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MONDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1700 Drivetime With Marcus, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McCullie's Show, 2100 David Cullen
TUESDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey
WEDNESDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Sound Scottish (repeat), 1000 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Elaine Lamb, 1700 Drivetime with Campbell, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves
THURSDAY: 0800 Morning show, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with Stephen, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight
FRIDAY: 0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 -1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lavin
SATURDAY: 0800 Breakfast Show, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crosner, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis
SUNDAY: 0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Sunday Brunch, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott

Don't Feed The Plants

Anyone who missed Lochaber Showstoppers production of Little Shop of Horrors should be kicking themselves as they missed this sparkling, breezy and zestful story of a flesh eating plant called Audrey II whose mission is to conquer the world.

Normally I would start my review with the leading players but in this case I'll make an exception and start with two players not seen until the final bows. Stephen Carruthers as the voice of Audrey II and Rachel Ormerod as his puppeteer brought the giant carnivore to hilarious, glorious, OTT life, much enjoyed by the audience.

Grant Morrison as the hapless shop assistant Seymour not only

turned in a thoroughly engaging compelling and professional performance but also seemed to bring out sparking performances from those around him.

Aileen Green as Audrey, his love interest, has a great voice and presence and proved she can act a bit too, but for me the big surprise was Keith Falconer as Mushnik, the shop owner. That's as good and convincing a performance as I have seen from him. Well Done.

Another who caught the eye was Angus Francis, a gas as Orin Scrivello, the maniacal, sadistic, oxide sniffing dentist. (Look away now, Gregor!)

Now to the music side of things. New

MD, the recently wed Clare Hageman clearly believes in keeping things simple. Her five piece band was quite adequate for what was needed and supported what was happening on stage, not the battle of wills we have sometimes seen before. The chorus singing was well balanced for such a small chorus and the stronger voices such as Anja Baumhoff and Leah Burns kept it all together.

I particularly liked the three Urchins, Kirstin MacAdam, Amy Leider and Rachael MacGregor who were a sort of Greek do wah chorus popping up and moving the action on.

An old unreconstructed rocker like me loved the music of Motown

and Da-Doo and would not have needed much encouragement to bop in the aisle.

Stage movement was of the 'keep it simple' type and very effective and seamless for the most part, though the chorus conga line and final bow were a bit klunky, but that's me being picky.

Backstage, Showstoppers pride themselves on a slick, well drilled team and lightning, sound costumes, staging and the rest were of the usual high standard. Well done to all you unsung heroes.

When I reflected on an enjoyable evening afterwards, I concluded that at last Showstoppers had found a show of the right size for what they now have available and performed up to their



Leading members of the cast in the Lochaber Showstoppers' production of The Little Shop of Horrors. Left to right are Keith Falconer (Mr Mushnik), Aileen Green (Audrey), Grant Morrison (Seymour) and Angus Francis (dentist).

potential. The Little Shop has always been popular with amateur groups because of its size and it was a neat fit. I have only one query.

Why the first week in June? Competing against a heat wave and the Mountain Bike World Cup clearly affected audiences. This

enthusiastic, committed company deserved far bigger crowds. Review by Eric McKenzie

Bodach

In this series, *The Oban Times'* resident Bodach (Gaelic: old man and, by experience, often a storyteller) looks through archive material for articles and pictures that preserve moments from the past. There is always a back story – and sometimes a future one.



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

Military presence on the West Coast looks set to continue

GROWING up in the Cold War era I was fascinated and frightened at the same time. As a wee boy I was very interested in ships and the sea, and, influenced by my mother's work with ship-builders and defence contractors, I took an avid interest in sea warfare. Every time I am in the Loch Long and Gare Loch areas I still try to catch a glimpse of the goings-on behind the security fences of the military establishments that accommodate the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent.

Even the Finnart Ocean Terminal on Loch Long is a curiosity. This deep-water oil terminal owes its origins to World War II, when piers, tanks and pumps were installed to supply fuel oil to naval vessels. The Anglo-Iranian Oil Company acquired the property when the conflict was over and built a 58-mile long pipeline from the shores of Loch Long to the Grangemouth refin-

ery that was connected in 1954. That same year the company became the British Petroleum Company, which evolved into BP plc in 2001. A second pipeline was constructed to take refined products back to the terminal for export. North Sea oil came on stream in the 1970s and the site was bought by the INEOS Group in 2005. The 300,000-tonne oil tanker ASHNA is one of several large ships that call at Finnart, sometimes staying alongside for months at a time.

Now known as HM Naval Base Clyde, Faslane had been an operations centre for sea-trials of K-class submarines during the First World War, and grew in response to fleet requirements in the years before the Second World War, when it became a naval base. After the war the Clyde Sea Lochs were used as sites to dismantle warships, the most famous being HMS Vanguard –

the world's last battleship, built by John Brown and Company in Clydebank between 1941 and 1946, and broken up at Faslane in 1962.

The Nassau Agreement was signed by US President John F Kennedy and British Prime Minister Harold MacMillan that same year, effectively exchanging a lease for a US nuclear submarine base in the Holy Loch for nuclear-capable Polaris missiles to advance Britain's contribution to the NATO multilateral force. Patrolling Royal Navy Resolution-class submarines carried adapted UGM-27 Polaris nuclear missiles from 1968 until they were withdrawn from service in 1996. Today Faslane is home to all four of Britain's Vanguard-class submarines, armed with the Trident nuclear missile system. The warheads are maintained and loaded at Royal Naval Armaments Depot

Coulport, a few miles away on Loch Long.

The conspicuous floating dry dock to accommodate the Trident submarines was built at Hunterston, towed to RNAD Coulport and installed in 1993. Known as the Explosive Handling Jetty, it is considered to be largest floating concrete structure in the world. The depot was partly built on the policies of Coulport House, where Victorian polymath John Kibble built a large iron-framed conservatory in 1865. The structure was dismantled and shipped to Glasgow's Botanic Gardens in 1871, where it was re-assembled and opened to the public two years later. The Kibble Palace is a famous and popular city attraction to this day.

Political, fiscal, moral and environmental concerns over nuclear weapons evoke passionate debate. A permanent peace

camp outside Faslane has been occupied since 1982 and its residents and other protesters have penetrated military security on several occasions. The camp and the bases have witnessed countless demonstrations and protests and several hundred arrests have been made over the decades.

Planning for the Trident Works Programme started in 1982 and the final cost was estimated in 1994 to be around £2 billion, making it the UK's second most expensive procurement project after the Channel Tunnel. The replacement for the Trident nuclear weapons system has most recently been estimated at £31 billion. As long as Scotland remains part of the UK, government investment in and maintenance of the Clyde bases are expected to continue to meet the needs of the Royal Navy fleet of Astute-class submarines, all seven of which are due to be in service by 2024.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Oban Lifeboat Open Day
Saturday 18 June 2016, 11am - 3.00pm
Step aboard Oban's Trent Lifeboat.
Safari trips round Oban Bay
Cream teas..Burgers..Tombola..Treasure Map..
Vintage Fire Engine
Lucky Duck Draw.. Face Painting..Children's Painting Table..
Meet our volunteer crew and Oban Coastguard Team
Come and join in the fun at
Oban Lifeboat Station, South Pier, Oban!

MEN'S SHEDS
THESE ARE TAKING OFF ALL OVER SCOTLAND
Would you like to help set one up?
DO YOU HAVE A SKILL TO SHARE OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW?
YOU DECIDE HOW YOU WANT IT TO BE
(COMMUNITY PROJECTS, HEALTH INFO, SOCIALISING)
COME AND MEET WITH US AT ROCKFIELD
11AM TUESDAY 14TH JUNE

National Care Home Open Day
Come and join us as we celebrate our 60th anniversary
Friday 17th June 2pm-4pm
Teas/Coffee and home baking
All welcome
North Argyll House,
Bealach an Rìgh, Oban
PA34 5TG

What's on at **The Nevis Centre**
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Oban Mòd a resounding success as competitors hit all the right notes in glorious summer sun

OBAN



Cóisir Gháidhlig an Óban (Oban Gaelic Choir) won both mixed senior competitions last Saturday afternoon. 17_t23ObanModSaturday11



Winners from Lochaber High School. 17_t23ObanModFriday07



Tobermory Primary school's Gaelic choir. 17_t23ObanModFriday06



Pupils from Oban High School who were competing as soloists at this year's Oban Mòd. 17_t23ObanModFriday04



Bethan Neil, aged seven, who played the jester in Rockfield's drama group at this year's Oban Mòd. 17_t23ObanModFriday09

Erin Convery, from Ardrish-aig, who came third in the 5-6 years own choice singing competition. 17_t23ObanModFriday01



Cóisir Gháidhlig Thu gh an Uillt (Taynuilt Gaelic Choir). 17_t23ObanModSaturday07



Cóisir Gháidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich (Mull Gaelic Choir). 17_t23ObanModSaturday08



St Columbas Gaelic Choir. 17_t23ObanModFriday11



BROTHERS: Owen and James MacRailid from Lochaber. James won the 5-6 years own choice competition and Owen was first in the 7-8 years fluent poetry and fluent own choice song. 17_t23ObanModFriday02.



Alasdair Currie, 20, from Islay, who won the solo singing of a traditional or unpublished song at this year's Oban Mòd. 17_t23ObanModSaturday06



Oban's Alasdair MacLean, 18, was crowned winner of the overall piping competitions for 15-18 years olds. 17_t23ObanModSaturday03



Donna Dugdale, of Mull Gaelic Choir, with the trophy she received for singing a song written by an Argyll composer. 17_t23ObanModSaturday09



Ross Conner, 13, from Campbeltown, was victorious in the under-15s solo piping. 17_t23ObanModSaturday02



Rebecca Paterson, 16, from Strachur, who came second in the piping competitions and Kate MacPherson, 15, from Benderloch, who came third. 17_t23ObanModSaturday04



Laura Robertson of Bunscoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar who won the girls' solo singing, own choice, 11-12 years fluent.



Emma Hill and Gregor MacDonald, both represented Oban High School in the under-15s piping competition last Saturday morning. 17_t23ObanModSaturday01



Angus MacLean from Kilmartin who won the boys' solo singing own choice for 11-12 years learners.



Molly Blyth and Isobel Crawford of Lochgilphead both had a good morning, with Molly coming first and Isobel coming second in the girls' solo singing own choice 11-12 years learners.



Ealaisaid MacLean from Lismore took part in the 11-12 years girls' solo singing own choice for fluent speakers.



Anne MacLean and her daughter Ealaisaid MacLean, 10, from Lismore, both won events at this year's Oban Mòd, Anne for singing and Ealaisaid for playing the clarsach. 17_t23ObanModSaturday05

Skye's the limit as youngsters give it their all at island Mòd

OBAN



Spiders from Rockfield drama group. 17_t24ObanModFriday08



Coisir Bungsgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar with their conductor Alison Delaney who won the Oban Town Council trophy for Choral Singing Unison Puirt a Beul, own choice, under-13 years, as well as winning the quiaich for highest marks for Gaelic. t24obanmod10(km)



Sisters Lauren and Shauna Macleod from Oban who took part in the girls' solo singing, 11-12 years, with Shauna coming in third. t24obanmod05(km)



A delighted Feorlin Renton shows off her quiaich and her smile after winning the own choice song, 7-8 years old, learners. t24obanmod01(km)



Molly 12, left, and Brodie, 13, from Lochgilhead high school. 17_t23ObanModFriday10

SKYE

Photographs courtesy of Iain Smith of Skye Photo Centre



Choral Unison winners were Coisir an Ath-Leathainn, pictured with Kirsteen Graham. T24skymod_choir winners (IS)



Adult winners at this year's event were Stuart Jackson, left, for traditional singing, Gordon MacKeeve for the open solo singing and solo singing of a Skye song, Fiona Lyon, traditional singing, and Jeremy Levif, who won the duet along with Fiona. Adult winners T24skymod_Adult winners (IS)



Winners from the competitions held at the Church Of Scotland, Kilmuir, on Thursday were Mia Mutch, Lexy NicLeòid, Seumas Caimbeul, Eoghainn Caimbeul and John Varwell. Lexy is a Staffin Primary pupil, while the other four attend Kilmuir. Eoghainn is holding the Mr and Mrs J Budge Trophy, for first time presenting.



First place in the chanter over a year instruction went to Chrissie MacKinnon from Kilmuir.



Nelly Blair, Lauren MacLennan and Leia Croy from Raasay all took medals home with them.



Isy Maclean from Edinbane came first in the Intermediate Clarsach, while Anna Varwell from Kilmuir won the beginners competition.



Emma Campbell (L) & older sister Beth show off their medal.



Advanced Accordion winner Isla NicLeòid from Staffin.



Ross Gillies Memorial: Erin Nic'Illosa, Sgoil Stafainn, and Kathleen NicDhòmhnaill, Sgoil Phorthrigh. Presented by Kenny Gillies.



Siblings Charlie and Kate MacKinnon took gold in their age groups for own choice poem recitation.



Emma MacPherson, Portree High won gold for her reading of unseen passage.



First place for boys 5-6 years solo singing went to Finlay James, Bun-sgoil Phort Rìgh.



Keyboard winners: Lucy Livingstone (intermediate), left, Catriona MacKinnon (beginners) and Staffin girl Emily Matheson top of the advanced group.



Whistle player Mhairi Gillies won the intermediate other instruments competition, while Kathleen MacDonald took first in the beginners section. Both attend Portree Primary.



Eubha Chaimbeul, Bun-sgoil Shleite took first place in the short talk and conversation competition, P4-5.



Chloe NicAsgail, Bun-sgoil Phort Rìgh won gold for beginners accordion.



First place for solo singing, 7-8 years, went to Jessica Miller, Bun-sgoil Shleite.



Bun-sgoil Shleite pals Emily MacDonald and Caramarie MacCalman show off their medals, including a gold for duet singing.



Portree's Charlie Latton, left, and Tim Nicolson after competing in the other instruments category.

CASK & Still

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ISLAY MÒD RESULTS 2016

Chanter 12 years and under: ANNETTE SINCLAIR TROPHY: 1 Lauren Young, 2 Bronagh Newman, 3 Mirren Brown; Composition of a Gaelic tune/song Primary: MOD ÌLE TRAY: 1 Clas Ghaidhlig 1-3 Bun-sgoil Bogha Mor; Reciting from Memory, Fluent 9-10 years: MOD ÌLE TRAY: 1 Iseabail Oliver, 2 Anna Mitchell, 3 Diura Paterson; Reciting from Memory, Learners 5-6 years: MOD ÌLE SHIELD: 1 Libby Main; Reciting from Memory, Learners 7-9 years: ARCHIBALD FLETCHER CUP: 1 Lauren Morris, 2 Charlet Rose Munro, 3 Megan McMillan; Reciting from Memory, Learners 9-10 years: MOD ÌLE TRAY: 1 Rowan Morris, 2 Rebecca Morris, 3 Eva Munro; Reciting from Memory, Learners 11-12 years: ISLAY LIONS CUP: 1 Mirren Brown, 2 Bronagh Newman; Reciting from Memory, Learners 13-15 years: MOD ÌLE SHIELD: 1 Ryan Johnston; Conversation in Gaelic, Fluent Primary: DIAGEO SHIELD: 1 Breagha Dunbar, 2 Anna Mitchell, 3 Morven Brown; Solo Singing: Boys & Girls 7-9 years: LILY MACLEAN TROPHY: 1 Rowan Morris, 2 Rebecca Morris, 3 Dearbhla Newman; Solo Singing: Boys 10-12 years: MOD ÌLE SHIELD: 1 Angus MacLean; Solo Singing: Girls 10-12 years: MACDOUGAL GOLDIE TROPHY: 1 Emily Gray, 2 Eva Munro, 3 Molly Blyth; Solo Singing: Girls 13-15 years: BANK OF SCOTLAND CUP: 1 Abbie Williams, 2 Elizabeth MacMillan-Curie, 3 Brodie Crawford/Holly Renton; Solo Singing: Boys 13-15 years: MOD ÌLE TRAY: 1 Ryan Johnston, 2 Lewis Davey, 3 Calum

MacDonald; Solo Singing of a Puirt a Beul, 12 & under: MOD ÌLE SHIELD: 1 Diura Paterson; Duet Singing: Boys & Girls Primary: GEORGE & CHRISTINE MACDERMOTT CUP: 1 Rebecca & Rowan Morris, 2 Eva Munro & Bronagh Newman; Solo Singing, Former Winners: Boys & Girls under 18 years: JUBILEE CUP: 1 Abbie Williams, 2 Alasdair MacLean, 3 Lauren Morris; Solo Singing: Girls 16-18 years: ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND CUP: 1 Abbie Williams; Solo Singing: Boys 16-18 years: MOD ÌLE CUP: 1 Alasdair MacLean; Unison Singing of a Psalm: ALASDAIR MACEACHERN CUP: 1 Port Ellen Primary School; Unison Singing: Primary: GLASGOW ISLAY ASSOCIATION CUP: 1 Port Ellen Primary Gaelic Choir, 2 Bowmore Primary Gaelic Choir, 3 Coisr Bun-sgoil Phort Sgioba; Puirt a Beul: under 19 years: TOM CRAWFORD MEMORIAL QUAICHE: 1 Bowmore Primary Gaelic Choir, 2 Port Ellen Primary Gaelic Choir, 3 Coisr Bun-sgoil Phort Sgioba; Action Song: MARGARET EARL MEMORIAL TROPHY: 1 Port Ellen Primary School; Solo Singing: Seniors: MOD ÌLE SHIELD: 1 Lynn MacDonald, 2 Alison Gray, 3 Ruairidh MacKinnon; Solo Singing: IAIN JOHNSTON MEMORIAL CUP: 1 Ruairidh MacKinnon, 2 Lynn MacDonald, 3 Ron Goudie; Solo Singing: GILBERT MACPHAIL MEMORIAL TROPHY: 1 Ron Goudie; Solo Singing: MACINTYRE MEMORIAL TROPHY: 1 Lynn MacDonald; Solo Singing: Puirt a Beul: INA MACDONALD QUAICHE: 1 Alison Gray, 2 Charles Renwick; Choral



Singing: MORRISON CHALLENGE CUP: 1 Coisr Ghaidhlig Ìle; Choral Singing of a Puirt a Beul: 1 Coisr Ghaidhlig Ìle; Clarsach: 12 years & under: MOD ÌLE CUP: 1 Breagha Dunbar; Competition 51 - Fiddle - 12 years & under - MOD ÌLE TRAY: 1 Emily Gray; Fiddle: 13 years & over: MOD ÌLE TRAY: 1 Abbie Morria, 2 Isobel Ferguson; Solo Singing: own choice: MOD ÌLE CUP: 1 Charles Renwick; Piping: BOBBY HAMMOND TROPHY: 1 Alistair MacLean, 2 Angus MacLean, 3 Calum Dunbar; Solo

Singing, Former Winners: Seniors: GEOFF COLMAR MEMORIAL TROPHY: 1 Lynn MacDonald; Sincerity of expression: JEAN CARMICHAEL ROSEBOWL: 1 Lynn MacDonald; Accordion: 12 years & under: MOD ÌLE CUP: 1 Rowan Morris; Accordion: 13 years & over: MOD ÌLE TRAY: 1 Calum MacDonald; Tin Whistle: 12 years & under: MOD ÌLE TRAY: 1 Liam Gray, 2 Rebecca Morris, 3 Rachel Johnston; Tin Whistle: 13 years & over: MOD ÌLE CUP: 1 Isobel Ferguson; Solo Singing: Seniors: ROBERT FORREST MEMORIAL QUAICHE: 1 Lynn



MacDonald; Story Telling in Gaelic: Primary Fluent: IOMAIRT GHÀIDHLIG ÌLE'S DHI-URA CUP: 1 Diura Paterson; Duet Singing: Secondary: MOD ÌLE CUP: 1 Abbie Morris & Elizabeth MacMillan-Curie, 2 Holly Renton & Tiegán Holroyd, 3 Molly Blyth & Brodie Crawford; FIONA ROUNDTREE CUP: Highest Mark In Music: under 10 years: Rowan Morris; SCHRODER CUP: Highest Aggregate in Gaelic: 13-18 years: Ryan Johnston; JOAN CAMPBELL CUP: Highest Mark in Gaelic: under 18 years:

Breagha Dunbar; JOHN FERGUSON TROPHY: Highest aggregate in Gaelic: under 13 years: Rowan Morris; CAMPBELL TRAY: Highest aggregate in Gaelic: Ladies: Lynn MacDonald; WOODROW CUP: Highest aggregate in Gaelic: Men: Charles Renwick; DISTRICT CUP: Highest aggregate in Gaelic & Music: Seniors: Lynn MacDonald; MARGARET DUNCAN SHIELD: Highest Aggregate in Music: Senior Choirs: Coisr Ghaidhlig Ìle; ROBERT FORREST SHIELD: Presented by Coisr Ghaidhlig Ìle: Endeavour in Gaelic: Ryan Johnston.

OBAN AND DISTRICT PROVINCIAL MÒD RESULTS 2016



Abbie Williams and Alasdair MacLean performed together in the 16-18 singing competition.



Justin MacIver, 12, left, who was first in the 11-13 learners poetry and Calan McGuigan, 9, who won the learners Gaelic solo singing.

JUNIOR COMPETITIONS: Girls Solo Singing Own Choice Song 11-12 years Fluent: 1 Laura Robertson, 2 Sarah Garvin, 3 Shauna MacLeod; Boys Solo Singing Own Choice Song 11-12 years Learners: 1 Angus MacLean, 2 Innes Munro; Girls Solo Singing Own Choice Song 11-12 years Learners: 1 Molly Blyth, 2 Isobel Crawford, 3 Emma MacGregor; Action Song Under 18: Bunscoil Achadh na Creige. Boys & Girls - Solo Singing of Traditional or Unpublished Own Choice Song 18 years and under: 1 Annie MacNeil, 2 Laura Robertson, 3 Calum Archie MacKinnon; Girls Solo Singing of Own Choice Song 13-15 years: 1 Eilidh Graha, 2 Holly Renton, 3 Tiegán Holroyd; Boys & Girls Own Choice Former Pentad Winners: Abbie Williams; Choral Singing 2 Own Choice Pieces Under 13 years: 1 Coisr Bunscoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar, 2 Tobermory Primary School, 3 Inveraray Junior Choir; Choral Singing Unison Puirt-a-Beul Own Choice Under 13 years: 1 Coisr Bunscoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar, 2 St Columba's Primary School, 3 Tobermory Primary School; Choral Singing Unison Puirt-a-Beul Own Choice 13-18 years: Oban High School; Boys & Girls Own Choice Song 7-8 years Learners: 1 Feorlin Renton, 2 Erin Higgins, 3 Ronnie MacLean; Boys & Girls On Choice Song 7-8 Fluents: 1 Owen MacRaild, 2 Calum Archie MacKinnon; Boys & Girls Own Choice Song 5-6 years Learners: 1 James MacRaild, 2 David

Rodgers, 3 Erin Convery; Dorama Bunscoil Achadh na Creige Drama Verse Speaking: 1 P3/4G Bunscoil Achadh na Creige, 2 Bunscoil Srath na h-Apaine; Prescribed Poetry 7-8 years Learners: 1 Scott MacA'Phi, 2 Bethan Neil, 3 Mario MacGregor; Prescribed Poetry 7-8 years Fluent: 1 Owen MacRaild, 2 Cailean Jennett, 3 Daniel Grant; Gaelic Storytelling Own Choice 7-8 years: Scott MacA'Phi; Prescribed Poetry 11-12 years Fluent: 1 Ealasaid MacLean, 2 Laura Robertson, 3 Finlay MacLuckie; Conversation 7-8 years: 1 Rufus Hughes, 2 Erin Higgins, 3 Bethan Neil; Gaelic Conversation 5-6 years: 1 Alyss MacDonald, 2 Connor MacLean, 3 Scot Armstrong; Prescribed Poetry 5-6 years Learners: 1 Catriona MacCallum, 2 Aimee Spreadbury, 3 Alyss MacDonald; Gaelic Conversation with an Adjudicator 11-12 years: 1 Annie MacNeil, 2 William MacEwan, 3 Shauna MacLeod; Gaelic Storytelling 9-10 years: Rhys Neil; Gaelic Storytelling 11-12 years: Ealasaid MacLean; Prescribed Poetry 11-12 years Learners: 1 Justin MacIver, 2 Charis Simpson, 3 Mairi Inglis and Rachel Sinclair; Girls Own Choice Song 9-10 years Learners: 1 Isla Berry, 2 Davina MacGrigor, 3 Izzy Potter; Boys Own Choice Song 9-10 years Learners: 1 Calan McGuigan, 2 Andrew MacPhail; Girls Prescribed Poetry 9-10 years Fluent: 1 Ceitidh Garvin, 2 Skye Liddle, 3 Katie MacLennan; Boys Own Choice Song 9-10 years Fluent: 1 Arran Stephen,

2 Shane O'Rua; Duet Own Choice Song 13-15 years: 1 Molly Blyth and Brodie Crawford, 2 Tiegán Holroyd and Holly Renton; Girls Prescribed Song 13-15 years: 1 Katie Houston, 2 Jenny Macintyre and Christy Cameron; Boys Prescribed Song 13-15 years: 1 Ross McLeish, 2 Calum Garvin, 3 Aidan MacLeod; Boys & Girls Own Choice Song 16-18 years: 1 Alasdair MacLean, 2 Abbie Williams; Conversation 9-10 years: 1 Arran Stephen, 2 Ceitidh Garvin, 3 Katie MacLennan; Prescribed Poetry 9-10 years Fluent: 1 Ceitidh Garvin, 2 Ruairidh Buchanan, 3 Kieran MacIntyre; Prescribed Poetry 9-10 years Learners: 1 Mya MacCormick, 2 Duncan Cameron; Storytelling 13-15 years: Kelly MacGillivray; Conversation 13-15 years Fluent: 1 Eileen MacKechnie, 2 Kelly MacGillivray, 3 Maria Clark; Prescribed Poetry 13-15 years Fluent: 1 Calum Garvin, 2 Kelly MacGillivray; Short Story, Poem or Newspaper Article Under 9-12 years: Scott MacA'Phi; Short Story, Poem or Newspaper Article 9-12 years: 1 Callum Neil, 2 Sarah Garvin, 3 Ealasaid MacLean, and Neil McKechnie. POSTER COMPETITION Design a Poster using Gaelic wording. P1-P4: 1 Scott MacA'Phi 2 Cailean Jennett; P5-P7: 1 Sarah Garvin 2 Shauna MacLeod 3 Finlay MacLuckie; Special Prize for Originality: Marsaili Colthart

SENIOR COMPETITION: Reading at Sight a Piece of Prose selected by the Adjudicator Fluent: F. Ann MacLean; Reciting from Memory Prescribed Piece of Poetry Tilleadh a Hirt Fluent: F. Ann MacLean; Reciting from Memory Prescribed Piece of Prose Na Bdeagdan Fluent: F. Ann MacLean; Gaelic Speech Fluent: F. Ann MacLean; Solo Singing Female Voice Own Choice Song: 1 Donna Duggdale, 2 Sandaigh NicDhòmhnaill Jones, 3 F. Ann MacLean; Solo Singing Male Voice Own Choice Song: Alasdair Currie; Solo Singing of one of the prescribed songs Male or Female Voices: 1 Sandaigh NicDhòmhnaill Jones, 2 Alasdair Currie, 3 F. Ann MacLean; Solo Singing of Song written by an Argyll Bard Male or Female Voices Own Choice: 1 Donna Duggdale, 2 F. Ann MacLean, 3 Alasdair Currie; Duet Singing of a Song Chosen by Competitors: Donna Duggdale & Natalie Livingstone; Solo Singing or one of the Prescribed Song Male or Female Voices: 1 F. Ann MacLean, 2 Sandaigh NicDhòmhnaill Jones, 3 Shona Keith; Solo Singing of one of Prescribed Songs (Former winners of Pendant): 1 F. Ann MacLean, 2 Sandaigh NicDhòmhnaill Jones; Solo Singing of Traditional or Unpublished Song: 1 Alasdair Currie, 2 Donna Duggdale, 3 Sandaigh NicDhòmhnaill Jones; Senior Choirs Mixed Voices in Four-Part Harmony of Two Songs Own Choice: 1 Coisr Ghaidhlig an Obain, 2 Coisr Ghaidhlig Thaigh an Uillt; Choral Singing Male or Female Voices of Two Songs Own Choice: 1 Coisr Ghaidhlig and Eilein Mhuilich, 2 Coisr Ceann an Tu-

irc; Choral Singing Mixed Voices in Four-Part Harmony of Puirt a Beul: 1 Coisr Ghaidhlig an Obain, 2 Coisr Ghaidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich, 3 Coisr Ghaidhlig Thaigh an Uillt. CLARSACH One Own Choice (up to Grade 1): Ealasaid MacLean; Clarsach Ensemble: Feis Latharna Clarsach Ensemble; ACCORDION Set of 3 Gaelic Watzes 12-18 years: 1 Isla MacCormick 2 Kirsty MacCormick, 3 Emma NicA'Phi; March, Strathspey & Reel 12-18 years: 1. Emma NicA'Phi, 2 Kirsty MacCormick; FIDDLE Slow Gaelic Air & March Under 13 years Beginners: 1. Fiona Cruickshanks, 2 Julia MacLeod, 3 Ruby HeritageCrabb; Gaelic Air & March & Reel Under 13 years: 1 Alex MacPherson, 2 Eve Campbell, 3 Iona Keys; Slow Gaelic Air & March, Strathspey & Reel 13-18 years: 1 Bronwen Davies, 2 Calum MacLuckie, 3 Christy Cameron; PIPING Chanter March Own Choice under 13 years Novice: 1 Roan MacColl, 2 Kaitlyn Evans; Pipes March Own Choice Under 15 years Novice: Laura Robertson; Pipes March Own Choice Under 15 years: 1 Ross Conner, 2 Gregor MacDonald, 3 Emma Hill; Pipes Strathspey & Reel Own Choice Under 15 years: 1 Ross Conner, 2 Gregor MacDonald, 3 Emma Hill; Pipes March Own Choice 15-18 years: 1 Alasdair MacLean, 2 Rebecca Paterson, 3 Kate MacPherson; Pipes Strathspey & Reel Own Choice 15-18 years: 1 Alasdair MacLean, 2 Kate MacPherson, 3 Rebecca Paterson.

TROPHY WINNERS Donald Morrison Memorial Cup: Rhys Neil; Etive Trophy: Christine MacRaild; Annie Lindsay MacLellan Cup: Laura Robertson; Oban Cup: Bunscoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar; Robin Banks Memorial Quach: Bunscoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar; South Lorn District Council Cup: Oban High School; Argyll & Bute Council's Cup: Feorlin Renton; Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy: Bunscoil Achadh na Creige; Iseabal Scott Memorial Trophy: Donna Duggdale; Irene MacCowan Medal: F. Ann MacLean; Ann M. MacDougall Memorial Salver: Coisr Ghaidhlig an Obain; Hugh MacPherson Memorial Quach: Coisr Ghaidhlig an Obain; Communion Gaidhealach an Obain Quach: Coisr Ghaidhlig an Obain; John MacCorquodale Files Memorial Trophy: Fiona Cruickshanks; George McHardy Trophy under 13: Alex McPherson; George McHardy Trophy fiddle 13-18 years: Bronwen Davies; Beaton Cup: Ross Conner; Beaton Challenge Shield: Alasdair MacLean; Duncan Ferguson Memorial Trophy: Roan MacColl; Comann nan Parant an Obain Poetry: Ealasaid MacLean; Comann nan Parant an Obain Singing: Christine MacRaild; Robin Banks Memorial Salver: Coisr Ghaidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich; Cuach Bheag: Ealasaid MacLean; Robin & Isabel Banks Quach: Bunscoil Achadh na Creige; Comann nan parant an Obain: Bunscoil Achadh na Creige.

MÒD IONADAIL AN EILEIN SGITHEANAICH 2016



Rory Turner and Nico Guidi won gold for Bun-Sgoil Phort Rìgh in the short dialogue, own choice competition.



Rodachan MacKinnon from Sleat was the intermediate accordion winner.



First place in the intermediate violin solo competition went to Maili MacKenzie.

Chanter (under 1 year): 1. Neil Lawson, Macdiarmid Primary 2. Thomas Hunter, Sléite; 3. Lewis MacPherson, Sgoil Phorthrig Chanter (Over 1 year): 1. Chrissie NicFhionghain, Cille Mhoire 2. Chiara MacLean, Dunvegan, 3. Olivia MacDonald, Knockbreck Slow Air: 1. Eoghann Peutan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig, 2. Frieda McKiggan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig, 3. Katrina Martin, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig March (under 14): 1. Archie MacLean, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig, 2. Pádraig MacKay, Sléite 3. Ciaran Ross, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig Strathspey & Reel (under 14): 1. Archie MacLean, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig 2. Ciaran Ross, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig 3. Declan Malloy, Bunscoil Stafainn March (under 18) 1. Dougal McKiggan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig 2. Frieda McKiggan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig 3. Gillesbuig MacVicar, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig Strathspey & Reel (under 18) 1. Eoghann Peutan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig 2. Dougal McKiggan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig 3. Gillesbuig MacVicar Ard-sgoil Phorthrig Jig (open) 1. Eoghann Peutan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig 2. Archie MacLean, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig 3. Katrina Martin, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig Reading of Psalm (P4/5) 1. Lexy NicLeòid, Stafainn 2. Eoghann Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire Reading of Psalm (P6/7 Learners) 1. Mia Mutch, Cille Mhoire 2. Lauren MacLennan, Raasay Reading of Psalm P6/7 (fluent) 1. Seumas Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire 2. Megan NicIomhair, Stafainn 3. Beth Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire & Camp; Crisaidh NicFhionghain, Cille Mhoire Primary Presenting: 1. John Varwell, Cille Mhoire 2. Erin NicIlliosa, Stafainn 3. Ellen NicIomhair, Stafainn Violin (beginners) 1. Molly Fox, Portrigh 2. Findlay James, Portrigh 3. Gracie Buchan, Portrigh Violin (intermediate) 1. Maili NicCoinnich, Portrigh 2. Mairi MacDonald, Portrigh 3. Sarajayne Edmondson, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig Violin (advanced) 1. Kathleen NicDhòmhnaill, Bun-sgoil Phòrthrig 2. Kirsty Watt, Ard-sgoil Phòrthrig 3. Rachel Henderson, Elgò

Primary Fiddle groups (primary) 1. Elgò Primary Clarsach (beginners) 1. Anna Varwell, Cille Mhoire 2. Caramarie MacCalman, Bun-sgoil Shléite 3. Jessica Scott-Moncrieff Ard-sgoil Phorthrig Clarsach (intermediate) 1. Isabel MacLean, Edinbane 2. Erin NicIlliosa, Stafainn 3. Faith MacKenzie-Page, Elgò Clarsach (advanced) 1. Anna NicNeacail, Bun-sgoil Phorthrig Clarsach ensemble (primary) Bun-sgoil Shléite Clarsach ensemble (secondary) Portree High School Accordion (beginners) 1. Chloe NicAsgail, Bun-sgoil Phorthrig 2. Carmen MacAskill, Bun-sgoil Phorthrig 3. Calum MacCoinnich, Bun-sgoil Phorthrig Accordion (intermediate) Rodachan MacKinnon, Sléite 2. Chiara MacLean, Dunvegan 3. Emma MacPherson, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig Accordion (advanced) 1. Isla NicLeòid, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig 2. Emily Matheson, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig Keyboards (beginners) 1. Catriona MacKinnon, An Ath Leathann 2. Meredith Brook Young, Sléite 3. Eubha Caimbeul, Sléite Keyboards (advanced) 1. Lucy Livingstone, An Ath Leathann Keyboards (advanced) 1. Emily Matheson, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig 2. Isla NicLeòid, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig Any other instrument (beginners): 1. Kathleen NicDhòmhnaill, Portrigh 2. Charlie Lattin, Portrigh 3. Tim Nicolson, Portrigh Any other instrument (intermediate): 1. Mhàiri NicIlliosa, Portrigh 2. Rachel Shaw, Portrigh Recitation (fluent) Age 5/6 Girls: 1. Ayla Bradshaw, Cille Mhoire 5/6 Boys: 1. Seumas Stiùbhart, Sléite 2. Erin NicIlliosa, Stafainn 3. Calum A. Rothach, Cille Mhoire 7/8 Girls: 1. Emma Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire 2. Catriona NicFhionghain, Cille Mhoire 3. Isabella Langlands, Broadford & Camp; Mairi Smith Broadford Age 7/8 Boys: 1. Eoghann Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire 2. Rudy Hall, Sléite & Camp; Ross Henderson, Cille Mhoire 3. Iain MacAonghais, Cille Mhoire & Camp; Cailean Stephenson, Portrigh Age 9/10 Girls 1.

Lexy NicLeòid, Stafainn 2. Emily NicDhòmhnaill, Sléite 3. Eubha Caimbeul & Camp; Caramarie MacCalman, Sléite Age 9/10 Boys: 1. Ross MacLeòid, Portrigh 2. Alasdair Stiùbhart, Sléite Age 11/12 Girls: 1. Beth Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire 2. Erin NicIlliosa, Stafainn 3. Megan NicIomhair, Stafainn & Camp; Crisaidh NicFhionghain, Cille Mhoire Age 11/12 Boys: 1. Seumas Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire 2. John Varwell, Cille Mhoire S1/2: 1. Gemma Taylor, 2. Eilidh NicDhòmhnaill 3. Mia MacGillivray Reading of unseen passage P4/5 Girls: 1. Emily MacDonald, Bun-sgoil Shléite 2. Eubha Caimbeul, Sléite 3. Ayla NicRath, Portrigh P4/5 Boys: 1. Eoghann Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire 2. Ross MacLeòid, Portrigh P6/7 Girls: 1. Crisaidh NicFhionghain, Cille Mhoire 2. Erin NicIlliosa, Stafainn 3. Beth Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire P6/7 Boys: 1. Seumas Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire 2. Innes MacNeill, Portrigh 3. John Varwell, Cille Mhoire S1/2 Emma MacPherson S3/4 Anna Nicolson Short dialogue P1/3 1. Nicco Guidi & Camp; Rory Turner, Portrigh 2. Thomas Duncan & Camp; Beth NicDhòmhnaill, Portrigh P4/7 1. Sadie NicDhòmhnaill & Camp; Evie NicIlliosa, Portrigh 2. Ross MacLeòid & Camp; Morag Anna Matheson, Portrigh age John Varwell & Camp; Beth Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire 3. Joshua Turner & Camp; Charlie Lattin, Portrigh S1/2 1. Eilidh NicDhòmhnaill & Camp; Mia MacGillivray 2. Sileas Urquhart & Camp; Gemma Taylor, PHS Sgeulachd P1/3 1. Seumas Stiùbhart, Sléite P4/7 1. Molly Fox, Portrigh 2. Alasdair Stiùbhart, Sléite 3. John Varwell, Cille Mhoire Short talk & Camp; Conversation P4/5 Eubha Caimbeul, Sléite 2. Alasdair Stiùbhart, Sléite 3. Eoghann Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire P6/7 1. Innes MacNeill, Portrigh 2. Calum MacGilliosa, Portrigh 3. Kathleen NicDhòmhnaill, Portrigh Verse speaking P1/3 1. Bun-sgoil Stafainn 2. Cille Mhoire Clas1-2.3. Gorm (An Ath-Leathann)

P4/7 1. Stafainn 2. Portrigh Clas 5.3. Cille Mhoire clas 6/7 Learners Recitation Age 5/6 1. Kate MacKinnon, Cille Mhoire 2. Emily Campbell, Broadford 3. Henry Steele, Broadford Age 7/8: 1. Charlie MacKinnon, Cille Mhoire 2. Nellie Blair, Raasay 3. Neela Mutch, Cille Mhoire Age 9/10: 1. Jack Mutch, Cille Mhoire Age 11/12: 1. Mia Mutch, Cille Mhoire 2. Leia Croy, Raasay S1/2: 1. Rona MacIntyre, Oigridh Shuainear 2. Mitchell MacPherson, Oigridh Shuainear 3. Colin MacDonald, Oigridh Shuainear Recitation Age 9/10 1. Jack Mutch, Cille Mhoire 2. Leia Croy, Raasay Age 11/12 1. Mia Mutch, Cille Mhoire 2. Leia Croy, Raasay Age 11/12 1. Mia Mutch, Cille Mhoire Prescribed Song (fluent) Girls Age 5/6: 1. Kailah MacPherson, Sléite 2. Eva MacAskill, Portrigh 3. Daisy Mahon, Sléite Age 5/6 Boys: 1. Findlay James, Portrigh 2. Seònaidh Forrest, Sléite 3. Calum A Munro, Cille Mhoire Age 7 Girls 1. Jessica Miller, Sléite 2. Catriona MacKinnon, Broadford 3. Yvie Peutan, Portrigh Age 7 Boys: 1. Rory Turner, Portrigh 2. Nicco Guidi, Portrigh 3. Charlie MacKenzie, Portrigh Age 8 Girls: 1. Emma Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire 2. Willow NicFhearghais, Stafainn 3. Erin NicIlliosa, Stafainn Age 11/12 Boys: 1. Seumas Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire 2. John Varwell, Cille Mhoire 3. Donald Stewart, Sléite Age 13/15 Silver Medal 1. Isla NicLeòid, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig 2. Anna NicNeacail, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig Prescribed Song (Learner girls) Age 5/6 1. Emily

Campbell, Broadford 2. Isla Caddell, Broadford 3. Annie MacLeod, Broadford Age 5 Boys: 1. Henry Steele, Broadford 2. Ruairidh Breen, Broadford Age 6: 1. Kaleb Phelps, Portrigh Age 7/8 1. Cyleh Brown, Broadford Age 9/10 Girls 1. Mairi Ann MacGillivray, Suainear 2. Isabella Sutherland, Suainear Traditional Primary: 1. Erin NicIlliosa, Stafainn & Camp; Kathleen NicDhòmhnaill, Portrigh 2. Beth Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire 3. Ross MacLeòid, Portrigh Traditional Secondary 1. Isla NicLeòid, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig 2. Anna NicNeacail, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig 3. Eilidh NicDhòmhnaill, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig Duet: 1. Emily NicDhòmhnaill & Camp; Caramarie MacCalman, Sléite Group song (own choice) 1. Portrigh Clas 3 Gillean 2. Portrigh Clas 3 Nighnean 3. Portrigh Clas 2 (A) Choral (Unison) 1. An Ath-Leathann 2. Portrigh (Cailleagan) 3. Portrigh (Balach) Choral Puirt a Beul: Oigridh Shuainear Action Song P1/3 1. Sléite Clas 1/2/2. Portrigh Clas 1 3. Sléite Clas 3 P4/7 1. Stafainn 2. Cille Mhoire 3. Sléite C5 Luadh 1. Stafainn 2. Cille Mhoire Sgioba A & Camp; Cille Mhoire Sgioba B Folk Group (primary) 1. Clann Thràndairnis 2. Portrigh clas 7 & Camp; Portrigh clas 3/4 Folk group (secondary): Oigridh Shuainear ADULTS Solo 1. Gordon McKeever 2. Stuart A. Jackson 3. Grace Wilcock Solo (Skye Song) 1. Gordon McKeever 2. Stuart A. Jackson 3. Grace Wilcock Duet Jeremy Levif & Camp; Fiona Lyon Traditional (ladies) 1. Fiona Lyon 2. Grace Wilcock Traditional (men) 1. Stuart A. Jackson 2. Jeremy Levif Literacy: Poster with Gàidhlig caption P1 - 1. Alex Nelson, Sléite 2. Kailah MacPherson, Sléite 3. Djan-go Hall, Sléite. P2 1. Hana MacKinnon, Sléite 2. Marina MacRae, Sléite 3. Olivia Ross, Sléite P3 1. Maeve MacGillivray, Sléite 2. Iain MacInnes, Cille Mhoire 3. Alastair Shone, Sléite P4 1. Eoghann Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire 2. Lachlan

Mieski, Sléite 3. Eva Mahon, Sléite P5 1. Ellen MacInnes, Cille Mhoire 2. Angus MacKinnon, Sléite 3. Eubha Caimbeul, Sléite P6 1. Katy MacKenzie, Sléite 2. Rory Hanson, Sléite 3. Shannon McLeish, Cille Mhoire P7 1. Kirsty Henderson, Cille Mhoire 2. Chrissie NicFhionghain, Cille Mhoire 3. Louise Gate, Cille Mhoire Writing Article 1. Erin NicIlliosa, Stafainn 2. Megan NicIomhair, Stafainn 3. Lexy NicLeòid, Stafainn Trophies Presenting (Mòd committee) John Varwell, Cille Mhoire Presenting (Mr and Mrs J. Budge) Eoghann Caimbeul, Cille Mhoire Nicol Campbell (Under 14 most points) Archie MacLean, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig Murdo MacDonald Memorial (Gàidhlig Air) Eoghann Peutan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig Gàidhlig Society of London (March) Dougal McKiggan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig Most points (under 18) Eoghann Peutan, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig Iain (Cordovox) MacDonald (accordion) Isla NicLeòid, Ard-sgoil Phorthrig Most promising clarsach player Isabel MacLean, Edinbane Tongadale (advanced violin) Kathleen NicDhòmhnaill, Bun-sgoil Phorthrig Urras Baile Fhòdaigeairraidh (Luadh) Bun-sgoil Stafainn Runrig (Folk group) Clann Thràndairnis Oban Rosebowl (English Unit/school with most points) Raasay Primary Fiddle group (Primary) Elgò Primary P1-3 Verse Speaking Bun-sgoil Stafainn P1-3 Action song Bun-sgoil Shléite, clas 1/2 P4-7 Action song Bun-sgoil Stafainn Choir Bun-sgoil na h-Ath Leathann Ross Gillies Memorial (highest individual music points in singing): Erin NicIlliosa, Sgoil Stafainn & Camp; Kathleen NicDhòmhnaill, Sgoil Phorthrig Most points in oral competitions: Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire The McKeever Trophy for the Open Solo competition: winner Gordon McKeever Skye Mod Committee Trophy for the Skye song competition: winner Gordon McKeever

FARMING NEWS

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Vendors head home happy after Dalmally June sale

UNITED Auctions held its annual June sale of all classes of cattle and sheep last weekend at Dalmally Auction Mart.

A catalogued entry of 168 store and breeding cattle and 1,016 sheep of all classes sold on Saturday June 4 to a packed ringside of buyers. All classes of stock sold readily, and sellers headed home having had a very satisfactory day's trading.

Bullocks sold to a top price per head of £1,060 for British Blue cross from Fearnoch, while Limousin cross bullocks from Garraron sold to 288.1p/kilo. Heifers from Brenchoille sold to £950 per head, as Garraron again led the prices per kilo in this section, with Limousin crosses at 256.5. Barguilean led the prices in the breeding cattle section when their Simmental cross heifer with bull calf at foot sold to £1,830. Dunans led the prices for ewes with lambs at foot when their consignment realised £186. Saulmore sold their consignment of ewes with lamb sold to £178 and this was closely followed by £177 for Clachan, Tiree's consignment.

Principal lots and prices
Top prices per head
Bullocks AAx: £905 (4) - Poltalloch.

BRBx: £1,060 - Fearnoch.
CHARx: £800 (5) - Auchlyne
LIMx: £890 - Ardchatten HF : £860 (3) - Garraron and Melfort : £850 - Dall : £840 - Tullochcan.
SHOX: £710 - Barnakill
SIMx: £790 - Dall
Heifers AAx: £800 - Barbreck, Lochgilphead.

CHARx: £770 - Fearnoch.
LIMx: £830 (2) - Achnacree Beag.
SIMx: £950, £940 (4) and £890 (2) - Brenchoille.
Cows and heifer calves
HERx: £1,450 (2) - Laggan Farms

SIMx: £1,800, £1,700, £1,620 and £1,200 - Barguilean Farm.
Cows and bull calves
LIMx: £920 - 4 East Baugh, Tiree
SIMx: £1,830 - Barguilean Farm : £1,440 - Laggan Farms : £1,180 and £1,050 - Barguilean Farm : £980 and £900 - 4 East Baugh.

OTM cows
£980 (2) - Achnacone Farm.
Bull SIM: £1,100 - Brenchoille Farm.

Top prices per kilo
Bullocks AAx: 235p (4) - Poltalloch : 234p - Barnakill
CHARx: 280p (5) - Auchlyne Farm : 273p (4), 272p (4) and 241p - Barnakill Farm.
LIMx: 288p (6) and 279 (3) - Garraron and Melfort Farms :

273p (4) - Barbreck, Lochgilphead : 268p - Tullochcan : 264p (3) - Garraron and Melfort Farms : 259p - High Balantyre : 254p (2) - Barbreck, Lochgilphead : 248p (2) - Ardchatten HF. SHOX: 239p, 232p and 225p - Barnakill Farm.

SIMx: 255p - Barnakill Farm : 247p (2) - Tiraghoil, Mull.
Heifers CHARx: 245p (4) - Barnakill Farm : 241p - Fearnoch : 240p - Barnakill Farm.

LIMx: 257p (8) - Garraron and Melfort Farm : 252p (2) - Achnacree Beag : 245p - Duncroisk : 245p (2) - Garraron and Melfort Farm : 243p - Tullochcan : 241p - High Balantyre : 240p (2) - Garraron and Melfort Farms.

SIMx: 224p (2) - Brenchoille.
Hoggs SUFFx: £61 - Drimmin Estate. BELTx: £58 - Brackley.

TEXx: £52 - Brackley.
CHEVx: £66 - Bagh Na Croabh, N Uist : £49 - Taylor Drive, Aberchirder. CROSS: £54 - Gallanachmore.

MULE: £78 - Gallanachmore: £68 - Rhugarbh Croft.
BF: £55 - Stroneskar

Rams TEX: £90 - Clachan, Tiree. CHEV: £80 - Ellary Farms. ZWA: £80 - 8 Milton, Uist. BF: £78 - Clachan Farms.
Eild ewes BFL: £86 - Barguilean Farm. TEXx: £78 - 14 Cleat, Barra : £65 - 92 Borve, Barra: £62 - Drimmin Estate.

CHEVx: £82 - Clachan, Tiree : £70 - Gallanachmore : £63 - Ellary Farms : £60 - 83 Borve, Barra. CROSS: £66 - Strathorchy : £63 - 83 Borve, Barra: £61 - 2 Bonawe Croft.

MULE: £64 - Clachan, Tiree.
BF: £60.50 - Stroneskar : £57 - Glenshellach : £53 - 6 Leanish, Barra. Ewes with single lambs at foot TEXx: £132 - 2 Bonawe Croft : £96 - Drimore Farm, Uist : £90 - 92 Borve, Barra.

CHEVx: £118 - Dunans : £116 - Strathorchy : £114 - Dunans : £110 - Maam : £104 - 2 Bonawe Croft : £102 - Ellary Farms.

CROSS: £98 - 83 Borve, Barra and Strathorchy : £96 - Maam Farm.

MULE: £124 - Saulmore : £120 - Clachan, Tiree : £118 - Dunans : £110 - Ellary Farms.

Ewes with twin lambs at foot
CHEVx: £150 - 75 Borve, Barra. CROSS: £138 - Strathorchy : £122 - 83 Borve, Barra : £116 - Ellary Farms : £100 - Bagh Na Croabh, N Uist : £99 - Strathorchy. MULE: £186 - Dunans : £178 - Saulmore : £177 - Clachan, Tiree : £160 - Dunans. BF: £116 - Ellary Farms : £104 - Glenbeg Farm : £100 - 83 Borve, Barra : £100 - Maam Farm.



A Landini from Argyll Agricultural Engineers taking part in the rally which raised thousands of pounds for charity.



Alastair Dixon from Mid Argyll with Ellie's brother, Fraser and dad, Angus.

North Uist tractor rally reaps £5,200 for islander Ellie's charity

MORE than 50 tractors of all shapes, sizes and ages recently took part in a special island rally for a very good cause.

The North Uist tractor rally was held on May 28 in memory of local girl Ellie MacDonald, who died in 2014 after a short battle with cancer, aged just 23.

North Uist Agricultural Society, led by secretary

Joan Ferguson, organised the event for the 1 Million Miles for Ellie charity, which raises money for Cancer Research UK, Maggie's Centres and Macmillan Cancer Support.

The rally was a major part of a fun-filled day at Hosta, with plenty of activities for children and adults. The colourful rally stopped at Clachan, Lochmaddy and

Sollas to allow engines to cool off before heading back to the main event at Hosta - and a hugely enjoyable day was rounded off, naturally, with an evening ceilidh.

Argyll was represented in the form of Lochgilphead's Alastair Dixon for Hamilton Brothers, while Argyll Agricultural Engineers, Oban, also sent over tractors

in support of the rally. Joan Ferguson said: 'North Uist Agricultural Society would like to thank everyone who made the tractor rally such a huge success.'

'The amazing sum of £5,200 was raised for 1 Million Miles for Ellie.'

Ellie's mum Michelle was delighted with the day, adding: 'Great fun, great people,

great community spirit, all round great day.'

As she thanked Joan, the society and everyone who came along to help, Michelle added: 'It was a day full of friendship, community and laughter.'

'Heartfelt thanks again to you all. Our journey together is truly an amazing and humbling one.'

Keeping farms safe

FARMERS in Argyll have been invited to a farm fire safety and crime prevention event.

The informal, free event has been organised jointly by NFU Scotland, Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Forestry Commission and Scottish Land and Estates.

Taking place at Luss Estates next Friday (June 17), the event will include practical demonstrations on security systems, crime prevention equipment and fire safety techniques.

Tom French of NFU Scotland said: 'Representatives from NFU Scotland, the police and the fire and rescue service will be on hand to provide advice and to discuss a wide range of issues.'

Friday's event will be held between 10.30am and 2.15pm at Duchlag Farm, Arden, by Luss.



Ellie's dad, Angus MacDonald, leads the convoy around the island.

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Business



Jennifer Nicoll.

Jennifer takes new HIE role

FORMER Tarbert Academy and Lochgilphead High School pupil Jennifer Nicoll has been appointed area manager for Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) for Argyll and the Islands.

Ms Nicoll, who is originally from Skipness, has a financial services background and has worked for a variety of international and UK-based organisations, most recently in Edinburgh.

She will be working from HIE's Lochgilphead office and will oversee the organisation's work across Argyll and Bute, Arran and Cumbræ.

She said: 'I am delighted to be back in Argyll and working on the area's continued economic and community development. There is so much across the region, with many new and growing businesses and dynamic communities helping to put the area on the international stage.'

'There are, of course, many challenges, too, not least the declining population in some parts of Argyll and Bute and the need to attract and retain young people in particular.'

'However, I do think the area is well placed to face those challenges and I am confident we can make real progress in the years ahead. I very much look forward to being part of that process.'

CalMac catering staff given a taste of culinary success

FERRY operator CalMac was shortlisted in the recent Food and Drink Awards.

The company narrowly missed out on a Scottish Sourcing gong for its usage of local products.

CalMac is a major supporter of many small- and medium-sized producers across its 200-mile network.

A spokeswoman for CalMac said: 'From serving local and, more broadly, Scottish produce in our dishes, through to stocking food, drink, artisan skincare and craft products, and local interest books and newspapers in our on-board shops, the company has shown long-term commitment to helping businesses in some of Scotland's most fragile economic areas.'

And Anne Mitchell, the company's onboard development manager, added: 'For many of our passengers, the ferry crossing is their first introduction to the islands.'

'The communities we serve make, grow, bake, brew and distil some

truly unique and delicious items and we are delighted to give these talented producers a platform for their businesses, as well as giving our customers a true taste of the areas we represent.'

'We are absolutely passionate about this commitment which is of immediate and obvious benefit to many businesses across our network. And we serve all of this up in our no-frills, good value, quality ingredients menu in our Mariners Cafes on board.'

All 10 of the company's major ferries are Taste our Best accredited by VisitScotland for using 50 per cent local and Scottish-sourced ingredients, and they were joined recently by the galley on MV Lochnevis – the smallest vessel in the fleet to make the grade.

Of CalMac's 62 on-board suppliers, more than 40 are from across the company's immediate network area – all of which generates an annual £5.2 million spend with these producers.

In addition, CalMac has, in

recent years, developed a programme of pop-up tastings and other opportunities on its ferries. Last year, for example, these ranged from book signings for an author from Coll, through to craft ale tastings for Colonsay Brewery and whisky from Bowmore; from the attendance of a National Trust for Scotland ranger on Arran sailings, through to tastings for Gigha halibut.

'The pop-ups are really popular with our customers,' said Anne. 'We have quite a variety of different people, businesses and groups which come on board a number of our vessels, offering everything from tastings to advice on what to do on the islands.'

'We even promote businesses which, for one reason or another – usually because it is a perishable item beyond our price point – we don't stock or serve.'

'But they are island producers and a pop-up on the ferry can really help them to broaden their public profile.'



Galley crew Joan MacLeod and Paul McCurdy on MV Lochnevis display their Taste Our Best accreditation and some of the food that won the accolade.

Oban economy is thriving with a diverse business community

MARTIN LAING
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THE ECONOMY of the Oban area is 'thriving' and out-performing the country as whole, according to a new report.

The report from the Oban, Lorn and the Isles community planning group (CPG) says economic confidence is good and the business community is diverse but warns of the need for improvements in some key areas.

The economic situation was highlighted last week at a meeting of the CPG in Oban High School.

A report to the CPG said: 'Last financial year saw continued investment from indigenous



Councillor Roddy McCuish.

businesses and interest from actual and potential inward investors. Overall business confidence remains steady.

'The Lorn Arc has unlocked significant additional investment, with Highlands and

Islands Enterprise securing approval for funding to create substantial acreage of industrial land at Glenshellach.

'There are some significant challenges for marine science businesses – for example, new legislation and licensing. However, the future growth of the marine science cluster at Dunstaffnage was boosted by additional 'incubator' businesses locating in the European Centre for Marine Biotechnology.'

'Unemployment across Argyll and the Islands has continued to improve, with claimant count rates in each travel-to-work area falling over the past year. The latest data gives an unemployment rate in the

Oban travel-to-work area as 1.2 per cent.'

However, the report also says: 'While the overall picture is positive, we have continuing anecdotal evidence that challenges in attracting and retaining staff are constraining business growth. Lack of appropriate housing has been cited as a reason in a number of cases.'

At the CPG meeting recently, some members voiced concerns about the roads infrastructure in the Oban area and the level of congestion already being experienced, with some suggesting economic growth will only make the situation worse unless there are significant improvements.

But Councillor Roddy Mc-

Cuish said: 'That is a problem every other town would love to have. Being too busy would be great for Oban and the wider area. There are many opportunities but we have to grab them.'

'I welcome the release of the industrial land at Glenshellach. This is great news.'

'There are people who want to come here and that has been done without any significant advertising. We are fortunate people want to relocate here.'

Duncan Martin, a member of Oban Community Council, pointed out that there was an issue with the number of young people leaving the area to work and study. He said: 'It is essential for the economy of Argyll that we have young people

coming here rather than going away from the area.'

Stuart Green, from Argyll and Bute Council's chief executive's unit, addressed the meeting to explain a number of initiatives that were already in place to boost the local economy.

Mr Green praised the work of a new economic forum and its high-profile chairman, Nicholas Ferguson, who also chairs Sky plc.

Mr Green said: 'The forum has been looking at what does well and what we can do to accelerate that. We need to get the message out that Argyll and Bute is a great place to live and work.'

'There are challenges for Oban but it has a thriving population and economy.'

Beth adds diploma to her portfolio

A YOUNG arts aficionado from Easdale is on course to complete a management qualification at City of Glasgow College this summer after successfully organising and staging a mentorship programme for some of the best creative talent in secondary schools on the West Coast.

Following the success of her 'portfolio weekend' at Cove Park in Garelochhead, where artist Sian MacQueen mentored aspiring young artists over two days, Beth Anderson is to graduate from City of Glasgow College with a Community Arts Management diploma.

Beth, a former pupil of Easdale Primary School and Oban High School, has seen her event idea rolled out as a regular fixture on the calendar of Tobermory-based multi-arts organisation Comar, where she is on placement as a creative apprentice while studying online at City of Glasgow College. Nineteen-year-old Beth,



Beth Anderson.

who undertook the distance learning course at City of Glasgow College last year, was delighted with the success of her event. The achievement was key to her attaining the necessary grade to complete her qualification.

'I hired an artist, Sian MacQueen, to mentor seven people – some from Oban, others from Lochgilphead – for three days in different techniques,'

explained Beth. 'I promoted the event to pupils in fifth and sixth year at school, and everyone enjoyed it. The event was a 'guinea pig' run, and now we are running more 'portfolio weekends' in art.'

'I pitched the idea for the 'portfolio weekend' to my assessor at City of Glasgow College. As part of the course, we have to stage our own event, presenting the idea to the company where we are on placement and pitching it to stakeholders and funders. We also take on training of other people and gain valuable experience working in a business environment. There are lots of resources in the college's online library, and we produce a report on our experiences while passing assessments and achieving different outcomes along the way.'

Comar supports and connects artists and audiences across Mull, Iona and beyond, informing and shaping communities through culture and creativity.

City of Glasgow College will, later this year, open the second phase of its £228million twin-site supercampus, which will feature state-of-the-art learning facilities and serve up to 40,000 students.

Following her graduation from City of Glasgow College this summer, Beth is set to undertake another college course in art and design before aiming to secure employment.

She said: 'In around third year at high school, I thought I would like to do art. My teacher, Val Hamilton, who remains active in Oban's arts community, was an inspiration to me. She organised to take us to degree shows in Glasgow and was always recommending events and exhibitions for us to attend.'

'Ultimately, I would like a secure job that allows me to be creative and where I can work towards an end goal. I would like to stay in Scotland but also get the opportunity to explore the rest of the world.'

Going green pays dividends for Pierhouse Hotel

CAROLINE WILLIS of The Pierhouse Hotel in Port Appin is encouraging other Argyll businesses to think green and reap the rewards.

As operations manager at the hotel, Caroline recently took part in the Resource Efficient Scotland Green Champions training in Glasgow.

Resource Efficient Scotland is a Zero Waste Scotland programme designed to provide a one-stop-shop to help businesses reduce their energy, water and raw materials usage. Taking

part in the course provides the skills and knowledge to identify opportunities to save money on energy, water and materials, be able to collect and analyse data, and bring about change.

Caroline said: 'One of the best things about Green Champions training is meeting people involved in the same process and sharing tips that will be beneficial to the organisation.'

'Networking is an important aspect – as well as meeting suppliers to see

what's available. It's great to put aside time in the diary for learning.'

'Apart from making our business greener, the training helps to save money too.'

The training is ideal for members of staff who have a responsibility for the environmental performance of their organisation and other environment champions.

For more information go to www.resourceefficientscotland.com/resource/green-champions-training or call 0808 808 2268.



Caroline Willis.

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To book a place on any of the above workshops please contact the Argyll and Bute Business Gateway team.

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01631 568000

Tiree's new whisky flies off the shelf

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

A WHISKY bottling company has been launched on Tiree, re-establishing the island's long association with the Scotch Whisky industry.

The initial 230 bottles offered for sale by the Tiree Whisky Company were snapped up within two days.

Often referred to as Tir an Eòrna (Land of Barley) in Gaelic, Tiree was once home to 50 distillers, yet the island's connection with the industry had long since been lost.

Now two local men, Alain Campbell and Ian Smith, have taken the first step to re-establish this connection by starting Tiree Whisky Company, formed to preserve and promote the island's whisky heritage.

Both Ian and Alain have spent a great deal of time researching the island's whisky history and now, after years of work, overturning various obstacles, they are delighted to have finally released their first bottling.

Named after an iron-screw steamer that ran aground off Hough on the isle of Tiree in 1885, the Cairnsmuir was released last month as part of A' Bhuain, Tiree's Homecoming Week.

The ship was carrying a 100-ton cargo of spirits and beer when she floundered, much of which washed up on the island's shores and was hidden or consumed before the gaidsearan (excisemen) could act.

Bottled in two editions, The Cairnsmuir Collectors' Edition – a 19-year-old Highland single malt bottled at natural cask strength (54.3 per cent), presented in a hand-crafted wooden presentation box, with a Tiree marble cork and limited to 75 bottles – and The Cairnsmuir, bottled from the same cask as the Collectors Edition but at a reduced strength of 46 per cent, presented in a tung wood presentation box and limited to 155 bottles – all 230 bottles sold out within two days of being released.

Ian said: 'We both have a keen



While the first bottlings are sold out, one is being auctioned for charity.

interest in the culture and the history of our island and have been discussing the best way of reviving a hugely important, yet often forgotten, part of the island's heritage: whisky production. We researched a number of possibilities and the best way to begin our project was to release a brand of whisky purchased from further afield, yet telling the local story of the SS Cairnsmuir.

'We were delighted with the response we received at A' Bhuain. Everyone was complimentary on our first product, both the way it looked and tasted, and we hope this will be the first step in re-establishing the island's whisky heritage.'

Although both editions are now sold out, bottle No 1 of the Collectors Edition is currently being auctioned on the company's website. Proceeds from the auction will be split between the RNLI and the Tiree Parties Committee.

'It's important to us that we are able to give back to the community and we thought this would be a great way to do so, right from the very start,' said Alain.

'The Tiree Parties Committee organises a number of events on the island for people of all ages and, of course, we appreciate the importance of the RNLI in a place like Tiree. Therefore, we are delighted to be supporting two worthwhile causes.'

To contact Tiree Whisky Company or to place a bid on bottle No. 1, visit www.tireewhiskycompany.com

Growth industry turns out a shore thing



Duncan Smallman forages for seaweed which, he says, has many health benefits.

A MARINE biologist with a love of both the sea and food has set up a new business offering seaweed foraging and harvesting services.

Duncan Smallman launched Slate Island Seaweed earlier this year with support from Business Gateway.

After gaining his PhD in Zoology at Aberdeen University, Duncan moved to Easdale and spent time working as a wildlife tour guide, as crew for the marine industry and as a seaweed culturist at Otter Ferry Seafish Ltd.

This experience made Duncan realise that there was a wealth of seaweed available in the Firth of Lorn that he could harvest and sell to restaurants. Combining his knowledge and skills also meant he could offer foraging tours so that people can explore the edible seashore, while having fun and sampling whichever seaweeds are in season.

Slate Island Seaweed is now taking

bookings for its summer foraging forays and is aiming for a busy season attracting families in the region as well as tourists.

Duncan said: 'I've been fascinated by the sea since I was young and always wanted to work in this area. Living on an island was fantastic and after working as a seaweed culturist for 18 months I knew I wanted to remain in the seaweed industry. It was just so much fun, so interesting and showed great potential for somewhere like coastal Argyll.'

'I was born in Japan and, when we moved back to the UK, brought some of the cultural influences with us, including eating a lot of seaweed growing up, so I knew the health benefits that including it in your diet brings. I felt there was a gap in the market as there was an abundance of diverse seaweed available right here on Easdale.'

'My idea was to offer a range of services, including educational sessions but with a focus on the foraging and harvesting side of things.'

The foraging tours are tailored so that everyone can enjoy them, from those who love the outdoors to food lovers on the hunt for natural ingredients.

Duncan added: 'As well as attending Business Gateway courses, I had one-to-one assistance from my adviser who helped me break down my tasks individually so I wasn't doing too much at one time. Running a business from a remote location does have its challenges but Business Gateway's support and expert advice made setting up the business so much easier.'

Visit www.slateislandsseaweed.com. To find out more about how Business Gateway can help you, call 01546 808 363 or visit www.bgateway.com/argyll-and-bute.

Gateway team gears up for Best fest

ARGYLL and Bute Council's Business Gateway team is once again sponsoring the craft tent at the popular Best of the West festival, as well as running a competition which gives the best of Argyll and Bute's craft businesses the opportunity to showcase and sell their products.

The annual two-day event will be held at Inveraray Castle on Saturday and Sunday, September 10 and 11.

More than 5,000 visitors are expected to attend the festival over the weekend and there is an opportunity for up to six local crafters to win a trade stand for one day within the craft tent.

Last year, the competition attracted a strong response from craft businesses across the area, which resulted in six winners selling their goods at the festival. Proving a huge hit with festival-goers, all six businesses had a successful weekend, not just in raising their profile but in making sales.

One of last year's winners, glass artist Kirsty Brady of A Touch of Glass, said: 'I was delighted to win the competition for a place in the craft tent at the festival. It was a huge success and I not only sold on the day but it has expanded my customer base as I was able to meet and show dozens of new and potential customers my products.'

Another winner, Margaret Ker of



Kirsty Brady at last year's festival.

Moine Mhor Jewellery, who creates silver jewellery and mosaics, added: 'The Best of the West festival was a fantastic opportunity to showcase my work and promote Moine Mhor.'

To enter, craft businesses are invited to describe in no more than 250 words why their enterprise and the products they sell represent the 'best in the west'. You can include up to five photographs and links to relevant websites or social media to support your entry. Entry is via email

to business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk. The closing date is 5pm on July 15. Competition terms and conditions are available at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/business-and-trade/business-gateway-service.

This year's festival will be headlined by Manran, Skipinnish and The League of Highland Gentlemen, with more acts still to be announced. The festival has become one of the most popular events in Scotland's cultural calendar, celebrating traditional music, family fun and showcasing Argyll's bountiful larder.

This year, the much-loved whisky tent will return, providing the perfect blend of live music and drams from more than 20 west coast distilleries, while a variety of craft ales and cocktails will also be available.

The popular live cooking demos from local, Scottish and international chefs will feature once again, while the Loch Fyne Oyster Bar, Churchill Venison, Bumble Puddings and many more will be offering delicious food throughout the weekend.

For more information on the festival and to buy tickets, visit www.bowfest.co.uk.

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/argyll-and-bute.



John Forteith.

John is top employee of the year

AN OBAN man has been named Employee of the Year at the Catering In Scotland Excellence Awards.

John Forteith won the coveted title as head of business development at Bidvest Foodservice Scotland, which serves hospitality customers throughout Scotland.

The CIS Excellence Awards combine Scotland's catering, hospitality and tourism industries and are seen as the ultimate accolade for hotels, restaurants, gastro pubs and individuals working in the sector in Scotland.

The award for Employee of the Year identifies the individual who most deserves recognition for their efforts and contribution to both their role and employer through dedication, loyalty and unique innovation, to name a few.

With a career in foodservice spanning more than 30 years and roles ranging from caterer to manufacturer to business owner, John has a wealth of knowledge of the Scottish food industry which was acknowledged by his well-deserved award win.

John's family firm, Forteith Foodservice, based in Oban, became part of the Bidvest Foodservice Scotland's (BFS) portfolio in 2012. Since then, John's passion for the Scottish food industry has helped enable BFS to increase its brand presence and demonstrate the company runs a sustainable operation.

BFS is now sourcing 600 Scottish-sourced products from 100 Scottish suppliers.

Jon Mack, general manager for BFS, said: 'John has worked hard on our local credentials, not only to help local businesses grow but also to do his bit for the communities that we operate from.'

'John has also taken on huge challenges to raise money for local charities and has built so many important local relationships. He is a credit to our business and to the local area.'

Now John is set to join six others to kayak the 50-mile perimeter of Loch Ness in one day to raise money for the MS Therapy Centre in Oban.

The challenge is expected to take 16 hours – if the weather is kind to them.



Alain Campbell and Ian Smith. Photograph: Iain Lamont

Derek Connery, chief executive of BID4OBAN, outlines the positives to be gained from supporting businesses in our town centres

Let's all shop local – for the benefit of our communities

LAST week we witnessed the final death throes of the once mighty BHS, an institution on the high street for more than 80 years.

While at the moment it seems unthinkable that one so big should fall, it's not so many years since the demise of Woolworth's and C&A.

The impact of the closure

of BHS stores in towns such as Kirkcaldy will be more significant than, say, the likes of Glasgow, but it's reminiscent of the effect that the closure of Woolworth's had on towns such as Oban.

If you take the example of Woolworth's, a national – in fact, multi-national – I think that there would be many

around the town who would say it was a loss and yet who still rail against other national retailers wishing to come in.

I think that what we should ask about prospective businesses coming into the town is: 'Do they add to what we can offer?'

I personally believe that in order for our shopping experience to be strong it also has to

have variety – and it is that mix that keeps our retail offering desirable.

A strong high street is all about attraction: whether it is a national or an independent, they should not always be viewed as competing each other but, rather, complementing each other. This is vital to the continued health of the high

street. Remember all these companies, big and small, fill shop units, employ staff, pay rates and contribute to our local economy and, big or small, they all face stiff competition from online retailers.

So the next time you are looking for an item and reach for the device that allows you to shop on a global high street, perhaps

you should ask the question: 'Could I buy it in town?' The online retailers would appear to offer greater variety and at cheaper prices but I am certain that similar items could be found locally and perhaps not as expensively as you might think.

The other thing to remember is that while you may save some money buying a bike online,

what happens when you need it repaired?

A final point to consider is that through employing local people and various other things, such as the BID levy, the retailers also give back to the community in a way that the online merchant does not. So shop local, whether it is independent or national, as we need both.

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Advisories Repaired.

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2017. FSH, Maroon, No advisories,
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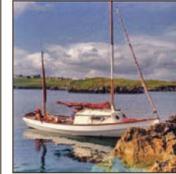
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01382 843415**

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15,250 miles.....£12,950
64 Renault Twingo DYN TCE 55, 3Dr, White, 13,600 Miles.....£8,295
14 Renault Clio Dyn M/Nav 1.2, 5 Dr Red, 10,850 Miles.....£9,250
63 Dacia Stepway Laureate, tce, black, 37,000 miles.....£6,750
62/13 Renault Megane dyn, 1.6, coupe, silver, 18,000 miles.....£9,450

13 Renault Megane, DYN, DCI, m/nav, sport touer, blue, 21,000 miles.....£9,450
13 Dacia Duster Laureate, DCI, 4x2, blue, 35,000 miles.....£9,250
12 Vauxhall Corsa, 1.4SE, 5Dr Grey, 55000 Miles.....£4,950
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Sandero shown is a Laureate 1.2 16V 75 from £7,995.
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Jaguar Land Rover deliver record fleet sales



Going above and beyond in Elgin.

KEEN eyed readers may have noticed that a certain 4x4 brand has had an increased presence within these pages over the past weeks and months and we wanted to take the opportunity to introduce them properly.

Formerly Frank Ogg Land Rover, Land Rover Elgin became part of the John Clark Motor Groups Pentland division in the summer of 2015. They joined 1100 colleagues who are already working for the award-winning group across an extensive brand portfolio which includes Jaguar, Land Rover, Audi, BMW, Seat, Skoda, Volkswagen, Volkswagen Commercial, Nissan, BMW Motorrad and Mini.

Part of the groups' ongoing growth strategy, Chairman John Clark is enthusiastic about the opportunity to deliver great experiences for

customers and employees alike: "With the help of our new colleagues we are confident that we will be able to build on this long history and deliver the same excellent levels of customer satisfaction experienced by our customers across the rest of our group."

Mr Clark was also keen to stress that people are the key to any successful business today: "As a family owned and run business our people are our most valuable asset in establishing a brand that our customers can trust. We are dedicated to investing in our people's development and working with the team at Elgin who will experience this ongoing commitment through our induction and in-dealer training programme." Under the leadership of Head of Business Ian Henderson and

his senior team of Adam Rhind, Ian Findlay and Frank Ingram, the dealership provides a full range of facilities including New and Approved Used Land Rover Sales with a wide selection of vehicles, Aftersales with a 7 ramp workshop and a dedicated Parts team selling the full range of Land Rover parts and accessories.

With a fantastic range of highly capable and luxurious vehicles and exciting new developments in the pipeline, Land Rover Elgin will continue to go above and beyond to ensure the best possible experience for customers and employees alike.

If you'd like to know more you can reach the Pentland Elgin team on 01343323710, or pay them a visit at Moycroft Industrial Estate, Elgin, IV30 1XZ.

JAGUAR Land Rover UK's fleet sales grew 84% in Q1 2016 compared to Q1 2015, as its key fleet-friendly models increased their share of the fleet market quicker than rivals

Jaguar fleet sales alone grew exponentially by 194% in Q1 2016 compared to Q1 2015, as Land Rover's increased by 53%

One-in-three fleet cars sold in all the segments that Land Rover competes in during Q1 2016 was a Land Rover vehicle

The Range Rover Evoque took a greater share of the UK fleet sector in Q1 2016 than premium rivals

More growth to come as early figures suggest the new F-PACE – the best-selling Jaguar ever – will see one in six sales go to the fleet sector

Wolverhampton, UK, Tuesday 7th June 2016 – Jaguar Land Rover UK's fleet sales grew by 84% in Q1 2016 compared to Q1 2015, as XE, XF, Evoque and Discovery Sport models all posted rapid fleet sales growth - evidence of Jaguar Land Rover's commitment to ensure 25% of its global sales will be to fleet and business customers by 2020.

With the introduction of business-friendly models, including the XE and XF with CO2 from as low as 99g/km, Jaguar UK saw fleet sales grow by 194% from Q1 2015 to Q1 2016. Land Rover UK's performance in Q1 2016 was so strong that one-in-three fleet cars sold in sectors the brand competes in was a Land Rover. The figures only include fleet sales classified as B, F or K by the SMMT*.

Jeremy Hicks, Jaguar Land Rover UK MD, said: "Our Fleet & Business 2015 results are fantastic and prove we have an effective formula in place; we have desirable and sector appropriate cars, efficient Ingenium engines and class leading total cost of ownership – together, these factors deliver a compelling proposition for Fleet Managers to add Jaguar Land Rover to their fleet lists. With this formula in mind, and with an ever expanding range of stunning Jaguar and Land Rover vehicles on the horizon, I'm confident that there's plenty more fleet growth to come."

All of Jaguar Land Rover's key fleet models – the XE, XF Evoque and Discovery Sport – grew their share of the fleet sector more than any of their rivals when comparing the whole of calendar year 2015. Both the Jaguar XE and XF increased the shares of their fleet sectors more than competitor models. Likewise, where the Range Rover Evoque and Discovery Sport grew their share of the fleet sector, rival models saw their share shrink. The Range Rover Evoque was a star performer in Q1 2016, outselling all of its premium rivals with 18.3% of fleet sales.

Fleet sales for 2016 are already on track to be the best yet, with a full-year of Ingenium-powered XE and XF sales, and the arrival of Evoque Convertible and F-PACE. Already the best-selling Jaguar ever, one-in-six F-PACE sales is predicted to go to the fleet sector. Jaguar Land Rover

predicts that its fleet sales in 2016 will grow by 50% compared with 2015, with further double-digit growth through to 2020.

Jon Wackett, Jaguar Land Rover General Manager for Fleet and Business, said:

"Our Q1 2016 sales are a great example of the fleet-suitability that many of our new vehicles have. We've really disrupted a market that has been traditionally dominated by three or four brands by introducing extremely desirable cars that represent real-world value for money. We are strategically aiming to balance volume of sales against maintaining strong residual values which is a core buying decision for our existing and future customers."

At the heart of Jaguar Land Rover UK's fleet and business sales successes this year are the technologies that underpin the range. The aluminium-intensive construction, ultra-efficient Ingenium engines and low ownership costs have ensured there's both a financial and an emotional reason to opt for a Jaguar or a Land Rover.

As well as a £3bn investment in facilities and new models in 2015, Jaguar Land Rover UK has also significantly invested in the corporate sales structure. A dedicated field-based sales team has been introduced across 50 Jaguar and Land Rover retailers supported by a further 22 people and led by five senior-level managers responsible for fleet and business sales.

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14/64 Freelander 2 2.2 SD4 Metropolis Auto Santorini Black, 14,210 miles	£28,850
14/14 Discovery 3.0 SDV6 GS Auto Fuji White, 26,136 miles	£31,850
13/13 Discovery 3.0 SDV6 HSE Auto Indus Silver, 37,414 miles	£35,350
14/64 Discovery 3.0 SDV6 HSE Auto Indus Silver, 10,682 miles	£42,900
15/15 Discovery 3.0 SDV6 HSE Auto Fuji White, 14,990 miles	£44,000
15/64 Discovery 3.0 SDV6 HSE Luxury Auto Causeway Grey, 15,379 miles	£44,250
15/15 Discovery Sport 2.2 SD4 SE Tech Fuji White, 18,750 miles	£30,950
12/61 Range Rover Evoque 2.2 SD4 Prestige Auto Orkney Grey, 46,519 miles	£25,650
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Welcome to our new recruitment pages. The first thing you will notice is that we have a new online jobs platform in the shape of HIJOBS. HIJOBS is a cost effective, technology driven job board serving Argyll & Bute, Arran and the Highlands and Islands

HIJOBS is the fastest growing jobs site in the area, delivering well over 300,000 unique visitors since its launch. It has helped over 900 employers advertise tens of thousands of local jobs. Couple this with the unbeatable response delivered by our stable of local weekly papers and we offer advertisers a complete, value for money solution to their recruitment needs.

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Closing date for the above 5 posts: 24 June 2016.

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TO APPLY ONLINE VISIT: www.hie.co.uk/vacancies JOB REFERENCE: 592
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The duties of this post include all aspects of parcels and bulk pallet deliveries in the Lochgilphead / Campbeltown areas. This position includes an element of lifting and manual handling. Applications, including a full CV, should be made in writing or e-mail to: Mr Campbell Ferrier, Operations Manager, Menzies Parcels, 7 Lyon Road, Paisley, Renfrewshire PA3 3BQ
Campbell.ferrier@menziesdistribution.com

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Or by e-mail to: hr@gleaner.co.uk

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RECRUITMENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH HIJOBS

Vancouver celebrates Tیره emigrant who became the city's first mayor

THE CITY of Vancouver has recently honoured its first ever mayor, who came from Tیره.

Malcolm MacLean was born on the island in 1944, and became mayor of the Canadian city on May 3, 1886.

Vancouver's civic authorities decided to mark the 130th anniversary of his election with a moving ceremony.

A number of interested Vancouverites also took part in a wreath-laying commemoration at his grave in Mountain View Cemetery.

In preparation, the city council said it recently learned many fascinating facts about

Mayor MacLean. International commemoration coordinator Louise MacDougall began the ceremony by reading a letter from the convener of the Tیره Community Council, John Holliday, addressed to Vancouver Council. The letter congratulated the city on remembering its first mayor and his Tیره roots, and mentioned that a large photo of Malcolm MacLean occupies a central place in the island's historical centre, An Iodhlann.

Ms MacDougall, a Canadian historical songwriter who also has Tیره ancestry, then invited the council to join her in singing her song,

First Mayor of Vancouver, a somewhat cheeky history detailing the family's 1846 emigration from Cornaigbeg on Tیره, assisted by the Duke of Argyll, as well as the conditions of Vancouver at the time of election.

In May 1886, Vancouver was a clearing carved out of the Pacific rainforest, with 500 voters and 600 habitable buildings along mud streets full of stumps. But all of that burned to the ground a few weeks later in a forest fire.

Undaunted, the newly elected Mayor MacLean called his council to meet in a tent as they proceeded to reinvent the city

from the ground up. To conclude, Ms MacDougall presented the council with a picture of Mayor MacLean as well as the letter sent from Tیره.

Ms MacDougall is writing a book about Mayor MacLean, to whom she feels a connection because he emigrated from Tیره on the same ship as her own MacDougall and Clark ancestors, who are the forebears of former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark.

Ms MacDougall also has a video about the First Mayor which was screened at the Tیره Homecoming - A' Bhuan 2016, held last month.



L-R: Councillor George Affleck, Councillor Melissa De Genova, Vancouver entrepreneur Mike Andrieshyn, Vancouver songwriter Louise MacDougall, Deputy Mayor Heather Deal, Councillor Andrea Reimer, Councillor Elizabeth Ball, Councillor Adriane Carr.

PUBLIC NOTICES

First Registration of a Croft
Mary Catherine Cattnach has registered her croft 7 Keil, Benderloch, Ardhattan and Muckkairn on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 6th March 2017. Details of the register may be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2696.

First Registration of a Croft
Campbell Cameron and John Stuart Cameron has registered their croft Achnamone Ledaig, Ardchattan & Muckkairn on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 1 March 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2498.

First Registration of a Croft
Catherine MacKinnon has registered her croft 15 Cleadale, Isle of Eigg on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 20 Mar 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is I3516.

First Registration of a Croft
Isobel Mary Baker has registered her croft 25 Anahelt, Anahelt, Ardnamurchan & Sunart, on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 23rd February 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2731.

The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (NORTH BALLACHULISH TO CORRAN FERRY CYCLE TRACK) (REDETERMINATION OF MEANS OF EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF PASSAGE) ORDER 2016

The Scottish Ministers give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and 152(2) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984(a).

The effect of the Order is as described in The Oban Times dated 21st April 2016, and the Edinburgh Gazette Issue Number 27706 on the 22nd April 2016. The Order comes into force on Thursday the 16th of June 2016. A copy of the Order as made, together with a plan showing the length of road involved, may be inspected free of charge during normal business hours from the 2nd of June 2016 until the 14th of July 2016 at Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF. At the offices of Highland Council, Service Point, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William, PH33 6EL and the Post Office, Ballachulish, Loanfern, Argyll, PH49 4JB.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at: <http://www.transport.gov.scot/road/road-and-traffic-orders/north-west-traffic-orders>

H D GILLIES
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF.

www.highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
16/01864/FUL		Drimnatorran Farm House, Strontian, Acharacle	Repair/replace damaged vertical cladding. Remove existing roof materials and form pitched roof with profiled roofing sheet finish
16/02252/FUL		Tigh Na Cheo, Garbhean Crescent, Kinlochleven	Erect letting chalet to replace existing outbuilding

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: epanning@highland.gov.uk

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First Registration of a Croft
John Henderson has registered his croft, 19 Moss, Tیره, on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by February 9, 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2706.

First Registration of a Croft
The Executors of the late Lachlan Neil Black have registered their crofts at 5 Achosragan and 5 Achosragan (share), Lismore and Appin on the Crofting Registers held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 19th February 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number are C2716 and C2717.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll Bute COUNCIL
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

PLANNING

These applications listed below may be inspected at Oban Lorn and Isles area office Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, between 09:00-12:30 and 13:30-17:00hrs Monday to Friday and 10:00-12:30 and 13:30-17:00hrs on Wednesday or at the Mid Argyll Kintyre and Isles area office 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday and at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Refval	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
16/01369/PPP	Site for the erection of 4 dwellinghouses	Land West of Lag An Fhiodhain North Connel Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Connel
16/01508/PPP	Site for erection of dwellinghouse	6 Heilipol Isle of Tیره Argyll and Bute PA77 6TY	Tیره Area Office
16/01524/PP	Change of use from dwellinghouse (class 9) to guest house (class 7) and erection of extension (part retrospective)	Excise House Lagavulin Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA42 7DX	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
16/01483/PP	Erection of 12 dwellinghouses	Land East of Lynn Of Lorn Nursing Home (Phase 2) Benderloch Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Connel
16/01497/PP	Erection of lattice telecommunications tower (overall structure height 11 metres) and associated works	Land Approx 324M South West of Brennan Calgary Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Denaig
16/01450/PP	Conversion of garage into self-catering accommodation for holiday let purposes	Craigdarroch Lochdon Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA64 6AP	Sub Post Office Craignure
16/01325/PP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 13/00853/PPP (Site for the erection of 2 dwellinghouses and formation of new access)	Land Southwest of Ulva Cottage Salen Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull

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

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First Registration of a Croft
Richard Sidwick has registered his croft Woodcroft, Kilvaree, By Oban, Argyll. PA37 1RN on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 20th February 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is A1463

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BALLACHUISH (Loan Fern): Former bank premises suitable for - redevelopment/conversion - 49 sq.m. EPC:Upon request

www.sva-auctions.co.uk

WANTED

Maggie and Nick are happy to be on the move to either Seil, Luing, Kerrera, Lismore or Easdale. Seeking a long term let from July - prefer 2/3 bedrooms and garden space for us and visiting family.

Contact email:
maggiefarrell1304@gmail.com
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0141 433 2621

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Large 4+ bedroom family house wanted
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TO LET - 2 Bedroom Flat Central Oban.
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Landlord reg:
418364/130/01491

PROPERTY OF THE MONTH

Island Cabins, Strongarbh

- Features**
- Detached Cabin
 - 2 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom
 - Central Location
 - Carport & Private Garden
 - Great Rental Investment
 - EPC Rating - E53



Description - 10 The Cabins is a detached 2 bedroom wooden framed cabin situated above the town of Tobermory on the Isle of Mull.

Rooms: Hall - Lounge - Kitchen Conservatory - 2 Bedrooms Bathroom - Car Port

OIRO £100,000



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Plan to make more room for apprentices in housing sector

A NEW drive to get more Modern Apprentices in the housing sector has been launched.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA) have announced joint plans to boost the number of apprentices employed by housing associations and co-operatives.

The plan was unveiled at the SFHA's annual conference in Glasgow.

The joint-effort to extend the number of Modern Apprentices in the housing sector forms part of wider plans supporting business and industry to meet Scottish Government targets of an increase from 25,000 to 30,000 new apprentices each year by 2020.

The conference also saw the finale of SFHA's annual Apprenticeships Challenge - launched earlier this year during Scottish Apprenticeship Week.

As part of the challenge young people from across the sector created videos to how apprenticeships had helped them.

'Housing associations play an important role in communities across Scotland and the SFHA's commitment to increasing apprenticeship opportunities will not just benefit the future of the sector, but will also benefit young people across the country.'

Katie Hutton, SDS director of national training programmes, highlighted the benefits of apprenticeships to employers and individuals.

The joint plan aims to increase the overall number of apprenticeships in the sector; the number of employers offering opportunities

and the range of apprenticeships on offer.

Katie said: 'Modern Apprenticeships offer young people the chance to work, learn and earn. They also provide employers with the opportunity to develop and grow their own future workforce.'

'Housing associations play an important role in communities across Scotland and the SFHA's commitment to increasing apprenticeship opportunities will not just benefit the future of the sector, but will also benefit young people across the country.'

SFHA chief executive Mary Taylor said: 'We are delighted to announce the creation of this joint plan with Skills Development Scotland.'

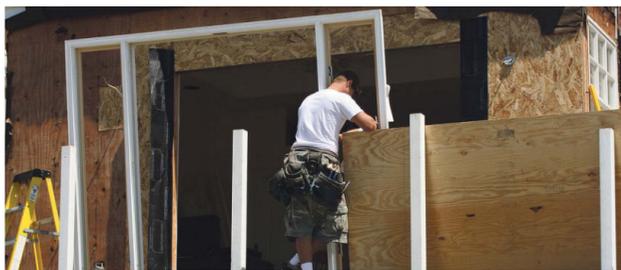
'Creating opportunities for people to learn and get onto the career ladder is vital to ensure that the social housing sector grows and continues to thrive.'

'Increasing the types and number of apprenticeships available will allow our sector to have a diverse range of skilled workers who are able to provide the housing and services that tenants require now and in the future.'

Megan Morrison, based in Bute, was one of the apprentices both competing in the Apprentice Challenge and sharing her experiences.

She said: 'It really appealed to me that I would be learning on-the-job and gaining work and life experience.'

'I learn something new every day, which I believe is building up and strengthening my self-confidence.'



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Increasing your property's appeal - open-plan living

OPEN-PLAN living is a trend that is here to stay but, before embarking on any renovations, you should consider carefully if it is desirable for your lifestyle and home.

Is it right for you? While a small flat could benefit greatly from a feeling of spaciousness, a detached house with a large family will clearly need more

than one communal area. Whatever you decide, you'll want to ensure your space is designed as efficiently as possible to maximise impact and increase your property value.

Speak to the local authority. Before knocking down walls to create an open-plan living space, make sure you speak to a council planning officer or chartered surveyor to check the wall is not load-bearing and find out if planning permission is needed.

You will also need to consider ventilation

and storage. Removing walls will mean less storage space - therefore, careful design is needed to hide clutter. If a kitchen is included in your space, an efficient extractor fan will avoid cooking smells drifting through your living areas.

Use colour to your advantage. Decorating with neutral colours retains a sense of openness, while areas can be defined through careful use of accessories. Display splashes of colour and texture with rugs and cushions to create a sense of warmth. Remember, open-plan doesn't have to mean spartan.

Carefully plan your lighting. Each area could be lit differently to create zones and enhance the sense of spaciousness. Remember, while your kitchen requires brighter lights, the dining area could be softer with more functional lighting in the lounge for reading or studying.

Break up large areas using your furniture. A carefully-placed sofa will create a cosy lounge area while still maintaining an impression of space. By using these ideas, you will ensure your open-plan living space is spacious and inviting as well as adding to the value of your home.

Thinking of letting?



Are you thinking of letting your property in Scotland? There are a few things you should know, and yes, it's a long list. But don't panic. At West Property, we can deal with everything and get your property compliant for letting. Over the next two weeks we will cover the current legislation, safety regulations and other considerations you will need to make to ensure you meet your legal responsibilities. There are other considerations too including the property size, type, heating systems, duration of let offered, decoration, furnishings etc. so this is not an exhaustive list, merely a starting point.

Lenders permission: You must ensure you have permission from your lender to rent the property. Most, if not all, residential mortgages will include a clause that either prohibits you from letting your property or requires that you seek permission from your lender before doing so. This type of clause is especially common in more recent mortgages. Don't just assume you can go ahead and treat your property as a buy to let because you want to.

Insurance: It sounds pessimistic, but it's actually just common - and financial - sense. What if there was a flood at the property? Could you afford to repair the damage and find alternative accommodation for your tenant out of your ready resources? Or what if your tenant failed to pay the rent? If you rely on the rental income to meet the mortgage payments, you could end up

in a serious financial mess if the rent isn't forthcoming, for whatever reason.

Landlord registration: You must register with the local authority and must display your registration number on all advertising materials/adverts. If you're a landlord letting out your own property in Scotland, you must register with Landlord Registration central online system for Scotland. To become a registered private landlord, you must meet the 'fit and proper person' criteria.

Repairing standard: This is the minimum condition standard which can be enforced by the Private Rented Housing Panel (PRHP). If a tenant or third party (for the time being a local authority) believes that a rented house does not meet that standard, an application can be made for a decision by a PRHP on whether or not the landlord has complied with that duty. The committee can then order the landlord to carry out the necessary repairs. Various enforcement powers apply if the landlord then does not do so.

Energy performance Certificate (EPC): You must display an EPC in the rental property (a requirement since January 2009) and display the EPC Rating on all advertising.

Tenant Information Packs (TIP): Landlords are required to issue tenants with TIP prior to the start of the tenancy. Landlords face fines of up to £500 for non-compliance.

There's more, so remember to check out next week's edition where we will cover electrical, gas, fire regulation and much more. Remember, you can always call me to discuss how West Property can help you navigate the minefield of legal responsibilities.

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Properties for sale and let

Moorcroft, North Connel

- Detached 5 bedroom cottage with self contained holiday rental
- Additional 1.5 Acre paddock/potential building plot
- EPC Rating - F(34)

NEW LISTING OIRO £440,000

Stunning detached 5 bedroom cottage with self contained holiday rental, loch side views, large mature garden & additional land available by separate negotiation.

Merlin, Craignure

- Spacious Detached Bungalow
- 3 Bedrooms / 2 Shower Rooms
- Mature garden
- Stunning panoramic views
- Within walking distance of Craignure Ferry Terminal
- EPC Rating - F (18)

OIRO £255,000

Merlin is a delightful 3 bedroom detached bungalow enjoying uninterrupted panoramic views of the Sound of Mull and Loch Linnhe from its secluded position above Craignure on the Isle of Mull. The main living space comprises a large lounge to the front, kitchen, dining room, utility, conservatory at the rear.

Glenmore Road, Oban

- Detached house
- 3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Mezzanine floor
- Quiet location
- Lovely views over Oban
- Well maintained property
- EPC Rating - F (33)

OIRO £200,000

Whinfield is a detached 3 bedroom property situated in an elevated position overlooking Oban. The house would make an ideal family home with its excellent location on Pulpit Hill, great layout and well proportioned rooms.

Ardtun Road, Bunessan

- Detached Bungalow
- 3 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom
- Beautiful Views
- Close to Village Amenities
- Holiday Rental Potential
- EPC Rating - D55

OIRO £200,000

Uisgean - a delightful detached bungalow overlooking Loch an Lathaich and the village of Bunessan on the Isle of Mull. The property comprises a glazed porch, lounge, kitchen diner with utility room at the rear.

4 Stevenson Street, Oban

- One bedroom flat
- Located Centrally in Oban
- Unfurnished
- White goods included
- Council Tax Band tbc
- EPC - D
- Landlord Reg: 91986/130/31040
- Deposit and References required

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Castle Road, Oban

- 2 Bedroom flat in Oban
- Semi-furnished with White Goods
- EPC - C (70)
- Landlord Reg: 414627 / 130 / 26301
- Deposit & References Required
- AVAILABLE NOW.

AVAILABLE £500 Per Calendar Month

Top floor flat on Castle Road, Oban. The accommodation comprises of 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom, lounge and kitchen.

Stevenson Street, Oban

- Modern 1 Bedroom with Mezzanine floor
- Oban Town Centre
- Deposit & references required. Council Tax Band B.
- EPC Rating - Band C (79), Landlord Reg No: 362579/130/02211

AVAILABLE £485 Per Calendar Month

A modern 1 bedroom flat located on Stevenson Street, Oban. The semi-furnished flat is comprised of combined lounge and kitchen area with spiral staircase to a large mezzanine floor which could be used as a guest bedroom or office.

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KOOKI REAR CHILD BIKE SEAT red and grey rear child bike carrier/seat. 3point harness, adjustable feet positions. Instruction book. Benderloch, £15 Telephone 01631 720305.

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CREELS 5 good prawn creels with ropes and buoys, £60 Telephone 01397 772522 Corpach or 07900 447995.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

CHEST FREEZER Scandinavian chest freezer. W 93cm Ht 84cm D 60cm, VGC, £40 Telephone 07881 866066.

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PERSONALS

He's tried to keep it quiet!

But he's showing all the signs. He's the birthday boy today and he is no longer "69" So just in case he doesn't say or tries to pull a shifty the family want you all to know that Mark has turned 70!

THANK YOU

Elda Sharp would like to thank family and friends for visits and get well cards during her recent stay in hospital. Special thanks to the staff of wards A and I in the Lorn and Islands, Oban and also staff in the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, for their care and attention.

THANK YOU

Bill Gray Piano Tuner
 Over the past sixty years it has been a privilege and a pleasure to tune and repair pianos throughout Argyll and Bute. Now the time for retirement is approaching on the 30th June I send all my customers a big THANK YOU and best wishes to all. Sincerely Bill Gray

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2016 Gregor Cameron Consultancy Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final



INVERARAY vs KYLES ATHLETIC Saturday 25 June 2016 Taynuilt Sports Field Throw up 4pm

The 112th Gregor Cameron Consultancy Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final takes place on Saturday 25 June 2016 as rivals Inveraray and Kyles Athletic clash at the Taynuilt Sports Field.

The tournament is open to all south senior sides playing in shinty's top three tiers and it was first contested in 1879 when Glasgow Cowal emerged victors.

Inveraray go into this year's final as underdogs but they have won the famous trophy 13 times since 1995. They beat Aberdour 3-1 in this

year's quarter-finals with player / manager Ruaraidh Graham, Neil Shaw and Lewis Montgomery all on target. They then defeated Glasgow Mid Argyll 2-1 in their semi-final tie last month courtesy of goals from Lewis MacNicol and Garry MacPherson.

Holders Kyles Athletic are going for "four-in-a-row" in this competition. Five-goal Dunkie Kerr helped them to a resounding 12-0 victory over Bute which secured a semi-final spot against Oban Camanachd. This was a repeat of last year's

final which Kyles won 4-2. They once again edged out the Mossfield men, 2-1 last weekend, as goals from Sandy MacKenzie and Innes MacDonald secured the chance to retain the trophy once more.

Archie Robertson from the Glasgow Celtic Society said, "We are very much looking forward to another successful day at Taynuilt after the success of last year's final. We'd like to thank sponsors Gregor Cameron Consultancy, the Taynuilt Sports Council and Taynuilt Shinty Club for their

co-operation in the lead up to the big day."

The Glasgow Celtic Society will once again honour the winning team from 50 years ago. Kyles Athletic stalwart and captain of the 1966 winning side, Chic Jamieson, will lead the surviving veterans as they are introduced to the supporters.

A large crowd is expected and with both teams playing attractive shinty, an entertaining encounter is assured.

Throw up is at 4pm and the match will be broadcast live on BBC Alba.

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Disappointing end to a good season for new Saints' boss

Oban Saints 1
Shawlands FP 1
SAFL Premier Division

SAINTS played their final home game of the 2015-16 season at Glencruitten last Saturday afternoon against Shawlands.

Despite the oppressive heat, and there being nothing but pride at stake, the sides produced an entertaining spectacle for the Saints faithful.

Manager Alex Craik's selection options were dealt a severe blow when Dougal Graham and Craig Campbell had to call off through injury, joining Martin Bonar and Myles McAuley in the treatment room. Adding to the manager's problems were unavailable trio of Donald Campbell, Jamie Graham and David McArthur resulting in yet another shuffle of the pack for the gaffer.

Ross Maitland made the switch from attack to defence slotting in at right back alongside skipper Marc MacCallum, Dene Cassells and Scott Maitland. Willie Gemmell came into the midfield alongside Paul Kerr and Paul Carmichael with Allan Mackay, making his farewell

home appearance for the club, spearheading the attack flanked by Dean Smith and Craig MacEwan. Goalkeeper Thomas McCulloch completed the line-up with Keith Millar dropping to the bench where he was kept company by manager Craik.

The visitors were content to sit in and hit Saints on the counter attack, a ploy which paid off for them just after the half hour.

Dene Cassells matched a good run from Mark Watt to get on the end of a long ball out from the back eventually getting in a sliding challenge to concede a corner kick.

Gavin McCracken's outswinger from the left was met by the unmarked Ross McDougall who looped a header over Thomas McCulloch and into the net to put the Warriors the lead.

Almost immediately after the restart Anthony Curran produced an excellent save low down to his left to deny Dean Smith an equaliser, clawing away Dean's shot and getting just enough on it to send the ball agonisingly out of the reach of Allan Mackay at the far post.

In the 34th minute Craig Mac-

Ewan found his way through the solid Warriors defence and from the left of the box sent a cross to the back post for Paul Carmichael who made good contact



Allan Mackay has decided to hang up his boots.

with his header down into the dry Glencruitten turf but unfortunately over the crossbar.

Saints equalised just before the interval and fittingly it was Allan Mackay who made it onto the score sheet on his final home appearance.

Mackay peeled off at the back

post for a Ross Maitland cross from the right and cushioned a cut back to Craig MacEwan who had the ball taken away from him by the arm of central defender Billy Gracie.

Referee Gordon Kelso immediately blew for a penalty kick with Mackay eager to accept the challenge from the spot.

Allan calmly slotted the ball to Curran's left leaving the big keeper rooted on his goal line.

In the 51st minute a long Willie Gemmell throw from level with the penalty spot on the Saints right was punched clear by Curran with David McKay sending a raking pass forward looking for the run of Watt.

The livewire striker turned inside Dene Cassells and sent a powerful shot on target which Thomas McCulloch did well to beat away but only as far as Mark Robertson who angled a shot past McCulloch which Paul Kerr managed to intercept on the goal line with a clearance on the half volley.

Craik made his only change in the 58th minute replacing Willie Gemmell with Keith Millar a



Shawlands keeper Anthony Curran punches clear from Dene Cassells.

move which also brought about a switch to a 4-4-2 formation.

Saints needed more width to get behind the solid Shawlands defence and the instructions from the manager was for full backs Ross and Scott Maitland to push forward at every opportunity.

The manager's tactical switch looked like it might pay divi-

dends with Saints finding ways through the visitors' defensive shield on a number of occasions with Paul Carmichael sending a flashing left foot drive from 16 yards just wide of Curran's left hand post.

Carmichael then got in a good hook shot but once again Curran was equal to the task tipping the ball round the

post for a corner kick. Having successfully blunted the Saints' attack, the visitors committed more men to attack for the final minutes but the Saints' defence, lead manfully by skipper Marc MacCallum, stood firm to close out the match and earn a share of the points which, on the balance of chances created, was a fair result.

Campbeltown Pupils 2
Oban Saints 1
SAFL Premier Division

SAINTS brought the curtain down on a league season which started way back on August 15 at a sun-drenched Kintyre Park, Campbeltown, last Sunday.



Alex Craik bundles the ball home for Saints' equaliser.

An Argyll derby with the hosts desperate for all three points to avoid relegation was to prove a fitting end to a debut season of highs and lows for manager Alex Craik and his charges.

Saints were down to the bare bones with only 11 available players and some of those play-

ing through the pain barrier.

As was to be expected, the Pupils need for the three points saw them do most of the early pressing, particularly down their right hand side where the powerful running of right back John McCallum was a constant threat.

Despite the early pressure, the Saints' back four were coping well and denied the hosts any clear sights of goal. A mistimed tackle on Keith Mitchell by Allan Mackay gave the Pupils' left back a chance to launch a high ball into the Saints box.

Martin McCallum sent a header back across goal which Thomas McCulloch couldn't gather at the first attempt, letting the ball squirm from his grasp to Ryan McConnachie. The Pupils' striker skilfully took the ball around the Saints keeper but had his shot blocked by a timely Marc MacCallum interception at the expense of a corner kick.

After a brief stoppage for some treatment to Martin McCallum the Pupils' winger lined up an outswinging corner from the right which he sliced horribly towards the goal and away from the assembled throng on the six-yard line. Thomas McCulloch attempted to claw the ball over

his crossbar but the dip and swerve beat his right hand and the head of Scott Maitland guarding the back post to nestle in the back of the net.

A hugely fortuitous goal for the home side but just the slice of good fortune required when battling relegation.

Neither keeper was seriously troubled during what remained of the first half and on referee John Scott's whistle the players trooped off for rest and a chance to take on some much needed fluids.

Saints made a good start to the second half but again found the Pupils defence a tough nut to crack. Although they seemed content to hold onto their one goal lead the Pupils did venture forward on occasion and tested Thomas McCulloch with a header from Ryan McConnachie and rasping 25-yard drive from Liam Renton which McCulloch acrobatically tipped over his bar.

When the Saints goal did come it was from an unlikely source and in rather unfortunate circumstances for the Pupils' keeper. Allan Mackay was upended on the corner of the Pupils box by Ryan Gilchrist for a 76th minute free kick. Donald Campbell drilled in a low shot from the edge of the box which Lamont spilled straight to Alex Craik who bundled the ball over the line from four yards.

With just five minutes remaining, the home side's increased sense of endeavour finally bore fruit when Mitchell picked up a loose ball on the halfway line and was allowed to advance unchallenged to the edge of the Saints box. The diminutive full back threaded a pass into the box for his colleague from the opposite flank John McCallum.

McCallum thumped a shot off the crossbar but his momentum carried him forward allowing him to get above McCulloch

and head the rebound into the unguarded net for the winning goal.

Mr Scott, who handled a potentially tricky fixture well, brought proceedings to an end confirming Campbeltown Pupils' place in the Premier Division and consigning Saints to fourth place in the league.

Manager Craik said: 'It's been a rollercoaster of a season. Our league form was inconsistent but if you had said to me at the start of the season that we would reach the semi-final of the Scottish Cup, win the Jimmy Marshall Cup and finish fourth in a very competitive Premier Division, I would have bitten your hand off. I've enjoyed every minute of it.'

'The boys will take a short, but well-earned break before we start pre-season training in preparation for the D&K Lafferty Cup Tournament which takes place on Saturday July 2.'

John makes his point in Catalunya

CONNEL'S John McPhee impressed on a replacement Mahindra chassis to take advantage of multiple retirements and clinch 15th place at Circuit de Catalunya in Barcelona last Sunday.

The Racing Steps Foundation-backed rider, who began from 26th place on the grid, was still struggling with gearbox issues, but on a new, more stable chassis he was able to make his way up the order as a number of riders ahead crashed around the newly configured circuit.

Following the death of a Moto2 rider Luis Salom on Friday, race officials amended the track configuration and opted to use the Formula 1 layout.

As each rider lost their position, including all three of the works Aspar/Mahindra riders, McPhee remained consistent in his approach, making few mistakes.

The Scot battled long and hard in a pack that included Livio Loi (RW Racing/KTM), the fellow Mahindra-powered bike of Tatsuki Suzuki (CIP-Unicom Starker), Karel Hanika (Platinum

Moto 3

Bay Real Estate/Mahindra) and the recovering Juanfran Guevara (RBA Racing/KTM) who had earlier suffered a crash.

With 13 riders having retired, McPhee headed Loi to score a 15th place finish by the chequered flag, his second best result of the season following his top-10 finish at the second round of the championship in Argentina.

Hardest race

John said: 'This was the hardest race I've ever had to fight for a single championship point.'

'After the way the season has been going it's a nice feeling to be back in the points. I need to say thank you to the team and all people in Peugeot and Mahindra who helped me to achieve this.'

'We will continue to push very hard and try to improve for the next race which is in the Netherlands on June 26.'



John McPhee, No 17, in action during the Circuit de Catalunya Moto3 race in Barcelona last Sunday. Photo: Bonnie Lane

Youth and enthusiasm key to Mid Argyll rugby future

By Jack Blackwood
BROCHAN'S enthusiasm is fantastic to witness – and it is

infectious. From the sidelines, this coaching veteran's love of the sport is clear – through every

play of the ball.

Brochan, also known (very occasionally) as Duncan Aitken,

coaches Mid Argyll's young rugby players, and he is very optimistic about the future of the

Mid Argyll Rugby Club, despite the fact that the region has had no senior team for the past five seasons.

'We have a lot of young players coming up,' he told The Oban Times. 'It's been a good year for the team and the parents have been more helpful than ever. The team is also getting better as the games go on, and it's good to see that the things we are teaching them are sinking in.'

Brochan, a former player and a coach for 30 years, is in no doubt that the sport provides discipline and teaches respect while encouraging physical activity. 'And there is a place for everyone, boys and girls and anyone big or small,' he added.

From the mini rugby (P4-7), which usually has around 20 players, to the high school group with 30 or more players, the talent shines.

Along with qualified coaches Padear Deviney, Lee Buckley and Gavin Allan, Argyll and

Rugby

Bute rugby development officer Allan Wright offers support as Mid Argyll Rugby Club rebuilds itself.

Allan said: 'The main aim for the club is to get the players games. Currently the mini rugby team is taking part in Dalriada festival, where they are playing teams like Oban, Mull, Taynuilt Vikings and Kintyre – but we would like more games for both teams.'

The teams are having a great season but the club is facing a major hurdle in that there is no proper rugby pitch. As work goes on to find a suitable home, efforts are also under way to raise fund for a club minibus.

But as long as the love of rugby burns in players, coaches and volunteers, the future of the sport in Mid Argyll appears bright.

If you would like to become involved in helping the club to progress, a meeting will be held on June 14.

To find out more, contact Allan Wright by email at allan.wright@argyll-bute.gov.uk or call 07867 425973.



The mini rugby players with Brochan at their side.

06_a23rugby07

Fort William Under 17s pull out of Welfare League

Welfare football

THE LEAGUE was reduced to five teams last week with Fort William Under 17s pulling out due to a shortage of players. All their previous results are null and void.

Results: Tekkerslovakia 4-0 Ballachulish, walk-over; Mallaig 6, Nevis Range 1.

Up-Dated Table:	P	Pts
Tekkerslovakia	5	12
Caol Utd	3	9
Mallaig	4	9
Ballachulish	5	3
Nevis Range	5	0

Fixtures: Monday June 13 – Ballachulish v Mallaig at Lochaber High School (League)

Wednesday June 15 – Tekkerslovakia v Caol Utd at Canal Park (JB Cup Semi-Final).

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Shellcocks lift silverware at Scottish Series event in Tarbert

RICHARD Shellcock of Oban Sailing Club and his team on Thrust emerged victorious from the 2016 Silvers Scottish Series at Tarbert bringing back not only Class 5 silverware but being awarded the Tarbert Shield for the best performance in the CYCA handicap classes overall. The team, which included four Shellcock family members, also won the Sunday passage race for the Tunnocks Trophy.

Richard, who owns the boat with his wife Laura, was clearly delighted. He said: 'This was the third Scottish Series for the boat and this year we're delighted to take the class win in ideal conditions for the boat. The winds were just right - weather glorious - and we had a great local team with an excellent suit of Owen Sails. It was probably the best Scottish Series ever and to take the class and other trophy wins was just amazing.'

Sailing

Thrust took four firsts over the four-day event with his first and third on the final day clinching the class to finish on nine points. This put them in contention for the overall best boat in the fleet but just dropped short of this with the Hunter 707 Seaward on six points just edging the Oban Sailing Club boat out. Sailing with Richard were his wife Laura and son Patrick, sister Diana Shellcock, Steven Forteith, John Grant, Andrew Chapman and Ben Miller, all of Oban Sailing Club.

Last season Richard took Thrust to the south coast campaigning at Dartmouth and Cowes Week with notable success.

The team look forward now to competing in West Highland Yachting Week in August.



There were plenty boats on the water at the Silvers Scottish Series event at Tarbert.



Glencruitten

JOHN Plunkett leads the field in the senior championship with a score of 69 - 10 = 59. Kenny MacCallum is second with a score of 63 - 3 = 60 and Duncan Forgive is third with a score of 78 - 17 = 61.

In the handicap championship, Martin Rae leads with a score of 65 - 5 = 60 followed by Steven O'Rourke with a score of 72 - 11 = 61.

On Saturday there is an open three-man stableford with a top prize of £150. Entries to 01631 562868 or 01631 564115 or email enquiries@obangolf.com.

Fort William

JUNE medal played on June 4: Section 1 - 1 Andrew Brown net 73 (81 - 8); 2 Dougie Duncan net 74 (85 - 11); 3 Henry MacDonald net 75 (88 - 13).

Section 2 - 1 Lewis Fyfe net 72 (89 - 17); 2 Paul Brian net 78 (97 - 19); 3 Scott Dingwall net 82 (98 - 16).

Ladies: On Tuesday May 31 the second round of the Cameron Trophy was played - 1 Ann Lovatt 39 points; 2 Hazel Cameron 36 points; 3 Kathleen Leitch 33 points.

June medal and second qualifying round of the club championship was played on June 4: 1 Rosemary Macintyre net 69 (80 - 11); 2 Iona Cameron net 70 (89 - 19); 3 Kay Jerram net 71 (95 - 24).

Islay

SUMMER League played Wednesday June 1 - 1 S Currie 35 pts; 2 A Woodman 33 pts; 3 A MacMillan 31 pts.

June medal played Sunday June 5 - 1 L Gairns nett 51; 2 C.Holyoake nett 54; 3 R.MacLean net 54.

Killin

LADIES Greensomes Open: Saturday June 4: Killin Cup - best overall handicap - Lesley Millar and Lesleyanne Tufft, Kenmore 57.6.

Bridge of Lochay Salver - best local handicap - Laura Aitken and Sheila Aitken 62.2.

Dochart Trophy - best overall scratch - Laura Aitken and Sheila Aitken, Killin 77.



Declan Curran, organiser of the event; Nonnie MacInnes, winner of the MacCall Rosebowl; John MacLachlan, from the sponsors Inverarity Morton; and Iain MacMillan with the Grant's Standfast Trophy. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Oban Licensed trade golf competition

TWENTY-TWO golfers enjoyed wonderful playing conditions when the Oban and District Licensed Trade Association held their annual spring golf outing at Glencruitten Golf Club on Tuesday May 31.

On the whole scoring was not particularly good but the winners of the two trophies on offer had exceptionally good scores.

Nonnie MacInnes from Coasters successfully

Marathon

defended the MacColl Rosebowl for the best licensee with 37 stableford points. The overall winner lifting the Grant's Standfast Trophy was Iain MacMillan with a magnificent 40 points.

Nearest the pin at the 2nd was John Plunkett, at the 5th Scott Jordan and at the 15th Mark Bergant.

Baxters Loch Ness marathon celebrates 15th anniversary

THE Baxters Loch Ness Marathon celebrates its 15th anniversary this year - and three runners who have gone the distance in every single edition of the race will be helping the event mark its magnificent milestone.

Seasoned runners Fiona Rennie, Lucy Mackay and Kenneth Stewart are all limbering up to take part in the marathon again this year, making them the only trio to have participated in all 15 races.

By the time they cross the finish line in Inverness on Sunday September 25, they will have clocked up 1,179 miles on the stunning course, which runs alongside the world famous loch.

Race director Malcolm Sutherland is full of praise for the dedication shown by the three stalwarts. He said: 'They are fantastic ambassadors for the Baxters Loch Ness Marathon, and I cannot imagine holding the event without them.'

'Fiona, Lucy and Kenneth are unique because they have taken part in every marathon since it started, but there are many more runners who have run the course on multiple occasions. 'It has become known as a bucket list marathon - it is one that many runners want to tick off their list. But what they often find is that once is never enough: the sheer beauty of the course and the incredible atmosphere keeps them coming back time and time again.'

Marathon

Challenge, 5K and Wee Nessie will remain open until September.

The finish line is based around the Event Village at the Bught Park in Inverness, where runners and spectators can enjoy the Baxters food and drink fair, a sports expo, live music and activities for children.

The lead charity partner of the event is Macmillan Cancer Support, and there are five lead affiliate charities - Alzheimer Scotland, Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland, Highland Hospice, MND Scotland and MS Society Scotland. There are also 20 other affiliate charities partnering the event.

Find out more about the day at www.lochnessmarathon.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/lochnessmarathon and on Twitter @nessmarathon.



McGinley Shield win for super Saints

Oban Saints Under 14s won the Michael McGinley Shield last Saturday defeating Dumbarton Riverside 2-0 in the final played at Millburn Park, Alexandria. Jamie Forgive and Aaron McKay got the goals for the Oban side.

Oban U18 Girls reach National 7's final at BT Murrayfield

Rugby

OBAN U18 Girls took part in the National 7s Festival at BT Murrayfield on Sunday. The girls with a small squad of eight players contested a group stage playing against Murrayfield Wanderers, Caithness and Stirling County.

Top of the group
The Oban side won three out of three games, finishing top of the group.

Oban played Biggar in the semi-final impressing with a



Oban Under 18 girls pictured outside BT Murrayfield last Sunday.

26-15 win to take on Stirling County for a rematch of the morning's group match.

With a lack of substitutes to choose from and a couple of small injuries to the Oban team,

Stirling ran out comfortable winners to lift the National U18 7s trophy.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2850

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

M Shaw
Barbreck
by Lochgilphead

C Cameron
Acharacle
Argyll

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



Name

Address

..... Tel No.



SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Kyles reach Celtic Cup final after 2-1 win over Camanachd

Gregor Cameron Consultancy Glasgow Celtic Society Cup - semi final

Oban Camanachd 1
Kyles Athletic 2

The 2016 Gregor Cameron Consultancy Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final will be between Inveraray and Kyles Athletic following the Tighnabraich side's 2-1 win over Oban Camanachd at Mossfield.

In a repeat of last year's final, Oban Camanachd boss Iain Hay was without the services of Andrew MacCuish, who had a shoulder problem, and Willie Neilson who had a rib injury.

Kyles Athletic co-managers Fraser MacDonald and Kenny MacDonald were still without the injured Andrew King, Scott MacDonald, David Zavaroni and Roberto Zavaroni so Roddy MacDonald continued in defence.

Kyles took the lead on 15 minutes. Sandy MacKenzie went on a mazy run as he dribbled the ball past two defenders and, with Oban keeper Gavin Stobbart coming off his line to narrow the angle, MacKenzie showed great composure as he tucked the ball into the bottom corner of the net from 10 yards out to make it 1-0.

Oban Camanachd had the chance to draw level when referee

Lachie Wood awarded them a penalty. Scott MacMillan took it but he didn't catch the ball as he would have liked and Kyles' keeper John Whyte stretched low to his right to keep the ball out with a combination of his foot and stick.

Just after that, Oban's Lorn Dickie hit the post with a shot from 40 yards out so Kyles took their single goal advantage into the break.

Crucial second goal

Innes MacDonald scored what was to prove to be a crucial second goal on 65 minutes. Gavin Stobbart failed to clear a dangerous ball into the 'D' and MacDonald reacted first to tap the ball over the line into an unguarded net to make it 2-0.

With just 13 minutes remaining, Oban Camanachd pulled a goal back.

This time it was Kyles who failed to clear their lines and Connor Howe was on hand to poke the ball home to make it 2-1.

Oban Camanachd pressed hard for a leveller and they had a late penalty appeal waved away by referee Lachie Wood.

So this year's 2016 Gregor Cameron Consultancy Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final will be between Inveraray and Kyles Athletic at Tainuith Sports Field on Saturday June 25.

Oban Camanachd and Kyles Athletic meet again at Mossfield this coming Saturday; this time on Marine Harvest Premiership duty.

Balliemore Cup – quarter final

Kilmallie 3
Glasgow Mid Argyll 2

Glasgow Mid Argyll came back from two goals down before eventually losing out 3-2 to Kilmallie in their 3pm throw up at Canal Parks.

Kilmallie got off to a great start and were 2-0 in front early on thanks to a Duncan Rodger tap-in on two minutes and a Liam MacDonald shot from the right on nine minutes.

GMA halved the deficit on 33 minutes with a contender for goal of the season. Craig Anderson, from the full forward position, came deep to flick the ball over his head. John MacNulty ran past him, letting the ball bounce once before volleying it into the top corner of the net past helpless keeper Robbie MacFadyen from around the penalty spot to make it 2-1.

The visitors drew level on 64 minutes. Craig Anderson hit a shot on his back-hand which came back off a defender but the ball fell nicely for the Scotland U21 forward who hit a waist-high shot from just outside the left of the 'D' on his right side.

It looked as if referee Ronnie Campbell would have to take the tie to extra-time but there was delight for the home support when substitute Craig MacIsaac, in the third minute of stoppage time, sent a drive across GMA keeper Jonathon Oates into the net to make it 3-2.

Kilmallie will now play Beaulieu in this month's Balliemore Cup semi finals with Strathglass and Caberfeidh meeting in the other last-four tie.

Kilmallie boss Mark MacPherson was a satisfied man after the final whistle, although he is looking for more from his team.

'It was a very good game,' he said. 'Robbie MacFadyen was in goals again and he never let us down. Craig MacIsaac took his goal well. I was pleased for him.'

'GMA are a very good, fit team. Many sides would have folded after going two goals down so early in the game but they stuck to the task. When they made it 2-2, I thought 'here we go again' but the last 20 minutes of the game was all Kilmallie. We are happy to get to the semis but will need to play a lot better - and I know we can.'

With a Balliemore semi final and a Camanachd Cup quarter-final tie to look forward to, MacPherson is also mindful of his team's important league campaign where they want to secure one of the top two places which would mean a return to top flight shinty. 'It's going to be a good, tight league this year, with four teams fighting for top spot,' he added.

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup – quarter finals

Kinlochshiel 1
Newtonmore 5

The Newtonmore second team came from a goal down to beat the Kinlochshiel second team 4-1 in their noon throw up at Kirkton.

Scott MacLean gave 'Shiel the lead after 25 minutes. David Cheyne equalised on the half-hour mark but Duncan Gorman put the Eilan side ahead a couple of minutes later.

John MacKenzie made it 3-1 on 37 minutes and Duncan Gorman got his second on 40 minutes to give Newtonmore a 4-1 lead at the break.

A second strike of the day from

David Cheyne made it 5-1 on 63 minutes and there was only going to be one winner.

Newtonmore will now face Tayforth in the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup semi finals in early July with the Glenurquhart and Kingussie second teams meeting in the other last-four tie.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kinlochshiel 3
Fort William 0

Kinlochshiel stay top of shinty's Marine Harvest Premiership after they beat bottom side Fort William 3-0 in their 3pm throw up at Kirkton.

Kinlochshiel took the lead after 20 minutes when Oliver MacRae scored following a scramble in the 'D'. Jordan Fraser played the ball across and MacRae touched it into the net to make it 1-0.

'Shiel doubled their lead on 59 minutes when Finlay MacRae gathered the ball around 40 yards from goal and drilled a great shot home to make it 2-0.

Finlay MacRae got his second and Kinlochshiel's third with another fine strike from distance just four minutes later.

Kinlochshiel remain a couple of points ahead of second placed Newtonmore but they have played four games more.

Glenurquhart 1
Newtonmore 4

Newtonmore go second in the table after they defeated Glenurquhart 4-1 at Blairbeg.

Newtonmore took the lead on 10 minutes when Evan Menzies scored and Iain Robinson made it 2-0 three minutes later.

Norman Campbell added a third when he beat 'Glen' keeper Stuart MacKintosh just four minutes into the second half.

Conor Golabek pulled a goal back for Glenurquhart on 83 minutes but Newtonmore rounded off the win in the final minute thanks to a bit of quick-thinking from Glen MacKintosh. The 'More forward had come off the substitutes' bench at wing back but surprised the home players by darting forward at a set-piece to volley the ball into the net to make it 4-1.

Kingussie 0
Skye Camanachd 0

There were no goals in the meeting between Kingussie and Skye Camanachd at the Dell.

It was a glorious day with the

RBS MacTavish Cup Final preview

Newtonmore v
Lochaber

Newtonmore and Lochaber meet in the RBS MacTavish Cup Final at Bught Park, Inverness, on Saturday June 11.

Newtonmore's defeat to Glenurquhart in last year's final means there will be no complacency from Paul John MacKintosh's side. Norman Campbell and Glen MacKintosh have both been recovering from injury in recent weeks and both scored in last Saturday's league win over Glenurquhart.

Chris Sellar is struggling to make it though after breaking down on his return from injury. Newtonmore were 3-0 winners when the sides met in the league in early April. Fraser MacKintosh scored twice with Evan Menzies getting the other.

Lochaber manager Ally Ferguson also has injury concerns. He will have been delighted to have seen Neil MacDonald make an appearance against Lovat last Saturday. But Martin John-

Dell in excellent condition which aided some excellent hitting from both sides and the game started at a good pace.

Skye were first to have a shot at goal when Jordan Murchison sent the ball over the bar from a tight angle out on the right wing with just two minutes played.

Skye were dealt a blow on 15 minutes when forward Shockie MacLennan had to leave the field after injuring his back when stretching for the ball. He was replaced by Iain Nicolson.

Both keepers were called into action mid-way through the first half and Craig Dawson then pulled off a double save from Iain Nicolson who was later replaced by James Pringle.

Skye keeper Jamie Gannon made a good double-save from Savio Genini and then Chris Holleysong as the teams battled for the opening goal.

Skye had chances either side of the interval with a Will Cowie effort well-saved by Craig Dawson and then, early in the second half, James Pringle showed some great skill by flicking the ball over a defender's head to go through on goal but keeper



Grant Irvine of Kyles Athletic and Oban Camanachd's Lorne Dickie in action during the Gregor Cameron Celtic Society Cup semi final held at Mossfield Stadium last Saturday.

Photo: Stephen Lawson

Dawson deflected the ball for a corner.

A low drive from Jordan Murchison from 25 yards out was superbly turned round the post by Dawson on 52 minutes.

Thomas Borthwick and Chris Holleysong caused the Skye defence problems, keeping the visiting back-four on their toes.

Skye goalie Jamie Gannon made a good stop with his feet as the game moved into the final

and his snap-shot from 18 yards tested Lovat keeper Stuart MacDonald.

Lochaber kept the pressure on the Lovat goal for the next 10 minutes and Stuart MacDonald was forced to make three saves during that period.

Another Lorne MacKay cross from the right on 13 minutes was met by Graeme MacMillan but he sent the ball just wide of the post.

right hand post with five first half minutes remaining.

A fierce Brennan MacDonald shot from 35 yards out a couple of minutes later was expertly touched over the bar with his stick by Stuart MacDonald.

Just after that, Neil MacDonald came on to give Brennan MacDonald a well-earned break and Lochaber were deserving of their 3-0 interval lead.

Lovat made a change at the break with Scott MacKenzie coming on at wing centre for Connal MacLleithair.

A long ball from the centre line on 48 minutes was missed by a Lovat defender and the ball fell to Stuart Callison to score his second goal of the game from the edge of the box.

Lovat made a second change on 64 minutes when Fraser Gallacher came on for Graeme MacMillan. Gallacher went to full forward with Lorne MacKay moving to buckshee forward.

A couple of minutes later, a corner on the Lovat left came to Lorne MacKay with his back to goal and he controlled the ball, turned and sent a shot over the head of keeper Callum MacDonald from the edge of the 'D' to make it 4-1.

With five minutes remaining, a Craig Mainland shot from distance hit the inside of the post and appeared to cross the line. The goal judge did not acknowledge the goal but referee Callum Girvan was in no doubt and Lochaber's lead was cut to 4-2.

The earlier substitutions had affected the rhythm of play but Lovat's second goal sparked life back into the contest and Callum MacDonald made a good save to keep out a Calum MacAulay strike on 86 minutes.

Lovat had a spell of intense pressure late in the game but the Lochaber defence, well marshalled by Lachie Campbell, held out for a win that takes them away from the relegation zone.

Marine Harvest National Division

Inveraray 4
Caberfeidh 0

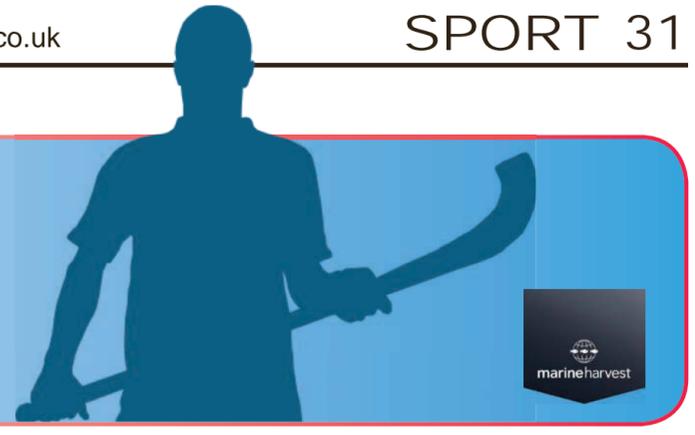
Inveraray go top of the Marine Harvest National Division after they scored two goals in each half to beat Caberfeidh 4-0 at the Winterton.

The Winterton was looking really good and the club's new mower is being put to good use, with grass-cuttings twice a week.

With Gregor Cameron Consultancy Glasgow Celtic Society



Oban Camanachd's Connor Howe slips the ball past Kyles Athletic goalkeeper John Whyte to make the score 2-1. Photo: Stephen Lawson



Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

Cup Final places up for grabs, Inveraray played some really good shinty in the first half and dominated proceedings.

Garry MacPherson gave them the lead after eight minutes with a rocket-shot which came back off the inside stanchion although Lewis Montgomery, who was credited with the goal in some quarters, slammed the rebound into the net for good measure. Young Lewis Montgomery got on the scoresheet with a well-taken strike on 25 minutes.

The Cabers' keeper had more than one good save during this period, including an improvised stop to deny Fraser Watt after a spell of good lead-up play.

Caberfeidh came more into the game in the second half and it was Inveraray keeper Scott MacLachlan's turn to make some good stops, including a crucial penalty save.

It was Inveraray, though, who increased their lead 10 minutes from time with David Robertson finishing well to make it 3-0.

Inveraray added a fourth a minute later when Garry MacPherson played a well-worked free-hit to young Fraser Watt who fired the ball home.

It was a roasting hot day and the players, especially the older ones, were appreciative of referee Scott Mcneil allowing a water break midway through the second half.

Beaulay 7 Ballachulish 0

Beaulay turned in a powerful second half performance to beat Ballachulish 7-0 at Braeview Park.

There was only two minutes on the clock when Calum Morrison put Beaulay ahead.

When referee John Wood pointed to the penalty spot on 13 minutes, Jack MacDonald stepped up to convert.

Marc MacLachlan made it 3-0 just a minute into the second half.

Jack MacDonald then stole the show as he took his tally for the afternoon to five goals.

MacDonald netted on 48, 72, 80 and 85 minutes in what is turning out to be a prolific season for the Scotland U21 cap.

The win takes Beaulay to second place in the league, two points behind leaders Inveraray and they have played a game fewer.

**Inverness 2
Bute 2**

Inverness came from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Bute in their 1pm throw up at Bught Park.

The islanders went in front on 11 minutes with the ball going into the net off Inverness keeper Allan MacLeod.

Gordon MacMillan made it 2-0 on 26 minutes and although Inverness pulled a goal back on 31 minutes, Bute led 2-1 at the break.

The equalising goal came on 67 minutes with former Fort William player David Duncan on target for the home side.

Inverness stay seventh with Bute, two points better off and having played three games fewer, a place above.



Connor MacGregor from Ballachulish shields the ball from Beaulay's Ryan MacKay. Photo: Donald Cameron

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Lovat 0
Beaulay 5
The reserve team derby between Lovat and Beaulay at Balgate was brought forward to Friday June 3 with a 7pm throw up and the visitors took the honours thanks to a 5-0 win.

Beaulay took control from the throw up and there was a sign of things to come after three minutes when Marc MacLachlan, playing left wing forward, sent a fierce shot goalwards which brought the first of many good saves from Lovat goalkeeper Ronan MacMillan.

Lovat's first real attack came on eight minutes when the ball fell to Thomas Fraser who missed his shot with only the keeper to beat.

Ronan MacMillan made a good save with his hand on 25 minutes but Marc MacLachlan, now playing at full forward, rushed in and tapped the dropping ball into the net to make it 1-0.

Marc MacLachlan was Beaulay's main threat and he made it 2-0 on 36 minutes.

A couple of minutes later, Thomas Fraser's shot from the left was well saved with his stick by Beaulay goalie Lee Dunbar.

With just a couple of first half minutes remaining, there was a scramble in the Lovat defence and Marc MacLachlan kept his composure to steer the ball into the net and complete his hat-trick.

Less than a minute after the re-start it was 4-0. The Lovat defence struggled to clear their lines and, with two defenders beside him, Martin Davidson took a shot which beat and unguarded Ronan MacMillan.

Beaulay introduced their substitutes and the game went flat for a while.

Beaulay added one more goal on 77 minutes when a long range shot struck the base of the post. The rebound fell to Rory Campbell and, from the edge of the 'D', he gave keeper MacMillan no chance to make it 5-0.

Strathglass 8 Glenurquhart 4

Strathglass cut the Newtonmore seconds lead at the top of the league to a single point after they beat Glenurquhart second team 8-4 in a 12-goal thriller at Cannich.

Scott Douglas was the day's top scorer with six goals for the home side with Hamish Myers bagging a brace.

Cain Urquhart, Calum Smith, James MacPherson and Daniel MacKintosh were all on target for the 'Glen' who drop to the bottom of the table having played half their league fixtures.

The teams also played for the Ali Ban Cup which is now in Strathglass' possession.

Skye Camanachd 3 Kingussie 2

Skye Camanachd's second team beat their Kingussie counter-parts 3-2 at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Skye took the lead after just

three minutes when John Angus MacInnes found Ruaraidh MacLeod on the Skye left who cut in to score a good goal from close range.

Ally 'Cleodh' MacLeod made it 2-0 when his 25-yard shot took an awkward bounce in front of 'Kings' keeper Robert Shiells and flew into the net.

Kingussie drew level with two almost identical goals from Kevin Thain on 35 and 41 minutes.

On each occasion, Thain gathered the ball with his back to goal on the left of the 'D' before turning to score.

Skye got themselves back in front on 42 minutes when Iain MacLellan hit the ball on the turn from wide on the Skye right and netted what proved to be the winning goal.

Kingussie pressed hard for a leveller in the second half but the Skye defence, in which Neil John Campbell was a stand-out, stood firm and the win lifts Skye to sixth spot in the table.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Oban Celtic 6
Inveraray 0

Oban Celtic returned to league action and they maintained their winning start to the league season by beating the Inveraray second team 6-0 in their 3pm throw up at Ganavan.

Celtic started well and almost scored inside the first 10 seconds when some quick passing set up a chance for Fraser MacMillan - but he fired over.

The opening goal came after just nine minutes following some good lead up play to Neil Carmichael who turned his man before rifling the ball home.

Celtic scored twice in three minutes to add to their tally with Daniel MacMillan on 21 minutes and Neil Carmichael again on 23 minutes both firing unstoppable shots past an experienced Graham MacPherson in the Inveraray goal.

Fraser MacMillan finished from a tight angle to make it 4-0 on 31 minutes.

Daniel MacMillan was having a good first half, giving his marker a difficult afternoon, and he got his second on 38 minutes to make it 5-0 at half-time.

Oban Celtic manager Kenny Wotherspoon brought on Calum Fox at half time. He almost made an immediate impact, picking up a Daniel MacMillan pass before shooting goalwards. But his shot came off the outside of the post and into the side-netting. Fox had a similar attempt moments later, hitting the same post when, on this occasion, he probably should have done better.

Despite the one-way traffic, Inveraray dug in and fought until referee Neil Ferguson's final whistle.

Their efforts kept the home side at bay until eight minutes from time when Fraser MacMillan's second goal of the game made it 6-0.

Oban Celtic climb to fourth place in the table but they have a number of games in hand on the teams above them.

One blow for Oban Celtic is the news a foot x-ray has confirmed that forward Bruce has a broken metatarsal and could be out for up to six weeks.

A second hospital appointment during the week should confirm his period of absence.

**Col Glen 2
Lochside Rovers 2**
Col Glen and Lochside Rovers shared the points in a 2-2 draw at Glendaruel.

Connor Kennedy and Iain Wilson were on target for Col Glen but goals from Michael MacQueen and Lewis Buchanan mean Lochside earned a point and stay top of the table.

**Aberdour 2
Taynuilt 0**

Second placed Aberdour defeated Taynuilt 2-0 at Silver Sands. Jack Mitchell gave Aberdour the lead after 16 minutes and Angus Thorburn made it 2-0 on 50 minutes.

Aberdour are now just a point



Kingussie's Lee Bain moves in to block Skye's Jordan Murchison during the Marine Harvest Premiership match played at the Dell. Photo: Neil Paterson

behind Lochside Rovers and have two games in hand.

Kyles Athletic 2 Glenorchy 0

The Kyles Athletic second team scored twice early in the second half to beat Glenorchy 2-0 at Tighnabruich.

Glenorchy travelled with just 11 players but showed great attitude and were only undone by two lapses in concentration.

Connor Giudici put Kyles ahead after 52 minutes with Craig Martin making it 2-0 three minutes later.

Kyles stay sixth, a point behind fifth-placed Taynuilt, but the Tighnabruich side have a game in hand. This was referee Ross Brown's first match in charge at Division 1 level.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Boleskine 0
Lochcarron 3

Second placed Lochcarron cut the gap at the top of the table to just two points when they beat Boleskine 3-0 at Smith Park.

Nick Dalgety put Lochcarron ahead after eight minutes and the same player doubled the visitors' advantage on 35 minutes.

David Bauermeister made it 3-0 on 40 minutes and that was enough to win the game.

Lochcarron are just a couple of points behind league leaders Aberdeen University, with both sides having played nine games to reach the mid-way point in their respective league campaigns.

Women's shinty round-up

Marine Harvest National Division 1

**Skye Camanachd 2
Badenoch and Strathspey 4**
League leaders Skye Camanachd hosted Badenoch and Strathspey at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Skye came out on top when the teams met at the Dell earlier in the season but this was Badenoch's day as the islanders suffered only their second league defeat of the season as they went down 4-2.

Lorna MacRae and Emma Gordon were on target for Skye but a Zoe Reid brace and goals from Jeanette McGregor and Rhona McIntyre gave the visitors the win.

The sides are also scheduled to meet in this season's Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup semi-finals.

**Glasgow Mid Argyll 2
Lochaber 1**
Second placed Lochaber failed to take advan-

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Bute 0
Kilmory 10

Kilmory were too strong for the Bute second team, winning 10-0 at the Meadows.

Alex Cunningham, Ally Cunningham and Hal Jones all grabbed hat-tricks for the visitors whilst Craig Taylor got the other.

Kilmory now top the league on goal difference, although they have played a game more than second-placed Tayforth but one fewer than third placed Oban Lorn.

**Oban Lorn 3
Glasgow Mid Argyll 0**

Oban Lorn beat the Glasgow Mid Argyll second team 3-0 in their noon throw up at Ganavan.

Stuart Sloss gave the Oban side a 25th-minute lead with the only goal of the first half.

Alan Duffy made it 2-0 just 10 minutes after the re-start.

Craig MacDougall added a third on 78 minutes. The win means Oban climb to third in the table.

They only trail Kilmory and Tayforth on goal difference although they have played more games.

**Dunoon Camanachd P
Aberdour P**

The match between Dunoon Camanachd and the Aberdour second team at Dunoon Stadium will be rescheduled for a later date.

tage of Skye's slip up though as they lost 2-1 to Glasgow Mid Argyll at Peterson Park, Yoker. Goals from GMA's Lyndsay Michie and Kirsty Gray cancelled out Rebecca Stafford's effort for Lochaber. The win means GMA now go second in the table.

**Aberdour 4
All-Stars 0**

Aberdour made it two wins on the trot when four goals from Rosie Mulligan gave them a 4-0 victory over the All-Stars in Newtonmore. The All-Stars had chances but were thwarted by good saves from Aberdour keeper Taryn Neilson.

After the weekend action, Skye remain top of the table with eight points from six games. They have two matches remaining - a crunch game at home to GMA at the end of the month and then away to Aberdour in August.

Glasgow Mid Argyll, who have played five games and Lochaber and Badenoch and Strathspey, who have both also played six games, are all just two points behind.



Fixtures

Saturday June 11
RBS MacTavish Cup Final
Newtonmore v Lochaber
John Angus Gillies - 4pm
at Bught Park, Inverness

Camanachd Cup 2nd Round
Caberfeidh v Kinlochshiel
Calum Girvan - 1pm

**Artemis Macaulay Cup
1st Round**
Glasgow MA v Ballachulish
Robert Baxter - Noon

**Artemis Macaulay Cup
Quarter Final**
Bute v Inveraray
Lachie Wood

**Strathdearn Cup second
round**
Beaulay v Glenurquhart
Archie Ritchie - 1pm

Bullough Cup second round
Oban Lorn v Kilmory
Ronnie Campbell
Aberdour v Kyles Athletic
Euan Pearson
Glasgow MA v English Shinty
Ross Brown - 3pm
Tayforth v Bute
Ewan MacDonald

Marine Harvest Premiership
Glenurquhart v Lovat
Evan MacRae - 1pm
Oban Caman v Kyles Athletic
David Mitchell

**Marine Harvest
South Division 1**
Glenorchy v Lochside Rovers
Graham Cameron
Inveraray v Col Glen
Alex MacVicar
Taynuilt v Oban Celtic
Innes Wood

**Marine Harvest
North Division 2**
Aberdeen Uni v Lewis
Iain Kennedy - 1pm
at Kiltarlity
Boleskine v Kilmallie
John Wood - 1pm
Throw ups 2pm unless stated.

Results

Friday June 3
**Marine Harvest
North Division One**
Lovat 0-5 Beaulay

Saturday June 4
**Gregor Cameron
Consultancy
Celtic Society Cup semi final**
Oban Caman 1-2 Kyles Athletic

Balliemore Cup second round
Kilmallie 3-2 Glasgow Mid Argyll

**Aberdeen Considine
Sutherland Cup third round**
Kinlochshiel 1-5 Newtonmore

Marine Harvest Premiership
Glenurquhart 1-4 Newtonmore
Kingussie 0-0 Skye
Lochaber 4-2 Lovat
Kinlochshiel 3-0 Fort William

**Marine Harvest
National Division**
Inverness 4-0 Bute
Beaulay 7-0 Ballachulish
Inveraray 4-0 Caberfeidh

**Marine Harvest
North Division One**
Strathglass 8-4 Glenurquhart
Skye 3-2 Kingussie

**Marine Harvest
South Division One**
Aberdour 2-0 Taynuilt
Col Glen 2-2 Lochside Rovers
Kyles Athletic 2-0 Glenorchy
Oban Celtic 6-0 Inveraray

**Marine Harvest
North Division Two**
Strathspey 4-2 Inverness
Boleskine 0-3 Lochcarron
Lewis 1-4 Glengarry

**Marine Harvest
South Division Two**
Oban Lorn 3-0 Glasgow MA
Bute 0-10 Kilmory
Dunoon P-P Aberdour
To be arranged.



Golfers pose for a picture in the sun on the 18th green at Glencruitten Golf Club during the annual Am-Am run by Oban Rotary Club. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Oban Rotary Club hold another successful Am-Am



MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust and Scottish Sea Farms are major sponsors of the Am-Am. Pictured above is the MacQueen's team - David Ross, Gary MacEwan, Travis Smith, Helen Jackson and Calum MacPhee.

THE Rotary Club of Oban completed its 31st successive Golf Charities Day, the Am-Am, last Sunday at Glencruitten Golf Club in Oban and the competitors were once again favoured with good weather.

It was generally agreed that this was another successful Am-Am with all concerned enjoying the event which raises funds for local good causes and it is confidently anticipated that, when all funds are received, in excess of £10,000 will have been raised. The event now enjoys sponsorship from more than 100 contributors with the competition itself enjoying participation by 45 teams of four players competing for various trophies, the principal one being the Bank of Scotland Cup.

The competition is played on a stableford basis with the two best net scores counting. There is also a coloured ball competition which is decided on stroke play using a yellow ball provided by the event organisers.

Football

The winners of the 2016 Rotary Golf Am-Am are as follows:

The Bank of Scotland Cup: Protechtmen: John MacKinnon/Clan Cottages.

The Allan McDougal Trophy: Oban Camanachd A.

The Angus Simpson Trophy: China Restaurant.

The Coloured Ball Competition: K W Wotherspoon, Plumbing.

Leading visiting team: Tainuill, Munro's Garage.

In addition there were six nearest the pin prizes and the proceeds of the raffle amounted to £625 which was donated to Mary's Meals, the well known local charity which provides food for deprived children in under-developed countries.

The Rotary Club of Oban wishes to thank all the sponsors and competitors who give so generously in support of its annual golf charities day.



Christine Cameron plays her approach shot to the 4th green during last Sunday's Am-Am. Christine was part of the Cameron Land Survey team. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Mr Yip from the China Restaurant. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



The Scottish Sea Farms team - Gerry Carnie, Findlay MacKay, David MacMillan and Diarmid MacMillan.



Angus MacGillivray from Dalmally Golf Club plays a delicate chip onto the 4th green. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Oban High School lose by a point School rugby

Oban U14s 37 Jedburgh U14s 38
OBAN High School's U14 rugby team welcomed Jedburgh to Oban on Saturday for the Borders side's end of season tour to the West Highlands. Both teams fielded strong XV's, with Oban boasting a squad of more than 20 players for the game.

Oban made a storming start and brushed the visitors aside in the first 20 minutes with tries from Lewis Budge x2 and Malcolm Mackechnie with a conversion from Connor Dott to take a 17-0 lead. Jed hit back with their first try of the day before captain Tommy MacQuade extended Oban's lead to 22-7. Both teams again exchanged scores with Oban stand-off Sam Coates touching down, this gave a score of 27-14 with both teams impressing with some entertaining rugby.

Jedburgh turned the game around in the last 20 minutes. Some great breaks up field from their number 10 resulted in the visitors taking the lead for the first time in the game with two unanswered converted tries for a 27-28 advantage.

Oban were gifted a way back into the match when Malcolm Mackechnie intercepted from 20 metres out to regain the lead for Oban at 32-28. Jedburgh though were now dominating most areas of play and scored two further tries to Oban's one to seal a narrow 38-37 win in an eventful game of rugby.

This Sunday Oban welcome Biggar and Isle of Mull U14s for the last game of the 2016/17 season. Kick off noon at Glencruitten.

Scottish AFL results and fixtures Football

FINAL weekend of the season results: Saturday - Oban Saints 1, Shawlands 1; St Joseph's FP 1, Campbeltown Pupils 2; Premier Division One - Lochgilhead Red Star 1, Mothwell Thistle 2; Division One - Dunoon Athletic 7, Milton of Colquhoun 1; Sunday - Premier Division Campbeltown Pupils 2, Oban Saints 1.

Oban Saints' youth results and fixtures Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Saturday - League Shield final - Milngavie 3, Under 13s 3. Saints won 4-3 on penalties. Sunday - Ardencaple 0, Under 13s 0. Congratulations to Saints Under 13s who won the league after this 0-0 draw. Saturday - League Shield final - Dumbarton Riverside 0, Under 14s 2. Netting for Saints were Jamie Forgive and Aaron McKay. Sunday - Broomhill 2, Under 15s 5. Saints scorers were Kenneth Black (2), Cameron Kerr (2) and Ben Smith.

Macaulay Sixes Youth shinty

THE annual Macaulay Sixes take place on Sunday at Mossfield Stadium starting at 10.30am

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WEATHER

Thursday	Cloudy Winds light south south easterly Temperatures 14°C to 19°C.
Friday	Light rain Winds light south easterly Temperatures 12°C to 16°C.
Weekend Outlook	Cloudy on Saturday Light rain showers on Sunday Winds light south easterly Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday June 9, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	02.44	0.9	08.28	3.5	14.46	0.8	20.36	3.6
Fri	03.33	1.2	09.12	3.2	15.32	1.1	21.20	3.4
Sat	04.24	1.4	10.03	3.0	16.20	1.3	22.09	3.2
Sun	05.21	1.6	11.08	2.9	17.13	1.5	23.08	3.0
Mon	06.27	1.7	12.39	2.8	18.09	1.6	***	**
Tues	00.24	2.9	07.43	1.8	13.48	2.9	19.10	1.6
Wed	01.44	3.0	08.48	1.7	14.39	3.0	20.13	1.6

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

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Fort William NEWS

Islands unite after ferry firm's U-turn on vessel deployment

MONICA GIBSON
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

A 'FAILURE in community engagement' has prompted opposing sides to unite following a U-turn on a crucial ferry service.

MV Coruisk has been a major talking point among residents of Lochaber, Oban, Skye and Mull following Caledonian MacBrayne's (CalMac) decision in 2015 to redeploy the ferry from the Mallaig to Armadale route to operate from Craignure to Oban.

But following a campaign by Sleaf Transport Forum, MP Ian Blackford announced late last week that after speaking to managing director Martin Dorchester, CalMac planned to reverse its decision and return the ferry to the Mallaig-Armadale route.

These claims were then quashed five days later in a CalMac statement saying no further changes would be made to the Mallaig to Armadale route this year.

In the statement, Mr Dorchester stated regret that plans for the Mallaig-Armadale route have fallen short of some expectations and said that after listening to community concerns, CalMac will review vessel deployment for summer 2017 in consultation with affected communities.

He continued: 'Every change to our summer timetable was made after consultation with the local communities and each change was made in good faith with the sole intention of enhancing ferry services and addressing local concerns,

some long-standing, about services in their area. We should also not lose sight of the fact that the vast majority of these changes have been warmly welcomed by those local communities.'

The clarification came as a relief to those on Mull, with councillor Mary-Jean Devon summing up her reaction by saying 'hurray!'. She added: 'The whole thing took up most of my weekend, writing letters and asking for information.'

Others were less impressed, not so much with the decision but with the way it was handled. Rob Ware, secretary of Sleaf Community Council for Sleaf Transport Forum, said CalMac's silence throughout the process, and especially since Mr Blackford's announcement last week, was his biggest grievance and he believes it has created community warfare.

He added: 'Customer confidence in the Mallaig to Armadale route is at its lowest ebb. Since the decision earlier this year there have been revisions to the revised timetable and every time it is the customer who is losing out. There is no doubt Mull, too, needs extra capacity, but to describe the way in which CalMac has treated this issue and the people concerned as a shambles is putting it nicely.'

Brendan O'Hara, SNP MP for Argyll and Bute, described the situation as a pantomime.

He said: 'I am delighted for the people of Mull that the *MV Coruisk* will be staying where it is and I sincerely hope the needs of those in Skye are addressed and made a priority.

This was never meant to be a case of Mull versus Skye. There has been a complete failure in community engagement on behalf of CalMac. The decision is almost playing second fiddle. It was the uncertainty which has caused problems. After Mr Blackford's announcement I asked Martin Dorchester to contact me. I still have not heard a response. In the lead up to what will be the busiest time of the year, businesses could not operate properly with this hanging over them. Customers would have been put off making bookings and residents were in disarray.

'Even if it wasn't going to be the decision people wanted, they had to know one way or another.'

When contacted by *The Oban Times* regarding the complaints about its engagement with the communities, a CalMac spokesman said: 'We needed to look at a range of options to address reliability issues on the Mallaig-Armadale route, including timetable amendments. This took some time and inevitably generated speculation about what was happening to the *MV Coruisk*, which was unfortunate. As soon as a final decision was made in consultation with Transport Scotland on what was the best options for these two routes, working within the resources we have, communities were advised.'

As *The Oban Times* went to press it is understood Ian Blackford was arranging an emergency meeting with Transport Scotland and Sleaf Transport Forum will invite Martin Dorchester to attend a public meeting in Sleaf.

Fiddlers hit all the right notes



These five youngsters from Elgol Primary School are all smiles after winning the fiddle group category at Skye Mod. For results and more photographs from the event turn to page 14.

Support group's first meeting a success

A NEW support group that offers help to bereaved families in Lochaber has had a positive start.

Following a story in *The Oban Times* on May 19 about the Simpson's Memory Box Appeal (SiMBA), the group's Highland Ambassador Susan Simpson said the inaugural meeting of the group in Fort William was a great success.

Ms Simpson said: 'Much of

the difficulty is the thought of walking in to a group of strangers and to help this we have spent a good deal of time speaking on a one-to-one basis with families. We are honoured to have sent memory boxes out to some of them and would encourage anyone who feels this would be of comfort to get in touch.'

The group also gained support from Lochaber Rotary

Club this week, who pledged to help SiMBA find a place for their Tree of Tranquillity in Lochaber. Ms Simpson continued: 'We were delighted to attend the Rotary on Wednesday June 1 where we explained the services the charity offers in Lochaber. The members were very receptive to what we shared and some came forward to share personal stories of loss.'

Essential roadworks

ESSENTIAL resurfacing works are due to get under way for two weeks at three locations on the A830 starting this weekend.

East of Dearg and West of Glenfinnan: Sunday June 12 to Tuesday June 21, eight nights, avoiding Friday and Saturday nights, 9pm-6am.

Caol Farmfoods junction: Wednesday June 22 to Thursday June 23, two nights, 7pm to 6am. A road closure is required between Glenfinnan and Dearg each night. The A830 will remain open with temporary traffic lights in place. The Caol Farmfoods junction will be closed during the road work hours and a signed diversion will be in place.

On her bike for charity

BIG-HEARTED Skye midwife Natalie Scott is travelling to Africa to raise money for charity next month.

The 42-year-old will join the Women v Cancer cycling challenge on June 10 and hopes to raise £3,000 by completing the 350km ride across Tanzania. Starting in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro, it will take Natalie a week to complete the ride.

Natalie thanked everyone who has sponsored her and friends and colleagues from the Mackinnon Memorial Hospital in Broadford who attended two curry nights she organised before the race.

She said: 'I'm really grateful to everyone who contributed to the Iolanthe Midwifery Trust on my behalf.'



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Visit fuels Lochaber smelter site hopes

A JOINT working group's visit to a closed smelter in Wales could bring new hope for a Lochaber site.

The group visited the site at Anglesey last week to look at how land around a smelter could be used.

Brian King, general manager of Lochaber Smelter, Thomas MacLennan, councillor for Fort William and Ardnamurchan, and Lesley Benfield, chief executive of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce made the trip.

They group said the visit 'provided many ideas that the working group will consider further, particularly around tourism and business development.'

'It is clear from discussions during the trip that Rio Tinto worked extremely closely with the local community and

business groups around their Anglesey site. The Joint Working Group intends to continue that kind of collaboration to ensure the full potential of the Lochaber estate is realised.'

The working group stated it has no involvement in Rio Tinto's strategic review of the Lochaber Smelter, claiming: 'No decisions have been taken regarding the Lochaber site. The group is simply looking at how to make best use of the Rio Tinto assets around the Lochaber smelter in a way that can work alongside established operations.'

Fraser Grieve, of the Scottish Council for Development and Industry, part of the joint working group, said: 'We need to look at how we can make more of the area for the economy and the

community.' He continued: 'It was a really positive trip that helped us to see how we can better the land for the community here.'

'We now want to get ideas from the community about what potential opportunities the land could have.'

Lochaber Area Leader Councillor Thomas MacLennan said: 'This was a very informative and useful visit. I am reassured by Rio Tinto's positive community engagement.'

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Lesley Benfield added: 'It was encouraging to see how Rio Tinto has supported local business development in Anglesey and we hope to bring back the lessons to Lochaber from the examples we saw.'

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Deadline looming for WestPlan comments

WITH the deadline for the WestPlan consultation period just a day away, the Highland Council is making one last appeal for people to get their comments in.

As reported in *The Oban Times* last week, Caol Community Council asked the local authority for the consultation period to be extended, but this was declined.

Councillor Allan Henderson, who also asked for an extension, said: 'The council was very understanding when I asked for the consultation period to be extended.'

'Although it couldn't extend the period it has made the provision that if the four area community councils of Caol, Kilmallie, Fort William and Inverlochty want to get together and come up with common consensus about what they want, then the council will look at that option.'

Scott Dalgarno, development plan manager at the Highland Council, told *The Oban Times*: 'Rather than changing the time scale, we are saying let's keep the consultation deadline the same and if community councils want to submit supplementary comments to ones they have already made before the deadline, then they can.'

'The most important message is that we want community councils to get their comments in before the deadline, but we understand they are working on a joint decision within the community.'

'There is normally a last minute flurry of comments, but so far we have had a good number of responses from the public. We want people to get their responses in, so everyone's views are represented.'

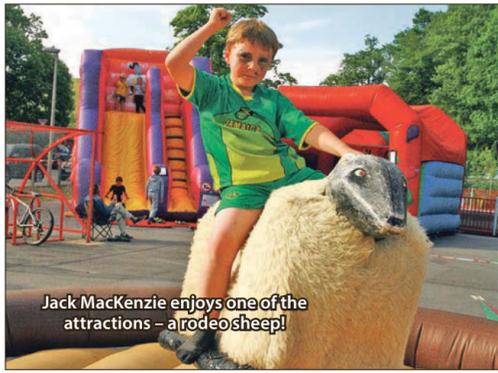
Roy Bridge fun night smiles



Brothers Calam, aged 9, left, and Ruairidh Flux, 12, tuck into a tasty hotdog at the Roy Bridge Primary School fun night.



Brother and sister Riley and Eve Cockburn have their faces painted at the event.



Jack MacKenzie enjoys one of the attractions - a rodeo sheep!

Fort spotlight on EU debate

MONICA GIBSON
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AN ORGANISED debate to discuss Scotland's future saw participants finding some common ground.

More than 30 people attended the EU Referendum debate in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church Hall, which was arranged by Lochaber Common Weal, a group of volunteers who aim to educate and inform the public.

The lead speakers represented a cross section of the political spectrum, with Kate Forbes MSP (SNP) and John Finnie MSP (Green) for 'remain', and environmental author and member of Assemblies for Democracy Penny Cole, and Bob Fotheringham, Socialist Workers Party, representing Lexit, 'Left for leave'.

The evening kicked off with the toss off a coin - a euro instead of a pound - inviting speakers to choose 'maps or eagles'.

It was the eagle which landed and meant Kate Forbes would be first to pitch.

Ms Forbes highlighted some of the main reasons she thinks justifies an 'in' vote ahead of the fast approaching May 23.

Describing herself as an 'internationalist', she said matters of peace, international relations and freedom of movement would be better protected if we stay within the status quo, adding: 'In terms of renewable energy and agriculture, the highlands have benefited more than anywhere in the UK from EU trade ties.'

Ms Forbes was also keen to

stress that Scotland will never be properly represented so long as it is represented as the UK - a notion which was shared by many in the room.

Penny Coleman was next to have her say, and while speaking on behalf of leave, she said it is not a case of fortress Britain in favour of fortress Europe. Sceptical of Boris Johnson among other things, she believes there are fundamental problems with the constitution and said what is really needed is a constitution that is fit for purpose.

She added: 'What we have had tonight is the left of the leave and the left of the remain. No-one here is chasing Cameron or Johnson. The overarching theme is that we want to make our own framework.'

When the topic of human rights was raised, Ms Coleman was also keen to stress: 'Human Rights is not a function of the EU and actually the framework was put together by an English man.'

'The common weal asks how can we come together in a democratic way to develop a new constitution that is fit for purpose.'

John Finney reiterated some of the points made by Ms Forbes when it was his turn to present, picking up on immigration and globalisation in particular.

He added: 'There is a huge humanitarian crisis going in at the moment but Scotland, and the highlands especially, needs people to come to the country to live and to work - to keep our schools running and towns thriving.'

Bob Fotheringham was last of the four to speak. He referenced recent polls where people are undecided. He said austerity is a main reason for his vote to leave the union. He pointed to the Greek situation in particular, where he said the majority of Greek people voted against the bailout package.

He said: 'Look at the people on Islay - they are running away from the EU because of the way it has affected things on the island. There is a better future and it's not within the EU. If we begin to ask the questions then we can help shape the world that we would live in outside the EU.'

After the initial presentations members of the room were invited to speak and raise any questions. John Hutchison, secretary of the Lochaber Common Weal, acted as mediator and offered discussion points throughout the evening to keep things moving.

Globalisation was raised as a key concern and the subsequent implications for the highlands, and while the speakers played the role of opposition, most shared dissatisfaction on how the referendum has been framed by the media and a lack of transparency when it comes to being able to make an informed decision.

Eddie Morgan brought proceedings to a close by thanking all who attended and added: 'Even though we may have different opinions, what tonight is about is getting people to participate in the discussion - this is a vote for Scotland's future and that's what we need to do.'

TIMESLINE

Lochaber stop for fundraiser, 76

A 76-YEAR-OLD man began a long voyage this week that will see him travel to the most northerly, southerly, westerly and easterly point of the country on a tuk tuk.

Steve Gibbs, 76, from Leicester, will be making a stop off in Fort William next week before heading to the Ardnamurchan Point, and back again, when his wife will join him for the trip north. Proceeds will go to The British Heart Foundation and Diabetes UK.

Rebuilt engines back on track

THE CALEDONIAN Sleeper now has five of its six Class 73/9s engines available for Scotland.

May 27 was the first day all three sleeper routes used the rebuilt electro-diesels on the same day. Four '73/9s' were in action on sleeper trains to Aberdeen, Fort William and Inverness - 73966 and 73969 were used on the Edinburgh-Inverness section of the Caledonian Sleeper, while 73967 worked to Aberdeen and 73968 hauled the Fort William carriages.

High Life summer fun for youngsters

HIGH Life Highland has a summer programme packed with more than 1,000 fun things for children and young people to do across the highlands.

From swimming lessons to Bookbug, mountain biking to crafting challenge days, there are activities offering exercise, inspiration and entertainment. Download activity programmes from summer.hIGHLIFEhighland.com

Primary pupils on their marks for swimming and athletics contests

NINETEEN schools from across Lochaber entered almost 200 children to the Lochaber Primaries inter-school swimming gala and athletics competition last week.

The event, organised annually by High Life Highland staff from Lochaber Leisure Centre, the Active Schools team and Lochaber PE teachers, began at Lochaber Leisure Centre, where the children raced individual 25m heats and 50m finals in front crawl, breast stroke and back crawl.

Five new records were made in the six individual races.

The first of these went to Poppy Valentine from Banavie in the backstroke who, in a time of 35.41, smashed her own record from last year by 4.5 seconds.

The next record broken was by Gabriel MacCallum from Invergarry who swam the backstroke in 40.72 - more than three seconds off the previous record.

Next up it was Inverlochty's Evie-Jay Clark who set her lane on fire by swimming the 50m breaststroke in 43.68,

a clear four seconds faster than the previous record.

Alice Anne MacPherson got in on the record breaking action in the 50m front crawl. Her swim of 33.28 was enough to beat the record by 1.5 seconds.

The final record breaker of the morning was Kai Malcolm from St Brides primary school.

He swam his 50m front crawl final in 35.24, which meant he was also 1.5 seconds faster than the previous record holder.

After the prizegiving the event moved to Claggan Park, where the athletics competition got under way with the children competing in hurdles, 100m, 200m and team relays on the track and shot putt and long jump in the field.

Once again there were some great displays of natural athletic ability.

Sam Langan of Spean Bridge primary blew everyone away with his shot putt of 7m86, 1m31 further than his nearest competitor Kai Malcolm.

In the girls' competition, Faye Henderson from Mallaig took the win from Elle Bisset of Caol with a throw of 5m54.

In the boys' competition there was only 1cm between first placed Ethan Linfield, who jumped 3m34, and second placed Ivan Davies.

Onto the track events and it was here that some new finish line technology adopted by the Active Schools staff came into play.

To qualify for the finals the children were racing for the fastest times in their heats, which meant that the races were tight.

The six fastest children from all of the heats went through to the final and more than one photo finish was checked and double checked.

In the 100m boys' sprint it was Johnathon Ewers from Acharacle Primary who took a comfortable win over second equal placed Tyler White from Spean Bridge and Josh Wallace from Lundavra.

The hurdles competition was won for the girls by Alex MacMaster from Lundavra Primary School and for the boys it was Josh Wallace, also of Lundavra.

The final event of the day was the mixed 4x100m relay, and it was Caol which proved to be the strongest in this race.

In the overall schools competition, the trophy for small schools will be shared this year by Roy Bridge and St Brides, who each gained five points.

The medium schools winner this year was Invergarry, with Mallaig in second and Ballachulish in third.

The large school with the most points was Lundavra, in second was Caol and in third, Lochyside.



Top: Large schools overall athletic winners: 1 Lundavra; 2 Caol; 3 Lochyside.

Above: Large schools overall swimming winners: 1 Inverlochty; 2 Caol; 3 Banavie.

Left: Children compete in the relay competition.



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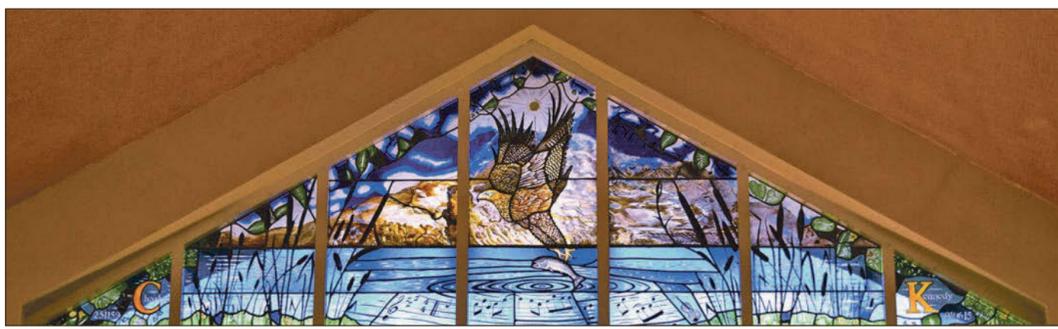
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Church unveils 'stunning' window in memory of Charles Kennedy MP

INSPIRATIONAL artwork was unveiled in a Caol church marking the first anniversary of a 'popular but humble' man.

More than 200 people attended a service in St John's Parish in remembrance of former MP Charles Kennedy, when a specially designed stained glass window displaying his name was seen for the first time.

Father McAuley, parish priest at St John's said: 'It was just a lovely, lovely service - a beautiful coming together. But the thing is, it's not just about Charles - the service went beyond that. We also paid tribute to Charles' parents Ian and Mary who played music at the church for more than 40 years.'

'The window is a stunning addition. It adorns the church and is more of a symbol. It represents Lochaber and the community as a whole. It's an inspiration to everyone really and I think Charles would like that because he was a very kind and humble man.'

Costing £7,500 and part-funded by donations from local residents, the window features a golden eagle, Ben Nevis, violets and bullrushes to represent Charles' personality, according to the Perth-based artist.

Children from Lochside Primary School sang a psalm and *Amazing Grace* during the service and Charles' older brother Ian Kennedy unveiled the window.

Mr Kennedy died suddenly at his Lochaber home on June 1, 2015 at the age of 55. He had been a Highland MP for 32 years and led the Lib Dems for more than six years.

Father McAuley added: 'The children sang *Lord You Search Me And Know Me*, the same psalm that was sung at Charles' funeral, so that was very fitting.'

'More than 200 people turned up to pay their respects to Charles, but also to meet and catch up with each other. Afterwards many stayed and enjoyed teas, coffees and sandwiches. So many people played their little part in putting on this service so even in remembering someone lost, we can find happiness and inspiration for the future.'



Father McAuley with Charles' brother, Ian, seated; and right, Charles Kennedy.



It was just a lovely, lovely service

Father McAuley
St John's parish priest



TIMESLINE

Five days of work at A82 crossroads

WORK to improve embankments and drainage on a northbound section of the A82 is due to start on Monday June 20.

The repairs, at Anachan Crossroads, are scheduled to last for five days. Traffic management will include three-way traffic lights on the A82 and High Bridge road.

Pedestrian, 21, killed on Skye

A 21-YEAR-OLD Australian woman died on Monday after being hit by a Vauxhall car on the A87, on Skye.

Police attended the incident near the Sligachan Hotel at about 1.15am.

The male driver of the car was uninjured.

The woman is believed to have been returning home after enjoying a day off with her boyfriend. They had been living and working at Kinloch Lodge Hotel in Sleat.

The road was reopened at around 11.10am the same day. Police Scotland urge any witnesses to contact them on 101.

Top fiddler heads to Nevis Centre

THE 'KING of gypsy music' is coming to Lochaber.

Tcha Limberger, hailed as the most celebrated gypsy musician of his generation, will perform in the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Friday June 24.

Car parked in Caol is damaged

POLICE are appealing for information after a Nissan car was damaged in Caol.

The incident took place sometime between 5.30pm on Sunday May 29 and 8.50am on Monday May 30 when the car was parked in Fern Court.

Anyone with information should contact local police on 01397 702000 or Crime-stoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or online at crimestoppers-uk.org.

Planning review favours islands

AN INDEPENDENT review into Scottish planning procedures has recommended island authorities should have more flexibility in deciding planning applications.

The report of the Independent Review Panel Empowering Planning to Deliver Great Places stated: 'Given their special circumstances, the island authorities should be given more flexibility where this would better reflect the distinctive local context for planning in an island setting.'

Parade celebrates volunteers' effort

A PARADE of volunteers made their way along Fort William High Street last Thursday (June 2).

The parade, part of Volunteers' Week, featured volunteers from a wide variety of local and national organisations led by Lochaber Pipe Band and team members from Voluntary Action Lochaber (VAL), which organised the event.

Groups represented included Lochaber Environmental Group, Nevis Partnership, Alzheimer Scotland, Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland, Lochaber Town Team and the Presbytery of Lochaber.

The parade ended outside Duncansburgh MacIntosh Memorial Church and there was a volunteering fair in the church hall afterwards.

Gerald McIntyre, chairman of VAL, said: 'This is the first year we've done a parade as

part of Volunteers' Week, which is really a fortnight this year. We're hoping the parade and fair in the Duncansburgh church hall will raise the profile of volunteering in general and of the local groups in particular and encourage more volunteers to come forward.'

Mhairi Wylie, chief officer of Highland Third Sector Interface, of which VAL is one of eight local group partners, said: 'Volunteering fortnight is really important as volunteers provide the backbone for so much of our social and cultural activities. They are important in ensuring that the most isolated and most vulnerable people get support and it's important that we stop and appreciate them, and say thank you.'

This celebration of volunteers in the community will conclude today (June 9) with the Vocars - volunteer awards ceremony.



The parade finished up outside Duncansburgh MacIntosh Memorial Church. 21_f24 volunteer parade4



The parade was led by Lochaber Pipe band. 21_f24 volunteer parade2



A volunteering fair took place in the Duncansburgh church hall after the parade. 21_f24 volunteer parade5

Canoe challenge boosts Tree Aid

A FUNDRAISING effort has seen a group of intrepid foresters canoe across Scotland.

The six-strong Forestry Commission team were inspired to take on their 95km task, from Fort William to Inverness, after reading about the Tree Aid charity's effort to build a 'Great Wall' of trees in the sub-Saharan Sahel region.

Malcolm Wield, from the FCS Social Policy team, said: 'Tree Aid has been working at this for years but it's a monumental task, so we thought we'd chip in and do our bit to help our African colleagues.'

'It was a great adventure and a real accomplishment. We've had a fantastic amount of support so far and we're always happy to receive donations.'

The team steered four canoes through the Great Glen over five days from May 18 to May 22, carrying their kit and food with them and making camp along the way.

They braved everything that Scotland could throw at them, with varying temperatures and all manner of weather.

So far their team effort has raised £1,200, more than twice their target amount.



www.facebook.com/obantimes

Public wifi live on CalMac network

ALMOST half of the 200-mile long Caledonian MacBrayne network now has free public access wifi, with the remainder to be completed in early July.

There is little 3G or 4G provision across most of the network so this new connectivity is a welcome boost to both business and travellers who can now work and communicate in real time.

CalMac public manager Jim McKillop said: 'We are now almost halfway through the rollout programme for CalMac public access wifi. Already we have had some great feedback from communities involved and we are committed to rollout completion by early July.'

Community volunteers dig deep to bring lease of life to unloved plots in Lochaber

UNLOVED plots in Lochaber have been given a new lease of life thanks to a community-wide effort.

'Adopt A Plot' is a scheme orchestrated by Fort William Town Team. The group of volunteers aims to compensate for shortfalls in council funding to keep plant and garden areas in the local area looking respectable.

The team recently appealed for individuals to adopt eight outdoor areas and, according to members, each one is now receiving the attention it requires.

Sue Keen, town team secretary, said: 'We've had such a great response to the programme. It's been just wonderful. All of the plots have been sponsored.'

As part of the incentive, the town team provided tools and plants in exchange for valuable 'manpower' to help with weeding and planting of flower beds. She added: 'The reason we have to do this is because the council just doesn't have enough money to tackle all the areas. It does a bit, but we don't have a common good fund here yet we live in such a tourist area, so it's important those visiting have a fabulous impression



Above and left: Children from Lundavra Primary school do their part.



and want to return. We do it for the residents as well. The drive or walk to work is so much more enjoyable if the place is well kept.'

Ms Keen said some of the most impressive transformations have been to the Lundavra butterfly plot which faced being mowed over and the work being done to the parade in the town centre.

She added: 'Gardenstop and Lundavra Primary School joined forces to keep the butterfly 'alive'. It's been there for 20 years and would have been a real shame to lose it but the Gardenstop at Blar Mhor donated the plants and school pupils volunteered to get out there and get their hands dirty.'

'With the parade, it is Tesco and the Salvation Army who have worked their magic. The fact that businesses, schools and charities have all become involved is just terrific. We will put up a plaque at each plot showing who was involved. We can't wait for the plants to bloom and to see what all the different groups have done with their area.'

The town team would still appreciate help from volunteers for ongoing projects, including the Belford Gardens.

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Islands unite after ferry firm's U-turn on vessel's deployment

MONICA GIBSON
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

A 'FAILURE in community engagement' has prompted opposing sides to unite following a U-turn on a crucial ferry service.

MV Coruisk has been a major talking point among residents of Lochaber, Oban, Skye and Mull following CalMac's decision in 2015 to redeploy the ferry from the Mallaig to Armadale route to operate between Craignure and Oban.

But following a campaign by Sleat Transport Forum, MP Ian Blackford announced late last week that after a meeting with managing director Martin Dorchester, CalMac planned to reverse its decision and return the ferry to the Mallaig-Armadale crossing.

These claims were then quashed five days later when CalMac issued a statement saying that no further changes would be made to the Mallaig to Armadale route this year.

In the statement, Mr Dorchester said he regretted plans for the Mallaig-Armadale route had fallen short of some expectations and he said that after listening to community concerns, CalMac will review vessel deployment for summer 2017 in consultation with affected communities.

He continued: 'Every change to our summer timetable was made after consultation with the local communities and each change was made in good faith with the sole intention of enhancing ferry services and addressing local concerns, some long-standing, about

services in their area. We should also not lose sight of the fact that the vast majority of these changes have been warmly welcomed by those local communities.'

The about turn came as a relief to those on Mull, with councillor Mary-Jean Devon summing up her reaction by saying: 'Hurray!' She added: 'The whole thing took up most of my weekend, writing letters and asking for information.'

Others were less impressed, not so much with the decision but with the way it was handled. Rob Ware, secretary of Sleat Community Council for Sleat Transport Forum, said CalMac's silence throughout the process, and especially since Mr Blackford's announcement last week, was his biggest grievance and he believed it has created community warfare.

He added: 'Customer confidence in the Mallaig to Armadale route is at its lowest ebb. Since the decision earlier this year there have been revisions to the revised timetable and every time it is the customer who is losing out. There is no doubt Mull, too, needs extra capacity but to describe the way in which CalMac has treated this issue and the people concerned as a shambles is putting it nicely.'

Brendan O'Hara, SNP MP for Argyll and Bute, described the situation as a pantomime.

He said: 'I am delighted for the people of Mull that the *MV Coruisk* will be staying where it is and I sincerely hope the needs of those in Skye are addressed and made a priority. This was never meant to be a

case of Mull versus Skye.

'There has been a complete failure in community engagement on behalf of CalMac.'

'The decision is almost playing second fiddle. It was the uncertainty which has caused problems. After Mr Blackford's announcement I asked Martin Dorchester to contact me. I still have not had a response.'

'In the lead up to what will be the busiest time of the year, businesses could not operate properly with this hanging over them. Customers would have been put off making bookings and residents were in disarray.'

'Even if it wasn't going to be the decision people wanted, they had to know one way or another.'

When contacted by *The Oban Times* regarding the complaints about its community engagement, a CalMac spokesman said: 'We needed to look at a range of options to address reliability issues on the Mallaig-Armadale route, including timetable amendments.'

'This took some time and inevitably generated speculation about what was happening to the *MV Coruisk*, which was unfortunate.'

'As soon as a final decision was made in consultation with Transport Scotland on what was the best options for these two routes, working within the resources we have, communities were advised.'

As *The Oban Times* went to press it is understood Mr Blackford was arranging an emergency meeting with Transport Scotland, and Sleat Transport Forum will invite Mr Dorchester to attend a public meeting in Sleat.

Bethan is just the job at Mòd



Young Bethan Neil was game for a laugh last week at the Oban Mòd. The seven-year-old played the jester in Rockfield's drama group at this year's big event. 17_1240ObanModFriday11.

Huge public response to road petition

THERE has been a huge and immediate response to an urgent call for action to make the A85 safer in the Dunbeg area.

Within days of its launch, 750 people had signed Dunbeg Community Council's online petition.

And *The Oban Times* is backing the demand for action in the wake of a series of accidents that have caused traffic chaos in recent days.

Full story: page nine.

School sports day special

SEVEN primary schools held their annual sports days in glorious sunshine last week - and *The Oban Times* was there to record all the fun and games.

And it wasn't just the youngsters who were having a grand time of it: mums and dads also showed their competitive side as they took part in their own races.

Picture special: page four.

It's all set for charities day

OBAN is gearing up to party this weekend with the annual charities day in the town.

This year, there is the added attraction of a street party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. Dozens of charity stalls will be set up in Station Square and there will be all kinds of entertainment laid on, including a parade.

Fun day preview: page eight.



Epic marathon takes team all the way round

NINETY coastal miles round Mull, two skiffs, one safety boat and a team of 14 rowers.

Last Thursday afternoon at 5pm two skiffs set off from the Tobermory pontoon to complete the first leg of what was to be a three-and-a-half-day coastal marathon.

The row round Mull is one of many fundraising efforts to raise money to resurface the Dervaig sports pitch. It was inspired by the single-handed row round Mull more than 10 years ago by Nick Turnbull to help fund the original sports pitch.

So 24 hours and 39 minutes of rowing later, they returned to Tobermory. It was now 4pm on Friday and with two Tobermory High School pipers and a cheering crowd of supporters, the tired but jubilant rowers were welcomed back home.

The Turnbull family, John and Lynn Addy, supported by numerous others from the village and around the islands of Mull and Iona ensured that this was both a memorable and successful adventure.

A celebration ceilidh on Saturday was a great way to mark the row.



The tired but successful rowers and their supporters celebrate the end of the adventure.

Argyll volunteers are needed to aid veterans

THE BRITISH Legion in Scotland is hoping to boost its numbers of 'befrienders' during National Volunteers' Week, which runs until June 12.

Almost 60 people have approached the ex-services charity about helping veterans in the past month following a drive for volunteers but there are still more needed in Argyll and Bute.

Last year, more than 2,200 requests for befriender support were made to Legion Scotland to combat common issues faced by veterans such as loneliness, unemployment and housing problems.

There are three key areas of Legion Scotland's work: comradeship, wellbeing and remembrance.

Stephen Baird, head of wellbeing at Legion Scotland,

said: 'We are thrilled that so many people are interested in becoming befrienders but the figures from last year show that we need more.'

'Our befriending service is simple but highly effective and makes a real difference to the lives and wellbeing of our veterans. During volunteers' week, we hope this message can inspire even more people in Argyll and Bute to contact us to find out more about the role.'

Local befrienders receive training and are asked to spend at least two hours a week with a veteran. Ideally, volunteers will have a military connection, be it personal or through family or friends.

To find out more about Legion Scotland's befriending service, including information on how to volunteer, contact Stephen on s.baird@legionscotland.org.uk.



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750 back 'killer' road petition

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

'ATROCIOUSLY dangerous', 'a death trap', 'horrendous', 'terrifying', 'a killer'.

These were just a few descriptions of the A85 Dunbeg to Oban carriageway posted on an online petition to improve its safety, which attracted 700 signatures in a day.

Dunbeg Community Council began distributing paper petitions last week in its campaign to cut the number of crashes on the main road into Oban and, on Monday, community councillor Sean MacIntyre put the appeal online at www.change.org.

Mr MacIntyre, a Dunbeg resident, is demanding Transport Scotland upgrades the A85 stretch 'with double white lines and address the speed limit to stop the countless accidents that happen on a regular basis'.

Within a few hours the online petition reached 100 signatures, the minimum target needed to send it to Transport Scotland, and numbers grew rapidly over the next 24 hours.

Almost all argue an upgrade

is 'urgent' and 'overdue', citing the road's 'appalling record of traffic accidents', and the disruption caused by closures.

Iain Davidson, from Dunfermline, wrote: 'The section between the Halfway House and Pennyfuir is a killer.'

'I've lost two good friends on this stretch of road and there have been countless dozens either taken from us or very badly injured as a result of the treacherous visibility there.'

Gail Lockhart from Oban also appealed: 'My son was in a road traffic accident on this road. Thankfully he walked away. Far too many haven't.'

Some are cutting back their visits to Oban because of the 'crazy driving'.

Connel resident Jenny Brady wrote: 'So many times I come around a corner on this stretch of road to come face-to-face with a car overtaking and on the wrong side of the road.'

Kim Entwistle, also from Oban, posted: 'Sirens on that road every day this week, already half a dozen folk injured and the summer hasn't even really begun yet.'

Eric Smith, another Oban

resident, agreed: 'This road is a notorious death trap for unwary or foreign holiday-making motorists, pure and simple. Avoidable deaths and serious injuries will occur this summer if immediate action is not taken.'

Shopper Liz Paul of Duror said: 'I have the choice of the A82 or the A85 when I want to go shopping - toss a coin, pick your danger.'

Commuter Rachel Young of North Connel suggested solutions: 'There should be double white lines on the whole road and the speed limit should be reduced.'

Irene Mackinnon of Oban said: 'The amount of accidents could be greatly reduced if there was a 40mph speed limit.'

Robert Turnewitsch of North Connel, a regular user of the road between Connel and Oban, also supported the petition: 'Significant measures need to be taken to reduce the risks/hazards on this road and the need for overtaking.'

He requested 'adequate use of white lining, [a] widening of foot/cycle path between Dunbeg and Oban, [and the]

extension of foot/cycle path from Dunbeg to Connel.'

Claire McHardy of Oban argued accidents will only get worse: 'The volume of traffic using this road has increased significantly over the years and is only going to get busier given the increase in the population of Oban and surrounding area and ferry traffic to the islands.'

Mr MacIntyre said he was 'over the moon' with the response.

To sign the online petition, go to <https://www.change.org/p/transport-scotland-dunbeg-community-council-demand-the-upgrade-of-the-a85> or fill in the petition form.

■ TRAFFIC into and out of Oban was disrupted again early on Thursday morning following a two-vehicle accident on the A85.

The crash happened between Pennyfuir and the filling station close to Oban shortly after 6am.

Police said no-one was seriously injured but a woman had to be cut free from her car.

A contraflow was put in place while emergency services attended to the incident.

Dunbeg Community Council DEMAND THE UPGRADE OF THE A85

This petition is to support the demand for the upgrade of the A85 Dunbeg to Oban carriageway, for it to be upgraded with double white lines and to address the speed limit all the way along this stretch of road to stop the countless accidents that happen on a regular basis.

To sign the petition, please fill in your name and address and send this form to:

A85 UPGRADE, PO Box 1, The Oban Times, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB

Name: _____

Address: _____

Island to host slate festival

THE ATLANTIC Islands Centre on Luing will be buzzing this weekend as it holds its annual slate festival.

Held over three days, the event will provide a fascinating insight into the island's history as a slate-producing location.

It starts tomorrow night (Friday) with a tapas night when visitors can tuck into Spanish delights.

On Saturday, there will be two slate mosaic workshops by artist and geologist Dugald MacInnes, the first from 10am until noon and the next from 1pm to 3pm.

At 4pm there will be an illustrated talk on the rise and fall of the slate industry, followed later by a slate islands ceilidh.

Sunday sees slate tiles dressing demonstration at noon and a slate sculpture competition at 1.15pm. There will also be a slate exhibition in the Atlantic Islands Centre throughout the month.

Book events at info@atlanticislandscentre.com or call 01852 314096.

Anniversary for youth cafe

OBAN Youth Café will be celebrating its 15-year anniversary this Saturday June 11.

The youth café offers high school aged youngsters a range of clubs, drop-ins, sports and other activities.

The youngsters have created a photo gallery to mark this milestone, entitled '15 Years of Fun'.

At the celebration, which will run from 12pm till 3pm in the youth café, there will also be: a birthday cake and other home baking, tea and coffee, party games, raffle prizes, pool and face painting.

For more information call 01631 567 399.

Walk of ages: generations join play park fight



MORE than 300 strollers took part in a sponsored inter-generational walk on Thursday, along the footpath between the Corran Halls and Dunollie Castle.

The mile walk was organised by Elaine Craig and Aileen Michie, of Friends of Oban Community Play Park, to raise funds towards £60,000 still needed to build the £100,000 under-fives play park.

In bright sunshine, as walkers stopped for refreshments laid out by Dunollie staff, Elaine Craig told *The Oban Times* there had been 'a good turnout'.

'It's lovely to see young children and the older generation together,' she added.

Many mums and grannies were joined by Oban Health Walks and Seniors

Forum and pre-school and primary 1 children from Lochnell, Rockfield and Park primary schools and from Little Learners, Stramash and First Steps nurseries.

The amount raised, Ms Craig said, would become clear as it comes in from the groups, schools and parents during the coming weeks.

MSP urges action to improve the A82

AN MSP has called for action to improve the A82.

Scottish Liberal Democrat transport spokesperson Mike Rumbles urged the new transport minister to prioritise investment in the route.

In his first act as transport spokesperson, Mr Rumbles tabled a number of parliamentary questions pressing the Scottish Government to step up plans to upgrade the A82.

Mr Rumbles said: 'It is not surprising that the omission of any

A82 upgrade plans from the SNP manifesto has cast doubt on the priority the Scottish Government gives this vital artery connecting the West Highlands and islands with the central belt.'

'Given the appointment of Humza Yousaf as the transport minister, I hope he takes this opportunity to ensure the Scottish Government commits fully to much-needed upgrades on the A82, particularly between Onich and Fort William.'

New opposition to boundary changes

'TINKERING' boundary changes for Argyll and Bute Council elections are 'driven by irrelevant number-based formulae' with 'no financial savings', the region's MSP has told Local Government Minister Kevin Stewart.

Michael Russell, the SNP MSP for Argyll and Bute, wrote to Mr Stewart asking him not to implement the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's recommendations, submitted in May to Scottish ministers for approval.

The commission's fifth electoral review looked at the number of councillors and the electoral ward boundaries in each of Scotland's 32 local authorities, ready to be implemented in time for local government elections in May 2017. There were two consultations in 2014 and 2015 and the public can again have their say until July 7. The recommendations reduce Argyll and Bute's councillors by three to 33 and propose changes to the Oban North Ward and the new Mid Argyll Ward, now running from the top of Loch Fyne to the Garvellachs.

Before becoming Oban North and Lorn's newly-elected councillor on June 2, Kieron Green called for a cross-party consensus to oppose the proposals. He said: 'The



Michael Russell opposes the changes.

Oban South and the Isles ward remains unchanged, but the Oban North and Lorn ward is still proposed to have Luing, Seil, Kilninver and Kilmelford, Avich and Kilchrenan and the east Lochaweside section of Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council moved to the Mid Argyll ward. The only change made to earlier proposals has been to keep Dalmally and Glenorchy within Oban North and Lorn.

'While these proposals only directly affect five community council areas,

they affect the entire area through the reduction in Argyll and Bute councillors representing our area and the changes to the area boundary. They cut the link between natural community boundaries and the councillors representing these areas which could lead to councillors unfamiliar with local concerns, as well as potentially affecting service delivery in future if more administrative boundaries are changed to match the new wards.'

'We previously met to discuss these proposals and submitted a joint response on behalf of 10 of our community councils concerning this issue. It is vital we make it clear there is a consensus from our communities that is cross-party in opposing these proposals. Now is the time to be contacting our local MSP, the Highlands and Islands MSPs as well as the minister responsible for local government to make our feelings clear - both as individuals and community councils.'

Any comments on the reports and their recommendations should be submitted by July 7 to: Tony Romain, Scottish Government, Local Government Policy and Relationship Unit, Directorate for Local Government and Communities, Area 3J, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

Cancer support service ready to open

A NEW Macmillan Cancer information and support service in Oban Library will be officially opened by Provost Len Scoullar and Brendan O'Hara MP on Monday June 20.

The service has been developed in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, Argyll and Bute Council, NHS Highland and Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface to provide much-needed support for people living with cancer, their families and carers.

A team of specially trained volunteers run the service and offer one-to-one emotional support, guidance with information materials on various aspects of cancer and its treat-

ment or simply a listening ear over a cup of tea.

They can also point people in the right direction for other specialist services such as financial advice, walking groups and local support organisations. There is a dedicated drop-in area as well as private rooms. The drop-in runs on Wednesdays from 2.15pm to 4.15pm in the library.

Elsbeth Atkinson, director of Macmillan Cancer Support in Scotland, said: 'It is thanks to the hard work and dedication of our supporters in Argyll and Bute who raise so much money for us that we are able to establish such a vital service. Macmillan believes that no-one should face cancer alone and the continued support

from people locally will help us to ensure that no one does.'

Provost Scoullar added: 'Everyone who is part of a community can play a part in supporting and developing that community. We recognise the need to support people through times of ill health and in setting up this innovative initiative, we are providing a comfortable, welcoming environment for community volunteers to meet people living with or affected by cancer.'

Christina West, chief officer for Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, said: 'This is an invaluable service to the local community and I am delighted it is providing information and support to our patients, their families, carers and friends.'

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Trust has office hit by thieves

A PUBLIC recycling charity has had its premises broken into and a cash register stolen.

The GRAB Trust's (Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute) Lorn and Oban Reuse Initiative (LORI) cabin at the Moleigh Recycling Centre was broken into last Tuesday morning (May 31).

Julie Fairbrass, project manager of the GRAB Trust, told *The Oban Times* that the cabin door had been forced open using a crowbar and the till had been stolen.

Ms Fairbrass said: 'Nothing else was taken but the team are deeply shocked and angered that someone would target this site. Our signs clearly state we are a charity but this obviously doesn't make any difference. I don't feel this was an opportunist, as they knew exactly what cabin to break into and no other damage was done to any other part of the site and no other cabins were broken into.'

She added: 'The LORI project is a great project but can barely afford to take this hit and, although we have insurance, it has saddened and disappointed me that an incident like this could occur.'

The damage to the doors was so severe that the lock had to be replaced and the doors repaired.

Police inquiries into the break-in are ongoing.

Disabled man's case for review

DISABLED Mull pensioner Alex Fletcher, who faces becoming 'a prisoner in his own house' in Bunnassan if the UK government takes back his car under its new disability benefit scheme, is having his case reviewed.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) should decide by mid June if the 61-year-old, who lives in constant pain due to severe arthritis, can keep the car until an appeal decides in a year or two.

Mr Fletcher, who retired on doctor's orders from the construction industry six years ago, qualified for a car funded by Motability under the Disability Living Allowance Scheme.

But he failed to qualify for the car benefit under its new replacement, the Personal Independence Payment (PIP), because at the time he filled in the form last year he could walk over 20m, which now he cannot.

The appeal will decide if Mr Fletcher is eligible for the higher rate of disability benefit.

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara also visited Mr Fletcher in Bunnassan at the weekend, and promised to take up his case in Westminster and with the DWP.

Birthday girl Caroline is just dancing in the park



Surprise! Caroline and her sister and friends were treated to a luxury limo.

OBAN resident Caroline MacDonald had a rather grand 50th birthday surprise on Wednesday (June 1).

Caroline knew she was going to see Bruce Springsteen - but she was unaware that her sister, Liz MacLean

of Benderloch, had booked a limo to take them, along with another four ladies, including Liz's neighbours Megan and Chloe MacDonald, who had turned 21 and 18 respectively in the past year.

Liz told *The Oban Times* that she and her sister had been Springsteen fans for many years but her sister had not seen him live in quite a while.

She said: 'She loves him and was really happy. It was a combination

of the limo and seeing Bruce Springsteen. It was a fantastic trip.

'The limo took us all the way to Hampden Park and all the way back and we had a Springsteen CD so we sang all the way!'

Island's projects turning tide on population decline

TWO MAJOR projects are coming to fruition on the isle of Ulva after a lengthy campaign.

After four years, Ulva School Community Association (USCA), supported by Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) local development officers, has made progress with its projects to reverse population decline and increase the sustainability of Ulva Primary School.

With funding from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the local development officers have helped to build on the enthusiasm and determination of the local volunteers who campaigned vigorously and successfully against the planned closure of the school in 2010.

Work has started on the Ulva Ferry pontoon, which will provide opportunities for economic development in the area on a seasonal basis and also improve facilities for local boat operators including tour and fishing boats.

The seven-berth pontoon is now under construction and will be in operation during the summer. Part of the scheme is to provide a fuel berth which, it is hoped, will reduce fuel costs for local sailors.

The £451,000 grant funding from Coastal Communities Fund also allows for MICT to employ Mark Millward as full-



Ulva Primary children Matilda Munro and Issy Greenfield cut the first sod, above, while, below right, Ulva Ferry development steering group Iain Morrison, Jeanette Cutlack, Mark Millward and Jeanie MacColl at the ceremony and supervising Torosay Sandpit Ltd pouring concrete for the foundation.



time pontoon manager this season as local employment is one of the objectives of the project.



For more information about the pontoon, contact either Cally Fleming cfleming@mict.co.uk or Mark Millward markmillward@mict.co.uk.

co.uk or Mark Millward markmillward@mict.co.uk.

The Ulva Ferry community bus, specially converted to include a wheelchair lift, provides a valuable service to locals, particularly those who would otherwise be isolated.

Thanks to the Bus Investment Fund, the vehicle also provides six part-time jobs for residents in an area with few such opportunities.

For more information visit the website www.ufcb.org.uk or contact Mike Hogan 07775531301 info@ufcb.org.uk or Helen MacDonald.

Together, these projects will contribute to the long-term sustainability of the Ulva Ferry area, providing income, employment and secure housing for residents.

Iain Thomson, convener of USCA, said: 'The latest news about the grant from the Rural Housing Fund is a fantastic boost to the project. So much time and work has been put in and many challenges overcome.'

'It is the result of a community pulling together in the face of the school closure and keeping hope alive for the future of the area. I look forward to see construction begin soon.'

TIMESLINE

Lifeboat races to aid of yacht

OBAN lifeboat was launched on Sunday to go to the aid of a yacht south of Croabh Haven. The RNLI boat was called out by Stornoway Coastguard at 5.35pm to assist a yacht with five people on board after it suffered engine difficulty. Shortly after leaving the berth, the volunteer crew were requested to stand down as the yacht had been taken under tow by another boat in the area. Oban lifeboat returned to station where she was refuelled and made ready again by 6.15pm.

Orwell Society to visit site of book

THE ORWELL Society is visiting Jura this week to see where author George Orwell wrote his novel 1984. Society members, led by Orwell's adopted son Richard Blair, will be on the island from tomorrow (Friday) until Monday. The society will visit Barnhill at the invitation of the Fletcher family and enjoy a trip around Jura to see some of the features of the island, including the Gulf of Corrievreckan, where Orwell nearly drowned in 1947.

Cheers for pubs in line for awards

TWO pubs in Oban are leading the way in a national competition that recognises excellence in the industry. The Barn and Markie Dans are among the top three bars in several categories in the Scottish Bar and Pub Awards 2016.

Island tourist centre to close

NA H-EILEANAN an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan has written to VisitScotland following the announcement that the Lochboisdale Tourist Office will not reopen due to staff shortages. Many in the community have voiced concern at the proposed closure of the facility. Mr Allan said: 'This move would leave Lochboisdale as the only place in the Western Isles where tourists disembarking from a ferry are not able to find a tourist information centre.'

Making a splash for leisure centre

TWENTY-ONE hardy souls will take part in the Lochindaal swim on July 2 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the opening of Mactaggart Leisure Centre, Islay. Thirteen centre staff and eight staff from Islay Medical Services will swim from Port Charlotte to Bowmore. The fundraisers hope to raise £5,500 for the leisure centre and its activities. The distance from Port Charlotte to Bowmore is 5,500 metres. To sponsor the event visit crowdfunding.justgiving.com/isobel-mclean

Island turbine has never turned a blade

COLL'S controversial 77-metre wind turbine at Gallanach 'hasn't turned a blade' since it was installed more than six months ago.

Councillors Roddy McCuish and Neil MacIntyre were 'astounded' to learn at an island surgery last week that the 252ft turbine 'has never worked'.

'All that grief and it doesn't work,' Councillor McCuish told *The Oban Times*. 'It's like a big Wicker Man. The islanders want to decommission it.'

In October 2012, islander Neil Smith, director of Gallanach Green

Generation Ltd (GGG), was granted planning consent to erect the 252ft turbine at Gallanach Farm, despite more than 100 of the island's 137 inhabitants signing a petition against the 750kw turbine.

Argyll and Bute Council expected the developer to upgrade the island's single-track road to transport the giant components.

But on the May bank holiday weekend last year, furious islanders watched in horror as barges landed construction equipment on the pristine white sands of Gallanach beach,

and rock pecker machines began channelling a route through the cliff face.

Council officers served an interdict to halt the work because, they argued, Mr Smith had not been granted planning permission to create a track on his land running 500m from the beach to the turbine site.

Permission was later secured, with conditions agreed by the council, and the turbine was erected several months ago.

A council spokesperson said: 'The council understands that the

apparatus is currently not generating electricity due to a broken generator.

'The applicant has stated that the repair can be carried out using like for like parts and small apparatus/crane.

'There is a condition that states that if the wind turbine fails to produce electricity supply to a local grid for a continuous period of 12 months, then it will be deemed to have ceased to be required.

'We will continue to monitor the situation.'

Mr Smith could not be contacted for comment.

Kieron takes council seat after by-election victory

INDEPENDENT candidate Kieron Green beat the SNP's Breege Smyth by 22 votes to become Oban, North and Lorn's new councillor in last Thursday's by-election.

Mr Green polled 755 first preference votes compared to Ms Smyth's 1,055, but he was elected at the fourth stage after the two candidates with fewest votes were eliminated.

Scottish Conservative and Unionist Andrew Ross Vennard came third with 591, while Scottish Liberal Democrat David Pollard came fourth with 294 first preference votes. The total number of valid ballots cast was 2,651, with 16 rejected, representing 33.46 per cent of the electorate.

The next day an 'overwhelmed' Mr Green quit his job as a school technician at Oban High School and he will also be resigning his post on Oban Community Council.

Its chairperson, Marri Malloy, congratulated him. She said: 'Argyll and Bute Council's gain is Oban Community Council's loss. Thanks for all your hard work and good luck for the future.'

This week Mr Green told *The Oban Times* he had joined the council's administration as part of The Argyll, Lomond and the Isles Group, known as TALAIG, following talks with groups' leaders.

The by-election was triggered in March when the ward's SNP councillor Iain Angus Macdonald resigned.



Kieron Green won narrowly after second preferences were counted.

Fun in the Fort at Mountain Bike World Cup

BRITISH rider Rachel Atherton, who rides for Trek Factory Racing, proved unbeatable in the Fort William sunshine at the weekend's UCI Mountain Bike World Cup as she took home her ninth consecutive title.

In what proved to be a thrilling women's downhill final, Atherton showed why she is rated as one of the world's best as she triumphed with a time of 5.11.219, 12 seconds ahead of Australia's Tracey Hannah and fellow Brit Manon Carpenter, who finished third with a time of 5.32.108, despite a crash in the woods.

A nail-biting finish to the men's downhill saw South Africa's Greg Minnaar, the most successful downhill biker of all time, hold off a strong challenge from both USA's Aaron Gwin and Britain's Danny Hart to win with a time of 4.35.601.

In a race of twists and turns, it came down to the crowd favourite and leader in qualification Gee Atherton, to decide the final standings for the day.

After a shaky start out of the blocks, Atherton's bike caught a rock on the track and ended the crowd's hopes of double success for the Atherton family.

A touching tribute was made half way through the men's race to the late Canadian rider Steve 'Chainsaw' Smith, who lost his

life aged just 26 in May this year riding his motocross bike at home in Canada. An impeccably observed minute's silence was held across the Fort William course in honour of the multiple UCI World Cup winning rider, who was widely considered to be one of the finest downhill racers on the circuit.

Crowd favourite and legendary British downhill racer Steve Peat was also honoured in his last ever competitive appearance at the event after announcing his retirement from racing at the end of the current World Cup circuit. With the sun beating down on the Fort William track, the 10,000-strong crowd gave 'Peaty' a rousing send-off as he clocked a time of 4.49.859 to finish 29th overall.

Domination
The day however, belonged very much to Atherton and Minnaar, who continued their domination on the downhill sector with two impressive performances on the tricky Fort William trail.

Speaking after her success in the women's category, Rachel Atherton said: 'I didn't know that it would be my ninth consecutive World Cup win until this weekend - I don't think about it, I just do each race as it comes. I had such a good

Mountain biking

year last year, and then again this year I've won three World Cups so far. It's pretty cool, but pretty nerve-wracking as well. I'm nervous my luck is going to change soon.

'Fort William is so incredible. I struggled here as a younger rider, and it took a long time to get to grips with the track. I was second here six times, and then suddenly it clicked. You've got to be so strong and so tough here - Fort William's the only track I race completely out of control. There's something about it that makes you ride on the edge. You can do that though because the crowd is cheering and saying your name all the way down and that makes you not want to crash. It really makes you dig deep and want to stay on.'

'It's such a family event here at Fort William, there are so many families here with their kids that all ride and all the kids know the riders' names. It's so incredible, and so different to any other race. It just keeps getting better every year.'

Minnaar said: 'It was a really emotional race. The whole event has been emotional and the ghost run put on for Stevie was really special. The team here at



South African Greg Minnaar took the men's elite title.

Fort William have done a great job. It was such a surprise what they organised to commemorate him.

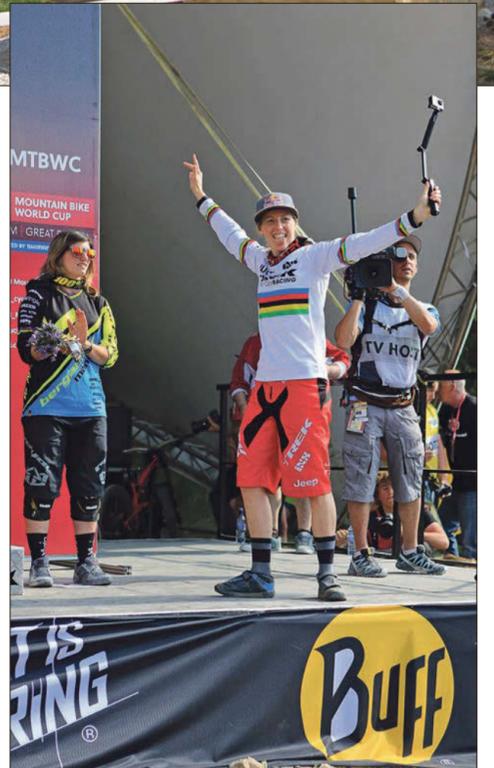
'I was a little bit late coming to the start - I thought I had more time prior so I had to calm down and relax so I would ride smooth and fast. I kept thinking I've got this win this event. I came in on

good time, but I wasn't sure it was going to hold because some guys came close.

'It's always difficult to win a race when someone crashes like Gee Atherton did. I just want all the guys to get down in one piece and he's pretty beat up about it. Sitting in the hot seat is such an emotional rollercoaster.'

Speaking after his final Fort William appearance, Steve Peat said: 'That last run was tough. The track has dried out a lot and there are lots of loose rocks. I didn't have a very good top section but when the crowd got wild I seemed to get into my groove and got faster as I reached the bottom. It was awesome to come in to the arena to such a loud a crowd.'

'It's really strange to be retiring from the World Cup circuit. Obviously I'll come back for nationals at Fort William but the atmosphere you get at a World Cup is like no other - I'm definitely going to miss that. I've just wanted Stevie's ghost run and I'm quite emotional about it. We can only do what we can in his memory and live our lives to the fullest.'



Rachel Atherton won her ninth consecutive title at Fort William on Sunday.



Oban's Ben Cathro in action. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Junior winner Finnlay Iles.



The ladies' elite podium.



The men's elite podium.

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Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday June 9, 2016 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	02.44	0.9	08.28	3.5	14.46	0.8	20.36	3.6
Fri	03.33	1.2	09.12	3.2	15.32	1.1	21.20	3.4
Sat	04.24	1.4	10.03	3.0	16.20	1.3	22.09	3.2
Sun	05.21	1.6	11.08	2.9	17.13	1.5	23.08	3.0
Mon	06.27	1.7	12.39	2.8	18.09	1.6	***	**
Tues	00.24	2.9	07.43	1.8	13.48	2.9	19.10	1.6
Wed	01.44	3.0	08.48	1.7	14.39	3.0	20.13	1.6

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy
Winds light south south easterly
Temperatures 14°C to 19°C.

Friday Light rain
Winds light south easterly
Temperatures 12°C to 16°C.

Weekend Cloudy on Saturday
Light rain showers on Sunday
Winds light south easterly
Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.

FRIDAY

Map showing weather conditions and tide levels for Friday. A red arrow points to Oban with a '11' and a cloud icon. A blue circle with '15' is over the sea, and a blue circle with '16' is over the land.