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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Parents vent anger over cuts proposed for school

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PROPOSED changes to a school on Mull have left parents feeling frustrated and concerned about the education their children will receive and the wellbeing of staff.

Salen primary school is set to lose the equivalent of one full-time teacher – one is being deployed to other schools on the island for three days and another for two days. This will result in staff having to teach both Gaelic and mainstream classes.

These adjustments are part of a school census that also requires the head teacher to teach classes three days per week.

Richard Cellett, chairman of Salen parent council, said: 'The head teacher will have to teach three days a week, as well as doing what a head teacher does - manage a nursery, pre-school and a Gaelic and a mainstream school. We all think that is not possible.'

'And it looks like the Gaelic teacher, who will have to teach at other schools, teaching mainstream classes as well as Gaelic, which is alarming considering that there's a shortage of Gaelic teachers in the country.'

'The proposed changes are concerning and it's likely that a teacher who has been with us for 31 years will leave and the new Gaelic teacher may leave Mull and get a full-time position elsewhere. If that happens, the school will not be able to survive that.'

In a letter addressed to Argyll and Bute Council's head of service for education, the Parent Council wrote: 'Juggling these

different roles is likely to be highly stressful, and we believe that Argyll and Bute Council has a duty of care to its employees to ensure that this proposal does not induce unacceptable pressure on the head teacher or other teaching staff at the school, and fully considers the wellbeing of its staff before instigating these changes.'

Mary Ireson, a parent of a Salen primary pupil, said: 'For me, it's about the quality of education. The council has already taken away the library service here on Mull.'

'We have primary ones coming in who don't know any Gaelic and we have primary threes who are at a different stage of learning. How can we expect one person to teach a class of 23?'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute council said: 'The staffing allocation for Salen primary school is firmly based on the nationally agreed class ratios between teachers and pupils, and the agreed staffing formula for schools.'

'The staffing exercise has identified surplus staffing in both the mainstream and Gaelic

classes and, consequently, the council has implemented its transfer policy and guidance for teachers in respect of members of staff affected. There are no redundancies of teaching staff in Salen primary.

'Head teachers are responsible for organising and managing their own responsibilities within the management time allocated to them.'

'A significant number of our head teachers have a combined teaching and management or leadership role within our schools and, consequently, are very skilled and experienced in ensuring that best use is made of their allocated time.'

Mary-Jean Devon, councillor for Oban South and the Isles, said: 'There are no teachers being made redundant. Teachers' hours are being cut in Salen but they will be redeployed elsewhere on the island.'

'It is not a budget cut. This is from the school census, which happens every year and any adjustments are made for the restart in August.'

However, Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, said: 'I am very concerned about staffing reductions that are being imposed piece-meal at schools across Argyll and Bute.'

'I am even more worried at the refusal of the council to discuss these with parents at any of the schools affected.'

'The cuts agreed by the full council in February were bad enough but they are being added to by stealth and without any democratic oversight as councillors are told when they inquire that these are "operational matters".'

The cuts are being added to by stealth

Michael Russell
Argyll and Bute MSP

Royal honour for stalwart David



One of the highlights of Oban Charities Day at the weekend was an awards ceremony that saw *The Oban Times'* David Buchanan receiving the British Empire Medal for his voluntary service to football from Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, Patrick Stewart. Street party organiser Graham MacQueen paid tribute to David as 'a role model of stewardship' who had been 'the heart of Oban Saints Football Club since its inception in 1960'. Charities day and street party picture special – pages 12 and 13.

TIMESLINE

Lifeboat station to hold open day

OBAN Lifeboat's open day will offer fun for all the family this Saturday (June 18) from 11am to 3pm.

Fast trips around Oban Bay, courtesy of Seafari, will be among the many attractions on offer to raise funds for one of Scotland's busiest lifeboats.

The event, at Oban Lifeboat Station, on the South Pier, offers the public the chance to step aboard the lifeboat.

Takeaway to offer buffet-style dining

OBAN'S award-winning takeaway Kebabish Curry House is expanding its business and creating the first buffet-style restaurant in the town. Full details – page 3.

1,000 signatures for A85 petition

ALMOST 1,000 people have signed a petition demanding action to improve safety on the A85 at Dunbeg, both online and printed in *The Oban Times*. To join the campaign, add your name at www.change.org/p/transport-scotland-dunbeg-community-council-demand-the-upgrade-of-the-a85.

CalMac staff are up for trio of awards

TEAMS at Caledonian MacBrayne have been nominated for three awards the Scottish Transport Awards to be held today (Thursday) in Glasgow. Full story – page 25.



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Dunbeg council chairwoman quits

THE outgoing chairwoman of Dunbeg Community Council says she is leaving the post as a protest, writes David McPhee.

Gwyneth Neal, who served as chairwoman for a decade, stepped down just hours before the community council's AGM, saying she did not agree with the actions of a particular group at a previous meeting.

Mrs Neal claimed that at a stakeholders' meeting regarding the development of Kirk Road in Dunbeg, 'the four people concerned had planned their strategy in advance to undermine others and take over on behalf of their political party'.

She said: 'It's very sad. Com-

munity councils are there to look after people and need to be non-political, not to forward the plans of a single group.'

At the Kirk Road development meeting, the new chairman of Dunbeg council, Sean MacIntyre, was elected as chairman of the stakeholders' committee.

Mrs Neal continued: 'Community councillors do not have the power to control budgets of councils and charitable organisations that have joint responsibility for a road.'

'I don't think it is up to political councillors to push members of the community council out.'

Oban North and Lorn councillor Julie McKenzie said she was

astounded by the 'ridiculous' statements made. She told *The Oban Times*: 'At a recent public meeting in Dunbeg, I suggested to the chair that in order to ensure community ownership of the Kirk Road issue, that perhaps a community representative could be appointed to chair the recently formed Kirk Road Stakeholders' Group.'

'This suggestion was met with no objection by anyone at the meeting and a Dunbeg community councillor was duly appointed by members of the public who were present.'

'I was horrified to learn today [Tuesday] that my suggestion, which was in good faith, to

empower the community of Dunbeg, is now completely misrepresented as some kind of staged political coup.'

Community councillor Sean MacIntyre said: 'I am delighted to be the new chair of Dunbeg Community Council.'

'Change is good for the community to move forward.'

'Issues with Kirk Road have been ongoing for 15 years and, in my eyes, and in the eyes of the community, it's not good. They [the community] have been saying to me that they need change and that is the reason I decided to stand as chair.'

'Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month.'

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£3m boost to town from Mòd

OBAN was £3 million to the good as a result of last year's Mòd.

An economic impact study shows that the Royal National Mòd held in Oban last year generated £2.8 million in the area.

Argyll and Bute Council welcomed the findings at a meeting of its community services committee last week. Members heard how the nine-day festival attracted 8,939 visitors to the area, 71 per cent of whom said they would definitely return to Oban for a holiday or short break. A further 15 per cent said they would possibly visit again.

Talking about the Market Specialists report, the council's policy lead for Gaelic, community and culture, Councillor Robin Currie, said: "One of the survey questions was about the impact of the Mòd on the Scottish Government objective of increasing the take-up and use of the Gaelic language."

"The question was answered very positively with 66 per cent of respondents stating that the event made a very significant contribution to the achievement of both objectives."

"The Mòd provides a valuable showcase for Gaelic language and culture. Of those asked, 85 per cent either speak Gaelic, are currently learning, would like to learn or are lapsed learners. These findings are to be welcomed and shows the huge contribution Gaelic makes to the area."

Councillor Aileen Morton, policy lead for economic development, added: "The findings of the study are extremely encouraging. They are a testament to the Mòd's importance, not only to Scotland's cultural calendar but to its economy as well, with 63 per cent of attendees revealing they would not have taken a trip during that week had it not been for the Mòd."

"The atmosphere saw 43 per cent say the buzz of the festival was well above or above expectations, and an impressive 71 per cent indicated they would come back to Oban for a future holiday or short break and another 15 per cent said they would possibly do so."

The council has a six-year agreement with An Comunn Gàidhealach for the delivery of the Mòd in Argyll and Bute on a three-year cycle until 2018.



Correction

THE OBAN TIMES would like to apologise for misspelling Park Primary School's senior champs Kate Robertson and Thomas McCrindle in our report last week.

Local heroes honoured

A NUMBER of people from the Highlands and Islands are to be recognised in this year's Queen's birthday honours.

Robert Ryan, 79, will receive an MBE for services to weaving and the economy on the Isle of Mull.

The original Isle of Mull Weavers was founded by Robert and Kathy Ryan in 1987. When they retired in 2003 Robert helped move the 1920s and 1950s looms to Ardalinish. He then advised on, and helped build, the viable weaving operation and trained young apprentices to carry on the skilled work, which has rejuvenated a small agricultural community in the Ross of Mull.

A Scottish scientist who became one of the world's foremost researchers in deep sea ecology has been awarded the OBE.

Edinburgh-born John Gordon, who lives in Easdale, Isle of Seil, spent his whole research career at the Oban-based Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) after completing a PhD at Edinburgh University.

Dr Gordon began his research in the shallow waters of the Firth of Lorn, but with the commissioning of the RRS Challenger in 1974, he moved into deeper waters (500-1,500 metres) to the



Robert Ryan from Mull, left, and John Gordon from Easdale have both been honoured by the Queen.

west of Scotland's continental slope, working on the biology of the bottom-living fish. His work contributed greatly to knowledge of food chains in the deep sea and how commercial trawling affects fish populations in deeper water.

Dr Gordon said: "I was greatly surprised and honoured to be recommended for an OBE for services to science. I had to go back several times to the letter to make sure it was true."

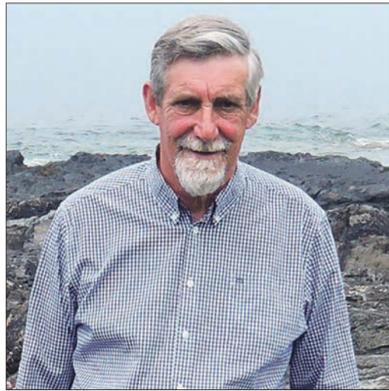
Jeanette Robinson, 71, of Oban

will receive a BEM for services to the community in Morvern.

Mrs Robinson runs the only cafe in the area and also acts as an unpaid tourist information worker, pier-mistress, dog minder, coast-watcher, litter-picker and provider of food and help for emergency services when required.

For more, turn to page 11.

Jessie Brown Watson Donaldson, 72, from Skye will receive a British Empire Medal (BEM)



a branch of the charity on the island and have worked tirelessly over the past 30 years to help raise more than £800,000 on the island.

Andrew Naylor, 54, will be given an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) for services to healthcare on the Isle of Harris.

A GP at the Leverburgh surgery, Dr Naylor is known for his willingness to attend patients at any time and his 'no appointment necessary' system. He is also a great supporter of Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme.

And Shirley Spear, co-owner of the Three Chimneys on the Isle of Skye and chair of the Scottish Food Commission, is awarded an OBE for services to the food and drink industry in Scotland.

Shirley said: "I am absolutely honoured to receive this award and the news was completely unexpected."

"My first thought is to say how much I would like to share this with everyone I have worked with closely over the past 31 years towards improving Scotland's food and drink industry, especially my husband Eddie and my children, Sarah, Steven and Lindsay."

School celebrates green award but pupils 'mist' the boat



Three of the pupils and their teacher were all set to travel to Glasgow for the awards ceremony on Wednesday but the ferry did not sail.

LOCHDONHEAD Primary School pupils on Mull are celebrating after they were named one of the top three schools in Scotland for their environmental sustainability project in the recent Education Scotland awards.

And the fact they could not pick up their award in person due to the ferry being cancelled because of fog has done nothing to dampen their delight.

For the past two years, the youngsters have been working hard to clear and develop an area of school grounds

to create a conservation garden. Ewan from P7 and Alex from P6 pick up the story: "It was just another ordinary day in school when we got a phone call to say that we were one of three schools nominated for an Education Scotland award, specifically in the category Learning for Sustainability."

"Before the award we got visited by Education Scotland to see the evidence of our learning and to decide if we were worthy of first place."

"When they came, Alex took them

on a tour around our school while different pupils showed the walls with aspects of our learning. They were especially interested in our conservation garden because we are developing our scientific skills and learning about sustaining life."

"On Wednesday June 8, three of the pupils and our teacher Ms Bidwell were supposed to go to Glasgow for the awards ceremony but unfortunately we couldn't get there as the ferry did not sail because of the fog."

"We were disappointed but that is one of the realities of living on an island. To make up for it, we are going to have our own award ceremony in school. Even though we came runner-up, being nominated felt like winning."

Teacher Claire Bidwell added: "We've had a great deal of success and personal achievement in the past year, winning first prize in the SEPA Our Environment Award and now coming in the top three of the Education Scotland awards."

TIMESLINE

Concern raised over A boards

OBAN, Lorn and the Isles area committee has raised concerns over the high number of 'A' board advertisements cluttering the streets in Oban and other areas.

Ross McLaughlin, Argyll and Bute Council development manager told the committee that a new strategy for dealing with signage will be developed involving both a policy for regulatory/enforcement regime and developing a suitable alternative signage solution option.

The new strategy will be put forward in the autumn and until then, Councillor Roddy McCuish (Oban South and the Isles) said the council would have to work with local business on a compromise to control the issue.



MSP checks out school project

MSP Alasdair Allan visited the construction site for the new primary school in North Uist on Friday. Touring the school with site manager Finlay MacInnes, Mr Allan got a chance to see the new facility which will be opening its doors after the summer holidays.

Loss of minibus restricts activities

STUDENT representatives from Tobermory High School told Argyll and Bute Councillors at Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee meeting last Wednesday how much the loss of their school minibus has affected school activities.

Funding cuts saw the school lose the use of the mini bus at the end of April.

Zac Finch (S5) said: "We have to hire coaches to go on trips which increases the price of the trips. After school clubs are affected too - the mini bus meant kids could get home afterwards for free."

The councillors present said they were not aware that the minibus had been taken away and that they would look into the matter.

New high school is ahead of schedule

WORK on the new Oban High School building is ahead of schedule. At Oban Lorn and the Isles Area Committee meeting on June 8, head teacher Peter Bain reported that the project is currently three weeks ahead of schedule, saying work was progressing faster than expected due to the recent good weather.

Argyll's only boarding school opens doors to interested families

"At all stages of the school, children and young people are highly motivated and actively involved in their learning. They are respectful, hard-working and respond very well to the overall high-quality learning experiences." Education Scotland

KEY FACTS

- High academic attainment
- Broad-ranging curriculum
- Extensive programme of extra-curricular and outdoor learning
- Strong focus on art, music and drama
- Purpose-built, modern facilities
- Flexi boarding e.g. weekly boarding
- Excellent transport links to the West Highlands

Argyll's only boarding school is inviting families to come and see for themselves what makes Lomond so unique.

Located in the picturesque coastal town of Helensburgh with its safe community environment and excellent transport links, Lomond School has a long tradition of boarders from the West Highlands and Islands.

As the top performing school in Argyll, Lomond offers a wide-ranging curriculum including eight National Fives at S3/S4 and the traditional five Highers in S5. The curriculum has been enhanced further with recent additions such as drama, health and food technology as well as the appointment of a head of adventure and service and head of digital technology.

Extra-curricular activities include hockey, rugby, sailing, skiing and canoeing. In 2015 Lomond School was the top performing school in Scotland for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. The school also has a long-standing history of traditional Scottish music.

Boarders at Lomond benefit from excellent facilities, with the new Burnbrae boarding house built in 2003 offering comfortable lounges, a gym and mostly twin en-suite study bedrooms. Lomond is unique in Scotland in that it allows male and female siblings to live together in the same boarding house. Families are also offered the flexibility of weekly boarding.

Lomond School principal Johanna Urquhart said: "Here at Lomond, we pride ourselves on taking an individual approach to the education and care of each and every pupil. Boarding provides a particularly rewarding experience thanks to our family ethos, excellent facilities and professional, dedicated staff. We are also very proud of our long-standing links to the West of Scotland and would welcome any families interested in boarding to come and see us."

S6 pupil Kaitlin said: "Boarding has helped me develop my self-confidence. I've made friends for life from around the world and I've really benefited from the personalised approach to my whole Lomond experience." Families interested in boarding at Lomond are invited to a no obligation visit or free trial stay. To find out more please contact Janet Dixon at admissions on 01436 672476 or j.dixon@lomondschool.com.

Event backs mums who breastfeed

A GROUP of NHS-trained volunteers will hold a special open day in support of breastfeeding mothers in Oban.

Bumps, Babies and Beyond, which met previously at the Go Bananas play space, now meets every Monday from 10am until noon at the former Happy House Nursery at the Baptist Church Hall in Albany Street.

On Monday June 20, they will welcome all to a picnic at their new location to mark breastfeeding celebration week and spread the word about the support they provide.

Although breastfeeding rates are growing in the UK, they are still among the lowest in the world, with only one per cent of mothers maintaining exclusive breastfeeding to six months, as recommended by the UK health departments and the World Health Organisation and UNICEF.

The volunteers are all mothers who have breastfed their own babies and gone through NHS training to help others in practical aspects of infant feeding. The Oban group is open to all mothers and fathers, and parents-to-be, however they choose to feed their babies.

Volunteers have plans for other special events for new parents and parents-to-be throughout the summer and autumn, including baby massage, first aid, baby-wearing and maternity clothes exchanges. For further details contact traycorthorn2@nhs.net.



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Family

Are you interested in boarding but not sure what to expect? Then please come along to sample life at Lomond School. We can offer you a free trial at our boarding house and day school.

- Free boarding on trial basis
- Curriculum offers 8 National Fives at S3/S4 and Five Highers in S5
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Skipper's death resulted from series of safety failures

AN OBAN boat skipper died in an accident caused by a series of factors, an investigation has found.

Jamie Kerr, 25, was killed last April when a crane collapsed onto him on a workboat at a fish farm on Mull.

Now a report published by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) has blamed a series of safety failings for the

death of Mr Kerr aboard the Carol Anne on Loch Spelve.

Among them, the report says, were safety issues that included no installation guidance being provided with the crane; the crane being installed with smaller and fewer tie bolts than intended by its manufacturer; the lock nuts being of a lower grade material strength than indicated by their markings; and the statutory thor-

ough examination and test of the crane following its installation not identifying the inadequacy of the mounting arrangement.

The MAIB report says: 'The crane fell onto the workboat's skipper, who was declared deceased at the scene. The crane had been in operation since its installation six and half weeks earlier. It was not overloaded when it failed.'

Mr Kerr, who was employed by Inverlussa Marine Services (IMS), was supervising a 20-year-old deckhand during the unloading of nets at Balure when the tragedy happened.

The report adds: 'Mr Kerr ... had worked as a fisherman since leaving school and held a Royal Yachting Association Yachtmaster Offshore certificate that had been commercially endorsed. He

had also completed the mandatory basic safety training required by fishermen and had been trained and certified to operate a sea crane in April 2013.'

Mr Kerr joined IMS in October 2013 and was promoted to skipper and started to work on board Carol Anne in January 2015.

The MAIB report makes a number of recommendations, including that the crane's Ger-

many-based manufacturer, Atlas Maschinen GmbH, ensures 'that installation information is provided with all Atlas cranes fitted in the UK' and that IMS and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency 'improve adherence to, and the effectiveness of, established codes of practice with regard to the installation or replacement of shipborne cranes on workboats'.

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant John Stobo

Baggage stolen

POLICE in Oban are studying CCTV footage to try to trace the thief who stole a red rucksack and a green holdall from outside the CalMac offices in the town. The thefts happened on Thursday June 9 at around 5am.

Car targeted

DOOR-TO-DOOR inquiries are continuing in Dalmally after someone smashed the rear window of a car in Scott Terrace between 1pm and 9pm on Wednesday June 8.

The black Vauxhall Corsa contained a set of golf clubs which were left in the vehicle, leading police believe the suspect may have been disturbed.

Bogus callers alert

OFFICERS are warning residents of Dunbeg to be on the alert for possible bogus callers.

A number of villagers reported seeing a blue panel van with around five people in it in the area and several locals reported being visited by strangers purporting to sell items such as plants.

Vandals strike

TWO cars in Tobermory have been damaged by vandals.

In one incident, a blue Audi A3 parked in Ledaig car park was found with three-foot-long scratch. It is thought to have been damaged between 6pm on June 7 and 1pm on June 9.

In the other incident, a silver Saab was vandalised while in Main Street between 7pm on June 8 and 11am on June 9.

Anyone with any information about any of these incidents is asked to call police on 101.

Journey to trace ancestors was 'like going home'

AN AMERICAN descendant of Lismore's last weaver, John MacDougall, returned to her ancestral homeland this month to thank Lismore Historical Society for helping her compile a book of letters between John and his son, who emigrated to Minnesota.

Margaret Miller, John MacDougall's great-great-granddaughter, published her book last year, entitled: 'My Dear Son: Letters from John MacDougall (weaver), Isle of Lismore, Scotland, to his son, John, in America'.

The 37 letters, handwritten between 1870 and 1888, give an insight into the life and thoughts of a landless cottar whose children had either died or left Lismore to begin new, more prosperous, lives in faraway lands. They include news about people and events on the island, in Port Appin, Oban and neighbouring communities.

Weaver John was born on Lismore in 1803 at Ballinmackillichan, and married fellow islander Catherine McCallum of Balure. The couple raised their eight children at Ballinmackillichan, and lived there until Catherine's death in 1886.

'The clearances affected Lismore,' Margaret said. 'Families were being moved off the land, because leases were not being renewed by the landowner.'

'John MacDougall, a weaver, was fortunate to stay, but all his children left Lismore. I don't know how they did it. They didn't have much money. It called on their strength.'

One son born in 1837, also called John, settled in Redwood County, Minnesota, but his father's



Margaret Miller, Lee Ann Stearns, Donna Potter and Bob Wilcox at Lismore Parish Church, and, inset left, emigrants John MacDougall and his wife Isabel McCallum and John in Highland rig before he left for Minnesota.

letters also sent news to other Lismore emigrants in the area, such as Catherine McCallum's sister-in-law Ann McCallum, and Ann's children.

The children and grandchildren of the younger John MacDougall and his wife Isabel McCallum, who were born in the United States, saved the letters and gave them to the Lismore Historical Society in 2011.

Margaret, who took four years to compile the book, told us: 'I came back to Lismore to understand what the letters were saying: a lot of expressions didn't mean anything to me. There was a heavy re-use of names; there were four

John McCallums in the letters. I was pulling my hair out figuring out who all these people were. The people of Lismore have been great - they opened up a lot of the characters.'

One relative brought to life was the younger John MacDougall's sister, who also emigrated to Minnesota in 1877 but who died suddenly a year later.

Her husband took their three oldest boys, aged 10, 11 and 12, to work down the state's copper mines, and put their three youngest boys up for adoption - one of whom was Margaret's grandfather. Margaret is named after her tragic

great-grandmother, who, she says, missed Lismore terribly.

Margaret Miller, who lives in Arlington, Virginia, visited from Sunday May 29 to Wednesday June 1 with her brother Bob Wilcox, who lives in Munich, and their cousins Donna Potter and Lee Ann Stearns from North and South Dakota respectively. They paid respects to the siblings who died or departed at a grave marker, which lists their names, in Lismore Parish Church yard.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'When I came to Lismore, I felt like I was coming home.'

Battles won in war on drugs

Police disrupt dealers' activities

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

DRUG dealers in the Oban area are having their operations severely disrupted thanks to a number of initiatives.

Police in the town have been aggressively targeting the drugs peddlers and have made serious inroads into their criminal activity.

Oban-based Inspector Mark Stephen told *The Oban Times*: 'We have had a very positive year and very positive results in targeting serious and organised crimes and the supplies of all kinds of drugs in the Oban area.'

'Our efforts have been led by the community investigations unit, which has made serious inroads in targeting these groups and individuals. We have now got several cases in the criminal justice system waiting to appear in court which could be subject to custodial sentences.'

One of the major initiatives to have paid dividends has been the Shop a Dealer campaign, which saw gratifying involvement from and engagement with local communities.

Inspector Stephen explained: 'We launched Shop a Dealer in December 2014 and it is, in fact, still running.'

'What that campaign really did was to allow us to move forward and have a really successful year. It gave the public an opportunity to get in touch with us to high-

light issues and their information has been vital.

'People can see what is happening in their communities and, from that, different members of the public were giving us snippets of information. It's a bit like a jigsaw - all these pieces of information can be put together to let us see a bigger picture.'

'It empowered the community to be involved and, when the public saw the police taking positive action, it reinforced the relationship between us. And from that we started building even better relationships.'

'People were stopping officers in the street and were happy to provide information because people don't want drug dealers in their communities.'

Inspector Stephen was also quick to praise other agencies that have helped to degrade the drugs trade. 'We have meetings with our partners in education, health and the third sector teams that provide counselling and addiction services.'

'Police Scotland on its own won't solve the scourge of drugs. But when all the partners get together, we are much greater than the sum of our parts. And the community is very much part of that. When we get everyone pulling in the same direction, we can make a difference.'

'In the past year we have had substantial results in terms of tackling local drugs dealers.

Once you get them rocking back on their heels, we can make inroads into their organisations.

'And when you start to disrupt them, their operations begin to fragment and that means more opportunities for us to add to that.'

Inspector Stephen also added his voice to those that have welcomed the recent banning of so-called legal highs. 'The ban is significant because of the profile of the people who were taking them. They were children and teenagers exposing themselves to all sorts of harm.'

'We've had a number of incidents that required medical treatment. It was very important to get them banned because they posed a real danger as young people thought the word legal made them safe.'

Inspector Stephen also stressed that the drugs situation in Oban and the Argyll area was not as serious as in the inner cities but added that there was no room for complacency. He said: 'The drugs problem is nothing like as prevalent or serious here as in Glasgow and the city centres but it does radiate out.'

'After all, we are only two hours away by car from the urban areas and the people who control these drugs are part of serious and organised crime. And they are always looking to increase their market and they're always looking to extend their criminality.'

Touring exhibition comes to St Conan's

A TOURING exhibition entitled *Scotstyle*, celebrating Scotland's 100 best buildings, will be on view in St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe, from Saturday (June 18) until July 3. St Conan's is the only venue in Argyll and Bute.

During the two weeks, visitors can enjoy a number of special events.

On June 22, children from Taynuilt Primary will be in the kirk making a large textile

collage for this year's St Conan's Cup for Art. The entries for the cup will be on display. Local art groups for adults and individuals will also be at work drawing and painting.

Those wishing to learn more about the history and architecture of St Conan's Kirk can join guide-led tours which take place at 2.30pm each day. And a new information area is being set up in the kirk telling the story of how

St Conan's came to be built and featuring many photographs.

On Saturday June 25 at 7.30pm, Ian Bradley will talk about 'St Conan's and Argyll's mystical landscape', while on Monday June 27 at 11.30am, there will be a 'medical plants walk' with Anna Hill.

The public can vote on the Festival of Architecture at www.foa.com/scotstyle or in person at St Conan's Kirk this month.

Curry house opens first Indian buffet restaurant

AN AWARD-WINNING takeaway in town is expanding its business and creating the first buffet-style restaurant in Oban. Kebabish Curry House will be renovating the building next door, which was previously known as The Pancake Place and Palava, in order to create an Indian buffet with a set price. Shaukat Anwar Chaudhry, who owns Kebabish, is confident that the new establishment will be open for business by next month. He said that it would offer eight salads, and eight sauces, a choice of four starters, three pizzas and 12 mixed main dishes, along with rice, naans, desserts and green tea.

Mr Chaudhry said: 'I think it will go well. I opened the first kebab shop in Oban - serving high quality, healthy food to the Oban community and there's currently nothing like this in Oban: a buffet. I am looking forward to serving a hygienic and healthy buffet to the community. We will need new staff for the dessert side of it and new serving staff for the restaurant.' Where the current seating area in Kebabish is will be turned in to a dessert parlour, serving Equi's ice-cream, shakes, cakes and sundaes.



BUFFET: Shaukat Anwar Chaudhry, Hashmat Ali Chaudhry and Danyal Ali Chaudhry in front of the new premises.

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REFERENDUM SPECIAL: Community leaders share their views ahead of decision day on the European Union

Marilyn Shedden, Moderator of the Presbytery of Argyll, and Rev Dr Kenneth Ross, past Moderator



WHEN the Presbytery of Argyll met at A'Chlàit Church, near Muasdale, on June 7, it was conscious that the UK stands on the brink of one of the biggest political decisions of our lifetime.

Looking ahead to the referendum on membership of the European Union to be held on June 23, the presbytery gave thanks for the work of the European Union in promoting peace, security and reconciliation among European nations, noted that the UK has been part of the European Union since

1973 and expressed its belief that the UK should remain in the EU.

The position the presbytery has taken is very much in line with that of the Church of Scotland General Assembly, which expresses the mind of the church at national level. However, it is also informed by our particular context in Argyll.

Members reflected on the observance of Remembrance Sunday throughout Argyll. Many of us find ourselves at war memorials in very small villages where the list of those

who sacrificed their lives in the wars is very long. When we think of what the loss of so many young men meant for our communities, one consolation is to remember that the young soldiers met the crisis of their times by going to fight in order to secure a lasting peace.

Their sacrifice lays on us the responsibility to secure that peace. The European Union is a primary instrument when it comes to sustaining peace in Europe and is, therefore, something to be cherished.

Members reflected also on Ar-

gyll's Christian history. The first Christians in Argyll – Columba and friends – put down deep local roots but they also had a wide and outward-looking vision. They set out to share the transforming Gospel of Christ with neighbours near and far.

At a time when Europe was fragmented into ethnic groups who could not understand each other, and were often hostile towards each other, the Argyll-based Christian movement was a force for reconciliation. Today that kind of vision is needed more than ever and the EU provides a

vehicle for mutual understanding and common cause.

None of this is to claim that the European Union is perfect. But when shortcomings are identified, our responsibility is not to walk away in despair but to join hands with those who are working hard to resolve them.

The Presbytery is not in the business of telling people how to vote but on this great question of our time it has clearly endorsed the view of the General Assembly: that remaining in the EU is the best option for the UK at this time.

Michael Russell, MSP, SNP (top)

WITH only one week to go until the polls open for the EU referendum, it is vital that we speak up and speak out about the many ways in which the EU benefits rural Scotland.

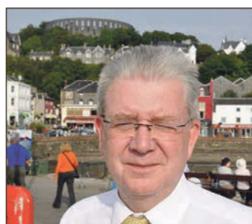
I was delighted to do so last week in the Scottish Parliament and to make a strong, positive case for remaining a member – a case based on the difference of the current incorporating union in which we live and the confederal one which allows small countries to pool their sovereignty in the EU for the benefit of their citizens.

Europe is of particular importance to our rural sector, which is supported with €4.6 billion of funding through the Common Agricultural Policy, with €3.7 billion worth of pay-

ments going to farmers – and, with access to a single market of 500 million, our food and drink sector has incomparable trading opportunities.

Free movement also makes it easier for tourists from the rest of the EU to visit Scotland with total visitor spend from the rest of the EU totalling £800 million annually. In addition, membership allows people with much-needed skills to come and contribute to our communities and economy.

Given the clear benefits of EU membership for rural Scotland, I would urge people in Argyll and Bute to join the overwhelming majority of the Scottish Parliament in voting to ensure that Scotland and the UK remains part of the European Union.



Alasdair Allan, MSP, SNP (bottom)

THE Scottish Parliament voted by 106 votes to eight for a motion backing "Scotland and the rest of the UK remaining part of the EU".

More than 300,000 Scottish jobs were estimated to be directly and indirectly associated with exports to the EU in 2011.

The EU received 42 per cent of Scotland's international exports in 2014, worth more than £11 billion.

Tourists from other EU countries spent around £800 million in Scotland or about 40 per cent of total international visitor spend.

Scotland will receive £3.5 billion to implement the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in Scotland until 2020 – with £2.8 billion going direct to crofters

and farmers. Scottish seafood and marine sectors will receive £81 million in direct assistance through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund between 2014 and 2020.

With less than a month until the polls open for the EU referendum, I believe it is important to be clear about the many ways in which the EU benefits Scotland's island communities.

Island crofters and farmers receive millions in funding from Europe, with access to a single market of 500 million people creating huge trading opportunities for island food and drink producers. It is far from clear how this would be replicated if we were not in the EU.

Tourism plays a vital role in the islands' economy. Free

movement makes it easier for tourists from the rest of the EU to visit Scotland, with around 17,000 a year choosing to visit the isles, spending millions of pounds while here. It also provides the opportunity for people with much-needed skills to come and contribute to our communities and economy.

There are many things that are wrong with the EU – such as the way that the Common Fisheries Policy has been implemented – and I won't for a moment pretend the EU is a perfect institution. But I take the view that the only way to change Europe is to take an active and positive role in Europe.

That is why I will be voting on June 23 to ensure Scotland and the UK remain part of the EU.

Donald Cameron MSP, Conservative



I AM delighted and honoured to have been elected as an MSP for the Highlands and Islands and, as I said in my maiden speech on May 26, I will make it my mission to ensure that your voice is heard as loudly as possible in Holyrood.

It seems like the election was just the other day but I fully intend to hit the ground running and, indeed, the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU is already upon us.

I'm sure a lot of people will feel that there seems to be an

endless procession of elections and referendums at the moment but, thankfully, I have found the decision to remain in the EU a simple one to make.

So I'll spare you the campaign jargon or endless statistical claims.

I sought election to the Scottish Parliament because I want to secure a prosperous, sustainable and well-connected future for the Highlands and Islands and it is for these same reasons that I believe we should remain in the EU.

I will be voting to remain because of the huge opportunities offered by the EU's single market of around 500 million people. To have unrestricted access to such a large and varied market provides our businesses, small and large, with the chance to access customers abroad in order to grow and create jobs right here at home.

To take one local example, you can quite easily find that the best tapas in Spain are actually made with shellfish which comes from the waters of the

West Coast. The ability to make these economic links, with minimal obstacles, is central to the prospects of small businesses across the West Highlands.

This, I think, is the decisive factor.

It is all very well to say that we could still trade if we left the EU, which is true, but I think it is the local suppliers, rather than large international businesses, that would struggle with the new hurdles that would likely come with selling into the EU from the outside.

To secure a growing economy that retains talent by providing jobs now, and in the future, we need our small businesses to have the international reach that the EU's single market provides.

Of course, we also need to improve drastically our broadband coverage and transport links, where the Scottish Government has responsibility.

In this, as with the European Union, I will always work to keep our region open, connected and thriving.

Fun night raises cash for Alex

A SUPPER, auction and raffle will be held in Pennyghael Hall, Mull, to raise funds for Bunesan mum Alex Cameron, who is flying to Singapore next month for treatment in a bid to halt her multiple sclerosis (MS).

Alex, who runs the Creel Seafood Bar at Fionnphort, is trying to raise £56,000 to pay for a new two- to three-month course of chemotherapy followed by a hematopoietic stem cell transplant, which reboots the body's immune system.

Scientists have recently applauded the radical but risky therapy after *The Lancet* medical journal reported this week that a Canadian trial of the treatment had halted symptoms in most MS sufferers.

The social evening takes place tomorrow (Friday June 17) at 7pm, and features a cold buffet of Mull produce, followed by a grand raffle and auction of items generously donated from across the island, compered by Ronnie Campbell of Uisken.

The list of items include a holiday in France, two new sets of tables and chairs valued at £800 and £1,500, and original framed photographs and paintings of Mull landscapes and wildlife.

Entry to the evening costs £10 at the door, where pipers will also be playing.

Co-ordinator Greg Marsh promises a memorable occasion for all – especially for Alex.

Women urged to take test

WOMEN in the Western Isles are being urged to go for their smear test when invited as part of this week's Cervical Screening Awareness Week (June 13-19).

Angela Binnie, a local practice nurse, backed the call as she encouraged women not to ignore their invite as a smear test can help spot cervical cancer.

The potentially life-saving test takes just five minutes.

Recent statistics highlight that 72.6 per cent of eligible women in the NHS Western Isles have already taken their smear test.

A smear test checks the cells of a woman's cervix – the neck of the womb – and is designed to pick up any changes so that they can be monitored or treated.

Angela said: 'We're here waiting to help protect you from cervical cancer. I've done hundreds, if not thousands, of smear tests.'

For more information visit www.getcheckedearly.org.

Fashion turns to trash

KATIE CARABINE
kcarabine@obantimes.co.uk

MULL photographer Hannah Morris has been spearheading 'Trash the Dress' photo shoots for the last decade, mostly with wedding dresses.

Lately, though, a new trend has emerged for doing similar shoots with girls in prom dresses.

'The dresses are often unharmed, it depends on the kind of shoot you want to do,' Ms Morris said, adding: 'I work

with the client to come up with a storyline that suits their personality.'

One such shoot was based on Marie Antoinette and her famous extravagance.

Speaking of the shoot, Ms Morris said: 'I felt this role suited Shona's fun and luminous personality. When I asked her if she would like to be photographed in a bath of Champagne her eyes just lit up!'

Another shoot was based on the story of Lachlan MacLean

of Duart who tried to kill his wife by abandoning her on an island, now known as Lady Rock, off Lismore.

Ms Morris said of this shoot: 'I thought this story was great for Mull local, Jenny.'

Ms Morris and her partner AJ Greenway often work together and recently filmed a promo video to show what it is like to work on location on a shoot, which can be viewed on the Hannah Morris Photography Facebook page.



Shona reflected Marie Antoinette's extravagance with a bath of Champagne, while Jenny emulated the Lady Rock legend.



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Transport hub to be improved

OBAN'S transport hub is to be redeveloped to become a more welcoming arrival point for visitors to the town.

Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS) manager Frank Roach described the existing railway station as looking like a prison, with its mesh fencing and less than appealing building, during a presentation to the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee last Wednesday (June 8).

The current layout of the transport hub, which includes the station and CalMac ferry terminal, is also to become more efficient in order to cope with increasing passenger flow.

Due to the introduction of road equivalent tariffs (RET), the number of ferries using the pier are to double and there is a possibility of the Serco Caledonian Sleeper service coming to Oban, meaning the hub will become even busier.

Mr Roach said: 'The businesses on the lane between the station and pier are now opening up onto the railway line', adding that these would be in conflict with the new transport facilities.

He also raised questions about whether there needed to be so much space set aside for the railway sidings and said that the freight-carrying opportunities on this line in the future are quite small.

Discussions have already been taking place between Oban and Lorn councillors, Abellio ScotRail, National Rail and CMAL (Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd) about the redevelopment.

Scans in 3-D of the area have been taken by Professor Richard Laing, of Aberdeen's Robert Gordon University, to aid with the planning and these will be used to illustrate plans during the public consultation phase of this project, which is expected to happen in the autumn.

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Roads are a hole lot of trouble

Condition of surface is slammed after driver is denied compensation

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

ARGYLL and Bute has 'the worst roads in Scotland' due to potholes, a meeting of Glenorchy and Inishail Community Council heard last month.

The meeting in Dalmally Church Hall discussed 'on-going efforts to claim compensation for vehicle damage caused by third world roads'.

One local motorist reported she and others had damaged their cars on a pothole on the A819, six miles from Inveraray.

Community council secretary John Kerr said: 'If tourists find

it, they won't come back again.'

The driver, who lives near Dalmally, told *The Oban Times*: 'I was just potting along, when "bang"! I passed people in the lay-by who also had a puncture.'

The repair bill to her tyres and alloys, including labour and VAT, was £1,000. She said mechanics at the garage told her about 15 other vehicles had been damaged by that pothole. Most were hire cars.

In the week after the incident on Monday April 4, she noticed the pothole had been filled in.

She then put in a claim for compensation to Argyll and Bute Council. Its insurance official replied last month:

'There is no automatic right to compensation under Scots law.'

'The courts have confirmed that road authorities are not expected to maintain their roads in a perfect condition at all times and road users should not expect roads to be perfect.'

'The council will have a defence to a claim of this nature, if it can be shown that a reasonable system of inspection and maintenance was in place at the time of the incident and that this system was adhered to.'

'The road is inspected on a bi-monthly basis as per the council's Asset Management Plan. The last inspection carried out prior to your incident

occurred on March 1 2016 when no defects were identified.'

'If a defect develops between inspection periods, they are outwith the reasonable control of the council unless they have been reported. There are no records of this defect being reported from the last scheduled inspection to the date of your incident.'

Therefore, because this 'defect was unknown to the council, and it had 'a reasonable system of inspection and repair', the council denied liability and repudiated the claim.'

The driver, who wished to remain anonymous, said: 'If you go into a pothole, you can't get

compensation unless you can prove someone has reported it. It's difficult to prove if someone has reported it or not - you just have to take the council's word.'

The Oban Times contacted Argyll and Bute Council to ask when, and how many times, the pothole had been reported and when it was filled in.

A spokesperson responded: 'This issue developed very quickly one afternoon. Once we became aware of it, we effected a temporary repair. We continue to carry out reactive repairs as and when required. We have scheduled a permanent repair as part of this year's capital programme.'

The motorist suggested starting an online 'pothole club' for drivers to post photos of the potholes they have reported.

'It's in our interest to inform the council,' she added. 'The onus is on the general public: the council can't be everywhere.'

'It was a big hole, and a lot of cars went into it. Maybe their inspection of the main roads should be more than every two months. We're expected to keep our cars MOT'd, taxed and in good condition. Motorists are keeping their side of the bargain so why isn't the council?'

Potholes can be reported by calling 01546 605514 or through a form on the council website.

TIMESLINE



Craig Biddick.

Head teacher to leave Tobermory

TOBERMORY High School head teacher Craig Biddick will be leaving the school in the near future to take up a position with Midlothian Council. At an Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee meeting last Wednesday (June 8), Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon thanked him for his hard work and many contributions.

Oban beer is to feature in festival

KILTIFTER IPA from Oban Bay Brewery will feature in Aldi's ninth in-store beer festival as part of the retailer's celebration of the best up and coming beers from Scotland.



Six staff complete care qualification

TAGSA Uibhist, in partnership with Cothrom Ltd, has supported six staff to complete an SVQ in social services and healthcare. Pictured are Taga care manager Kathryn Martin, Melanie Wightman, Mary MacPhee, Tracey Walker, Jeanne Wightman (Cothrom tutor) and Gail Malcolm. Missing are Geraldine and Grace MacKinnon.

Inner Wheel rolls up with £200 cheque

NORTH Argyll Young Carers Service, which supports carers aged eight to 18 who look after those suffering physical or mental illness, were given a £200 cheque by the Inner Wheel Club of Oban last Thursday, during Carers Week.

The sum was raised at last September's Oban Sportive bicycle ride, where the ladies handed out high energy bars at watering and feeding stations along the 50- to 80-mile routes in Kilchrean and Kilmartin.

Morag MacLean, manager of North Argyll Carers Centre, thanked the club for their 'fantastic ongoing support' which 'makes a huge difference', particularly in funding residential and day trips giving young carers a break.

Pictured at the presentation at Albany Street's North Argyll Carers Centre, from left to right: Inner Wheel members Liz Mudie and Morann Donald, branch president Ursula Parry, Morag MacLean, and club members Grace Petrie and Betty Moncrieff.



Iconic Oban church ready to go on market

AN ICONIC church building in Oban that has lain vacant for almost five years will soon be put up for sale.

The former tourist information centre in Argyll Square closed in 2011 after plaster fell from the ceiling. Visit Scotland then moved staff to a new, smaller, establishment situated on the North Pier.

A spokesperson for Visit Scotland said: 'The property was not marketed for sale at the point we vacated for a number of reasons. In the first instance, we were keen to ensure the new location of the information centre would work out in practice.'

'We were also keen to see if there were

any opportunities for greater community involvement in the use of the church.'

'A number of approaches were made in the years following our exit from the property and we had hoped some of these parties might have access to grant funding not open to Visit Scotland, which would allow for a more extensive refurbishment of the church.'

'Unfortunately, none of these approaches came to fruition.'

'The property was also placed on the Scottish Government's site, e-PIMS, so that other public bodies were made aware it was available for sale.'

'Unfortunately, no interest was generated through this route.'

'During this time repairs were carried out to minimise further damage.'

Roddy McCuish, councillor for Oban South and the Isles, said: 'I am delighted with the news that Visit Scotland has decided to put this iconic building up for sale.'

'It has lain empty for far too long in the centre of Oban and it's a wonderful opportunity for someone to buy this building and return it to its former glory.'

The price is yet to be decided but it's hoped it will be on the market within weeks.

Hunt on to trace mystery woman in gold locket

THE great-nephew of a Canadian First World War soldier is appealing for information to help identify a mystery woman who may be from Oban.

Ralph Reid is looking to find the identity of a woman photographed in a locket belonging to his great-uncle, Royal Newfoundland Regiment Sergeant Charles Reid, who was lost in the Battle of the Somme at Beaumont Hamel on July 1, 1916.

He hopes to find out who she was before the centenary of his great-uncle's death.

The locket, made of rose gold, is believed to have been bought from J M McGilvray and Son Jewellers in Oban and features

a photo of Sergeant Reid as well as the one of the mystery woman.

The woman is presumed to have been Sergeant Reid's sweetheart, and may well have been from Oban, where he could have met her

during training in Scotland. But there are no sales records available as far back as 1916.

Mr Reid took the locket to Pat Thompson, owner of Diamond Designs, a jeweller in St John's, Newfoundland, and Labrador to find out more information about it.

Mr Thompson said: 'We do an awful lot of appraisals and, of course, it immediately struck me, being a big fan of history. I immediately began to quiz Ralph about the locket.'

Mr Reid said: 'A woman came from Scotland to visit my grandparents and great-grandparents.'

'We don't know if it is the woman or who she may be.'

Speaking of the mystery woman, Mr Thompson added: 'She would never have known what happened to him as the family had no relationship with this lady.'



The mystery woman.

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Stornoway

THE EMERGENCY helicopter landing pad at Western Isles Hospital, Stornoway, has been upgraded thanks to a £40,000 donation from the Helicopter Emergency Landing Pads (HELP) Appeal.

The hospital received the surprise cash boost from HELP after the charity's chief executive read about the poor condition of the current helipad.

The need for an upgrade became clear last July during a test landing of the new Bond helicopters which were being brought into service by the Scottish Ambulance Service.

The stretchers on board these helicopters have automatic drop-down wheels which were incompatible with the surface, meaning time could be potentially lost during emergency transfers.

NHS Western Isles chief executive Gordon Jamieson had spoken to the ambulance service about options for upgrading the helipad, but HELP stepped in with the money.

The grass surface has now been replaced with reinforced concrete paving and the lighting upgraded too.

Robert Bertram, chief executive of HELP, said: 'We had no hesitation in donating £40,000 to cover the cost of Western Isles Hospital's helipad upgrade. Faced with regular extreme weather, never was a hospital helipad so deserving of an upgrade. Our donation has helped to ensure a secure and solid landing area for all air ambulances and the Coastguard search and rescue helicopter.'

Mr Jamieson said: 'I thank them for their kindness, for making themselves known to us and then funding the work in its entirety.'

Arisaig

ARISAIG Highland Games organisers are seeking memorabilia to mark the 80th anniversary of the event.

They are looking for any items associated with the event from past years, including photographs, stories regarding the history of the games or from competitors/committees.

Items will be displayed at this year's games on Wednesday July 27 at Taigh Farm.

Contact the games committee at info@arisaighlandgames.co.uk or phone Claire or Gus Cameron on 01687 450381. All items can be returned after this year's event.

Plockton

THE PLOCKTON small boat sailing season began on Saturday June 4 with the first race for the Moore Bowl (local boats) and the first race for the Dubhard Trophy (centreboards).

Only two local boats were ready. Graham Sharp, Rona, finished first ahead of Douglas Hamilton, Ajax.

Five boats took part in the centreboard race. Result: 1 Tristan Southall, Laser 2000; 2 Lauren Glasgow, Fantax; 3 Ian Bullivant, Laser.

Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club commodore this year is Neil Macrae who is second officer on Caledonian MacBrayne's Finlaggan which goes from Kennacraig to Islay.

The sailing club was delighted recently when one of its members, Calum Reid, who has been sailing at Plockton for three years, was picked to sail for Scotland at the Eric Twinn Championship at Rutland Sailing Club. He sailed four races.

His best result was 12th and he finished 47th out of 90 Toppers.

Plockton

THIS year's Tarbet Challenge in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support will be held on Sunday August 14.

The event consists of a seven-mile walk along the shores of Loch Morar, arriving at the remote township of Tarbet on Loch Nevis.

The Western Isles passenger ferry will then pick everyone up, returning to Mallaig after a cruise down the loch.

On arrival at the pier in Mallaig, participants will be met by piper Nathan Ritchie who will lead the way to the Chlachain Bar where fish suppers and a pint will be provided. There will be a ceilidh afterwards featuring folk band Maratime.

In 2015, the event raised £1,390.15 which organisers are hoping to surpass this year.

Anyone wishing to take part should contact magsmacphee@talk21.com or visit 'Tarbet Challenge' on Facebook.



Bun-sgoil Shlèite Primary School pupils with Pippa Garrard and Izzy Hassal from the HWDT a learning visit that was made possible with funding from the Coastal Communities Fund.

Whales and dolphins in spotlight

BUN-SGOIL Shlèite Primary School pupils enjoyed a visit from Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT) staff.

P1/3e and P1/4g and their teachers Janice Dougan and Gwen Culbertson took part in the visit on June 7.

A spokesman for the Skye school said: 'It was a fantastic visit.'

The pupils measured out the size of a porpoise, bottlenose dolphin and Orca as well as learning about different sea habitats and what kinds of cetaceans live in them.

Pupils were able to handle and learn about ear bones, ribs and vertebrae, baleen and teeth, from Sperm whales to Minke, from Sei whales to common dolphins.

Everyone agreed it was an enriching experience for staff and pupils.

Pupils support backpack project

PUPILS from Kinlochleven High School showed their support for children abroad by donating school equipment as part of a new project.

Students heard about the Backpack Project, a programme run by Oban-based Mary's Meals, while researching less developed countries.

They were encouraged to set up collection points where they gathered enough items to donate 10 school bags containing stationery, clothing, towels, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Mrs Clark, teacher of business, said: 'Students learned a lot about life in less developed countries but also about how they could help support people with less than them. Taking the backpacks to Oban rounded off the experience perfectly and it was great to meet Marie Rowan and her staff and hear about the work of Mary's Meals first hand.'

Ben Green, a first-year pupil involved in the project, said: 'We set up a collection point in school and the response was amazing. We were very happy to pass on the 10 backpacks to children who don't have as much as we do. Thanks to everyone who supported us.'

The youngsters received a warm welcome from shop manager Marie Rowan and volunteers who told them how the Mary's Meals shop is involved in fundraising and community events in Oban.



Some of the Kinlochleven High School pupils involved in the backpack project outside the Mary's Meals shop in Oban.

Oban playpark group wins award

FRIENDS of Oban Community Playpark have won the Celebrating Communities award at the Scottish Charity Awards.

Group representatives were presented with their award at ceremony at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh on June 9.

The awards, organised by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), celebrate the life-changing difference people and charities make across Scotland.

Friends of Oban Community Playpark won the award for creating an inclusive outdoor active playpark for children aged two to 15 years in the town. More than 40 per cent of the funds for the park were raised by the local community.

Elizabeth Cottier, from the Friends, said: 'We are so delighted to win this amazing award. We could not have done

this without the support of the whole of Oban and the surrounding villages. It's a fantastic community that really pulled out all the stops to support the fundraising in so many inspiring ways.'

'We must also mention the unfaltering dedication of our chairwoman Lyndsay Elliott, the rest of the committee members and all the support we have received from Argyll and Bute Council, Atlantis Leisure, Wickstead Ltd, Sport Scotland and the many other charities that provided us with funding.'

Shulah Allan, convener of SCVO, said: 'I'm in awe of all the finalists and winners. Thanks to their efforts, more people in Scotland are receiving the support they need when they need it and we're all more aware of important issues and causes which affect vulnerable people and us all.'



Fiona Sharples and Liz Cottier, from Friends of Oban Community Playpark, receive their award from TV presenter Kaye Adams, left, and Rebecca Pritchard from Triodos Bank, one of the sponsors.

MORVERN lines

A throwaway society

I AM a firm believer in the old saying that those who live in a community should be its best ambassadors, but there are times when this is difficult in an area which has become less attractive than it could be.

Lochaline, according to some place name experts, means, 'the beautiful loch'. Beautiful it may be, but look closer and the scene suddenly changes.

Driving into the village and along towards Morvern's highly-acclaimed pontoons, one is immediately confronted by a jungle of overhanging vegetation, untidy and uncared for parking areas, half-sunk boats, deep potholes and abandoned cars in various stages of decay. Anyone taking the approach road to the famous silica sand mine and seeing the scrap metal on one side of the road and the half-submerged hulks on the other, might be forgiven for thinking they were in the vicinity of a long-abandoned Australian mining village – or on the shores of the Aral Sea, which has one of the world's largest ship graveyards. What the well-heeled yachts folk must think of Lochaline and its residents when they walk along to the hotel and the village store, cannot be imagined. If there is an award for the untidiest village in Scotland, Lochaline would be a serious contender.

Successive community councils have been active in trying to clear up the escalating mess by organising village clean-up days and, now and again, arranging for skips to be brought in from Fort William for household waste. Proof of the sheer volume of disposable rubbish was evident a few weeks ago when the skips were full to overflowing in a matter of hours. This sticking-plaster approach will not do. If the Highland Council cannot provide free monthly skips to spare the public from having to make an 80-mile round trip and two ferry crossings to take unwanted goods to the recycling unit in Fort William, the matter will need to be resolved locally.

Morvern is awash with money at the moment, held by the community council, the Morvern Community Trust and the Morvern Community Development Company. These organisations and the local landowners should grasp the nettle and do something towards permanently tidying up Lochaline before it becomes a complete embarrassment. There is much talk of trying to encourage visitors to stay rather than pass through. Little wonder it isn't working.

Morvern is fortunate to have a 'knight of the road' who voluntarily does a regular litter pick-up along the A884 from Lochaline to Carnoch Bridge. Recently this unsung hero spent a few hours walking between Achleek and Kinloch Sunart, and in that three-mile section gathered up almost 200 items which had obviously been thrown out of vehicle windows. Judging by the number of empty Red Bull energy drink tins in his collection, there must be some seriously sleepy drivers using the Lochaline road.



Litter recently collected from the verges of the A884 leading to Lochaline.

The Skye Zebra

A FEW weeks ago I wrote in this column about a hyena that escaped in the 1800s from a travelling circus near Loch Houran and lived long enough around Glen Barisdale to terrorise the locals.

Shortly after my piece was published, a correspondent contacted me about a zebra of reputed Skye origin which appeared in a Glasgow circus in 1898.

The story goes that a Skye man went to see Barnum and Bailey's famous circus where he was surprised to see a tall man dressed in a scarlet coat and a tile hat standing in front of a large tent and shouting at the top of his voice: 'Ladies and Gentlemen, come in and see the Skye zebra. The only one of its kind in the world'. Being interested, he paid a shilling and entered. There indeed was an animal resembling a zebra. Its body was cunningly groomed, and its hoofs and tail were well camouflaged. Parts of its body was shaved and its horns, if it ever had any, were cut off.

On enquiring which part of Skye the beast came from, he was shown a stock book in which was recorded: 'No. 40 – Skye Zebra, born 1893 in Trotternish, Isle of Skye. Bought from John Kelly, drover, for £10 in 1896. Insured, £1,000. The circus manager told him that the Skye Zebra was the best paying animal they had in the circus.'

The same Skye man shortly afterwards left for America, and when he was there he revisited Barnum & Bailey's circus in 1904 and found the Skye Zebra still being exhibited and as popular as ever.

Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS to Morvern's own Mrs Jean Robinson, Lochaline, for receiving an award in the Queen's Birthday Honour's List last week.

Mrs Robinson, or Jean as she is affectionately known locally, was given the British Empire Medal for services to the Morvern Community.

For almost quarter of a century Jean has been the area's unofficial and unpaid voluntary tourist information officer, agony-aunt, trip-advisor, pier mistress and litter gatherer. Above all she has been the front counter and a terrific ambassador for Morvern.

Lang may her lum reek and her garden flourish when she decides to retire. Turn to page 11.

Iain Thornber
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SOCIAL CARE RECRUITMENT EVENT

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Glencoe woman is barred from referendum vote

SANDY NEIL
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A COMMUNITY councillor who has lived in Glencoe for half a century says she is being treated like an alien after finding out she is ineligible to vote on Scotland's future.

Victoria Sutherland, 72, has a Scottish mother and has lived in Glencoe for 50 years. There, she and her husband, Alistair, a Scottish lawyer and the current community council chairman, brought up three children as British citizens, and run a business, Glencoe Cottages, renting holiday accommodation to tourists.

But when only her husband's voting card arrived in the post two months ago, Mrs Sutherland was shocked to discover she could not vote in the upcoming EU referendum on June 23, because, she said, she is an EU citizen domiciled in Britain.

Citizens from EU countries – apart from Ireland, Malta and Cyprus – will not get a vote.

Mrs Sutherland told *The Oban Times*: 'I can't register. I'm being treated like an alien.'

The Glencoe and Glen Etive community councillor said: 'I have a Danish father and a Danish passport.'

'I'm a patriotic Dane, and a Scot, too – I have a Scottish mother and a proud Scottish ancestry. I don't want to give up my Danish citizenship: the Danes are as keen on their nation as the Scots are.'



Disenfranchised – Victoria Sutherland has lived in Glencoe with her husband Alistair for 50 years.

'Since September 21, I have been able to apply for dual nationality, but I didn't think it was necessary. I was allowed to vote in Scotland's independence referendum, so I automatically assumed I'd be able to vote in the EU referendum.'

She is also able to vote in local government and Scottish Parliament elections, she said.

Commonwealth citizens from 54 states, including Australia, Canada, India, Pakistan, Nigeria and Gibraltar, who live in the UK are eligible to vote.

'It's iniquitous,' Mrs Sutherland added. 'It's very random: it seems to depend on what they had for breakfast.'

'Nobody's pointed out how crazy it is. My Australian daughter-in-law can vote, but I can't. Why can she? She has no economic interest. It's not going to affect her future.'

Mrs Sutherland's husband said a vote to leave the European Union would cause their tourism business, and others in Lochaber, to suffer.

He said: 'A third of our customers and 100 per cent of our staff come from the continent. We can't get people from the West Highlands to do this job, as much as we'd like to.'

Mrs Sutherland added: 'The tourist industry would be decimated if they had to go back, or it was made very difficult to stay.'

Ian Blackford, SNP MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, said: 'It is daft that people like Mrs Sutherland, who live and work here, who make a full contribution and who is allowed to vote in Scottish elections, is not allowed to have a say, like the rest of us, on the future of the European Union.'

Meet your new Moderator



Ella Gill, the incoming Moderator, and Rev Edgar Ogston, who is vacating the post.

ACHARACLE Parish Church welcomed members of Lochaber Presbytery and the local community on Tuesday for a service of communion to mark the end of the presbytery year and the installation of the new Moderator, Ella Gill.

The service was conducted by the retiring Moderator, Reverend Edgar Ogston, and Rev Fiona Ogg.

Mrs Gill is the first female Moderator in Lochaber who is an elder rather than a minister.

In her address to the congregation, Mrs Gill picked up on

the suggestion of the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr, that local presbyteries should adopt the theme of the General Assembly for their forthcoming year – 'People of the Way' – the description of the followers of Jesus before they were known as Christians.

Mrs Gill likened the loss of church membership and the well-publicised reduction in ministers to that of pruning a rose bush. Something which had been full of flowers might look as if it had been killed

with severe pruning. However, just as after pruning a rose bush, new growth is stimulated and shoots appear all over the stems of the plant. So, with the church, new growth is appearing, not just where the stem has been cut, but all over.

These new shoots are the lunch clubs, coffee mornings, support for neighbours and strangers – ordinary folk following and putting Jesus' teachings into practice.

The service was followed by refreshments in the community centre.

Oban Times' digital upgrade helps you 'stay connected'

CONNECTING people with news from across Argyll and the West Highlands has just become easier thanks to significant improvements to *The Oban Times* digital edition.

Earlier this year, the digital edition was made available to read on any smartphone or tablet device, meaning readers can enjoy the paper anywhere, anytime. Now further improvements have been made to the service so people can read each article in full-screen format, as well as being able to flick through pages and pinch and zoom in on articles as before.

To let people know of the changes, *The Oban Times* has launched its new campaign, "Stay connected", which includes a stunning 30-second film of people from Argyll reading the newspaper on their device in beautiful locations, including Oban town centre, the Isle of Kerrera, and North Connell. The film is available to watch on *The Oban Times* website and on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

There is also the chance to win an iPad Mini 2 – all you have to do is sign up to a six- or 12-month digital subscription from today (Thursday June 16) until September 1, 2016. Terms and conditions apply. To enter the competition and subscribe online, from as little as 63p per issue, readers can sign up by visiting an exclusive offer webpage www.obantimes.co.uk/sc3.

Susan Windram, Editor for *The Oban Times*, said: 'We are thrilled to launch our Stay Connected campaign today and to share our new and improved edition with our readers.'

'Whether it's from Calgry Bay on the Isle of Mull or Calgry Bay Canada, *The Oban Times* is the perfect platform to access local news and features from Argyll and the West Highlands no matter where you are in the world.'

Stay connected

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Former tug pulls in the crowds

THERE was much interest in a splendid vessel tied up at the north pier in Oban on Thursday evening.

The Lady of Avenel is a 30m (98ft) twin-masted Dutch yacht which is touring the western islands. She left Oban on Friday heading for Barra.

It was a return visit for the boat, having been in Oban twice before, the last time as recently as 2015. She is in the West Highlands for the summer season and will be around until the end of September.

Built in 1964 in Poland, she was originally a tug but was converted by cutting off all the superstructure above the waterline.

Billy is lifeboat's golden boy

OBAN Lifeboat's operations manager Billy Forteith has been awarded the RNLI's gold badge in recognition of his long service and dedication, following 41 years with the charity.

Billy first joined the RNLI as a volunteer at Oban Lifeboat station in 1975, just a few years after the station itself was founded in 1972.

At the time the station would have been operating its first lifeboat, the 18ft McLachlan inshore lifeboat providing only seasonal cover during the summer months.

The first all-weather lifeboat arrived in 1978, quickly followed by a newer model, before our current Trent class Mora Edith MacDonald was allocated in 1997.

Starting off as a crew member, Billy progressed through the ranks to become an emergency mechanic, followed by deputy coxswain and finally second coxswain. He then took on the station's lifeboat operations manager role.

During his time he also received the thanks of the RNLI on Vellum. The prestigious gold badge award, presented at the RNLI's award ceremony in Perth, recognises Billy's significant contribution and dedication to the charity over the years.

He remains an integral part of the lifeboat family. Oban Lifeboat chairman Mike Robertson said: 'I think that word "fun" is important, both about the huge contribution Billy has made to the station over the years, and to other crew members and volunteers taking part in the lifeboat family at Oban.'

'Billy has always been very much involved in the likes of station barbecues, which used to include



In his 41 years with the RNLI in Oban, Billy Forteith has seen the vessel go from an 18ft inshore boat to today's hi-tech all-weather lifeboat.

Malt and Salt events at the distillery, raft races, and latterly open day events.

'As the current station lifeboat operations manager, Billy gives a huge amount of voluntary time

and work on behalf of the station. His award of the RNLI gold badge is richly deserved.'

Campaign pays off for RNLI

MARTIN LAING
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OBAN Lifeboat is backing the RNLI annual Respect the Water initiative to prevent accidents at sea.

And the good news is that the drive to save lives is paying off, with a reduction in the number of call-outs so far this year.

According to spokeswoman Leonie Woolf, Oban Lifeboat has launched on 26 occasions

to date this year, compared with 29 for the corresponding period in 2015.

Last year saw the lifeboat launch 61 times in total, making it the busiest single all-weather lifeboat in Scotland.

Almost a quarter of its call-outs were to yachts or motor vessels in trouble – for example, taking on water or with a fouled propeller. Another 25 per cent were for medical evacuations from the Isle of Mull.

The lifeboat launched nine times to help vessels that had run aground, and five times to aid fishing or commercial vessels in trouble.

A smaller number of launches accounted for canoes or windsurfers, assisting divers and others. There were no fatalities.

The previous year, 2014, saw a larger number of launches with 67 call-outs. The majority remained with yachts or motor boats in trouble, vessels that

had run aground and medical evacuations from the Isle of Mull.

The other call-outs followed a similar pattern to 2015, with a small number of launches to fishing vessels, assisting divers and medical evacuations from other islands and vessels. Again, there were no fatalities.

As of December 31, 2015, Oban Lifeboat had launched on a total of 2,089 shouts, covered a total of 44,173 miles on ser-

vice and used 382,579 litres of fuel on services.

The total number of hours the volunteer crew spent on the lifeboat during services was 3,614 hours.

The Respect the Water campaign aims to halve accidental coastal deaths by 2024 and is targeting adult men, who account for the most incidents.

Last year saw an increase in the number of men losing their lives off the Scottish coast.

Between 2011 and 2014, men accounted for more than three-quarters of Scottish coastal deaths, but in 2015 this increased to 92 per cent.

A surprising trend is that many of the coastal deaths each year are people who never planned to enter the water. Of the 39 deaths last year, 79 per cent did not intend to get wet: they were people taking part in coastal walking, angling or commercial activity.

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Advertorial

Widening access to science

Argyll College provides an alternative entry route to a university degree

EDUCATION Scotland's report 'Sciences for All' highlighted the fact that sciences are vital for growth of key economic sectors in Scotland such as energy, the creative industries (including digital), food and drink, and life sciences.

It's estimated that physics-based industries alone contribute £12.5 billion and 184,000 jobs to the Scottish economy and a further 95,000 jobs are expected to be created in the Scottish energy sector by 2020. Notably, eight out of 10 of the highest starting salaries go to graduates with science-related degrees.

STUDY

From this September, Argyll students can study an HNC in Applied Sciences at Argyll College UHI, a partner in the University of the Highlands and Islands. This is an alternative entry route to a university degree for school leavers or mature students contemplating a career change. It's a wide-ranging course which incorporates subjects such as physics, biology, chemistry, ecology and ecosystems, human structure and microbiology: it's perfect if you haven't yet decided which discipline is for you.



From this September, Argyll students can study an HNC in Applied Science at Argyll College UHI.



The practical laboratory elements of the HNC will be delivered at world-renowned Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) UHI at Dunstaffnage.

It is often thought that sciences, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) careers are only available to those with a university degree but many opportunities also exist for technician-level roles and this one-year course is a great entry level qualification.

SKILLS

Skills gained through the sciences can also open doors to careers in many other sectors, and qualities such as the ability to solve problems, make accurate predictions and draw valid conclusions can be widely applied.

The practical laboratory elements of the HNC will be delivered at the world-renowned Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) UHI at Dunstaffnage. Marine science is a major sector of the North Argyll economy and the development of this HNC reflects Argyll College UHI's curriculum development in response to local needs, in partnership with a fellow academic partner of the University of the Highlands and Islands.

Shona Magill, head of student services and quality manager at SAMS UHI, said: 'SAMS is delighted to support the HNC Applied Science programme at Argyll College UHI and

we look forward to welcoming the first cohort of students. The programme is an excellent opportunity to take advantage of the wonderful environment of Argyll as well as providing key skills for future employment. It will also be an excellent stepping stone to university, potentially to study on the marine science degree at SAMS.'

OPPORTUNITIES

John McLuckie, curriculum manager at Argyll College UHI, said: 'In the five years to 2013, we have seen employment in the life sciences industry in the Highlands and Islands increase by 600 per cent, there are also a wide range of opportunities in the marine science sector so we have developed the HNC Applied Sciences course in response. We are eager to widen access to STEM subjects for students wishing to remain in Argyll, and we feel that this is a great first step for our science provision.'

APPLY

The HNC Applied Sciences starts in September and applications are now being accepted. Staff at Argyll College UHI's Oban centre can advise on entry requirements and funding options, and can be contacted on 01631 559500.

£17,000 raised to 'bring Maddy home'

MORE THAN £17,000 has so far been raised to ensure a young woman is returned home following a tragic accident on Skye last week, writes *Ellie Forbes*.

Twenty-one-year-old Australian Madison Rice died last Monday (June 6) after being struck by a car as she and her boyfriend hitchhiked home after a night out.

The fundraising page, *Get our Madison home from Scotland*, was set up to raise the money as it was revealed she had no travel insurance.

Miss Rice's family has said: 'We hope to get her home as soon as possible.'

'We have the agonising wait for Maddy to make her trip home.'

A comment from the family on the fundraising page on Sunday (June 12) suggested that they were hopeful that Madison would be returned to Australia sometime next week: 'It's looking like Wednesday June 22.'

A quote on the page from The Beauty House Academy where Madison trained said: 'We are in total disbelief to hear that one of our beautiful students is no longer with us.'

'Words can not express our sympathy for all of Maddy's friends and family.'

'Such a beautiful girl. Always remembered, never forgotten.'

At the time of her death, Madison was living with her boyfriend on Skye while working in Kinloch Lodge Hotel at Sleat.

Madison was killed at 1.15am, near the Sligachan hotel.

Mother and daughter aim to help Lochaber Thrive

ELLIE FORBES
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A FORT WILLIAM mother and daughter team are 'thriving' for success with their new health and well-being hub.

Izzy Valenti and daughter Katy Macdonald's new venture, Thrive in Lochaber, is a new community resource that aims to promote health and well-being in the area.

Operating from Katy and her husband's Thai restaurant Sugar and Spice, Thrive will be a drop-in point for members of the community who feel isolated or find it difficult to socialise.

Katy and her husband moved to Scotland five years ago to open Sugar and Spice, which her husband runs in the evenings.

The idea for Thrive came about in February after Katy began brain-storming about what the restaurant could be used for during the day.

Currently Katy works at Lochaber college with students who have additional support needs and, with both Katy and her mum having backgrounds in



Katy Macdonald and her mum Izzy Valenti plan to host groups and workshops at Sugar and Spice restaurant.

health and social care, the idea was something they both feel passionate about.

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Izzy said: 'There is an obvious gap in relation to a high street drop-in venue for people who are socially isolated.'

'Our idea for Thrive is still formulating, but what we want to be is a health and well-being cafe that is accessed by individual community groups, with

Katy and I also running groups and workshops here for people.'

'We are currently running a class for young adults with disabilities who just want to hang out with their friends, but often find it difficult.'

Izzy added: 'We are quite unusual because we want to be constantly evolving to the needs of the community.'

Katy continued: 'We want to give people a social and com-

munity presence and design this service according to what people are telling us they need.'

In addition to working with young adults, they hope to run stress management workshops for carers, and support groups for young mums.

'This is a space for parents or carers to come in and talk to one another about any worries or difficulties,' said Katy.

As a young mother herself, Katy said: 'Being a young mum can be very isolating. We want somewhere for young mums to come together. For example, a group of parents could put on a coffee morning where they can socialise and meet people.'

Katy said they are also looking to start a breastfeeding support groups if there is a need.

At the heart of their idea is the importance of well-being, and for both Katy and Izzy socialising is vital.

'Some people find it difficult to go out and socialise with friends, as they are intimidated by large groups of people, but we want to normalise that and make it accessible for everyone.'

Izzy stresses: 'We want it to be a centre where we can bring people together.'

One idea that has been brought to Katy by students at the college is for a dinner club, where 10 people come to café, five will cook, while the other five set the tables.

Katy hopes that this will enable youngsters to work on life skills such as cooking and other soft abilities.

Thrive is also encouraging people in the community who have a skill and want to share it with others, to get involved.

Izzy told *The Oban Times*: 'We have had a fantastic response to this initiative.'

'The carers and families we have spoken to are so excited by this idea, and other professionals within our network have given us lots of encouragement.'

Thrive is in the process of becoming a social enterprise, and is still looking for funding to ensure its development.

Find Thrive in Lochaber on Facebook, or email thrive.cafe@hotmail.com to get involved.

TIMESLINE

Schools to be life-saving centres

THE Western Isles Council has agreed to provide life-saving equipment and training to schools across the area.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar will be the first local authority in Scotland to introduce emergency life support to the Curriculum for Excellence.

The council has pledged £30,000 toward the Lucky2B-Here project, which will see defibrillators installed and training provided at all schools.

Death of climber is confirmed

POLICE Scotland has confirmed the death of a man who was climbing in the Cairngorm area.

Officers received a call of an injured climber on Coire an Lochain at approximately 10.20am on Wednesday June 8.

The man was airlifted to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness with serious injuries and sadly died shortly after arrival.

Students play at fundraiser

PLOCKTON'S National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music welcomed nine new students last week.

As part of the centre's induction week, all pupils performed at a fundraising concert for Counselling Care Skye and Lochalsh at the Clan Donald Centre last Thursday (June 9).

Oban Times
newsdesk
01631 568000

Kamikaze bird behind Corran Ferry blackout

MORE than 300 homes were left without power on Saturday morning after a bird flew into overhead lines in the Corran Ferry area.

The majority of the houses were reconnected quickly after the incident early on Saturday morning but 50 customers experienced the blackout for up to five hours.

Duncan MacDonald, part of the media team for local energy company Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE), said: 'We would like to apologise to our customers in the Corran Ferry and Ardgour area who experi-

enced disruption to their power around 9.30am on Saturday June 11. This was due to a bird flying into an overhead part of the equipment.'

'The incident itself disrupted power for 338 customers but because of the way the system is set up, within around 10 minutes SSE was able to reconnect most of these customers apart from 50 households.'

'Engineers attended the site and all power was restored just after 2.45pm on the Saturday.'

Regarding reports of a loud bang or explosion and sighting of smoke at the time of the

power cut Mr MacDonald said: 'The system is similar to that in your own home - when it detects a fault it switches off. If you think about in your home when the trip switch goes off, you can normally hear a bit of a loud click. So if you think of the size of our equipment, then the noise would be considerably louder.'

Mr MacDonald added that safety is number one priority at SSE, and he again apologised to customers on behalf of the company and said the problem was resolved as safely and quickly as possible.

Keeping our children safe



Above, youngsters from Lochaber primary schools are taught about safety online and at home; and, right, police give a demonstration on being hit by a car at 30mph.

LOCHABER'S primary sevens gathered at the Nevis Centre last week, to take part in the annual Safe Highlander day.

The event, which was held on Thursday (June 8) promotes community safety and health and crime prevention for young people.

The majority of the schools'

P7 classes attended the event, where they had the chance to participate in practical exercises that showed them how to deal with everyday hazards, such as using the internet safely, road and fire safety.

Organisers of the event hoped that the children would leave with a better understanding of personal safety and how

to avoid becoming victims of crimes. All major rescue services took part in the event, as well as High Life Highland and the council.

One member of staff at Spean Bridge Primary School said: 'All of the P7 kids really enjoyed the event, they found it very beneficial and really worthwhile.'

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

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

The Barcaldine based company is perhaps better known as a leading manufacturer of polyethylene equipment for the aquaculture industry, but in recent years it has expanded this plastics' expertise to cover a range of outdoor leisure products that is supplied by its subsidiary, Fusion Recycled Plastic Products.

This includes picnic tables and benches, as well as walkways, fences, bridges, way-marking posts and other related products. All these items are ideal for caravan and holiday parks, nature reserves, town centres, urban areas, visitor centres and many other recreational uses. Memorial benches are also supplied - and the company even supplies decking made from recycled plastic!

The tables and benches, and other products are much tougher than wood and are available in colours that blend in naturally with the environment.

Recent customers included the Kilbowie Residential Outdoor Centre near Oban where Fusion Marine



supplied eight picnic tables. These picnic tables were the 'Ganavan' model and are coloured dark brown, providing a subtle and natural appearance.

Fusion Recycled Plastic Products also supplied The Rockfield Centre in Oban with benches and picnic tables forming a great sitting out area. The advantages of recycled plastic for such outdoor products include:

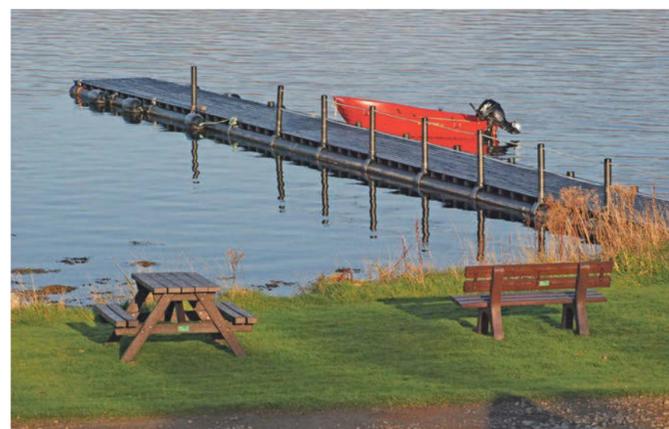
- Tough and durable
- Decay resistant
- Low maintenance
- Environmentally friendly
- Slip-resistant surfaces

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

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

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

A number of communities around Argyll have already installed these pontoons and are reaping the benefits. These include the Strachur Bay Mooring Association, Lochgoil Watersports Club, Craignish Boat Club and several others.



Viewpoint

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

IT IS impossible to overstate the damage that illegal drugs do to our communities. The chaos is not only caused to those unfortunates who find themselves addicted to dangerous substances but is seen in increased crime rates as people break the law to feed their habits. It is against this backdrop that the unceasing struggle to combat the dealers and their pernicious trade must

be viewed. And it is gratifying that our local police are this week reporting successes in degrading the ability of these parasites to peddle their drugs.

However, we also commend the many other bodies and individuals involved in this campaign: it is genuinely a multi-agency approach that is now paying dividends.



Days gone by – Muck Primary School

This week's flashback photograph shows Muck Primary School teacher Barbara Graves in the classroom with pupils Marcus Walters, left, Mary MacEwan and Luke Beagan. If any reader can shed light on the project they were working on, and the year, please get in touch by emailing: editor@obantimes.co.uk. 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



'Seeker Reaper' by Kenneth Thomson

THE poster I attach to the article this week is for 'Seeker Reaper', Kenneth Thomson's musical setting of the Kintyre Scots poetry of George Campbell Hay.

As I wrote last week, I am excited to perform this wonderful music alongside pianist Andrew Dunlop from Connel and the choir of the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association. Campbell Hay's poetry is superb (full of nostalgic praise for his boat as she sails from Kintyre round the west of Scotland and to Ireland) and Kenneth Thomson's musical interpretation of his words is perfect.

It is well worth coming along to hear the music.

Mull and Iona call EGM

AT THEIR recent AGM, the Mull and Iona Association called an extraordinary general meeting after the resignation and retirement of members of their committee.

The forthcoming EGM will be held in An Leanag, at 7.30pm on June 23. In an attempt to recruit new committee members, newly-elected Vice President, Ross Wilson, sent the following email to associates of Mull and Iona:

Dear fellow islanders, I'm sure you have all attended or, at the very least, heard of the Mull and Iona Association and Annual



Gathering. Last year, the association celebrated its 150th year with a great evening of song and dance in Glasgow.

On 01/06/16, the association held their Annual General Meeting during which five of their current committee members (including Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary) all indicated their intention to retire after many years service.

To ensure the continuation of the association and the long-standing link between our islands and the central belt, we need to recruit new members for the association and create an almost entirely new committee.

At present, the association runs an annual gathering in Glasgow, holds around two meetings per year, and makes charitable donations to Mull, Iona and affiliated causes. Such

a calendar does not represent an unmanageable amount of work to committee members.

I have sent this email to all of you because of your noted ties with Mull and Iona; but also because of your ties with Glasgow - where the association is based.

We aim to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting on Thursday June 23, and we would love you to attend, or even to declare an interest in being part of the committee by phone or email.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Ross Wilson,
ross.wilson@hotmail.co.uk,
Mull and Iona Association.

What's on

Saturday June 18: Gaelic Choirs at Voice at the Bandstand, Kelvingrove Bandstand - An Lochran at the West End Festival. Ceòl 's Craic (Ie An Lòchran), in the CCA.
Tuesday June 21: Togaibh Fonn - Gaelic Song Workshops in An Lèanag.

Pub scene

Park Bar. Friday June 17: Dùn Mòr.
Saturday June 18: Beinn Lee.
Sunday June 19: Beinn Lee.
Islay Inn. Friday June 17: Deep River.
Saturday June 18: Twist of Fate.
Wednesday June 22: Quiz Night.

The truth about our EU membership

Sir, There has been so much misinformation by the Brexit campaign that I thought it might be helpful to outline some basic facts about the EU and the UK for those voters who haven't made up their minds yet on how to vote.

What is the EU? It is a union of sovereign nations linked by treaties.

Who decides what taxes you pay and how they are spent? UK governments.

Who determines our policies and regulations relating to education, health, housing, welfare, pensions, the minimum wage, criminal justice, domestic infrastructure and culture? UK governments.

Who decides our defence policy? The UK government.

Who decides foreign and trade policy? The UK government and Brussels share decisions.

Does the European Court of Justice have precedent over our legal system? Sometimes, but only on matters of EU law.

Immigration: who do we have to allow in as a result of EU membership? EU citizens but we can block entry on grounds of security.

Do EU immigrants impose a burden on the UK welfare system? No, they contribute more into the system than they take out.

How much does our membership of EU cost us on a net basis? Less than 1p per pound of taxes.

What benefits do we derive from being part of the EU? Better trade, better travel, study and research, deregulation of cross border industries leading to cheaper flights, no roaming charges, more competitive in single market leading to better quality of goods and lower prices.

What do we have to lose if we leave the EU? Difficult to say as it will depend on outcome of talks and negotiations. Our allies and friends think an exit is ill-advised and most probably will have a negative impact.

I urge you to join me and vote to remain.

Ursula Craig,
Cove.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk



LE MÒDAN IONADAIL na bliadhna air tòiseachadh feadh na dùthaich tha cothrom às ùr aig clann agus inbheach a cuid cànan is dualchais fhoillseachadh le moin.

Dìleab luachmhor gu teagamh, agus tha cothrom cuideachd aig luchd-èisteachd is fianais nan tachartasan seo luach a chur air brìgh agus snas an obair-oideachaidh a fhuair gach neach a tha a' gabhail pàirt anns na farpaisean.

Is math an sgàthan sùil caraid their an seanfhacal, agus tha comasan nam-farpaiseach nan sgàthan air dìcheall luchd-teagaisg, pàrantan, seanairean is seanmhairean. Agus a bharrachd air na tha ga libhrigeadh gu foirmeil ann an sgoiltean, tha mòran den ionnsachadh cuideachd a' tachairt an ìre mhath gun fhios ann am beatha làitheil an neach-ionnsachaidh.

Nuair a thig e gu comasan cànan agus fileantachd, tha dùbhlann sònraichte aig mòran de luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig leis nach eil iad beò ann an coimhearsnachd anns am bheil an cànan ga cleachdadh gu nàdarra agus tha seo a' cuingealachadh fàs stòr-fhaclan agus ghnàthasan-cainnt. Cluinnear fileantaich bho àm gu àm a' càineadh dìth daingneachd

Total rubbish from remain campaign

Sir, The total rubbish from the remain campaign was never so self-evident as when leading feminists took on the Brexit team.

Amber Rudd attacked Boris Johnson instead of giving us the benefit of her ministerial experience. Why the British people are better off without the power to make their own laws or protect our own borders was never explained.

Nicola Sturgeon said every country should be independent, and who would argue with that? Then she said independent countries must work together and this is why she wants Scotland to stay in the EU.

If Britain has never been an independent country since joining the EU, how does she explain that a country one-tenth the size of Britain would be? Independent countries working together do not need to have the same rules and laws to govern them and do not need to have free movement of people that can seriously destabilise even successful countries.

Eric R S Davidson,
Isgard, 21 Bruce Street, Macduff.

Thanks to all who voted for me

Sir, I would like to thank everyone who voted for me in the council by-election. I was overwhelmed by the support and the good wishes.

Many of you trusted me with your vote and although those were not quite enough (though the SNP led on the first count), I was honoured.

While campaigning, I have listened to your concerns about issues that affect you and I will work with the SNP councillor in ward five, Julie MacKenzie, to address these concerns.

It is to be regretted that the winning candidate, Kieron Green, whom I congratulated on the night and who assured every voter during the campaign that he would oppose cuts, austerity and the bad decisions of the

current Tory/Liberal administration as a true independent, decided after only four days as a councillor to join that administration.

By so doing, he has signed on to supporting the very things he criticised in his campaign and - ever more damagingly - to standing shoulder to shoulder with the Tories in the council and voting with them for more slashing of school budgets, music tuition, staff and services in our community.

I believe those actions greatly discredit our politics. Instead, we need more people power because grassroots movements can achieve great things. I have, therefore, started a project that will offer a platform for community councils to engage with a much wider audience, which I hope will lead to greater community participation in the key decisions that are presently being made at Kilmory.

I am also leading a group who want to see change and improvements in delivery of services which are causing increased costs and real problems for those who live here and for small businesses. A public meeting regarding this issue will be announced shortly.

Please email me at breege.smyth@mac.com if you have any suggestions or would like to help.

Breege Smyth,
Achnacree more, North Connel

Well done to ACHA

Sir, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) for its efforts in tidying up the wall on Dunollie Road.

The removal of vegetation and old wire, combined with the straightening and painting of fence posts, means it looks a huge amount tidier.

This might not appear much, but it does improve the first impression that people arriving from the north receive.

By doing this and lots of other small things, the general appearance of Oban will improve greatly. Once again thanks to ACHA and its team for their efforts.

Derek Connerly,
Chief executive, BID4OBAN Ltd,
43 Stevenson Street, Oban.

Ailean Caimbeul

na Gàidhlig aig cuid a dh'ionnsaich i, neo a tha ga h-ionnsachadh, ach feumar cuimhneachadh nach eil a' mhòr-chuid dhiubh sin am bogadh sa chànan mar a bha sinne a fhuair i mar dhìleab mhàthaireil.

Rinneadh mòran adhartais thar nan ceathrad bliadhna a dh'fhalbh a' cruthachadh chothroman gus staid na Gàidhlig a neartachadh agus tòiseachadh ri fàs a-rithist. Ach chan eil sinn faisg air an t-strì an aghaidh crìonadh na Gàidhlig a bhuanachadh agus tha i fhathast ann an suidheachadh air leth cugallach agus tha a' cheart uimhir de naimhdeas ann dhi 's a bh' ann riamh.

Thug spàirn mhòran cheatharnach dhuinn goireasan bunaiteach foghlaim agus craolaidh, agus tomhas de dhìon phoilitigeach, ach tha sinn uile a' tuigsinn nach eil an sin ach toiseach tòiseachaidh. Ach ri linn 's cho beag 's a tha àireamh luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig, feumaidh an leasachadh tachairt an lùib, mar phàirt fiù 's, mòr-choimhearsnachd Beurla agus tha feum daonnan air deisealachd agus ealantas ann a bhith toirt chùisean air adhart.

Tha mise a' tuigsinn glè mhath carson a tha cuid de Ghàidheil

mi-fhoighidneach agus mi-riarachtaiche leithid fo-thialan phrògraman telebhisean agus na bheil de Bheurla ann an cuid de phrògraman.

Ach saoidh mi gum feumar a bhith faiceallach nach toir iomairt a dh'ionnsaigh sàr-mhathas buille bàis dhan t-seirbheis a' thug cho fada ga buinnig agus a tha na coimhearsnachd Gàidhlig luachmhor dha mìltean feadh na dùthaich!

THE PAST 40 years have seen significant progress in the winning of political support and the establishing of educational and broadcasting structures for Gaelic.

But the challenge to revitalise the language continues, and progress requires dexterity and diplomacy. While fully understanding frustration with issues of sub-titling and English content on a Gaelic television channel, I believe great care must be taken lest this vital Gaelic resource is lost to its community.

It is always easier to start a war than make peace, and internal strife will not serve our Gaelic community.

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

Press policy

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

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

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

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

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

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

be printed.

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

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Firm warns Scots about potential health risks from new 'supermidge'

CHANGES to the Scottish climate could soon see the rise of a new species of 'supermidge' which has the potential to transmit disease to humans, according to industry experts.

Pyramid Travel Products says the increased number of foreign species being found in Scotland could be bad news for agriculture, tourism, and even human health.

In Scotland the most common form of midge bite comes from the *Culicoides impunctatus* species (better known as highland biting midge) which is responsible for 90 per cent of bites. Despite this, there are now more than 37

different species of midge known to exist across Scotland.

There has been increasing concern about more aggressive species of midges being blown over from Europe, including *Culicoides obsoletus*. These species have been responsible for outbreaks of deadly Bluetongue and Schmallenburg virus in livestock.

Although these diseases are not communicable to humans, there are concerns that some midges have the potential to transmit disease in ways similar to mosquitoes, with research already under way to try to understand the changing dynamic.

Nicola Cameron from Pyramid Travel Products said: 'Scots are used to dealing with the nuisance and discomfort caused by midge bites, but there are concerns that a new breed of 'supermidge' could in time bring new problems, not confined to the usual discomfort associated with the Highland midge.

'Whilst the Highland midge is undoubtedly a pest, should a new species establish themselves in Scotland with the potential to carry disease to humans, there could be an obvious impact for agriculture, tourism, and general health.'

POLICE FILES

POLICE in Fort William are appealing for any information in connection with the following incidents:

LAST Friday night (June 10) a yellow dumper truck was driven away from its site at Lundavra. The vehicle was abandoned on Lundavra Road.

Around 7.15pm on Wednesday June 1, a minor road traffic collision occurred involving a Dacia Duster and Ford Jaga on the A830 near Lochaber High School. A third vehicle was close by at the time and the driver may be able to help with inquiries.

Lochaber Police are appealing to the public to remain vigilant in connection with reports of bogus callers. Several reports and incidents involving commens and pressurised selling techniques have been filed over the last few weeks. A number of people and vehicles have been traced and dealt with, and one has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for offences.

Service with a smile sees Jean honoured with BEM

MONICA GIBSON
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

A WOMAN who has served the community with a mixture of friendliness and discretion has received Royal recognition.

Jeannette Robinson, or Jean as she prefers, has run the Lochaline Snack Bar on the old pier for nearly 30 years.

Her commitment has now been recognised as she received a British Empire Medal (BEM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

The news came as a surprise to Jean who said: 'I was in tears. I am still in shock.'

'I have been here for 27 years and it's just a really nice thing to be recognised. I've met so many lovely people over the years.'

The notice came through on the June 11, the day of the Queen's official birthday.

Jean had actually found out the day earlier, but is well versed in the art of secrecy thanks to her former job and she continues to use these skills at the snack bar.

The 71-year-old added: 'I definitely have crossed paths with some celebrities - it's been



lovely to meet them but what I always say is that they are on their holidays, so I am very discreet and never talk about who I've met.

'I worked for the Ministry of Defence in my past life so I had to sign secrecy acts and I guess that's just stayed with me.

'I was sworn to secrecy about this award as well, which was difficult, but helped make the whole thing more fun.'

Jean has two grown up children and despite them living away from home, she keeps the cafe opened all year, apart from January, to feed and meet

hungry sailors. Jean hasn't yet found out who is responsible for her nomination, but considering she helps tourists find their way and offers assistance to the emergency services from time to time, she believes there could be a few 'culprits'.

Jean told *The Oban Times*: 'I

Jean who is to be presented with a BEM is looking forward to a few more years running the Lochaline Snack Bar. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography

don't know who would have nominated me.

'There could be a few people that might have been thoughtful enough but I have just enjoyed my time here and loved meeting everyone.'

'It's a hub of the community down here on the pier, so it has been nice as my family are living down south - they are educated and have started lives of their own.'

'My daughter is a carer so she gets that side from me and my son is a chef and he gets the cooking side from me, so that makes me very happy.'

Jean believes she will be presented with the award locally, but she hasn't heard when or where exactly the event may take place, however she is really looking forward to it and said she 'will need to buy a frock' for the occasion.

Students celebrate graduation day



EIGHTY-TWO students were celebrating after graduating from Lochaber High School. Pupils are pictured here with the Head of Year and Depute Head Teacher Elizabeth Gow and Head Teacher Jim Sutherland.

This year's ceremony was held

at the school on Thursday (June 10). Mr Sutherland said: 'As we say goodbye to another group of sixth years, we've been looking back at their school careers from when they started during our 50th anniversary year in 2010. That six years has seen much change in education

and to our school buildings. This year group has survived - and excelled - through the introduction of new national courses in S4 and new Higher courses in S5 while negotiating their way round a building site! 'Graduation day is always a very special day for the school,

but moving on is part of growing up.

'In saying farewell, I would also like to wish our sixth years all the very best for the future and thank them for the part they have played in making Lochaber High School the good school it is today.'

Gaelic drama school

JUST days remain to apply for a place at this year's Gaelic drama summer school.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's residential experience will be held in Portree between July 4 and 15.

Participants will receive tuition in a variety of drama skills, as well as having lots of fun in the process.

For more information and to access the school's online application form, visit www.feisean.org/ssd.

Community fund

LOCHABER community groups still have time to apply for a £200 grant.

Launched in 2013, Lochaber Housing Association's community fund supports dozens of groups in the area. Priority will be given to first-time applicants, but the association will consider groups that have received grants in the past.

The closing date is July 29 and application forms can be downloaded from the association's website.

BE CARBON clever and give yourself a lift.

Carbon clever commuting is an initiative operated by the Highland Council to combat transport emissions and create a low carbon highlands by 2025. It encourages residents to think about alternative travel options, such as car sharing, to help reduce emissions but also increase health levels and save money.

For information on lift-sharing, walking routes and public transport visit: www.highland.gov.uk/commuting/



Matt Bendoris, left, Chris Brookmyre, Gordon Brown, Doug Johnstone and Craig Robertson read from their latest novels in Fort William Library on Friday.

Crime under investigation at festival promo

SIX Scottish crime writers took part in a book signing and discussion in Fort William Library on Friday evening.

The authors were there to promote the fifth annual Bloody Scotland International Crime Writing Festival, which will take place in Stirling in September.

Chris Brookmyre hosted the event and read from his latest novel, *Black Widow*, which tells the story of an Inverness woman who murdered her husband.

Douglas Johnstone gave an excerpt from *The Jump*, about a woman whose son committed suicide, while Matt Bendoris read part of *DM for Murder*, a Twitter murder story featuring a pair of investigative journalists.

Craig Robertson shared an excerpt from his sixth novel, *In Place of Death*, which follows the theme of urban exploration, and Gordon Brown read from *Meltdown*, the second book in his series featuring bodyguard Craig McIntyre.

Following the readings there was a discussion and question-and-answer session.

ALIENERGY BCA insulation
Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland: Area Based Scheme (HEEPS:ABS)



Private homeowner or tenant?
Council Tax Band A-D*?
Live in Mull, Iona, Islay, Jura, Coll or Tiree (some parts of Oban and Lomond included)?

If yes to the above you could be eligible for funded insulation measures including loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, internal and external wall insulation and underfloor insulation.

*Band D must also have a household income below £20,000 and a poor energy efficiency rating

Alienergy, based in Oban, are delivering the HEEPSABS programme in your area on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council. Scottish Government funding has been awarded to improve the energy efficiency of properties that are deemed to be in fuel poverty. Please check the Alienergy website for a full list of eligible postcodes or call us to find out more. Funding is limited and we advise that you register for the scheme as soon as possible.

To register call Alienergy:

01631 565 183

Or contact Home Energy Scotland:

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Email: heepsabs@alienergy.org.uk

Website: www.alienergy.org.uk

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TIMESLINE

Caol primary to host open day

STAFF and pupils at Caol Primary School are hosting an open day to mark the closure of the school as it prepares to move to its new campus.

The event is open to all former pupils, parents and staff who would like a last look around the building before it is demolished as part of the project.

The open day will take place on Thursday June 23 from 1pm to 3pm, and then 4pm-6pm.

Mod celebrates record entries

MOD AIRD nam Murchan is set to be a jam-packed day, with organisers saying it is the biggest entry to date.

The event kicks off tomorrow (June 17) at 9.15am, in Ardscoil Aird nam Murchan and Arainn Shuaineirt in Strontian.

The Prizewinners' Concert in Arainn Shuaineirt will be at 7pm.

Visitors are welcomed to both events.

Save cash and save the planet

BE CARBON clever and give yourself a lift.

Carbon clever commuting is an initiative operated by the Highland Council to combat transport emissions and create a low carbon highlands by 2025. It encourages residents to think about alternative travel options, such as car sharing, to help reduce emissions but also increase health levels and save money.

For information on lift-sharing, walking routes and public transport visit: www.highland.gov.uk/commuting/

Arena

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

Thank you Oban

The Street Party Committee to celebrate the 90th Birthday of HM the Queen wish to thank all of those who helped to make an exceptional day in Oban reflecting HM the Queen's patronage of some 600 charities.

Oban and Lorn Lions Club
MacGillvray's Seafood Oban
Inner Wheel Club of Oban
Costa Coffee
Lord Lieutenant and Lieutenancy of Argyll & Bute
McCaigs Warehouse
David and Isobel MacQueen – Rolls Royce
Subway
The Elected Members and Staff of Argyll and Bute Council
Olive Garden
Royal National Lifeboat Institute
Bookers Wholesales
Royal Highland Yacht Club
Caledonian MacBrayne
The Oban Times
Oban FM
Oban Pipe Band
Argyll Community Housing Association
HMS Neptune Babcock Band
Sequence Choir
Boogies Choir
Laura Munro School of Dance
Land Engineering
Police Scotland
Funders:
Bid4 Oban,
Oban Common Good Fund and Community Charity Shop

All organisations who dressed in the parade, all of the Charity Stalls who 'dressed for the Queen' Argyll and Bute Primary Schools who took part in our Birthday Card Competition and.....

Our Community for their generosity and support.

Oban turns out in force to celebrate Charities Day and Queen's 90th birthday



Lord Lieutenant Patrick Stewart presented the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to the Oban Winter Festival Committee. From left to right: Karen Mackie, David Smith, Pamela Lockhart, David Finlayson, Eleanor MacKinnon. The other members, not present, were Louis Barrow, Tara Coggins and Kyle Lockhart.

SATURDAY'S packed street party blending Oban Charities Day and the Queen's official 90th birthday celebrations has been hailed as a great success, writes Sandy Neil.

John Lloyd of Oban Lions Club, which organises Oban Charities Day, said many of the 46 charities present had reported their highest takings ever at the annual event.

Fundraising fun included a pirate treasure map from Spotlight MTG, splat the rat from Hope 2 Oban, Rotary of Oban's spin the wheel, a tombola from Rockfield Centre masked as senior Royals, clowning around by the Royal Voluntary Service, and even crazy socks from the North Argyll Carers Centre. St Columba's Primary School, dressed

as Queen Elizabeth II and crew aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia, won best stall, followed by the Africa-inspired Pelandaba Orphan Fund, and the MS Therapy Centre.

Best in parade went to Soroba Young Families, who came as a Royal tea party, while second prize was awarded to St Columba's primary school, and third equal to Oban Rainbows 1st and 2nd, in their regal red and golden crowns.

Lord Lieutenant Patrick Stewart MBE, Her Majesty's representative in Argyll and Bute, said: 'It was a terrific parade with a happy atmosphere, and the enormous charity displays show Oban is not just a commercial engine, but a strong, self-supporting community.

Their charity effort will be the envy of many other communities.'

The Lord Lieutenant sent Oban's warmest congratulations to the Queen, and thanked her for her decades of service, before cutting a magnificent three-tier birthday cake, helped by his wife Mrs Mary Anne Stewart.

Her Majesty's last visit to Oban, to open the Lorn and Islands Hospital in 1995, was a very enjoyable event, he recalled, except for Prince Philip's conversation with a driving instructor, when the duke is reported to have asked: 'How do you keep the natives off the booze long enough to get them past the test?'

An awards ceremony then began with *The Oban Times'* David

Buchanan receiving the British Empire Medal for his voluntary service to football. Street party organiser Graham MacQueen paid tribute to him as 'a role model of stewardship' who had been 'the heart of Oban Saints Football Club since its inception in 1960'.

He continued: 'His personal input has been instrumental in the expansion and success of the team. His enthusiasm week on week, and dedication to fair play, has led to success on the field, and pride in the players.'

Patrick Stewart then presented the Oban Winter Festival Committee with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Mr MacQueen said: 'If ever there was an example

of volunteering, it is the Oban Winter Festival.' He added as light rain fell: 'It takes bravery for any committee to put on an event in Oban in November, let alone June.'

After the ceremonies concluded at 4pm, the Patrick Stewart told *The Oban Times* that his 'expectations were surpassed', and he thanked Oban Lions Club and Mr MacQueen for running the event 'without a hitch'.

Jim Edge of The Lion's Club said it wanted to thank Land Engineering for creating space and making the event possible in Station Square, and the lads of MacQueen Bros Removals and Oban Camanachd for their help in putting up the stalls.



Spotlight Musical Theatre Group get into the spirit of the day with their treasure map. 15_T25 Spotlight pirates 01



The Lord Lieutenant Patrick Stewart cuts the cake. 15_T25 Lord Lt Patrick Stewart and Mrs Stewart cutting the cake 01



Volunteers for Pelandaba Orphan Fund are all smiles after their stall wins a prize. 15_T25 Pelandaba Orphan Charity 01



Volunteers with heart. 15_T25 British Heart Foundation

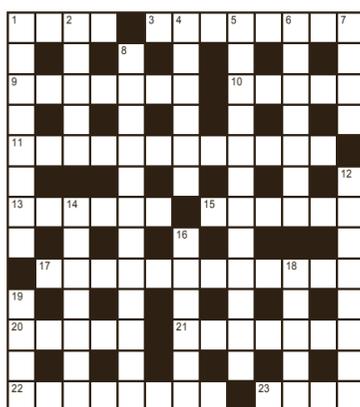
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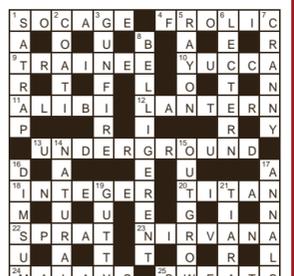
Across

- 1 Stone representing being united for forty years (4)
- 3 Manufacturing enterprise (8)
- 9 Only derived from plants or animals (7)
- 10 Boom sound heard from above (5)
- 11 Played using electronics (8,4)
- 13 Dwell in (6)
- 15 Caviar source (6)
- 17 Town with some self-government (12)
- 20 Cold dishes (5)
- 21 Melded rock (7)
- 22 Hard working (8)
- 23 Arduous journey (4)

Down

- 1 Underground vegetables (4,4)
- 2 Golly gosh (2,3)
- 4 Alloy Americans use as cash (6)
- 5 Not set apart (12)
- 6 Birds of South America resembling gallinaceous game birds (7)
- 7 Exclamation of disgust (4)
- 8 Expected (12)
- 12 Goo goo, ga ga speech (4,4)
- 14 Advice (7)
- 16 Very large clock in England (3,3)
- 18 Bring upon oneself (5)
- 19 Brought into play (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION





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Friday 17 - Thu 23

ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS | PG | 133 MIN

MIN
Sat: 14:30, Sun: 13:30, Mon: 18:40 Wed: 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: 12:30, 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.

IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA (THE BARBER OF SEVILLE) | 185 MIN

Tue: 18:30
By Rossini. The 2016 cinema season starts with a bang with this brand new production of one of the world's best known and best-loved operas.

INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE | 12A | 120 MIN

Thu: 21:15
We always knew they were coming back. After 'Independence Day' redefined the event movie genre, the next epic chapter delivers global spectacle on an unimaginable scale.

KIDS CLUB: TOY STORY | PG | 89 MIN

Sat: 11:00
Children's Classic. A cowboy doll is profoundly threatened and jealous when a new spaceman figure supplants him as top toy in a boy's room.

LOVE & FRIENDSHIP | U | 113 MIN

Fri: 16:30, Sat: 13:45, Mon, Tue: 16:30, Wed: 16:00, Thu: 16:30
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.

ME BEFORE YOU | 12A | 130 MIN

Fri: 21:00, Sat: 16:00, 21:15, Sun, 19:30, Mon: 18:40, Tue: 16:00, Wed: 18:15, Thu: 18:45

Parent and Baby Screening: Tue: 11:30

Louisa "Lou" Clark (Clarke) lives in a quaint town in the English countryside. With no clear direction in her life, the quirky and creative 26-year-old goes from one job to the next in order to help her tight-knit family make ends meet. Her normally cheery outlook is put to the test, however, when she faces her newest career challenge.

OUR KIND OF TRAITOR | 15 | 128 MIN

Fri: 21:15, Sat: 19:30, Sun: 19:00, Mon, Wed: 21:00, Thu: 21:15

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 - EYE IN THE SKY | 15 | 122 MIN

Silver Screening: Sun: 14:15

EYE IN THE SKY stars Helen Mirren as Colonel Katherine Powell, a UK-based military officer in command of a top secret drone operation to capture terrorists in Kenya.

THE NICE GUYS | 15 | 136 MIN

Fri: 18:45, Sat: 17:00, Sun: 16:00, Mon: 21:00, Tue: 18:45, Wed: 18:30, Thu: 18:45

Set in 1970s Los Angeles, down-on-his-luck private eye Holland March (Ryan Gosling) and hired enforcer Jackson Healy (Russell Crowe) must work together to solve the case of a missing girl and the seemingly unrelated death of a porn star.

TOP CAT BEGINS | U | 109 MIN

Fri: 16:00, Sat: 11:30, Sun: 12:00

Top Cat has arrived to charm his way into your hearts. Ever wonder how this scheming feline got his start? Well Top Cat Begins reveals the origins of everything you know and love about this classic comedy hero.

WARCRAFT: THE BEGINNING | 12A | 143 MIN

Fri: 18:15, Sat: 18:30, Sun: 16:45, Mon: 16:00, Wed: 20:45, Thu: 16:00

The peaceful realm of Azeroth stands on the brink of war as its civilization faces a fearsome race of invaders: orc warriors fleeing their dying home to colonize another. As a portal opens to connect the two worlds, one army faces destruction and the other faces extinction.

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

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 McLuckie'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 Teery 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



Royal Voluntary Service volunteers went to town with their costumes. 15_T25 Royal Voluntary Service 01



The Rockfield Centre stall had a royal theme. 15_T25 Rockfield Centre 01



The second year rainbows raised their flags during the parade. 17_t25charitiesday09



Matilda and Madeleine Russell, along with mum Melissa have their faces painted. 15_T25 Matilda the butterfly, Madeleine the wolf and Melissa Russell the cheetah 01



A mascot focused on raising awareness for Oban and Lorn Riding for the Disabled. 17_t25charitiesday04



St Columba's show off the shield they received for having the best-dressed stall. Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, Patrick Stewart, handed them the award. 17_t25charitiesday14



RNLI volunteers, Peigi Robertson, left, Moira Kerr and husband Les Hazelgrave, ahead of the annual Oban Lifeboat Open Day this coming Saturday. 15_T25 RNLI volunteers



Prince Charles, a teaspoon and a teacup fly the flag for the Soroba Young Family Group. 17_t25charitiesday16



Oban Pipe Band led the parade at Charities Day. 17_t25charitiesday06



The special cake was made by Mary Stone of Inverawe, courtesy of The Oban Times, to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. 17_t25charitiesday15

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Oban Lifeboat Open Day
Saturday 18 June 2016, 11am - 3.00pm
Step aboard Oban's Trent Lifeboat.
Seafari 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!

Shooglenifty - Live in Ardfert
The Untied Knot
24th June 7.30pm
with Licenced Bar
Craigish Village Hall, Ardfert
£12 / £8 (under 16 years)
Tickets: 01852 500746 or
cvh.artsevents@gmail.com or
www.ticketsource.co.uk/
date/247611

Festival of Architecture 2016
St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe
June 18 - July 3
10am - 5pm
Talks/tours/walks/teas/exhibitions
www.stconanskirk.org.uk

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

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MACFLOYD ON THE HORIZON
THE NEVIS CENTRE - FORT WILLIAM
SATURDAY 25TH JUNE 2016
DOORS OPEN AT 7PM
SHOW STARTS 7.30PM
TICKETS: £15
a journey through the timeless music of PINK FLOYD

Arena

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

Lochaber Mòd's new venue is a huge hit



Coisir Ghaidhlig Loch Abar who were very successful in the choir events.



Coisir Ghaidhlig an Eilein Mhuileach who made the trip from the isle of Mull to take part in the choir competitions.



Piping prize winners at Lochaber Provincial Mòd.

THE LOCHABER Provincial Mòd's first outing in its new venue was a huge success, with the competition receiving an increase in quantity and quality when it comes to participants.

Fluent and learner categories received up to double the number of entrants, with Kinlochleven and Ballachulish primary schools also being represented for the first time.

Taking place at the new Gaelic school in Fort William last Saturday, organisers of the music competition were delighted to receive competitors from near and far.

Linda Campbell said: 'The Lochaber Mòd was a great success. It was held in Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar, the new Gaelic school in Fort William. Entries for all competitions were up on last year and it was good to have so many new names on the programme. Competitors came from Inverness, Benbecula, Isle of Mull, Dingwall, and from the Lochaber area. The local Meur committee would like to thank everyone for making the Mòd such a success.'

Full results can be found online at www.obantimes.co.uk.

All Mòd photos by Anthony MacMillan.



Sgoil Chiuil Loch Abar took first place in the fiddle group competition.



Fiona Cameron, of Acharacle, took first place in the solo singing ladies.



Thea Robertson of Caol won the intermediate fiddle competition.



The under 10 years for chanter was won by Abbi Morgan of Inverness.



Catherine MacKinnon Bohuntin, Roy Bridge, won first in solo singing with a song by a Lochaber bard and traditional song ladies.



Lucy MacIntyre from Spean Bridge Primary School took first place in the accordion intermediate.



Donna Dugdale, Isle of Mull learner, who won solo singing ladies and traditional song ladies.



Arron Stephen from Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar won the accordion beginner.



Two pupils of Lochside RC Primary School – Aine O'Rua, right, and Faye MacKinnon – were placed in the clarsach intermediate competition.



Calum Craib, who was up at 5am to make the journey from his home in Benbecula, picked up four trophies in the piping.



Grace Henderson of Caol took first place in the fiddle for beginners.



Ruairaidh Drennan from Bun-Sgoil Inbhir Pheopharain took first place in 10-13 years chanter.



Claire Frances MacNeil of An Gearasdan was placed first in the fiddle advanced.

Music with Jonathan Rimmer



MARKIES Music Festival revived Oban Live's party atmosphere last weekend, drawing huge crowds. Audiences enjoyed a stacked bill of free music on one of the hottest weekends of the year so far.

Local bands such as Ceol an Aire and Crackin Craic were joined by up-and-coming traditional outfit Hò-rò and popular Irish folk group Crooked Reel. One of the biggest receptions was saved for Oban rock trio Chunks, who headlined the first night of the festival.

Chunks bassist Stevo Finlayson, who helped organise the festival, is a passionate promoter of the Oban scene

and believes the response to the weekend is further evidence that it is growing.

'Like Oban Live, Markies Music Fest shows how much passion there is for music in and around Oban,' says Stevo. 'It would be great to see more events like this in the local area.'

'Our slot went very well, the place was heaving and there was such a buzz. We played in Markies a few weeks ago for the Oban Live fringe and thought it couldn't get any busier than that, but it was. That's the kind of gig we like: when everybody is in good spirits and really enjoying our set.'

The festival is the first that

Markie Dans has attempted as a three-day event. Despite the big numbers the weekend mostly went off without a hitch, the only regrettable consequence being that late-comers in the evening were turned away.

'Both the beer garden and pub were very busy,' says organiser Lindsay MacMillan. 'The staff and stewards coped excellently with the huge volume of customers we had.'

'The feedback we have had from customers so far was very positive. It's really difficult to say what the highlight was. Every band played well – it was a brilliant mix of musical talent from here and away.'

DUNBEG songwriter Mike Nisbet surprised fans on Saturday by releasing a free album. The 10-track LP, entitled *Fashion & Trash*, is the multi-instrumentalist's follow-up to last year's *The Ballad of Body and Soul*.

When speaking to *The Oban Times* a few months ago, Mike had just finished the unnamed project and was set to re-record in a studio. However, the final result is a completely DIY project, recorded entirely on his iPhone.

'Something about these first recordings stuck with me,' says Mike. 'There was a certain vibe and romance to these versions that I loved.'

I realised I wanted to share these versions of the songs at their most honest and raw, like a view into the sketch book.'

Mike's most recent project was with The Artpack Collective, a group of London-based solo artists. He released compilation albums with the group and performed covers and traditional material with them on recent tours.

However, *Fashion & Trash* sees Mike return to playing entirely original songs. In spite of the lo-fi quality of recordings, the album is a cohesive body of work full of bluesy melodies and finger-picked guitar.



SCOTLAND'S PREMIER EQUESTRIAN MAGAZINE
FREE WITH JULY'S
 Scottish Field



Space tale is a modern shaggy dog adventure

A DALMALLY author is about to have her latest children's book published.

Christine Hawe will see her latest output, *The Dog that Peed on Mars*, hit the shelves on Thursday June 30.

Christine started writing this and her other children's stories when she was looking after her grandchildren. To entertain them, she would write a chapter, then they had to write another few pages themselves.

According to Christine: 'Scientists all over the world had dreamed of the journey to Mars for years. Now everything was perfect apart from one small detail...

'In the middle of the Arizona desert, a glitch has been found in a space probe to Mars. Someone has forgotten to provide enough room for a human and they quickly need to find a creature small enough to fit in the space vehicle.

'Jamie, with his posh English accent and quirky ideas, may have the solution: a dog. But not just any dog – the wirehaired terrier Pepsi, trained (in her spare time) by Jamie's mother back in England.

'Will Jamie's outlandish scheme work? Can Pepsi be trained in time? And, once he gets to Mars, what will he find? All will be revealed in this imaginative and light-hearted tale for children.'

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Art exhibition is a shore hit

TWO Argyll artists are to have a joint exhibition in Glasgow's Leiper Gallery next month.

The exhibition, which runs from July 14-31, will be the third time Fiona Macrae and Caroline Hunter have worked together.

Caroline studied History of Art at Aberdeen University and is well known both for her large sombre seascapes and tiny jewel-like landscapes as well as her still-life paintings.

Caroline said: 'Our work sits incredibly well together. Although our subject matter and sense of colour are sometimes similar, our handling of the paint itself is very different. I studied History of Art but am not a trained painter, and so am quite instinctive in my approach.'

Fiona trained at Glasgow School of Art and her pieces are perhaps more considered and have a beautiful sim-

plicity which is underpinned by her thorough understanding of her craft, particularly the interplay of colour and form.

'What really unites our work though, I think, is a sense of playfulness which runs through most of our paintings.'

Fiona said: 'I aim to create across the surface of the paper a dialogue using flat planes of colour, space, layering, exposing, mark making and scratching into. The pottery pots, kitchen utensils, textiles and fish are vehicles on which to hang yet more colours.'

'I am including work made with beach-found objects, which have been collected over a lifetime of scouring Hebridean shores.'

Caroline added: 'Our show at Leiper Fine Art is going to be very lovely. An Atlantic breeze blowing into central Glasgow.'



One of the renowned artworks by Fiona Macrae.



Little Blue Flowers by Caroline Hunter.

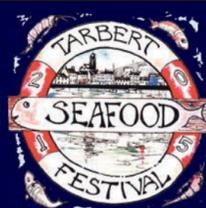
America-based trio promise to 'blow away' audiences



BLUEGRASS lovers are counting down the days until the Corn Potato String Band come to Caol. The trio will play Caol Community Centre on Tuesday June 21.

The concert is part of the US-based band's second tour of Scotland and will feature 'bluegrass to blow you away'. Tickets can be bought in ad-

vance for £8 or at the door for £10. For advanced booking or more information, email creevents@gmail.com.



Local Seafood & Stalls around the Harbour

Outer space Festival Parade

Crowning of the Seafood Queen & Princesses

Cookery Demos Cook-off & Taster Sessions

TARBERT SEAFOOD FESTIVAL 2016



Entertainment from TJ Mac

Performance Artists from Circus Malabarastas - a new for 2016 circus show combining comedy, illusions, fire, juggling and more! A fantastic crowd pleaser!

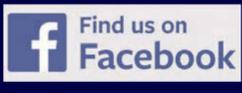
Campbeltown Highland Dance from James McCorkindale's School of Dance

Mid Argyll Pipe Band

Beer on the Pier with the Democrats and songs and costume changes from Grease the Musical and Dirty Dancing

Hog Roast and Arbroath Smokies plus much more

www.tarbertfestivals.co.uk


WIN Dinner and one night's accommodation for two







Getting a table for lunch or dinner at the Taynuilt Hotel and Restaurant can be difficult but we can get you in for free!

The lucky winner of our exclusive competition will enjoy an overnight stay for two and dinner at this magnificent dining destination, with a complimentary drink on arrival.

The 10 bedroom Taynuilt Hotel has been awarded two AA Rosettes for culinary excellence in quick succession since chef-proprietor John McNulty transformed the old coaching inn into a favourite haven for food fans from far and near. It was named Best Informal Dining Restaurant in Argyll and Lomond in the 2016 Scottish Hotel Awards.

Everything is prepared from scratch, including home-cured and home-smoked meat and fish, ice cream and desserts. Dishes, created from premium local produce, are big on flavours and generous in size.

A three minute walk from Taynuilt station, the Taynuilt Hotel and Restaurant is open from Wednesday to Sunday for lunch and dinner. To try to reserve a table call 01866-822437 or email enquiries@taynuilthotel.co.uk.

For your chance to win dinner and one night's accommodation for two, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to The Oban Times, Taynuilt Hotel Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by June 28 2016.

Q. How many AA Rosettes for culinary excellence does the Taynuilt Hotel and Restaurant have?

Answer

Name

Address

.....

Telephone

Email

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive information, including special offers, from the Taynuilt Hotel and Restaurant

Terms and conditions: Over 18s only. Winners with the correct answer will be selected at random after the closing date. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. The competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Digital subscribers can enter by post by sending us a letter with your answer, contact details and email address, along with a note to explain that you are a digital subscriber. The closing date for entries is midnight, Tuesday June 28, 2016. Accommodation is subject to availability. The prize must be taken before November 30 2016.





Festival of Archaeology at Kilmartin Museum: Survival

Monday 18th July to Friday 29th July 2016

Join us for a fortnight of talks, workshops and events to celebrate the archaeology of Kilmartin Glen. Take part in free, drop in activities where you will have the opportunity to design and create your own hunting tools, miniature shelters, Rock Art, Bronze Age pots, and create your own bird of prey. Examine archaeological evidence, take part in guided walks and feast through the ages at a celebratory banquet.

Activities are drop in, with the exception of the Bronze Age Pottery workshop (bookable on day) and Celebratory Banquet, which can be booked through the Café (01546 510278).

Drop in activities are free, there is a charge for the Celebratory Banquet.

Discover



You normally have to travel thousands of miles to find crystal clear ocean waves lapping softly onto pristine white sandy beaches.

Fortunately, the West Coast of Kintyre is an island paradise with all this and more just a 20 minute ferry trip away, the Isle of Gigha, often referred to as 'God's Island.'

After a gentle sail across from the village of Tayinloan, courtesy of CalMac and their friendly staff, the idyllic and peaceful shores of Gigha awaits you. From the minute you step off the ferry, especially on a warm summer's day, you might just think you are in a tropical oasis.

Immediately on your left as you leave the ferry you will find the Gigha Boats Activity Centre, which offers the chance to get out across the clear crystal blue waters in kayaks, paddle boards, pedalos and rowing boats.

The centre is run by Gordon Watson, who moved to Gigha from Stirling to set up the business after falling in love with the island following a holiday. It also rents out bikes, along with tagalongs which are a perfect way to get around the single track, nearly car-free roads. Mini-golf is also present offering a fun activity for all the family.

Following south around Ardmish Bay leads to the Boathouse, the Michelin-recommended and multi-award winning restaurant.

The quaint building sits in front of a beautiful white sand bay with outside decking and serves simply stunning fresh local food providing a heavenly dining experience.

The Boathouse campsite sits alongside the restaurant which is an idyllic spot to enjoy the peacefulness of the island with all the necessary amenities on site.

Carrying on up the main road into Gigha brings you to Ardmish Stores, the only shop on the island which

stocks a variety of hyper-local produce as well as more exotic and eccentric supplies. This is the only place on the island where you can buy smoked Gigha Halibut, a true delicacy, which recently scooped the Golden Fork Award for the Best Scottish Product of the Year.

The store, run by Joe and Hannah, also offer one of Gigha's most interesting accommodation options: a real Mongolian Yurt.

Imported from the East Asian nation, it has a wonderful ethnicity and the cosy stove makes it a lovely retreat for both summer and winter months. Enjoy fresh eggs in the mornings from the hens which potter about the garden. It's perfect for families and couples, or a wonderful gift idea.

Directly across from the shop you will find the Gigha Church and the Manse Bible Garden, where visitors are more than welcome.

It is impossible to walk or cycle around the island without bumping into one of its many characters, including the personable John Martin, a joiner who moved to the island in 1971 after falling in love with it and his future wife, and has never once wished to move away.

John, and several other locals, are always happy to



One of the island's many white sandy beaches.



Ardmish Stores provides the island's best local food and drink produce.

Gigha HALIBUT
Sustainable fish from God's Island

Lovingly hand reared on the Isle of Gigha using an organic diet.

The increasingly popular Smoked Gigha Halibut is an award-winning delicacy enjoyed by chefs and their customers across the globe.

Have your Gigha Halibut smoked to order and enjoy with friends and family.

Order at: www.gighahalibut.co.uk

stop to tell visitors the incredible history of the island, which became community owned after a buyout in 2002.

John says: 'We now have a say in our future, we are all working together and as a team and it is totally democratic. I am delighted to be alive to witness what is happening here right now.'

The Gigha Hotel sits around the corner from the shop and is the island's main accommodation hub, often called Gigha's beating heart.

Having just recently re-opened last year thanks to the loving care of Leicestershire man Ken and his wife Angela, the hotel is now thriving again with self-catering cottages, a bar and a new bistro cafe.

Ken says: 'We are ideal for mini-breaks, because Gigha is an island that you need to stay on, you cannot see everything it has to offer in just one day.' The hotel serves as a great place to hold an event, such as a wedding, with a wonderful garden which is the perfect spot to enjoy in the summer months.



The Boathouse produces stunning food to match its location.

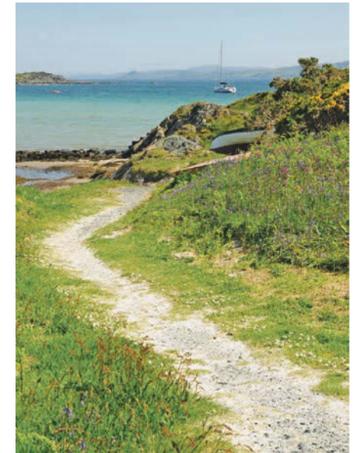
Next to the hotel lies Gigha Gallery, run by art aficionado Henri Macaulay, who is currently celebrating her tenth anniversary and her 50th exhibition on the island.

The gallery is a beautiful open space, with excellent exhibitions adorning the walls with views across the bay onto the sailing boats moored at the newly installed pontoon.

Henri says: 'Art should be uplifting, so I choose to have exhibits here which have that effect on visitors.'

'We have a lot of events here: Gaelic weekends, film nights, music sessions, ceilidhs. Its a wonderful space where art is really important.'

The gallery sits next to a craft shop, which sells a wide variety of all-natural and Gigha-produced skincare and beauty products,



along with a number of other arty items produced by the local people of Gigha. Everything from homemade preserves to knitted cardigans. Opening soon in the Gigha Gallery is the Pottery Tearoom, serving tea, coffee and a delightful array of home baking. The cafe will be run by Henri and her daughter, local lass and musician Catriona Rose. Keep an eye out for Catriona's upcoming CD, Fly, which is due to be released on August 24 and enjoy a free download of her first single on August 6.

The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust is also alongside the Gallery, whose doors are always open to help shed light on the island and its history.

Jacqui Smith, administration assistant, explains: 'We have just improved the pontoon to increase the yacht capacity, as well as making it a safer and more welcoming environment.'

'We have a number of self-catering cottages, many of which look onto beaches, and there really is something for everyone looking for a quiet, tranquil getaway.'

'The community takeover really encapsulates the spirit of Gigha - there is



The eye-catching Gigha Church.

teamwork across all businesses and across our wee society. Everyone looks after everyone else.'

Heading towards the south of the island do not forget to buy a wee bag of homemade Gigha tablet which sits on a stall on the single track road, a true delight.

As you carry on towards the south of the island you reach the world-renowned Achamore Gardens, a sensory sensation that provides a wonderful walk through rare rhododendrons, before reaching the two acre walled garden and a breathtaking viewpoint across to the Isles of Islay and Jura, known as the Jewel in the Crown.

Tasty Wee Isle dairy ice-cream is available at the stunning Achamore House, which sits in the centre of the gardens - a real treat for your walk around the gardens.

Nestling beside the gardens you will find Springbank B&B, where your hosts Betty and Kenny, who were farmers on the island for over 30 years, make visitors feel most at home from the minute they walk through the door. Welcomed into their lounge, which has simply stunning views across to the mainland, enjoy some delicious home-baking and a cuppa with the superbly friendly hosts.

Not far from the gardens, down a track road, look out for the sign posts for 'The Wee



Even the phone box has a quirky side.



A cup of tea, delightful home-baking alongside a panoramic view of the islands, lush countryside and sandy shorelines awaits you at the Springbank B&B, nestling at the back of the world famous Achamore Gardens.

Springbank Bed & Breakfast
Isle of Gigha

www.bed-breakfast-gigha.co.uk
01583 505 208
robison.gigha@btconnect.com

2016 Winner
Certificate of Excellence

A bed of History at Drumeonbeg

Enjoy a warm welcome, hearty cooked breakfast, comfortable accommodation and breath-taking views across to the Mull of Kintyre.

For information on the history of Gigha, then look no further as your hosts, the MacNeill's, have been a part of the islands history for over 1000 years!

"A magic and peaceful little world!
Thank you for your kindness.
The breakfast was awesome!
I will remember this place forever!"

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Isle of Gigha, Scotland

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See The Boathouse Cafe Bar on Facebook or phone 01583 505123



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For more information on each cottage and their offerings, visit:

www.gighahotel.com
01583 505 254



Come fly to Gigha!



Gigha's very own airstrip is located at the South end of the island and is available to private planes and microlights.

Landing fees for single engines **£15** and twin engines **£25**.

Microlight landing fee is **£3**.

This includes transport to and from The Gigha Hotel.

All pilots are required to phone the hotel on **01583 505254** to enquire the airstrip is free from sheep and the conditions are suitable for landing.

A Gem of a Course

With panoramic views of both the island and the mainland, some testing par 3's and 4's, this 9 hole gem of a golf course welcomes you.

£15 per day for as many rounds as you like, golf club hire available.

Enjoy the experience and the views. Easy walking! Perfect for families who wish to try golf without the apprehension of a larger or busier club.

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Honesty boxes are a welcome sight.

Gift Shed! It is exactly what it says on the tin: a wee shed full of beautiful and unusual handmade gifts, an absolute must see.

Heading back towards the north end of the island, you will come across Gigha Golf Course: a nine hole course with some testing par 3's and 4's. £15 will see you have as many rounds as you like. Up past the golf club, you will find Drumeonbeg B&B. Run by the MacNeills, who have been part of Gigha's history for over 1000 years, you will experience a truly delightful stay with breathtaking views over the golf course to the mainland. Breakfast in this B&B is one for the stars. Alistair says: 'Breakfast is the most important meal of the day so we pride ourselves on the breakfast we serve. You won't need lunch after your breakfast at Drumeonbeg.'

As you continue up the north end of the island, the gems are the white sandy twin beaches which makes the perfect picnic stop.



Ken Deacon always provides a warm welcome at Gigha Hotel.

There is a depth of history to Gigha, from standing stones, to archaeological sites, chapel ruins and shipwrecks, not to mention the abundance of wildlife.

Seven miles long and one mile wide, Gigha serves as a great getaway for those who love to walk and explore. There are 12 designated off-road walks, with some covering a range of terrain, from white sandy beaches, rocky shores, bramble covered hill-sides and woodland. Walk highlights include the Spouting Cave, ancient standing stones,



Henri Macaulay encapsulates Gigha's cultural identity.

sheltered beaches, the Fisherman's Cave and many more.

The weekend of June 24-26 sees the island enjoy one of its busiest weekends of the year: their own music festival with a ceillidh on the Friday night, Shoooglenifty on the Saturday and the Pipers picnic on the Sunday alongside a number of other musical talents. It's a great weekend for all the family.

So take a long weekend, book yourself into some of Gigha's wonderful accommodation, be it a B&B, the hotel, the yurt or the campsite, and enjoy a few days break on this wonderful, peaceful, safe and welcoming little island. It is the perfect getaway for an individual, couple, family, wildlife enthusiasts, art enthusiasts, walkers and cyclists.

In one way or another, whether it is the sandy beaches, the stunning food, the crystal clear water, this island will take your breath away, and for that reason alone, it is absolutely worth a visit. While the ferry offers the option to spend a day on Gigha, it is the perfect getaway to unwind from the hustle and bustle of modern 21st century living. How lucky we are that it is right on our doorstep.



Drumeonbeg host, Alexander MacNeill

Below: The stunning Ardminish Bay.



Gordon Watson provides the best mode of transport around the island.



Locals John Martin, Tommy Shaw and holiday maker Dougie launch community boat 'Saorsa': Gaelic for freedom.

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GIGHA HOTEL  
www.gighahotel.com 01583 505 254

Happy 10th Birthday
A decade of exciting art at Gigha Gallery



Current Exhibition - Erni Upton

Keep an eye for the array of wonderful exhibitions held throughout the year at Gigha Gallery. Tea room coming soon!

The Craft Shop located next door is full of arty crafts from homemade preserves to homemade soaps, a delightful mix of the beauty that comes from Gigha.

Gigha Gallery & Craft Shop
01583 505 150
enquiries@gighagallery.com 

Walk on Water



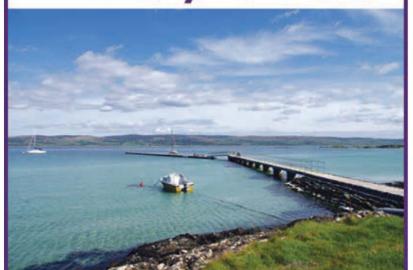
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A new place to float your boat.



8 new pontoons linked to the new pier enables a safe and inviting way for visiting boat and yacht lovers to explore the island.

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Road the the Isles show results

Commercial Cattle : Judge Mr Aj Maclean Heylpool Farm Tیره: Breeding Cow Any Age: 1 Robert Wright, Clovullin Ardour, 2 Donald Campbell, Camaghael Fort William, 3 Robert Wright, Clovullin Ardour; Breeding Beef Cow With Calf: 1 Robert Wright, Clovullin Ardour, 2 Hugh Macdonald, Craig View Arisaig; In-Calf Heifer: 1 Ewan Campbell Camaghael Fort William; Heifer Born Before 01/09/15: 1 Donald Campbell, Camaghael Fort William, 2 Hugh Macdonald, Craig View Arisaig; Bullock Calf Born After 01/03/16: 1 Robert Wright, Clovullin Ardour; Heifer Calf Born After 01/03/16: 1 Hugh Macdonald, Craig View Arisaig, Undressed Cow/Heifer: 1 Robert Wright, Clovullin Ardour; 2 Hugh Macdonald, Craig View Arisaig; Commercial Champion: Robert Wright, Clovullin Ardour, Breeding Beef Cow With Calf: Commercial Reserve Champion: Donald Campbell, Camaghael Fort William, Heifer Born Before 1st Sept 2015. Highland Cattle: Judge Mr J J Redpath Knowehead Kilry Alyth: Highland Bull Calf: 1 Iain Mackay, Torloisk Isle Of Mull; Highland Heifer Three Years Old: 1 Forestry Commission Exhibited By K Knott, Fort William; Highland Heifer Two Years Old: 1 Karen Macgregor, Glenmore Ardnamurachan, 2 Forestry Commission Exhibited By K Knott, Fort William; Highland Heifer One Year Old: 1 Iain Mackay, Torloisk Isle Of Mull, 2 Karen Macgregor, Glenmore Ardnamurachan; Highland Champion: Karen Macgregor, Glenmore Ardnamurachan, Two Year Old Heifer (Cadrann Of Eilean Mor); Highland Reserve Champion: Iain Mackay, Torloisk Isle Of Mull, One Year Old Heifer. Black Face Sheep: Judge Mr J Maxwell Jaw Fintry: Aged Tup: 1 Ross Shaw, Drimmin; 2 Kris Mackenzie, Acharacle, 3 Sam Mackenzie, Acharacle; Shearling Tup: 1 Norman Macphail, Salen Isle Of Mull, 2 Sam Mackenzie, Acharacle, Sam Mackenzie, Acharacle; Tup Lamb Born 2016: 1 Alan Curtis, Acharacle, 2 Norman Macphail, Salen Isle Of Mull, 3 Rhoda Munro Isle Of Mull; Home Bred Blackface Shearling: 1 Sam Mackenzie, Acharacle, 2 Callum Macdougall, Tobermory Isle Of Mull; Ewe In Milk: 1 Rhoda Munro, Isle Of Mull, 2 Norman Macphail, Salen Isle Of Mull, 3 R Macdougall & H Cameron, Treslaig; Ewe Hogg (Gimmer) Born 2015: 1 Sam Mackenzie, Acharacle, 2 Kris Mackenzie, Acharacle, 3 Norman Macphail, Salen Isle Of Mull; Ewe Lamb Born 2016: 1 John Cameron, Kilchoan, 2 Kris Mackenzie, Acharacle, 3 Norman Macphail, Salen Isle Of Mull; Ewe And Lamb: 1 Rhoda Munro, Isle Of Mull, 2 Norman Macphail, Salen Isle Of Mull, 3 R Macdougall & H Cameron, Treslaig; Blackface Sheep Champion: Sam Mackenzie, Acharacle, Ewe Hogg; Blackface Sheep Reserve Champion: Norman Macphail, Salen Isle Of Mull, Shearling Tup: Any Other Breed Sheep: Judge Mr JC Innes, Huntly: Aged Tup: 1 M&S Cameron, Speanbridge, 2 Iain Mackay, Isle Of Mull, 3 M&S Cameron, Speanbridge; Shearling Tup: 1 M&S Cameron, Speanbridge, 2 M&S Cameron, Speanbridge; Tup Lamb Born 2016: 1 M&S Cameron, Speanbridge, 2 M&S Cameron, Speanbridge, 3 Iain Mackay, Isle Of Mull; Ewe In Milk: 1 M&S Cameron, Speanbridge, 2 Anne Macdonald, Arisaig, 3 Iain Mackay, Isle Of Mull; Ewe Hogg Born 2015: 1 M&S Cameron, Speanbridge, 2 M&S Cameron, Speanbridge, 3 Anne Macdonald, Arisaig; Ewe Lamb Born 2016: 1 M&S Cameron, Speanbridge, 2 Iain Mackay, Isle Of Mull, 3 Anne Macdonald, Arisaig; Ewe And Lamb: 1 M&S Cameron, Speanbridge, 2 M&S Cameron, Speanbridge, 3 Iain Mackay, Isle Of Mull; Any Other Breed Champion: M&S Cameron, Speanbridge, Shearling Tup: Any Other Breed Reserve Champion: M&S Cameron, Speanbridge, Ewe Lamb; Umpire Judges Decision: Mr G Macdonald Lochgilphead: Overall Sheep Champion: Sam Mackenzie, Acharacle, Blackface Hogg, Horse & Ponies: Judge Jill Gosney/Torin: Highland In Hand: 1 Kisty Mann / Ruby Of Sunnynuek, Lochailort, 2 Hugh Macpherson / Birchcroft Rachel, Acharacle, 3 Alexandra Macfadyen / Torin, Acharacle; Tack & Turnout Juniors: 1 Gillian Mann / Hamish, Banavie, 2 Lyndsay Boyd / A Touch Of Jazz, Achaphubul; Tack & Turnout Juniors: 1 Rachel Rhoden / Poppy, Kinlochell, 2 Digby Dodman / Lottie, Banavie, 3 Holly Dodman / Davro, Banavie; Veteran Horse Or Pony 15 Years & Over In Hand: 1 Ruby Tiling / Morgan, Acharacle; Ridden Pony 14.2hh & Under: 1 Kirsty Mann / Ruby Of Sunnynuek, Lochailort, 2 Gillian Mann / Jasper, Banavie, 3 Ruby Tiling / Morgan, Acharacle; Ridden Pony 14.2hh Under Lead Rein: 1 Rachael Rhoden / Poppy, Kinlochell, 2 Digby Dodman / Lottie, Banavie, 3 Sophie Reid / Short Stuff, Kinlochell; Ridden Horse Over 14.3hh & Above: 1 Lyndsay Boyd / A Touch Of Jazz, Achaphubul, 2 Gillian Mann / Hamish, Banavie; Fancy Dress: 1 Ruby Tiling / Morgan (Flower Power), Acharacle, 2 Digby Dodman / Lottie (Black Knight), Banavie, 3 Holly Dodman / Davro (Elsa), Banavie; Champion Highland Pony: Kirsty Mann / Ruby Of Sunnynuek, Lochailort. Poultry: Judge Mr Gary Bamford, Aviemore: Poultry Heavy Breed Female: 1 Charlotte & Chloe Kingwood, Arisaig, 2 Ruaridh Fothergill, Morar, 3 Anne Bailey, Arisaig; Poultry Light Breed Female: 1, 2 & 3 Anna Maria Macdonald, Mallaig; Bantam Male: 1 & 2 Caroline Macphail, Isle Of Mull; Bantam Female: 1 Caroline Macphail, Isle Of Mull, 2 Gregor Innes, Mallaig, 3 Caroline Macphail, Isle Of Mull; Rare Breed Male: 1 Gregor Innes, Mallaig; Rare Breed Female: 1 Gregor Innes, Mallaig, 2 Anna Maria Macdonald, Mallaig; Overall Poultry Champion: Gregor Innes, Mallaig; Rare Breed Male: Ayam Cenami, Reserve Poultry Champion: Anna Maria Macdonald, Mallaig; Light Breed Female Cream Legbar: Charlotte & Chloe Kingwood, Pet and Junior Classes Age Under 12 Years: 1 Emma Moss, Arisaig, 2 Gregor Innes, Mallaig; Pet and Junior Classes Age Under 12 Years: 1 Ruaridh Fothergill, Morar, 2 Charlotte & Chloe Kingwood, Arisaig, 3 Ruaridh Fothergill, Morar; Best Junior Poultry Exhibitor: Emma Moss, Arisaig; 3 x Poultry Eggs Large Brown Or Tinted: 1, 2 & 3 Anna Maria Macdonald, Mallaig; 3 x Poultry Eggs Small Brown Or Tinted: 1 Jill Gosney, Acharacle, 2 Gregor Innes, Mallaig; 3 x Poultry Eggs Large White: 1 Anna Maria Macdonald, Mallaig; 3 x Poultry Eggs Small White: 1 Gregor Innes, Mallaig, 2 Jill Gosley, Acharacle; 3 x Poultry Eggs Bantam Brown Or Tinted: 1 Anna Maria Macdonald, Mallaig; 3 x Duck Eggs: 1 Gregor Innes, Mallaig, 2 Mallaig Nursery Mallaig. Handicrafts: Anne Macgillivray, Best Wooden Article: Susan Morris; Baking & Produce: Christine Haynes; Insultute With The Most Points: Morar WRI; Best Exhibit in Handicraft: Susan Morris; Best Floral Decoration: Susan Morris & Edith Mclean; Primary School With The Most Points: Arisaig Primary School; Pre-School With The Most Points: Mallaig English Medium; Overall Champion Of The Road To The Isles Agricultural Show 2016: Blackface Hogg (Gimmer): Sam Mackenzie, Acharacle, Winning The Bank Of Scotland Trophy; Reserve Champion: Kirsty Mann / Ruby Of Sunnynuek, Lochailort.

Road to the Isles show

FARMERS, livestock, crafters and members of the public flocked to the Road to the Isles Agricultural Show on Saturday. This was the 22nd year the show has been running and an estimated 700 to 800 people attended at Camusdarach. Robert Wright of Ardgour's Charolais cross was the overall cattle champion. The overall sheep champion was Sam Mackenzie's black-faced ewe, whose father was last year's champion. The same sheep was the overall show champion. In the horse and pony class, Highland pony Ruby

of Sunnynuek was the overall champion, accompanied by owner Kirsty Mann. Gregor Innes' Ayam Cemani cockerel was a champion in the poultry section. The afternoon entertainment included displays from Shropshire company Hawkeye Falconry. The Clan Scotland cycle stunt team wowed the crowd with an array of impressive stunts and jumps. There was also an open dog show and a variety of handicrafts and stalls such as



face painting, Lochaber Beekeepers' Association, a Viking stall, refreshment tent and a barbecue. Elizabeth Flemming, treasurer for the show, said: 'We were quite lucky with the weather and had a good turnout. There was certainly more livestock this year and this year for the first time we had poultry classes, which were well supported. The horse and pony classes returned after a few years of not having them as well.' Commentator Angus MacKay said that this year there was the 'finest show of livestock this show has ever seen'.



Pony champion: Ruby of Sunnynuek, pictured with owner Kirsty Mann, was the overall horse champion. 21_F25 road to the isles 07



Cattle champion: The overall cattle champion was a Charolais cross owned by Robert Wright of Ardgour. 21_F25 road to the isles 06



Sheep champion: Umpire George MacDonald with the overall sheep champion which was also the overall livestock champion. 21_F25 road to the isles 05



Poultry champion: Gregor Innes with his champion Ayam Cemani cockerel. 21_F25 road to the isles 04



Cycle stunt show: Danny Stewart from the Clan Scotland cycle stunt team. 21_F25 road to the isles 09



Sam MacKenzie with his hoard of trophies. 21_F25 road to the isles 08



Dog show: There was an open dog show in the afternoon. 21_F25 road to the isles 11

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UK housing market won't be saved by the EU referendum, says NAEA and ARLA

A British withdrawal from the EU risks drastically reducing the construction workforce, compromising current plans to build hundreds of thousands of new homes needed to ease the shortage in supply, according to the Brexit report from National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA) and Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA).

Compiled with the Centre for Economics and Business Research (Cebr), the report looks at the effect a 'Brexit' or a 'Remain' result would have on the UK property market, following the referendum on June 23.

The report highlights a number of short and long-term implications potentially arising from the upcoming vote.

Compromising stock: Skills shortage

While the impact Brexit will have on migration policies is unconfirmed, imposing greater restrictions on foreign workers coming into the UK may compromise the UK's ability to build homes – and the Government has pledged to build one million new homes by 2020.

Construction-based jobs are decreasing in popularity among UK nationals, and as one in 20 (five per cent) current construction workers were born in non-UK EU countries, workers from non-UK EU countries are becoming more important than ever in filling the skills gap to boost housing stock.

Mark Hayward, managing director of the National Association of Estate

Agents said: 'An "out" vote could mean that in 10 years' time we'd find ourselves with a severe skills shortage of construction workers. So even if we then had planning permission, investment and materials to build more housing, we simply wouldn't have the resource to put the bricks and mortar together. It has the potential to have a very damaging effect on the future housing market.'

Foreign investment in the UK

However, an 'out' vote could provide first-time-buyers (FTB) with breathing space as demand for housing eases off.

Non-EU businesses are currently attracted to the UK's status as a gateway to the single market as it allows them to establish and grow their presence across Europe. In 2014, a fifth (19 per cent, £5.3bn) of total FDI inflow into the UK came from EU sources, and in 2013, 17 per cent of sales in London's prime property market made to non-UK recipients were to European nationals.

In the event of Brexit, a portion of FDI would be redirected to EU countries, 'freeing up' housing units, particularly in London, previously purchased through FDI for British buyers.

Reduced migration flow

There are currently 3.03 million⁴ UK residents who were born in other EU countries. If, following a Brexit vote, the UK does not maintain free movement of labour, the total population of the UK could decrease by 1.06 million people.



With fewer people, demand will ease, making the market more accessible for FTBs, as well as second steppers and last-time-buyers, and this will be especially apparent in the capital.

Reduced migration would also affect the private rental sector (PRS). Currently, private renting is a more popular choice among UK residents born in non-UK EU countries than for UK born individuals; if migration reduces the flow of renters from Europe, demand will weaken, which would put downward pressure on rent costs.

David Cox, managing director of the Association of Residential Letting

Agents said: 'The fact that rent costs would face downward pressure is both a blessing and a curse. While renters should face fair and reasonable prices, landlords need to be able to at least break even on any out-goings they have, such as a mortgage. If demand eases to such an extent that landlords cannot recuperate costs, we'll likely see a mass exit from the market, which would then have the opposite effect on demand as supply falls – and we'd be back to square one.'

1 2011 Census, England and Wales
2 ONS, December 2015
3 Knight Frank Residential Research, 2013
4 ONS, mid-2014

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Drop in demand as activity in Scottish housing dips during May

According to the latest RICS UK Residential Market Survey, activity in the Scottish housing market slowed during May, as a decline in new properties coming on to the market was accompanied by a drop in new buyer enquiries.

A net balance of 13 per cent more chartered surveyors reported a fall in demand while a net balance of 8 per cent saw sales tail off last month.

Despite softer activity, house prices in Scotland remained firm and a net balance of 15 per cent more respondents expect prices to climb in the next few months.

This is due, in part, the continued decline in supply, with 22 per cent (net balance) of surveyors reporting a decrease in new properties coming on the market in May.

Supply has now failed to keep up with demand, even during more quiet months, for much of the past three years.

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Thinking of letting?

LAST week we looked at some of the legal responsibilities that landlords face in Scotland. With so many important considerations to make, it can seem daunting. But if you are thinking of letting, West Property can offer free advice regarding getting your property compliant. This week we continue looking at some of the other important legal responsibilities every potential landlord needs to know – and remember, this is not an exhaustive list, just a starting place.

Valid Electrical Inspection Condition Report (EICR) – This is a periodic inspection of the electrical installation in your rental property. It will reveal if any of your electrical circuits or equipment are overloaded, identify potential electric shock risks and fire hazards, defective electrical work and highlight any lack of earthing or bonding. An absolute must to ensure your property is safe for your tenants.

Portable Appliance Testing – This is a test of all portable electrical equipment to ensure it is safe. This must be completed every 12 months.

Valid Gas Safety Certificate – You must have your gas boiler inspected every 12 months by a GAS SAFE engineer and keep the certificate for your records.

Smoke Alarms – Ensure there are adequate mains wired smoke detectors in the property. You need to check the positioning and citing of these to ensure they are adequate.

CO Alarms - If you have a stove, open fire or gas or oil boiler/hob in the property you must install a CO alarm in the room where the appliance/stove is situated.

Fire & Furnishing Regulations – Check all furniture and furnishings included in the let meet the relevant fire safety standard.

Legionnaires Risk Assessment – Legionnaires' disease is a potentially fatal form of pneumonia caused by the inhalation of small droplets of contaminated water containing Legionella. All man-made hot and cold water systems are likely to provide an environment where Legionella can grow so you need to assess the risk in your properties water system.

Licensing of houses of multiple occupancy (HMO's) – A legal requirement if three or more unrelated parties will be living in a property eg. student lets.

Register Tenancy Deposits – Register your tenancy deposit with an approved tenancy deposit scheme within 30 days of the tenancy start date and issue your tenants with the required information relating to their tenancy deposit.

Declare your Rental Income – You will need to declare any rental income to HMRC by completing a tax return.

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Properties for sale and let

<p>Struan Crescent, Tobermory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi detached bungalow 2 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom Modern property Popular residential area Large gardens with driveway parking EPC Rating - D65 <p>OIRO £155,000</p> <p>A deceptively spacious 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow close to Tobermory town centre. Built 5 years ago, this low maintenance property boasts well proportioned rooms, driveway parking and generous gardens front and accommodation comprises porch area with large storage room, hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, family bathroom and 2 double bedrooms with built in storage.</p>	<p>Corraur, Barran, By Oban</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detached Bungalow 4 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms Quiet Residential Area Double Garage Manageable Garden Close to Oban amenities EPC Rating - D66 <p>OIRO £235,000</p> <p>Corraur is a spacious 4 bedroom bungalow situated within the small residential area of Barran close to the town of Oban. The property comprises a bright and airy porch which leads through to the spacious central hallway.</p>	<p>51 Rockfield Road, Tobermory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground Floor Flat 3 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom Situated in a popular residential area Private front and rear garden EPC Rating - E (40) <p>OIRO £115,000</p> <p>51 Rockfield Road offers excellent family sized accommodation within easy reach of Tobermory town centre. Situated a short walk from the Main Street, the ground floor flat has a lounge, kitchen/diner, 3 double bedrooms and a family bathroom.</p>	<p>Albert Street, Tobermory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-Detached House 4 Bedrooms/2 Shower Rooms Annex Double Room/Wet Room Beautiful Rural Location Good Transport Links EPC Rating - E (39) <p>OIRO £225,000</p> <p>Schiehallion is a spacious 4 bedroom terraced cottage conversion located in Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. This deceptively spacious 1 storey converted cottage offers generous living spaces, self contained holiday rental and garden and is close to all the amenities Tobermory has to offer.</p>
<p>Duncraggan Road, Oban</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detached Victorian Villa 3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms Large decking with views across Oban Bay Extensively renovated throughout EPC Rating - D <p>OIRO £340,000</p> <p>The Knoll - A beautiful detached Victorian villa with stunning views across Oban Bay. The property retains many of its original features and has been renovated to a high standard by the current owner. On the ground floor, the generous reception rooms to the front are bright spaces, bathed in natural light owing to the large sash windows and high ceilings.</p>	<p>Rowantree Cottage, Isle of Lismore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detached Cottage 2 Bed / 1 Bath In excellent condition Large private garden Located on the beautiful island of Lismore EPC Rating - E(43) <p>OIRO £120,000</p> <p>Rowantrees Cottage - A charming 2 bedroom detached cottage in the beautiful Isle of Lismore. The property is comprised porch, hall, kitchen/diner, bathroom, lounge with stairs leading to two bedrooms upstairs. The property has been restored and improved by the current owners.</p>	<p>33 Combie Lane, Oban</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Top Floor Flat 1 Bedroom / Shower Room Central location Excellent rental investment EPC Rating - F (33) <p>OIRO £63,000</p> <p>33 Combie Street - A compact 1 bedroom top floor flat close to Oban town centre. This flat comprises a lounge, small bedroom, kitchen and shower room. The property is decorated in neutral colours and benefits from double glazing throughout.</p>	<p>LANDLORDS QUOTE "OT25" AND GET A 25% DISCOUNT ON YOUR SET-UP FEE FOR FULL MANAGEMENT. JUNE OFFER ONLY!</p>

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*2016 Verso Active 1.6 V-matic Manual at NIL Advance Payment. Model shown is a 2016 Verso Icon 7-Seat 1.6 V-matic Manual at £95 Advance Payment. Subject to availability. Offer valid between 1st April and 30th June 2016. Available as part of the Motability Contract Hire Scheme. 2016 Verso Icon 7-Seat 1.6 V-matic Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 32.8 (8.6), Extra Urban 49.6 (5.7), Combined 41.5 (6.8). CO2 Emissions 157g/km. All mpg and CO2 figures quoted are sourced from official EU regulated laboratory test results. These are provided to allow comparisons between vehicle and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

MOTABILITY AT HELENSBURGH TOYOTA

The Motability Scheme provides a hassle-free motoring package for people who receive the higher rate mobility allowance. Did you know.... insurance, servicing, tyres, breakdown cover, road tax and more are included for 3 years of worry free motoring. If you don't drive you can apply for a car as a passenger and propose up to two other suitable people as drivers.

Enjoy the freedom to come and go, to shop, to work, to get the kids to school. It means staying in touch, making a difference - and getting more out of life. Helensburgh Toyota is an independent dealership and

we pride ourselves with our customer care and currently are No1 for our excellent After Sales Care and won Regional Garage of the Year. We can uplift and deliver or provide a free courtesy car whilst we carry out your yearly servicing just let us know what is best for you. We have sold cars on the Motability Scheme for over 28 years so we know what we are talking about, and have two Motability Specialists Stephen Vernon and David Smeeton. Motability Specialist Stephen Vernon says "Anyone who qualifies for the Motability Scheme is invited to come and see the Toyota Range. We are

on hand to explain more about the Scheme, how to apply, and take test drives of the most suitable vehicles and to provide details of our award winning After Sales and Customer Care. To book a specific time or for a home visit, call 01436 672779. Helensburgh Toyota is a Premier Partner of the Motability Scheme, offering the highest standards in customer service. Currently we have the Toyota Aygo, Yaris, Auris and Verso available at NIL advance payment on the Motability Scheme. There has never been a better time to change your car

Profile of a British Holidaymaker - spends the most, does the least

A UNIQUE survey looking at the habits and preferences of 5,000 parents across the UK, France, Germany, Italy and Spain has revealed that the typical British holidaymaker spends the most and does the least – with 11per cent of us parting with more than £3,000 for our main family holiday, while almost half of us (48 per cent) spend zero time exercising and one in five (22 per cent) do no sightseeing or visit cultural hotspots.

Spends the most... The Honda Holiday Habits Survey, carried out by OnePoll to mark the first anniversary of Honda's crossover SUV, the HR-V, found that the UK tops the chart for spending more than £3,000 on the main family holiday, followed in the spend stakes by Germany. Brits also like a drink it seems, with six per cent of us spending between £200 and £500 on alcohol, the majority (93 per cent) spending up to £200, and average spend per head on alcohol on holiday coming in at £78.17, the second highest in Europe.

Does the least... The survey goes on to paint a picture of what the typical Brit does, or doesn't do, while away. While we are the least likely to exercise or go sightseeing, the UK also tops Europe for packing no sports or exercise equipment (49 per cent), only a third (32 per cent) rate day trips and places of interest as a holiday priority, while a similar amount (34 per cent) take no books or e-readers.

So if Brits aren't exercising, sightseeing or reading, what are we doing? Being the most likely to rate a swimming pool as a priority (35 per cent) and, with 42 per cent of

us rating entertainment for children as a priority, lazing around the hotel while the kids play seems to be a popular way of passing the time for British holidaymakers. Once again, drinking is also a popular pastime, it seems, with Brits most likely to take alcohol to drink while away (22 per cent). And despite popular belief that we're a nation of workaholics and tablet addicts, Brits are the least likely to cite good wifi as a priority (18 per cent), while 28 per cent pack no laptops or tablets.

Arguing, packing and travelling... With arguing an ever-popular holiday pastime, the survey also looked at the causes of holiday rows, with Brits the most likely in Europe to argue about getting lost (33 per cent) and drinking too much (nine per cent).

We're also a nation of light packers, it seems, being most likely (11 per cent) to take no suitcases on holiday, and spending the least time packing (2.2 hours). Despite this, we take the longest to completely unpack after the holiday (3.6 days). We are also least likely to take a pet (nine per cent) or food to eat while away (41 per cent).

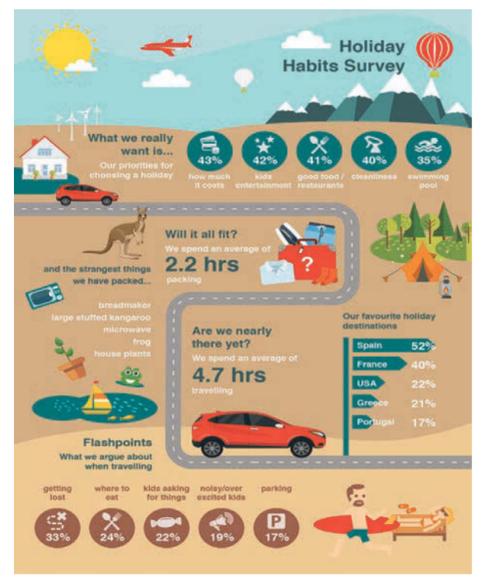
Perhaps unsurprisingly, being surrounded by water, we spend the least time driving to our holiday destination (4.7 hours), and driving while on holiday (five hours), compared to our fellow Europeans. The longest-distance holidaymakers can be found in France, who spend seven hours travelling to their holiday and a similar amount driving while away.

Philip Webb, head of cars for Honda (UK), comments:

'What an interesting picture of the typical British holidaymaker this research paints. It seems that as a nation our holidays are about spending quality time together and letting the children enjoy themselves, while we also enjoy our food and drink. It's good to see that despite the stereotype many of us are taking a break from work while we're away, and quite an eye-opener to see some of the strange items that people pack.'

Destinations... The survey goes on to reveal Spain to be the most popular holiday destination for Brits outside of the UK, with 52 per cent having holidayed there, followed by France (40 per cent) and the USA (22 per cent). Brits are considerably more likely to visit the USA than any of the European countries surveyed, with the closest being Spain where 12 per cent have crossed the pond for a holiday. Making up the list of the top eight destinations favoured by Brits are Greece (21 per cent), Portugal (17 per cent), Italy (16 per cent), Turkey (13 per cent) and Germany (12 per cent). By contrast, Germans are the least likely to holiday in the UK, with just three per cent having done so.

By comparison... The survey similarly identifies the typical profile of a French, Italian, Spanish and German holidaymaker, finding the following: France: Bargain hunters, home birds and habitualists. Italy: The most discerning holidaymakers in Europe. Spain: Heaviest packers, most active. Germany: Most organised, most disciplined.



Nissan announces development of world's first SOFC-powered vehicle

Nissan announces development of the world's first vehicle system that runs on bio-ethanol electrical power.

YOKOHAMA, Japan (June 14, 2016) – Nissan Motor Co Ltd announced today that it is currently researching and developing a solid oxide fuel-cell (SOFC)-powered system that runs on bio-ethanol electric power. The new system – a world first for automotive use – features an e-bio fuel cell with an SOFC power generator. SOFC is a fuel cell utilising the reaction of multiple fuels, including ethanol and natural gas, with oxygen to produce electricity with high efficiency.

About e-bio fuel cell – The e-bio fuel cell generates electricity through the SOFC (power generator) using bio-ethanol stored in the vehicle. The e-bio fuel cell utilises hydrogen transformed from fuel via a reformer and atmospheric oxygen, with the subsequent electrochemical reaction producing electricity to power the vehicle.

Unlike conventional systems, e-bio fuel cell features SOFC as its power source, affording greater power efficiency to give the vehicle cruising ranges similar to gasoline-powered cars (more than 600km). In addition, the e-bio fuel cell car's distinct electric-drive features – including silent drive, linear start-up and brisk

acceleration – allow users to enjoy the joys and comfort of a pure electric vehicle (EV).

Fuel-cell systems use chemicals that react with oxygen, generating power without release of harmful by-products.

Bio-ethanol fuels, including those sourced from sugarcane and corn, are widely available in countries in North and South America, and Asia. The e-bio fuel cell, using bio-ethanol, can offer eco-friendly transportation and create opportunities in regional energy production, while supporting existing infrastructure.

When power is generated in a fuel-cell system, CO2 is usually emitted.

With the bio-ethanol system, CO2 emissions are neutralised from the growing process of sugarcane

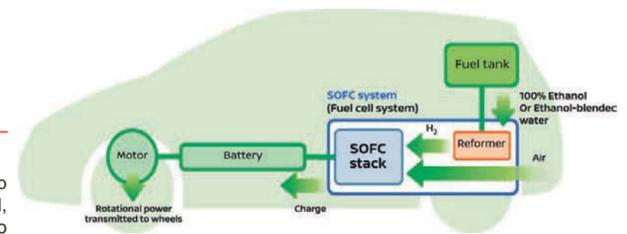


making up the bio-fuel, allowing it to have a 'carbon-neutral cycle', with nearly no CO2 increase whatsoever.

In the future, the e-bio fuel cell will become even more user-friendly. Ethanol-blended water is easier and safer to handle than most other fuels. As this will remove limits on creating a totally new infrastructure, it has great potential for market

growth.

Running costs will be remarkably low – on a par with today's EVs, ultimately benefiting the public as well as businesses, because the e-bio fuel cell is an ideal fit for wider customer needs because of the short refuelling time and ample power supply that can support a range of services such as refrigerated delivery.



In pursuit of realizing a zero-emission and zero-fatality society for cars, Nissan continues to promote vehicle intelligence and electrification.

Nissan's brand promise of 'innovation that excites' is delivered with 'Nissan intelligent mobility', which focuses on how cars are powered, driven and integrated into society through a more enjoyable driving experience.

The e-bio fuel cell will realise the concept of 'Nissan intelligent power', promoting greater efficiency and electrification of cars and the joys of driving, alongside battery EVs, such as the Nissan Leaf, Nissan e-NV200, and 'e-power', which is equipped with an engine housing an exclusive large-capacity motor and power generator.

Nissan will continue to provide value to its customers by incorporating systems that enable the extraction of electric power from various fuels, while addressing the infrastructure issues tied to energy supply in every region of the world.

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Quarry Manager

We are looking to recruit an experienced and self-motivated individual to manage Furnace Quarry.

You will be responsible for the safe and efficient management and operation of the quarry covering the production of aggregates, asphalt and ready mix concrete. You will be required to demonstrate a sound knowledge of blasting operations, crushing and screening, maintenance activities and have the ability to effectively plan and organize multiple operations.

Ideally you will hold an SVQ level 4/5 in Health, Safety & Environmental management within the extractives industry; possess good leadership skills to promote positive team working; communicate effectively with other functions within the business, and to be successful, you must be comfortable with a hands-on role to drive forward our health and safety culture as well as being focussed on the needs of our customers.

Shovel Driver/Asphalt Plant Operative/Concrete Batcher

We are looking for an individual who has a flexible, proactive and versatile approach to work as you will be required to work at various quarries on the West coast as either a shovel driver, an asphalt plant operator or concrete batcher depending on requirements. You will ideally hold a current MPQC/CPCS skills card, however, continuous training and development will be given to candidates who can demonstrate the necessary skills and aptitude to take on this challenging role. You will become fully aware of the Company's Health, Safety and Environmental policies and ensure they are adhered to at all times. This position would be ideal for an individual who is looking for genuine long term stability and opportunities for development.

The above positions offer a great opportunity to join an expanding vibrant company offering plenty of prospects for career progression and terms and other benefits associated with a progressive employer.

You must be able to provide evidence of your right to work in the UK.

To apply please email your CV with covering letter to: recruit.scotland@breedonaggregates.com or Recruitment Team, Ethiebeaton Quarry, Monifieth, Angus, DD5 3RB



University of the Highlands and Islands
West Highland College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean
Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an Iar

Board of Management Vacancies Dreuchdan Bàna air a' Bhòrd-Stiùiridh

West Highland College UHI is a growing, dynamic and successful provider of higher and further education in the West Highlands and is currently recruiting for two additional Board of Management members.

We are seeking individuals to help guide the strategic direction of the College and foster an environment which enables the potential of learners to be maximised. You will bring your expertise and skills used in business and in the community to support the management and staff as they continue the development and work of the College.

Time commitment is c. 15 days annually. Most Board meetings take place in the late afternoon. Board members are not remunerated but out of pocket expenses will be paid.

Closing Date

Friday 8 July 2016 at 5pm

Interviews

Friday 26 August 2016

How to Apply

Application pack available at: www.whc.uhi.ac.uk/staff/vacancies

For further information, contact Secretary to the Board

Email: claire.wylie.whc@uhi.ac.uk Tel: 01397 874525

We particularly invite applications from Skye

In line with our Equality and Diversity policy, West Highland College UHI is committed to ensuring that all candidates are treated on the basis of their merits and abilities, and that unfair and unlawful discrimination is eliminated.

We positively welcome applications from all sections of the community.

West Highland College UHI is a company limited by guarantee (SC153921) with charitable status (SC024193)



Glen Scotia Distillery is looking to recruit the following personnel –

Shop & Tour Manager

Salary – dependant on experience

Working as part of a small team the Shop & Tour Manager will report to the Distillery Manager. The role is summarised below:

- Direct experience of whisky production is preferred.
 - The individual must be a self starter, being reliable and work with the minimum of supervision.
 - Previous experience of dealing with customers, sales and general enquires is essential.
 - Excellent oral presentation skills, with demonstrated ability to hold tastings and tours is preferred.
 - Good organisational skills and demonstrated ability to manage your own workload is important.
 - Must have a flexible approach to work.
- This role will operate over a 5 day, 48 hour week.

Distillery Operations Personnel

Salary – dependant on experience

Working as part of a small team, the role holder will report to the Distillery Manager. The role is summarised below:

- Demonstrated ability work to the highest standards of quality and safety.
 - Have the ability to work well within a small dedicated team.
 - Possess a high degree of reliability and flexibility.
 - Have good communication skills.
 - Proven ability to follow training and direction.
 - Have the skills to be able to identify any production issues from the expected process parameters (after training has been provided).
 - The successful candidate does not necessarily need distillery experience, but the exposure to plant process engineering operations in a similar environment would be advantageous, coupled with a willingness to learn.
- This role will operate on a day and night shift system over 5 days.

Please apply by e-mail only, including your CV & Cover letter to the distillery manager at iain.mcalister@lochlomondgroup.com

Closing date is the 30th of June.



Argyll College UHI - Part-time Tutors Required Art and Design

Based in Lochgilhead, tutors are required with experience in some of the following disciplines:

Developmental Drawing, Life Drawing, Sketchbook Development, Contemporary Art Practice, Mixed Media, Photographic Art, 3 Design Skills Colour, Line and Tone.

Courses start in August 2016. All subjects are at SCQF level 5

Degree-level qualifications are preferred. Payment will be at the standard FE hourly teaching rate.

An application pack for these posts can be downloaded from the vacancies section of our website at: www.argyllcollege.ac.uk

Please send/email completed applications to: lorna.mcdonald@uhi.ac.uk

Closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday 1st July 2016

Fixed Plant Fitter



Glensanda, Oban Attractive salary & benefits package

Glensanda is the largest granite-producing quarry in Europe. It runs 24 hours a day, year-round and has a staff of nearly 200 people.

Working within the Fixed Plant Maintenance department, as a member of the Engineering team, you'll carry out a range of maintenance and troubleshooting tasks on the wide range of mechanical equipment used in our operational process.

As a time-served mechanical tradesman, you'll have an ONC (or equivalent) qualification and be able to adhere to the company Health & Safety standards. A good understanding of conveyor systems, crushers, screens, pumps and reliability maintenance practices would be advantageous.

There's the real opportunity to develop your career, plus excellent benefits including pension and online discounts on a range of corporate products.

To apply, please email your CV quoting Ref 7152 to hr.deptuk@aggregate.com

We believe in Equal Opportunities for all employees.

Assistant Community Support Worker - Waking Nights (Temporary)

£16,369 - £17,866 pro rata

9 hours per week

☎ 01546 604334

Campbeltown Ref: CMA01127

Closing date: 1 July 2016.

To apply visit our website



www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Comis Chef

Wanted, some experience necessary.

Would suit enthusiastic person who wants to gain more experience in an Award Winning Kitchen.

Reply to reservations@crinanel.com

Tel. 01546 830261



J.M. BRECKENRIDGE Driver/Storeperson Oban

Apply to Mr C McDonald. Telephone 01631 563 711

Permanent full time position

Full clean driving licence required

• Good rates of pay



Menzies Distribution Ltd is responsible for the distribution of parcels, newspapers, magazines and periodicals to retailers from a network of distribution centres throughout the UK.

Applications are invited for the following position at our Lochgilhead distribution centre

HGV Class 2 drivers (18T) and non HGV Parcel delivery driver

Monday - Friday (45 hours)

The duties of this post include all aspects of parcels and bulk pallet deliveries in the Lochgilhead / 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



Scottish Sea Farms are proud to be the 2015 Crown Estate Aquaculture Company of the Year. We are the UK's leading producer of premium quality Atlantic salmon specific for UK and International markets.

We currently have Seasonal Husbandry vacancies available immediately within our marine sites on the Isle of Mull.

Candidates should be team players, proactive in health and safety and have high expectations for themselves and of their employer. Experience is not a necessary requirement as formal training in essential marine farming skills will be provided.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com for an application pack. All applicants must have a current driving licence.

Closing date: Friday 24th June 2016



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INCLUDING FORKLIFT

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LICENCES ESSENTIAL

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ESSENTIAL

APPLY:- KENNY J MACLEOD 07768 025762

OR E-MAIL - ll@mkmacleod.co.uk

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Sign up for job alerts at hijobs.net

RECRUITMENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH HIJOBS



PUBLIC NOTICES

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION PLEASE CALL OUR SALES DEPARTMENT ON 01631 568000

First Registration of a Croft
Mary Catherine Cattanach has registered their croft 7 Keil, Benderloch, Ardhattan and Muckairn on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 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
John Henderson has registered his croft, 19 Moss, Treen, 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
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.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION
*A Cameron 80 & 85 Portuairk, The Bungalow, Ardnamurchan & Sunart 0.392 ha - Existing house site 4.86.61694
Applications marked with an asterisk - Interest can be expressed in obtaining the tenancy of the croft subject to the application.

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED
D C MacKinnon 9 Upper Scotstown, Ardnamurchan & Sunart 0.104 ha - Croft house site and garden ground 65201 Conditions: 3a, 4, 8
L Hegarty 19 Airds Bay, Ardhattan & Muckairn 0.1025 ha - Croft house site and garden ground 64969 Conditions: 3a, 4, 8
C Rozga (Snr) Knockrome, Jura 0.223 ha - Ruinous building & ground 4.86.63261 Conditions: 3b, 4

Conditions
(3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:
(a) the date of the direction
(b) the proposed development completion
(4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.
(8) The Direction will expire 3 months from the date of the Direction unless an application for registration of the making of the Direction is submitted before the expiry of that period.
Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

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THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011

INSTALLATION OF 16.5KM BURIED CABLE FOR CONNECTION OF ALLT NA LAIRIGE HYDRO SCHEME TO THE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK AT LAND 2040M SE OF SGURR EILDE MOR, MAMORE, KINLOCHLEVEN

The Council has received an application from Green Highland Renewables, Inveralmond Road, Perth, Scotland, at Land 2040M SE of Sgurr Eilde Mor, Mamore, Kinlochleven (16/02451/FUL). The application is supported by an Environmental Statement.

The application, the accompanying Environmental Statement and its addendum are available for public inspection online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> (search using the application number 16/02451/FUL)

Hard copies of the Environmental Statement may be purchased for £300. Please contact: Mairead Murnion mairadmurnion@greenhighland.co.uk 01738 493114 at Green Highland Renewables, Inveralmond Road, Inveralmond Industrial Estate, Perth, PH1 3TW. The Non Technical Summary and DVD can be obtained free of charge.

Any person who wishes to make a representation on the application, Environmental Statement and addendum can make them online by visiting <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> or by writing to The Head of Planning and Building Standards, ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. The deadline for receipt of comments is 28 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The Council will acknowledge receipt of comments but is unable to respond individually to points or questions raised. Please note that your comments will be published online. Please quote the application reference number in your correspondence.

J. Stuart Black
Director of Development & Infrastructure

www.highland.gov.uk

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

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
16/01640/PIP	Glenancross, Morar, Mallaig		Erection of two houses
16/02080/PIP	Claymore, Glencoe, Ballachulish		Alterations & extension
16/02133/FUL	Pier Cottage, Ardtoe, Acharacle		Demolition of existing cottage and erection of house
16/02560/FUL	Plot 3, Land 195 Metres North of Mungosdail House, Drimmin		Erection of house, installation of septic tank and soakaway

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

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
16/01472/PP	Erection of 4 metre high pole to accommodate telecoms radio equipment with associated fenced enclosure	Land North East of 106 Nant Drive Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
16/01569/LIB	Application to regularise unauthorised works to sub divide existing single dwelling in to two dwellings	Flat 1/2 Royal Buildings Main Street Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Tobermory Area Office
16/01570/PP	Sub division of single dwelling to form two dwellings (retrospective)	Flat 1/2 Royal Buildings Main Street Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Tobermory Area Office
16/01588/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 13/01331/PPP (Site for the erection of one dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access and installation of septic tank and soakaway)	Croft 19 Moss Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute	Tiree Area Office
16/01514/LIB	Installation of replacement garage door and removal of stone wall to rear of dwellinghouse	31 Ellenabeich Isle of Seil Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4RQ	Sub Post Office Balvicar
16/01481/PP	Erection of lattice telecommunications tower (overall structure height 11 metres) and associated works	Land North West of Sean Bhaile And West of Ardalanish Bay Bunnessan Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA67 6DR	Sub Post Office Bunnessan Isle of Mull
16/01163/MIN	Extension to mineral workings (sand).	North Connel Quarry Oban Airport North Connel Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1SW	Oban Area Office
16/01512/PP	Installation of replacement garage door, relocation of oil tank, erection of garden shed and two decking areas to the rear garden, formation of vehicular access and associated works	31 Ellenabeich Isle of Seil Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4RQ	Sub Post Office Balvicar
16/01470/PP	Demolition of existing dwellinghouse and erection of replacement dwellinghouse, workshop and polytunnel	Sandbank Isle Of Iona Argyll and Bute PA76 6SP	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona

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 Council's website.

ARGYLL AND BUTE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

UNAUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1ST APRIL 2015 TO 31ST MARCH 2016

Public notice is given in accordance with Section 195 (public notices) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, regulation 9(1) and 9(3)(a), that:

(a) Copies of the Unaudited Annual Accounts of Argyll and Bute Integration Joint Board for the period from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 will be available for public inspection in the offices of Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland at the following locations;

Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead; NHS Highland, AROS, Lochgilphead; Hill Street, Dunoon; Burnet Building, Campbeltown; Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban; Eaglesham House, Mount Pleasant Road, Rothesay; Jamieson Street, Bowmore; Breadalbane Street, Tobermory; Crossapol, Tiree (restricted hours); Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre, East Clyde Street, Helensburgh.

A copy of the Unaudited Annual Accounts will also be available on the following websites: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and www.nhs.uk

The Unaudited Annual Accounts will be open to Public Inspection during business hours from Friday 1st July 2016 until Thursday 21st July 2016 inclusive.

(b) Any person interested may inspect a copy of the annual accounts to be audited, all books, deeds contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts related thereto, and may take copies of any or all parts of the accounts;

(c) Any person interested may object to the annual accounts or to any part of those statements, no later than Friday 22 July 2016, by:

(1) sending their objection in writing, together with a statement of the grounds thereof to Fiona Mitchell-Knight, Assistant Director, Audit Scotland, 4th Floor Suite, The Athenaeum Building, 8 Nelson Mandela Place, Glasgow, G2 1BT and;

(2) sending their objection in writing, together with a statement of the grounds thereof to the Controller of Audit, 110 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4LH and;

(3) sending a copy of that objection and statement to the board and to any officer of the board who may be concerned, both at Chief Financial Officer, AROS, Lochgilphead, PA31 8LD.

(d) The auditor shall, if requested by the person objecting, the board, or by any officer of the board who may be concerned, afford to that person or board or officer, as the case may be, an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by the auditor with respect to that objection; and any such person or officer may so appear and be heard either personally or by a representative.

Christina West, Chief Officer
16 June 2016

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

UNAUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1ST APRIL 2015 TO 31ST MARCH 2016

Public notice is given in accordance with Section 195 (public notices) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, regulation 9(1) and 9(3)(a), that:

(a) Copies of the Unaudited Annual Accounts of Argyll and Bute Council and applicable charities for the period from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 will be available for public inspection in the offices of the Council at the following locations;

Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead; Manse Brae, Lochgilphead; Hill Street, Dunoon; Burnet Building, Campbeltown; Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban; Eaglesham House, Mount Pleasant Road, Rothesay; Jamieson Street, Bowmore; Breadalbane Street, Tobermory; Crossapol, Tiree (restricted hours); Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre, East Clyde Street, Helensburgh.

A copy of the Unaudited Annual Accounts will also be available on the following website: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

The Unaudited Annual Accounts will be open to Public Inspection during business hours from Friday 1st July 2016 until Thursday 21st July 2016 inclusive.

(b) Any person interested may inspect a copy of the annual accounts to be audited, all books, deeds contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts related thereto, and may take copies of any or all parts of the accounts;

(c) Any person interested may object to the annual accounts or to any part of those statements, no later than Friday 22 July 2016, by:

(1) sending their objection in writing, together with a statement of the grounds thereof to Fiona Mitchell-Knight, Assistant Director, Audit Scotland, 4th Floor Suite, The Athenaeum Building, 8 Nelson Mandela Place, Glasgow, G2 1BT and;

(2) sending their objection in writing, together with a statement of the grounds thereof to the Controller of Audit, 110 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4LH and;

(3) sending a copy of that objection and statement to the authority and to any officer of the authority who may be concerned, both at Strategic Finance, Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT.

(d) The auditor shall, if requested by the person objecting, the authority, or by any officer of the authority who may be concerned, afford to that person or authority or officer, as the case may be, an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by the auditor with respect to that objection; and any such person or officer may so appear and be heard either personally or by a representative.

Cleland Sneddon, Chief Executive
16 June 2016

COUNCILLOR'S SURGERIES

Councillor Kieron Green (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)
Councillor Green will be holding a surgery on Friday 17th June 2016 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm. He can be contacted by email - Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 562 444.

RECRUITMENT

Excellent Opportunities for Careers in Care

Lynn of Lorne Care Home is a purpose built Care Home that provides a superior standard of accommodation. The Home is designed to promote small group living providing accommodation for 62 residents. We pride ourselves on our delivery of high standards of care and comfort for all of our residents at all times.

We are currently looking to expand our team by filling the following positions:

Unit Manager £18 per hour
Registered Nurse £15 - £16 per hour
Care Assistant £7.30 - £8.25 per hour
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Further details on all roles can be found in the careers section of our website www.mckenziecare.com

To apply, contact lynnoflorne@mckenziecare.com or call Home Manager Jennifer Foote on 01631 720278.
Benderloch, By Oban PA37 1QW • www.mckenziecare.com

Lynn of Lorne CARE HOME

OFFICE STAFF

Highland Heritage Coach Tours Ltd

Require Reservations Staff for their busy Administration office. Keyboard skills and pleasant telephone manner essential. Training will be given. Full time position, must be flexible. Shift work includes weekends and evenings. Live-in or out.

Please apply in writing with a current C.V To: David Shaw
Highland Heritage Ltd, Central Admin Office
Dalmally, Argyll PA33 1AY
Tel: - 01838200444
Email: info@highlandheritage.co.uk

first milk

We are now recruiting a Multi-Skilled Engineer (must be electrically qualified) at our Campbeltown Creamery. Please send your CV to recruitment@firstmilk.co.uk by 24th June 2016.

NORTH ARGYLL HOUSE

Care Home For The Elderly
Bealach an Rìgh, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG
Tel. 01631 562168

We are recruiting for a senior care officer, Permanent part time post. Good pay and conditions. Suitable candidates require to have qualifications and experience in care of the elderly. In the absence of Manager / Depute, the Senior Care Officer will assume responsibility for the day-to-day management of the home. Minimum SVQ level 3 in Health and Social Care or nursing qualification. For an application form and job description contact manager Morag A Telfer. Closing date for applications **Monday 4th July**.

Oban and Lorn Dementia Support Group ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 5th July 2016 at 7.15pm
Carers Centre, Albany Street, Oban
All welcome

First Registration of a Croft
Neil Black has registered his croft 4 Achosragan (Share), Lismore and Appin on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by February 26, 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2741.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 EXISTING FINFISH FARM EXTENSION - NW OF ARDINTIGH BAY, LOCH NEVIS

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Sea Farms Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of an existing finfish farm extension at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Mooring Area	56° 59.023' N	05° 40.503' W
	56° 58.824' N	05° 39.921' W
	56° 58.657' N	05° 40.116' W
	56° 58.857' N	05° 40.698' W
Cage Grid	56° 58.912' N	05° 40.457' W
	56° 58.800' N	05° 40.130' W
	56° 58.741' N	05° 40.198' W
	56° 58.853' N	05° 40.525' W
Feed Barge	56° 58.757' N	05° 40.136' W
Boat Mooring	56° 58.787' N	05° 40.430' W
Boat Mooring	56° 58.759' N	05° 40.349' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Mallaig Post Office, Davies Brae, Mallaig, PH41 4PU and at Knoydart Post Office, Inverie, PH41 4PL

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to: Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: **MCMS/05956 Scottish Sea Farms Ltd**

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Jim Martin Supplies is an Agricultural company that covers the West Coast of Scotland selling and promoting feeding, minerals and animal health. The ideal candidate will be based in the Argyll & Bute area. You must have strong selling skills, be computer literate and have the vision, drive and other personal qualities necessary to make a real contribution to the business. A good knowledge in agriculture and an S.Q.P. licence in animal health would be advantageous. Work requires significant local travel and will require a flexible schedule with occasional overnight stays. A driving licence is essential. The successful applicant will be offered a challenging and rewarding position with an attractive package, company vehicle and mobile phone. For more information please contact the office on 01586 550066 or send your CV and covering letter to: James C. Martin, Jim Martin Supplies, 109 - 119 Longrow, Campbeltown, PA28 6EX or e-mail jim@jms-scotland.com. Closing date for applications: 27th June, 2016.

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MIRROR antique mirror, oval, very pretty dark frame, 65x55cm spotless condition, £75 Telephone 01866 833439.

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CUMFI STROLLER Blue/green print with matching footmuff. Raincover included, shopping basket underneath. Folds flat. Good condition. Oban, £10 Telephone 07795 180964.

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BICYCLES

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DINING TABLE large, light oak, short length 170cm, extending 214cm, six chairs (4 standard/2 carvers), excellent condition, buyer collects, £95 Telephone 01631 563553.

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BIRTHS

O'ROURKE GRIFFIN - Liam and Siubhan are delighted to announce the birth of their baby boy, Ossian Joseph O'Rourke Griffin, born on March 18, 2016. A brother for Aoife Malin and a grandson for Liam and Myra Griffin and Joe and Rosena O'Rourke.

DEATHS

BROWN - John. Peacefully at Drumchapel Hospital on June 3, 2016, (in his 96th year previously of Cairndow), loving husband of the late Margaret Ferguson Robertson, dear father of Moira and the late June, and a loved papa of Lauren and Calum. Service was held at Clydebank Crematorium on Wednesday June 15.

CAMPBELL - Suddenly at Belford Hospital, Fort William on May 25, 2016, aged 85 years, Malcolm, beloved husband of Margaret (Lochindaal, Tomonie) and a loving dad to Margaret, Marjory and Mary Ellen and a dear grandpa to Charlotte, Megan Isla, Shannon, Alice and Hazel. Funeral service was held at Kilmornaivig Parish Church on June 2, interment Blarour Cemetery, Spean Bridge. Donations/ collections at Church amounted to £437.20 and will be split between Belford Hospital and Collie Dog Rescue (Scotland).

CAMPBELL - Duncan Angus Campbell, formerly of Craigenturvie Farm, Ford, and a Police Constable in Oban, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown, passed away peacefully at home in Blairgowrie on Friday June 10, 2016. Funeral service in Perth Crematorium on Monday June 20 at 2 pm to which all relatives and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please but donations to Duncan's chosen charity may be given at the crematorium.

GALBRAITH - Peacefully at home, Barachander Farm, Kilchrenan, on Tuesday June 14, 2016, Stuart, loving husband of Jane, much loved Dad of Dougie, Jamie, Ruairidh, Calum and Cameron. Dear Papa of Logan and Grandpa of Aidan, Erin and Lori.

MACGILLIVRAY - Duncan. Born Connel, Oban. Lately of Bridgend, South Wales. Passed away suddenly but peacefully at home on May 31, 2016. Loving husband to Janet, father to Iona, Duncan, Cerys, Dadeu to Bethan, Angus, Owen and Morgan. Nephew of Murdo and Morag McLeod of Southend, Argyll.

MACINTYRE - Peacefully at home, on Sunday June 5, 2016, Sarah, (née Black), wife of the late Hugh Macintyre, much loved mother of Catherine and Helen and their husbands, devoted granny and great-granny. Funeral service will take place at The Free High Church, Oban, on Wednesday June 22, 2016 at 1.00 p.m. Gus am bris an latha.

SNEDDON - John, passed away peacefully on Tuesday June 7, 2016, aged 83 years at Osbourne House, Selby. Beloved father of Ann and Gordon, dearly loved by all family and friends and will always be in our hearts and thoughts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DONALD - Joyce, Rey and family of the late Leslie would like to thank relatives and friends for expressions of sympathy. Special thanks to the Rev Malcolm Kinnear for his kind support, Mike McFall for his efficient funeral arrangements and all at Dail Mhor House for the exceptional care Leslie received. Thanks also to MacDonald Hotel for catering and all those who paid their respects at the church and graveside and so generously donated to Dail Mhor Residents Fund.

DUNCAN - The family of the late Betty Duncan (née Harrold), wish to thank all relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and phone calls following their sad loss. Special thanks to everyone from Homecare who gave mum such wonderful attention and care, also to all the staff and nurses in the Belford Hospital and the doctors of Glen Mor practice who were of great support throughout. Our gratitude and thanks also to Mike McFall for kindness and professionalism doing the funeral arrangements and to Rev R Corbett for his warm and comforting service. A further thanks to Meg and staff at the Railway Club for providing the refreshments on the day. Finally thank you to all who paid respects at the church and graveside and generously donated over £450 which has been donated to the Belford Hospital.

SHEPHERD - We would like to thank most sincerely, all family, friends and neighbours in particular and the community in general, for their tremendous support following the tragic loss of our son, Andrew. We have been overwhelmed by the large amount of flowers, cards, offers of help and expressions of sympathy that we have received. We greatly appreciate the consideration and comfort provided by Nether Lochaber church. Our thanks go also to the Fort William police and the other emergency services involved, for their professionalism. Finally, we would like to extend our appreciation to the RAF authorities and to Andrew's uniformed colleagues and friends who travelled from Germany, Cyprus, the south of England and Lossiemouth, for making his funeral such a poignant occasion. It has been so comforting for us to see that Andrew was such a valued, well-liked and respected member of the wider RAF family. Lorraine and Robert Shepherd and family.

MEMORIAMS

BOA - In loving memory of Isobel, who passed away June 17, 2007. Always in our thoughts. - Willie and family.

CAMPBELL - Remembering our dear mum, nana and mother-in-law Marion L who passed away June 19, 2007, our father, grandpa and father-in-law Angus D on April 27, 1981 and our sister, auntie and sister-in-law Lexy Donaldson on July 27, 1989. The special days that once we shared How sweet the memories still. - All the families in Buinessan (Mull) and away.

GALLACHER - In loving memory of a much loved husband and father, John, who

died on June 16, 2015. RIP. Lonely is our home without you Life for me is not the same All this world would feel like heaven If I could have you back again Our Lady Star of the Sea pray for him - Love you always Margaret x God has you in his keeping Dad I have you in my heart - Son John

HAROLD - BANEY - In loving memory of Helen, died June 16, 2007. Loved and never forgotten - Inserted by her family.

LANGLEY - Precious memories of Stewart, beloved husband of Ann and loving father of Craig, who passed away on June 12, 2011. Gone are the days we used to share But in our hearts you are always there. - Ann and Craig, Tíree and Exmouth.

MACALLISTER - In loving memory of our dear parents, grandparents and great-grandparents Margaret, who passed away on June 17, 1995 and William who passed away on July 20, 1996. Never more than a thought away. Loved and remembered every day. - Phemie, Alex, Margaret, John, Fay and family

MACDONALD - In loving memory of my dear mum who passed away June 12, 2014. I've taken a million teardrops and wrapped them up with love And asked the wind to take them up to my mum Nell with lots of love. - Donna xxx

MACDONALD - Treasured memories of my beloved son Allan, who passed away so suddenly on June 16, 2010. Loved and remembered every day. - Mother xx

MACDONALD - Treasured memories of Allan, a much loved husband, dad, father-in-law and grampa, who died June 16, 2010. We often visit the place you rest, to us you were simply the best And as we turn and walk away we know you are with us every day The precious years we had together, are memories that will last forever. Love always - Margaret, Allan, Emma, Beth and Aidan xx

MACINTYRE - 1st Anniversary - In loving memory of my dear son John Francis, who died suddenly on June 16, 2015. Forever holding you in my heart. Also remembering 35th anniversary of my dear husband Neil, who died June 24, 1981. Our Lady Star of the Sea pray for them. Rest in peace. - Love Margaret, Furnace, Argyll

MACKENZIE - Cherished memories of a loving son Alexander. - Mum, Gordon, Michael, Lynda, Louis and Mhairi.

McNEIL - Michael died June 16, 2007. Always with me x - Marie.

REECE - Cherished memories of Alec devoted husband, dad and pappy who died June 20, 2002 and Catherine, who died on September 1, 2009. Greatly missed But our love and memories ever strong and clear. - Sandy, Kathleen and families.

ROBERTSON - In loving memory of Iain MacKinnon Robertson, who passed away June 15, 2012. Husband of the late Mary and father of Marion and Niall, a loving caring grandfather and great-grandfather. - Dearly loved and sadly missed by us all.

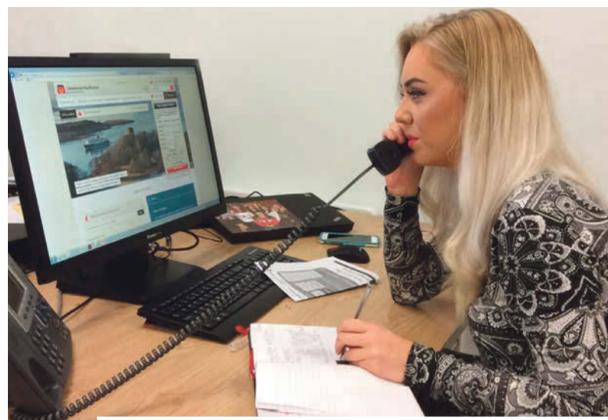
SINCLAIR - Treasured memories of Ronnie who passed away on June 17, 2008. We never part from those we love no distance can divide in memories garden day by day we still walk side by side. - Joan and family

SMITH - In loving memory of James (Pop), a loving husband, father, father-in-law, grandad and great-grandad who passed away on June 14, 2000. Precious memories last forever. - Inserted by his loving wife Rena and family.

SUTHERLAND - Ray, died June 19, 1998. Always remembered. - Sheena and family.

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

CalMac teams are in the running for three transport awards



Demi Wylie worked tirelessly to make sure seven island weddings went ahead as planned.



The engineering teams have been nominated for reducing greenhouse gases.

TEAMS at Caledonian MacBrayne have been rewarded for their efforts with three shortlisted nominations for the Scottish Transport Awards.

The awards, which will be held today (Thursday) in Glasgow, recognise endeavour and commitment across the transport sector. CalMac has been shortlisted for public transport operator of the year, for Excellence in Innovation and Technology and for frontline employee of the year.

The frontline employee nomination recognises the dedicated work of 23-year-old Demi Wylie, who works in customer services, in the face of a difficult period of industrial action last year. With much disruption across the network expected, Demi became aware of seven island weddings which were in jeopardy and seven pairs of distressed brides and grooms. She took it upon herself and a small team to become the single liaison point for all those involved and skilfully worked with the couples to make sure their special days were not derailed. Her interventions,

determination, perseverance and hard work paid off in some very difficult circumstances – and all travel plans for more than 600 guests were examined and alternative arrangements put in place to ensure that each happy couple's special day was able to go ahead without a hitch.

Demi spent hours talking to the brides and grooms, reassuring them, working with them and understanding their issues. And, once she had put all the logistical arrangements in place, she and her team also found time to source extra special gifts for each couple with handmade products from the island they had chosen for their wedding. Meanwhile, elsewhere in the company, a team of technical staff, led by project manager John Gray, has been implementing a hi-tech system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on board all 10 of CalMac's major vessels.

Known as Project Ecoship, the installation of fuel monitoring systems on the large ships is expected to reduce the release of

harmful gases by a target of two per cent – equivalent to 1,800 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year, 4,285,714 miles driven by an average passenger car, or 645 tonnes of waste sent to landfill.

CalMac is the first ferry company in the UK to implement this over a major part of its fleet. For this visionary approach, the company has received its Excellence in Innovation and Technology nomination. 'I couldn't be more proud of CalMac staff right across the network,' said managing director Martin Dorchester.

'All of these nominations, whether for an individual or a small team, recognise significant work and support across all areas of the business and we are lucky to have exceptional people who always rise to the occasion.

'Despite some difficult times last year, as well as uncertainty in light of the tender process for the new Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service contract, CalMac's people have remained stalwarts throughout. I thoroughly commend and thank them all.'

Thought for the week

A Rebel Found
God, who answered me in the day of my distress,
has gone with me wherever I have gone. Genesis 35:3

JACOB runs for his life, fearing that his elder brother Esau is seeking to kill him. Esau has a legitimate grievance. When Esau was famished, Jacob tempted him to exchange his birth right, as the first-born son, for a bowl of lentil soup. Impulsively, Esau agreed and lost out on his inheritance. By impersonating Esau, Jacob also tricked him the patriarchal blessing that rightfully belonged to Esau.

So the scoundrel flees from Esau. At risk from robbers and wild beasts, he sleeps in the desert with a stone for a pillow. Then a wonderful thing happens. God visits him in a dream. Jacob sees a ladder stretching from earth to heaven with angels ascending and descending on it. He hears the voice of God saying that He will be with Jacob to protect him, that He will him back home and that through Jacob and his offspring, all the families on earth will be blessed.

Jacob could be described as a bad sort who expects and deserves punishment. Yet God meets with him in mercy and not in judgement. Despite Jacob's many weaknesses, God brings good out of evil and chooses Jacob to be the ancestor of the people that God calls his own. In Christ we too can have a new beginning, glimpsing in Jesus, Jacob's ladder, bringing us closer to God. John 1:51
David James
Glencruitten House.

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Macaulay Sixes are a big success



Inverlochys Archie MacKinnon and Parks Hannah MacDonald were voted best boy and girl in the tournament.

THE Macaulay Sixes, played for the first time on a Sunday, attracted a total of 33 teams – 15 for the P7 section and 15 for the P 5 section, with three for the development league.

Winners

The development league was won by Dunollie from Park School, the Alastair Campbell Shield was won by Braxi Boys from Inverlochys, who defeated Taynuilt in the final, the Ian Cumming Memorial Trophy Cup was won by Bute, who defeated Newtonmore Titans in the final, and

Youth shinty

the Oban Celtic Shield was won by Newtonmore Titans.

The best boy of the tournament was Archie MacKinnon from Inverlochys and the best girl was Hannah MacDonald from Park.

The Macaulay Association would like to thank all the volunteers who helped on the day with special thanks to Artemis, the main sponsor, who presented each team with a first aid kit.



Bute defeated Newtonmore Titans in the final of the Ian Cumming Memorial Trophy. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Newtonmore Titans lost out to Bute in the final of the Ian Cumming Trophy but made up for the disappointment by winning the Oban Celtic Shield.



Strathkelvin and Meadowburn.



Rockfield.



Glasgow Gaels.



Aberdour.



Newtonmore.



Braxi Boys from Inverlochys, winners of the Alastair Campbell Shield after defeating Taynuilt in the final. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Taynuilt reached the final of the Alastair Campbell Shield but lost to Inverlochys.



Rockfield.



Inveraray.



Kilmory.



Inverlochys.



The trophy table.



Etive Vikings Rugby Club hosted their annual end of season barbecue and awards night in Taynuilt last week. The mini section is one of the most thriving in Argyll and Bute with around 30 players training every Wednesday evening. Etive Vikings have had success this season by winning both the P4/5 and P6/7 Argyll and Bute Dalriada Rugby Festivals that have been contested between local clubs Oban Lorne, Isle of Mull, Mid Argyll, Etive Vikings and Highland visitors Lochaber RFC. It is hoped that the Dalriada festivals will grow next season with the addition of Kintyre and Islay Rugby Clubs.

Sponsorship

Craig MacLachlan from Oban's Senshi Do Kickboxing and Iain Rodger from Oban's Caledonia Kyokushin Karate have been invited to Japan as part of the GB team to take part in the full contact karate world championships in October this year.

The team of four fighters and a coach have been picked to represent their country but as an amateur sport they have to find their own way there.

If any local businesses can help with donations/sponsorship, Craig and Iain would be very grateful. Donations have already come in from Midton Acrylics in Lochgilphead, D A MacDonald Contractors Ltd in Lochgilphead and Wellpark House in Oban.

If you can help, please contact Iain on 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk.

Kickboxing

Classes continue as normal with Craig MacLachlan training hard towards the full contact karate world championships in Japan in October.

For more info contact Wullie Rodger on: shihanwill@gmail.com.

Ladies only kickboxing

Senshi Do Kickboxing's women only sessions on Sundays at 2pm, taken by Sharon Dickison, are open to beginners of all ages from high school upwards.

The first session is free so you have nothing to lose and everything to gain. For more details, contact Sharon on 07508 726334.

BJJ

Oban BJJ had a team of six competitors travel to Edinburgh

MARTIAL ARTS WITH IAIN RODGER

for Scottish grappling's summer leg Gi only competition.

The team finished with two gold and a bronze medal, Jamie 'Jay Jay' McKay defeating all his opponents on his path to gold. Pawel 'Ugluk' Sczencia also collected gold. This was his first podium finish, though not before time, as he has been very unlucky in past tournaments and gold was a just reward for his effort over the past few years. Lastly, Craig Cameron continued his progression as a competent and dangerous practitioner, getting bronze in his division.

Classes continue to flourish

with the beginners' class on a Friday a great way to introduce yourself to BJJ. There is also a conditioning class now on Tuesday's at 8pm open to all.

For information contact Coogie on coogiepots@gmail.com.

Kyokushinkai Karate

Classes are gearing up for the grading tests this weekend, June 18 and 19. Students from Oban, Lochgilphead and Stirling clubs will be getting put through their paces with young Jodie Robertson attempting her junior black belt aged 14.

Students who pass a junior

black belt must regrade as a senior when they are over 16, when which they will be tested with full contact fights. The test this weekend is expected to last approximately four hours.

Elsewhere, Mark Welsh has unfortunately had to pull out of the world tournament in Japan due to university commitments but hopes to compete later this year in London.

For more info on the Kyokushinkai classes, contact Iain on iain@ikku.co.uk or 07584 166542.

Shukokai Karate

Argyll martial arts classes continue as normal under the watchful eyes of Kenny Gray and Flo McBurnie.

Training nights are in Oban on Thursdays from 6.30pm to 7.30pm in Oban High School

and on Fridays from 7pm to 8pm and 8pm to 9pm in Nicol Hall, Inveraray.

For club details, contact Kenny Gray at kenni.gray@btinternet.com.

Camanachd reach MacQuiston final Youth shinty

OBAN Camanachd under 17s reached the final of the MacQuiston Cup after a convincing 7-0 win over Mid Argyll last Sunday. On target for the red and blacks were Craig MacMillan (4), Daniel MacCuish (2) and Lewis Buchanan.

The Oban side will take on Inveraray in the final which will be held at Mossfield on Sunday June 26.



Dalmally

GRAEME MacKechnie secured his first silverware of the season with victory in the Cowan Cup at Dalmally Golf Club on Sunday. Entering the second round four shots behind overnight leader Martin O'Keefe, MacKechnie returned a highly creditable net 62 to add to his first round 65, allowing him to overturn the deficit and record a three-shot win.

Ladies results (net scores): Braigh Quaich and medal - 1 Caroline Manson 68; 2 Sheila Tollan 69; 3 Lily McKay 70. Club championship round two and medal - 1 Lily McKay 63; 2 Ann Munro 68; 3 Colleen Brown 69.

The club's popular gents opens are being run again in July with a swap in dates this year. First up is the open singles on Sunday July 3 followed on Sunday July 24 by the three-man open Stableford.

Entries can be lodged via the club's website at www.dalmally-golfclub.co.uk.

Glencruitten

THE TEAM of Neil Armour, Duncan Forgievie and Willie McAdam won the three-man Stableford at Glencruitten on Saturday with a score of 109 points. Graeme Darling, Sean Dunstafnagne and Cameron Milne were second with 104 points. Alan Jamieson, David MacLean and Steven McCuish were third with 99 points.

On Sunday the McVitie Price took place with Neil Armour and Bunt Menassa winning with a score of 85 - 21 = 64. Kirsty MacKenzie and Malcolm MacKillop were second with a score of 87 - 19 = 68.

On Saturday the championship first round and George Smith first round takes place and a Stableford on Tuesday.

Islay

RESULTS: Morley Hedley Trophy played Wednesday June 8 - 1 A Sharp, R Shaw, D Livingstone net 43; 2 D.Brown, R Sammels, R MacLean net 46; 3 M Hastie, E Sammels, J MacGhie net 48.

Loganair Trophy played Sunday June 12 - 1 G Hamilton net 50; 2 R Shaw net 51; 3 A MacLean net 54.

Taynuilt

RESULTS from the Trevor Allen Mixed Scramble played Sunday June 12 - 1 Hilary Currie, David Currie, Andy Ronald, Taynuilt 53 (11) BH; 2 Anne Weavind, Mark Grant, Richard Bergant, Taynuilt: 53 (10); 3 Robbie MacLarty, Mary Phillips, Donna Campbell, Seil, 54 (8)

Longest drive: ladies at the 7th and 16th - Wilma Frew, Glencruitten; gents at the 1st and 10th - Andy Ronald, Taynuilt.

Nearest the pin: ladies at the 6th and 15th - Mary Phillips, Seil; gents at the 3rd and 12th - Kevin Mills, Taynuilt.



Oban Otters held their club championships on Sunday May 29. Lots of excellent swimming and lots of fun. Pictured are all the trophy winners with representatives from ABCD, Nicky Campbell, Kath Miller and Betty Graham, who have kindly given the club sponsorship this year.

Oban Otters are in the swim

Trophy winners were: championship events - MacLean Cup, girls eight years and under: Molly Gilchrist; MacKay Cup, boys eight years and under: Joel Robinson and Connor MacAulay; Spence Shield, girls 9/10: Tayler Robinson; Hutchison Cup, boys 9/10: Kai MacKechnie; Achnacreebeag Trophy, girls 11 years and over: Abi MacIntyre; Larchfield Trophy, boys 11 years and over: Innes MacKerchar; ABCD

Cup, boys 14 and over: David MacPherson.

Squad championship events - Columba Hotel Trophy, girls 10 years: Rachel Carre; Tyndrum Cup, girls 11 years: Jessica Main; Bank of Scotland Trophy, boys 11 years: Andrew Boyle; Intermediate Shield, girls 12 years: Jordan MacIntyre; Iona Shop Trophy, boys 12 years: Finlay McLuckie and Daniel Teape; Gateway Cup, girls 13 years: Freya MacKechnie;

Swimming

Forteth Cup, girls 14 and over: Ella MacKechnie; Hunter Cup, boys 14 and over: Sam Coates; Beaver Timber Shield, girls 14 and over (IM): Ella MacKechnie; Beaver Timber Shield, boys 14 and over (IM): Sam Coates. Ella MacKechnie managed to smash a whopping four records this year, one of which had stood since 1982.

Argyll orienteers do well in Edinburgh Orienteering

THIS year's Scottish Schools Orienteering event was held at Dalkeith Country Park just outside Edinburgh recently.

Oban High School, Lochgilphead High School and Tayvallich Primary School were represented by juniors from the local orienteering club EckO.

Courses were flat and fast and the MacMillan family did well with first place finishes for Jura and Iris in the S4 girls and P5/6 girls races respectively and a second place finish for Louis in the S2 boys race.

Oban High School just missed out on medal positions with Callum Hunter and Rona Shearer both achieving fourth position in the S5/6 boys and S1 girls but Oban High achieved fifth overall out of the 24 high schools competing.



The MacMillan family - Jura, Iris (in the front) and Louis - who won medals. Jura and Louis are from Lochgilphead High School and Iris is from Tayvallich Primary School.



Prizewinners from the Trevor Allen Mixed Scramble at Taynuilt Golf Club

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2900

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

K Campbell Islay Road Oban

R Shaw Acharonich Barbreck

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

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



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SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

'More lift first silverware of the season

RBS MacTavish Cup Final

Newtonmore 2
Lochaber 1

A Glen MacKintosh strike with the last hit of the ball earned Newtonmore a 2-1 victory over a gallant Lochaber side in the 2016 RBS MacTavish Cup final at a wet Bught Park on Saturday June 11.

The Inverness Royal British Legion Pipe Band led the teams onto a playing surface which had been well maintained by groundsman Mike MacLeod, who set out a pitch 150 yards long, just five yards short of the maximum length.

Lochaber played with the wind advantage in the first half and there was early work for 'More keeper Owen Fraser when Shaun Nicolson took the ball from Zandz Ferguson and cut in from the left and the goalie saved his shot with his feet before clearing for a corner.

Play switched to the other end and a Norman Campbell free-hit found Glen MacKintosh on the right but he took a touch before sending the ball over the bar.

Glen MacKintosh was penalised for bundling Callum MacDonald over after the keeper had cleared his lines but if he thought the challenge would intimidate the young Lochaber

goalie, he was mistaken. Lochaber returned to the offensive but Stuart Callison just couldn't steer a shot goalwards on nine minutes.

Newtonmore broke the deadlock on 27 minutes. Iain Robinson played the ball across from the right and Norman Campbell turned to his left, withheld a heavy challenge from Lachlan Campbell and he showed great strength to continue to hold off the Lochaber fullback before striking the ball low across the keeper into the net to make it 1-0.

There was no sign of Lochaber buckling though and they drew level just four minutes later. Shaun Nicolson won possession following a Newtonmore shy from their left and he found Zandz Ferguson, who was allowed too much space around 22 yards from goal. Ferguson took advantage and blasted the ball high into the net to make it 1-1.

Newtonmore were stung and they went back up the park but Callum MacDonald dived to his right to save with his camanachd, denying Iain Robinson, and the ball was scrambled out for a corner as Lachlan Campbell and Norman Campbell clashed.

Lochaber boss Ally Ferguson made the game's first change late in the first half as Donald MacRae replaced Shaun Nicolson at wing centre.

With just over a minute of the

first half remaining, Lochaber goalie Callum MacDonald dived full length to his right to palm a bouncing Evan Menzies shot away following a Craig Ritchie corner from the right and the period finished all-square.

Newtonmore now had the elements in their favour in the second half with the wind, if anything, slightly stronger than during the first period.

Newtonmore came within a whisker of going back in front on the hour when Glen MacKintosh collected an Evan Menzies pass in a central position. MacKintosh had his back to the goal but he turned and unleashed a ferocious shot which cannoned off the junction between post and bar on the keeper's right side.

Donald MacRae needed treatment after getting a small piece of grass in the eye. Lochaber fitness trainer Jemma Docker carried out the medic duties, and, when the game restarted, a Norman Campbell shot was deflected wide of MacDonald's right post.

Newtonmore now had a grip on the game as the Lochaber defence worked hard to protect their goal.

A rare Lochaber attack culminated in a Stuart Callison shot from the left which flashed across goal on 75 minutes.

It was becoming increasingly obvious that one goal would



A jubilant Newtonmore celebrate after winning the RBS MacTavish Cup. Photos: Neil Paterson

settle it and 'More cut open Lochaber as Jamie Robinson slipped the ball to Glen MacKintosh on the edge of the D but Callum MacDonald did superbly well to come off his line and he spread himself to keep the ball out.

It was constant Newtonmore pressure and Lochaber made changes with Brian MacDonald limping off so Barry MacDonald came on in his place with Zandz Ferguson dropping back into defence.

As the game moved into stoppage time, Glen MacKintosh took a Paul MacArthur pass and powered another swerving shot off the bar and the Scotland forward must have wondered if it just wasn't going to be his day.

The final outcome swung on two chances at opposite ends of the park late into the four minutes of added time.

Lochaber survived a later series of corners and forged an attack of their own. Shaun Nicolson and Stuart Callison worked the ball down the Lochaber right and Ben Delaney

took Kevin Ferguson's pass with his back and, as Newtonmore full back Steven MacDonald slipped, Delaney turned but his shot rose agonisingly over the bar.

It was a chance and Lochaber were made to pay just seconds later as Evan Menzies won the ball on the 'More left following Owen Fraser's goal-hit. Menzies played the ball forward to Norman Campbell, whose cross ran to Glen MacKintosh in a central position. MacKintosh, with his back to goal, went to turn right before quickly turning to his left and hammering the ball low into the corner of the net, beating keeper MacDonald's outstretched left foot, to win the cup for Newtonmore.

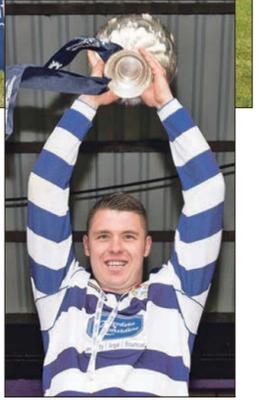
There wasn't even enough time for referee John Angus Gillies, who had an excellent first senior final, to restart the game. Inverness first team manager Drew McNeil, a match pundit for broadcasters BBC Alba, selected Lochaber goalie Callum MacDonald as man of the match and it was hard to argue

with his decision. A delighted Newtonmore captain Steven MacDonald was presented with the MacTavish Cup and commemorative camanachd by sponsors RBS.

Speaking after the match, Newtonmore boss Paul John MacKintosh said: 'We're delighted. I thought the boys played very, very well in the second half. They put in a huge effort and created lots of chances. Lochaber keeper Callum MacDonald made a number of good saves and, on his day, he's as good as anyone, but I thought our boys deserved it.'

Lochaber manager Ally Ferguson was equally pleased with his team. He said: 'We had chances in the first half and good spells of pressure which, unfortunately we did not take full advantage of. Despite the pressure Newtonmore put us under, we could have won the game at the death but it's a team game and I am proud of the team's efforts. It was a cruel end to the game and I know the players are gutted.'

'We can take a lot from this



Newtonmore captain Steven MacDonald holds aloft the RBS MacTavish Cup after this team's narrow 2-1 win over Lochaber.

experience and continue to work hard and continue to learn and improve in the areas we know we can – in particular, what is in our control. Congratulations must go to Newtonmore though. While I think even they would have thought the final was going to extra time, they knew they were in a game and they were relieved winners in the end. Both teams served up a great match to remember for both sets of supporters and the neutrals.'

Camanachd Cup – second round

Caberfeidh 0
Kinlochshiel 6

Marine Harvest Premiership side Kinlochshiel are through to the Camanachd Cup quarter-finals after they beat Caberfeidh from the Marine Harvest National Division 6-0 in their 1pm throw up at Castle Leod.

Kinlochshiel were in no mood for an upset and they went ahead after just three minutes when Jordan Fraser crossed the ball to the back post and Keith MacRae's first-time shot flew into the top corner of the net.

The Kirkton side doubled their lead on 12 minutes when Jordan Fraser got the ball on the edge of the D and he beat the keeper with a firm finish.

Referee Martin MacLean

spotted an infringement inside the D on 23 minutes and he pointed to the penalty spot. John MacRae made no mistake with the spot-hit.

A John MacRae tap-in on 36 minutes made it 4-0 at the break and there was only going to be one winner.

Keith MacRae got his second on 75 minutes when he followed up on a rebound and he tucked the ball away to make it 5-0.

Duncan "DA" MacRae completed the scoring when he turned and lashed the ball home to make it 6-0 on 86 minutes.

Kinlochshiel will now host Marine Harvest National Division side Beaulieu at Kirkton in the Camanachd Cup quarter-finals in a tie scheduled for Saturday July 9.

This will be a first match against his former club for 'Shiel defender Conor Cormack.

Artemis MacAulay Cup – first round

Glasgow Mid Argyll 8
Ballachulish 0

Glasgow Mid Argyll marched forward to the Artemis MacAulay Cup quarter-finals thanks to a thumping 8-0 victory over Ballachulish in their noon throw up at Peterson Park, Yoker.

Euan Forsyth broke the deadlock after just five minutes and Calum McLay made it 2-0 on 17 minutes.

The goals kept flowing and John McNulty on 20 minutes and a second from Calum McLay on 29 minutes made it 4-0.

The pick of the afternoon's goals came three minutes before the break when John McNulty controlled a long Garry Luke shy from the left on his chest before sending a volley into the bottom corner of the net to make it 5-0.

Euan Forsyth on 66 minutes and Duncan Davidson made it 2-2 on 18 minutes when he capitalised on some poor defending.

Inveraray's Allan MacDonald could have had a first half hat-trick after he produced a sweet finish but referee Lachie Wood pulled the play back for a foul on an Inveraray player in the lead up to the goal when the visitors would have preferred advantage to have been played.

The second half was all about Bute keeper Kevin Queen. He had an outstanding game and made a number of saves with his stick; one, in particular, diving low to his right, was quite superb.

Inveraray had strength on the substitutes' bench with Fraser Watt, Ally MacDonald and player/manager Ruairaidh Graham. They freshened things up and young Fraser Watt's pace and directness was hurting a tiring Bute defence.

David Robertson and Garry MacPherson were using their experience to Inveraray's advantage but they couldn't find a way past keeper Kevin Queen so referee Lachie Wood took the

international Iain McDonald in attack and he had a great tussle with the returning John Kennedy in the Inveraray back line.

The sides drew 0-0 when they met at the Meadows on the opening day of the shinty season and this was another close encounter.

Inveraray got off to a great start and they led 2-0 early in the game. They went ahead on five minutes when Allan MacDonald, who was also back in the side, volleyed home a David Robertson corner. Allan MacDonald, and not Garry MacPherson as reported in some circles, got his second to make it 2-0 on eight minutes when he fired a low shot into the corner of the goal.

Bute responded well and Iain McDonald pulled a goal back just a couple of minutes later when he scored at the back post following a corner.

The comeback was complete when Duncan Davidson made it 2-2 on 18 minutes when he capitalised on some poor defending.

Inveraray's Allan MacDonald could have had a first half hat-trick after he produced a sweet finish but referee Lachie Wood pulled the play back for a foul on an Inveraray player in the lead up to the goal when the visitors would have preferred advantage to have been played.

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Lochaber goalkeeper Calum MacDonald who was voted Man of the Match makes another great save this time from Glen MacKintosh.

tie to an extra-time period.

The extra-time period was very tight but Inveraray got the breakthrough on 100 minutes when Kevin Queen made another good save, this time from Grant Griffin, and young Lewis Montgomery pounced to knock the rebound home to make it 3-2.

The experienced Bute side never gave up and they tested Inveraray all the way but it's the Winterton men who go forward to play Kyles Athletic or Glasgow Mid Argyll in the Artemis MacAulay Cup semi-finals.

Strathdearn Cup – second round

Beaulieu 3
Glenurquhart 4

The Glenurquhart reserves continued their good cup form when they beat the Beaulieu reserves 4-3 in their 1pm throw up at Braeview Park.

The Glen went ahead on three minutes when a Finlay Robertson corner bounced and ended up in the back of the net. A Calum Miller goal on eight

minutes had the Glen 2-0 ahead. Beaulieu's Marc MacLachlan pulled a goal back on 23 minutes but Glen's James MacPherson fired the ball home on 39 minutes to make it 3-1.

Beaulieu fought back again and Marc MacLachlan got his second to make it 3-2 a minute before the break.

When Marc MacLachlan completed his hat-trick a minute into the second half, the sides were tied at three goals apiece.

Daniel MacKintosh put Glenurquhart back in front when he made it 4-3 on 48 minutes and, after the early goals blast, the only surprise was that there was no further scoring.

The Glenurquhart reserves will now play either the Fort William or Newtonmore reserves in the Strathdearn Cup quarter-finals which are scheduled for Saturday July 16.

Bullough Cup – quarter-finals

Tayforth 7
Bute 0

Tayforth were too strong for a

young Bute second team, winning 7-0 in their Bullough Cup quarter-final tie at Levenhall Links.

Orsten Gardener put Tayforth ahead after just five minutes of this 2pm throw up. Connor Sweeney added a second on 25 minutes and Brendan Duggan made it 3-0 just four minutes later.

Connor Sweeney got his second on 37 minutes and to make it 4-0 at the interval.

Orsten Gardener got his second to make it 5-0 just seven minutes into the second half before Neil Shearer on 55 minutes and Guy Berg on 78 minutes rounded off the 7-0 triumph.

Oban Lorn 0 Kilmory 4

Kilmory are through to the Bullough Cup semi-finals after they beat Oban Lorn 4-0 at Ganavan.

Alex Cunningham put Kilmory ahead on 15 minutes and the home side took control with two more goals late in the first half. Hal Jones made it 2-0 on 42 minutes and Alistair Cunningham added a third a minute before the break.



Fort William's Grant Disher and Skye's Ross Nicolson in action during the Juvenile MacTavish Cup Final which Skye won 2-1.

Photo: Donald Cameron



Camanachd Cup MacAulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

Alex Cunningham rounded off the win with his second goal 15 minutes from time.

Aberdour 3 Kyles Athletic 3

(After extra time – Aberdour won 2-1 on penalties)

It took two hours and a penalty shoot-out to separate the Aberdour colts and the Kyles Athletic colts at Silver Sands.

Kyles started well but it was Aberdour who went in front through Harry Simpkins. However, goals from Cairn Limbert and Malcolm MacFadyen had Kyles 2-1 in front after an hour.

Aberdour substitute Jamie Anderson took the tie to extra-time with a goal not long after coming on.

A Chris Bowerman shot from distance bounced into the net to the delight of the home fans with just four minutes of extra-time remaining. Kyles fought back though and Craig Martin netted following a goalmouth scramble to make it 3-3 so referee Euan Pearson took the tie to a penalty shoot-out.

Both teams failed to convert their first three penalties and it was 1-1 after 10 spot-kicks. The outcome went to sudden-death. Kyles then missed from the spot and Sam Evans took advantage to send his penalty low into the net to give Aberdour a famous win against higher league opposition.

Glasgow Mid Argyll 6 English Shinty Association 1

The Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds overcame the English Shinty Association 6-1 in their 3pm throw up at Yoker.

Lewis Miller notched a hat-trick for GMA, Calum McLay bagged a brace and Connor MacLeod got the other. Matt Mossop was on target for the English Shinty Association.

The Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds will now face Tayforth in the Bullough Cup semi-finals on Saturday July 16. The 2016 Bullough Cup Final is scheduled for Saturday September 10 with the venue yet to be confirmed.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Oban Camanachd 1 Kyles Athletic 0

Oban Camanachd continued their impressive league form with a hard-fought victory over Argyll rivals Kyles Athletic, which moves the Oban side up to joint second place in the Premiership.

The Oban side were without Scott MacKillop, Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish and Daniel MacVicar for the game but included recent signing Marc MacCallum who started on the bench.

Both teams started the game in determined fashion although the play was scrappy at times on the fiery Mossfield pitch with little to choose between the sides. The expansive game that has served the teams so well this season was not apparent as both sides struggled with the conditions.

The goal that eventually decided the game was itself a scrappy one from a long midfield strike from Scott MacMillan which eluded the Kyles defence and goalkeeper.

Daniel Cameron, for so long an isolated figure up front for the home side, had a simple tap-in to put his team 1-0 up, a lead they held on to as referee David Mitchell blew for half-time.

The second half, as expected, saw Kyles move up a gear but lacking a cutting edge up front.

Camanachd, for their part, used the wide open spaces to good effect with sound link-up play between midfield and the forward line with Aidan MacIntyre, David Lafferty and Scott MacMillan prominent.

ease the pressure after good interplay from Connor Howe, Malcolm Clark and sub Ian 'Gussie' Campbell but to no avail and in the end it was a relieved home side who picked up the two points when the final whistle sounded.

Commented manager Ian Hay: 'We were not at our best today. However, this result moves us into second place in the league as we approach the half-way point. We have put ourselves in a position to offer a serious challenge in both the league as well as the Scottish Cup.'

Glenurquhart 2 Lovat 5

Lovat took the points thanks to a 5-2 win over Glenurquhart in their 1pm throw up at Blairbeg.

Glenurquhart suffered a blow going into the game when John Barr and Andrew Corrigan were stranded in Norway where they work. Arran MacDonald and Eddie Tembo were also missing from the squad while Michael Brady started at full forward. Iain MacLeod was on the bench.

Lovat were still without captain Drew Howie, who was still sidelined with a broken collar-bone. Martin Mainland was still out with a broken foot while Greg Matheson, still not fully fit, was an unused substitute. Callum Cruden was back in the side at full centre whilst Kevin Bartlett returned in attack.

Former Scotland boss Fraser MacKenzie is also now involved with the Balcate side. The former Glenurquhart co-manager was on the touchline along with boss John MacRitchie.

The Glen were quick out of the blocks and Neale Reid tested Lovat keeper Stuart MacDonald after just 20 seconds.

However, it was Lovat who took the lead after four minutes when Kevin Bartlett, with his back to goal, wheeled round and he shot low into the net to make it 1-0.

Glen's Fraser Heath turned his marker on 13 minutes but his shot scraped the top of the crossbar.

Lovat's long injury list got worse on 24 minutes. Michael MacKenzie and Fraser Heath were challenging for a ball and Craig Mainland moved in to tackle but fell awkwardly. He was in obvious discomfort and referee Evan MacRae held the match up for 40 minutes until an ambulance arrived and it was later confirmed that Mainland had suffered a dislocated shoulder and broken collar bone and so faces a period on the sidelines. Scott MacKenzie came on in attack with Lorne MacKay going to full centre and Callum Cruden slotting back into defence.

Lovat made a switch on 76 minutes with Euan Ferguson coming on for Graeme MacMillan.

With 10 minutes remaining, a long ball into the goalmouth wasn't dealt with by the Lovat defence and Neale Reid tapped the ball home from close-in.

Connor Golabek was good for Glenurquhart while Lewis Tawse and Michael MacKenzie, who was tasked with shadowing Fraser Heath, shone for Lovat.

When Lorne MacKay was fouled a couple of minutes later, he took the free-hit himself and found Kevin Bartlett in space on the Lovat left. Bartlett had time to tee the ball up before sending a blistering shot past a helpless Stuart MacKintosh to make it 4-1.

Glenurquhart made another change with youth player Finlay Ralston replacing Michael Brady on 72 minutes.

A minute later, Calum MacAulay was first onto a ball across the edge of the D and his powerful first-time shot flew into the net to make it 5-1.

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Shortly after the game restarted, Kevin Bartlett brought a good save with his caman out of Glen goalie Stuart MacKintosh.

A Calum MacAulay corner on 27 minutes fell for Kevin Bartlett and his shot clipped the top of the crossbar.

The home side drew level on 39 minutes. Stuart MacDonald saved a Connor Golabek shot and Michael Brady sent the rebound goalwards with Fraser Heath getting the final touch to knock the ball over the line to make it 1-1.

The first action of the second half saw Ally MacKintosh stride forward from the Glen full centre position and his shot from the edge of the D went just over the top.

Lovat regained the lead on 51 minutes. Lorne MacKay got his stick into an attempted clearance out of the Glen defence and the ball fell kindly for Graeme MacMillan and, with only the keeper to beat, he fired the ball into the back of the net to make it 2-1.

The visitors extended their lead on 53 minutes when Calum MacAulay ran out to the Lovat right wing to get onto a long ball from the centre line and his first-time shot nestled into the back of the net to make it 3-1.

Stuart MacDonald made a superb save with his feet on 58 minutes to keep out a Neale Reid strike from close range.

Glenurquhart introduced Michael Fraser in place of David MacLennan on 67 minutes. Ally MacKintosh went to wing centre, Fraser Heath dropped back to full centre and substitute Fraser joined the attack.

When Lorne MacKay was fouled a couple of minutes later, he took the free-hit himself and found Kevin Bartlett in space on the Lovat left. Bartlett had time to tee the ball up before sending a blistering shot past a helpless Stuart MacKintosh to make it 4-1.

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Oban Camanachd's Malcolm Clark and Thomas Whyte from Kyles Athletic in action during last Saturday's Marine Harvest Premiership match at Mossfield which the red and blacks won 1-0.

The win lifts Lovat to fourth in the league and they only trail second placed Newtonmore and third placed Kyles Athletic on goal difference. Glenurquhart are in ninth place. They are only a point behind Skye Camanachd but they have played two matches more.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Glenorchy 4 Lochside Rovers 2

Lochside Rovers stay top of Marine Harvest South Division 1 despite suffering a 4-2 defeat to Glenorchy at Mart Park.

Duncan Smith put the home side ahead on 12 minutes and James Livingston doubled their advantage on 18 minutes. A strike from Lewis Buchanan on the half-hour mark reduced the deficit and it remained 2-1 until the break.

Donald Campbell drew Lochside level a couple of minutes into the second half.

And that's the way it stayed until late in the game. However, it was to be Glenorchy's day as Duncan Smith on 81 minutes and Kieran McKay on 85 minutes ensured they would take both points.

Lochside stay a point ahead of Aberdour, who were not in action, but they have played three matches more. The victory was just Glenorchy's second league success of the season but gives them something to build on in the weeks ahead.

Celtic went into the match on a decent run of form but they were without David MacInnes and Michael Mackinnon through work commitments while injury ruled out Rory Bruce, Lee Askew and Ewan MacCorquodale.

Celtic opened the scoring after 14 minutes when Fraser MacMillan's speculative shot could only be parried into the roof of the net by Taynuilt keeper Chris Parr.

Taynuilt were certainly fired up for the game and they were ferocious in the tackle. They equalised through full centre David Campbell who found the back of the net just a couple of minutes later.

The tackles continued to fly in, which put the prettier shinty to one side, until Daniel Madej spun his marker, Stephen Parr, and he netted to put Celtic 2-1 ahead just two minutes before half time.

Celtic started the second half well but they struggled to beat an inspired Chris Parr in the Taynuilt goal. Two saves with his caman particularly caught the eye.

Taynuilt, to their credit, never gave up and they always had hope with Celtic unable to kill off the game. The home side were rewarded on 90 minutes when a Ryan Gillies through ball deceived everyone, including keeper Scott Mossman in the Oban Celtic goal, to send the home support into jubilation.

Oban Celtic manager Kenny Waterspoon commented: 'I didn't say too much after the game as our lads were clearly disappointed with how the match went. Even if we had held on for the win, we would not have been happy with our performance so we will touch on this at training and remain positive at the same time. We will remind our boys about commitment on and off the pitch and try to cut out some silly errors. After that we will forget this game and focus on producing a much higher standard of shinty in the weeks ahead.'

Inveraray 2 Col Glen 2

The Inveraray second team and Col Glen drew 2-2 at the Winterton.

Neil Shaw scored twice for Inveraray, with a John MacKenzie own goal and a Connor Kennedy effort counting for Col Glen.

This was only Inveraray's third point of the season and they remain bottom of the table. Col Glen stay in third spot, a point behind second place Aberdour but they have played three games more.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Aberdeen University 5 Lewis Camanachd 2

Aberdeen University went four points clear at the top of the table after they beat Lewis Camanachd 5-2 in their 1pm throw up at Balcate.

This was the students' home match but the travel distance between the two clubs means they have each agreed to play their home games at half-way locations for a few years now.

Two goals from Stuart Cameron and an Alex Duncan hat-trick won the day, with Will Church netting twice for a hard-working Lewis side.

Aberdeen are now four points ahead of second placed Lochcarron although the Battery Park side have a game in hand.

The win means Kilmallie leapfrog Boleskine into sixth place in the table and they have games in hand on the teams above them.

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Fixtures

Saturday June 18
Camanachd Cup
2nd Round Replay
Skye v Glasgow Mid Argyll
Evan MacRae

Balliemore Cup
Semi Final
Beaully v Kilmallie
Daniel MacRae 1.30pm
Craigard, Invergarry
Strathglass v Caberfeidh
Neil Ferguson
Bught Park, Inverness

Strathdearn Cup
2nd Round
Aberdeen University v Lovat
Andy MacLean
Lochaber v Skye
John Matheson - noon
Lochcarron v Caberfeidh
Martin MacLean
Caithness v Kinlochshiel
Callum Duff
Lewis v Kingussie
Ronnie Campbell
Fort William v Newtonmore
Calum Girvan
Boleskine v Kilmallie
Willie MacDonald

Marine Harvest
Premiership
Lochaber v Kingussie
Deek Cameron - 3pm
Newtonmore v Kinlochshiel
Innes Wood
Oban Caman v Glenurquhart
Graham Cameron
Kyles Athletic v Lovat
Lachie Wood - 3pm

Marine Harvest
National Division
Ballachulish v Bute
Archie Ritchie

Marine Harvest
South Division 1
Aberdour v Glenorchy
David Mitchell
Kyles Athletic v Inveraray
Scott McNeil - noon
Taynuilt v Lochside Rovers
Robert Baxter
Col Glen v Oban Celtic
Iain Kennedy

Marine Harvest
South Division 2
Kilmory v Oban Lorn
John Wood

Throw ups 2.30 unless stated

Results

Saturday June 11
RBS MacTavish Cup Final
Newtonmore 2-1 Lochaber

Camanachd Cup 2nd Round
Caberfeidh 0-6 Kinlochshiel

Artemis Macaulay Cup
1st Round
Glasgow MA 8-0 Ballachulish

Artemis Macaulay Cup
Quarter Final
Bute 2-3 Inveraray

Strathdearn Cup
second round
Beaully 3-4 Glenurquhart

Bullough Cup second round
Oban Lorn 0-4 Kilmory
Aberdour 3-3 Kyles Athletic
Glasgow MA 6-1 English Shinty
Tayforth 7-0 Bute

Marine Harvest Premiership
Glenurquhart 2-5 Lovat
Oban Caman 1-0 Kyles Athletic

Marine Harvest
South Division 1
Glenorchy 4-2 Lochside Rovers
Inveraray 2-2 Col Glen
Taynuilt 2-2 Oban Celtic

Marine Harvest
North Division 2
Aberdeen Uni 5-2 Lewis
Boleskine 2-4 Kilmallie

Woman's shinty round up

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Glenurquhart 0 Glengarry 9

Glengarry stay top of the league on goal difference after they beat Glenurquhart 9-0 at Drumadrochit.

The 'Garry goals came from Aoife Tangey, Leona Faulkner, an Elaine Cameron treble, two from Margaret Goudie, a Katie Sylvester strike, with Siobhan West rounding off the scoring.

'Garry are five goals better off than second placed Lovat with both sides having played six matches.

Lovat 10 Inverness 1

Second place Lovat remain are very much in the tile hunt as they beat bottom of the table Inverness 10-1 at the Balcate.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Glasgow Mid Argyll 11 Fort William 1

The Glasgow Mid Argyll second team stay top of the table after they beat Fort William 11-1 at Peterson Park, Yoker.

Sophie Tinney, Joan Nicolson, Elaine McGarrie and Iona Cooper all bagged doubles for GMA while Laura Stuart, Eleanor Fraser and Geraldine Murphy got the others.

Ashleigh Fraser got Fort William's consolation goal late in the second half.

GMA are now two points ahead of second placed Ardnamurchan but they have played a game more.

Shannon Ross pulled a goal back for Dunadd on 21 minutes to make it 3-1 and that's the way it stayed until 59 minutes when Eilidh Ross completed her hat-trick to make it 4-1.

Oban tennis on the level

TENNIS players in Oban will be able to play on a level surface for the first time in 10 years, as the upgraded courts at Atlantis Leisure are scheduled to open to the public on Monday.

The depleted facility was the subject of a community campaign, which started in December of last year, in order to raise money to improve the sloping courts.

And after raising tens of thousands of pounds through grants, local and national charitable bodies and £6,500 from local people who donated through a crowdfunding page, Atlantis Leisure was able to go ahead with the much-needed upgrade.

A multi-functional sports facility, which is still in the process of being developed, will sit at the end of the three competition standard tennis courts.

Manager of Atlantis Leisure Nick Wesley said: 'We're on target and really excited. 'We will have three new high

quality tennis courts, so we will have courts that can be used all year round, which we have never had.

'I would like to thank everyone for their donations and for making this happen. The number of people who have helped has been fantastic.

'This is a big project, a big investment, and it is nice that it sits alongside the new playpark. The outside facilities in Oban have been secured for the future.'

Chair of Oban Tennis and Squash Club Lynda Oxland said: 'We, the Oban Tennis and Squash Club, are all very excited as the courts are looking fantastic. We are looking forward to playing on them.

'I'd like to give a big thanks to everyone who has supported us - we are very grateful.

'The West Highland Tennis Week (WHTW) starts one week on Sunday and there will be events for both adult and kids. 'The main event will start on

Tennis

June 30 and people from all over the world will take part. We have 20 competitors coming from the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch in the United States and people from Spain and Belgium.

'However, although it's a high profile week, it's not all about WHTW - it's also about the locals who will be playing on it every day.'

Mrs Oxland continued: 'Oban Tennis and Squash Club members are really excited about playing on good courts for the first time in 10 years.'

West Highland Tennis Week takes place from Sunday, June 26 until July 3, with local events running from June 26-29.

The championship event will take place from Thursday June 30 until Sunday July 3.

Players of all ages and abilities are welcome to take part in the competitions.



Nick Wesley, manager of Atlantis Leisure, stands in front of the three upgraded, tiger turf covered courts. 17_12STennis03 17
Inset: One of the three tiger turf covered surfaces that is now at Atlantis Leisure. 17_12STennis01



The Oban Lorne squad pictured at the Islay tournament.

Green Machine lose out to Kilchoman in final of Islay beach rugby tournament

OBAN Lorne RFC reached the final of the 2016 Islay beach rugby festival on Saturday when they were beaten by champions Kilchoman.

The Green Machine have a got a successful history at this event being runners-up on three occasions in the past four years.

Oban won all of their group games as follows, 2-1 v Myers Castle, 13-1 v Dumfries and Paisley 10-1. The team met Moffat in the semi-final, winning 6-1 before going on to be beaten by Kilchoman 4-2 in the final.

Argyll and Bute RFC also had a

successful day in reaching the plate final where they lost to Paisley 6-2.

Argyll lost to Kilchoman and Grim Reapers in the group stage with a win against Hillhead Jordanhill to make it through to the semi-finals where they played Aberfeldy, winning 6-1.

Pre-season training begins for the 2016/17 season on Tuesday June 21, 7pm, venue tbc. All new players welcome.

Oban High U14s 62-14 Biggar

Oban High School and Oban Lorne RFC's U14 youth team played their

last game of the 2015/16 season on Sunday with a 62-14 win over Biggar RFC.

Six players from Isle of Mull RFC also joined Oban, who had a strong squad available.

Oban made a great start to the game and raced into a 19-0 lead in the first 10 minutes with tries from Finbar Dunne, Thom Catterwell and Archie Spencer.

Dunne scored his second of the day to take the score to 26-0 with Connor Taylor and Sam Coates crossing late on in the half to give a half-time score of 38-0.

Rugby

Biggar came back into the game in the second half with two well-taken tries but could not match the quality throughout the Oban team as they scored further tries from Jordan Norman, Spencer, a great individual score from Mull's Fergus Reade and a second from Coates to seal a convincing 62-14 win over a Biggar side who have competed well in Scottish Rugby's Green Conference this season.

Colin takes the honours at Oban Regatta

COLIN Crawford's Dehler 34 Nimrod took the top honours at Oban Sailing Club's annual town regatta last weekend. With three firsts from the Saturday and Sunday races in the fast handicap spinnaker class, Nimrod and team were judged to have given the best performance for the weekend.

Billy Forteith's First 31.7 Shadowfax also took home

three firsts in restricted sail and finished second overall in the regatta points.

Saturday's race saw the fleet of eight boats head out the bay to the west of Kerrera to round Seal Island. A mix of light and patchy winds made for tricky sailing and the fast class was closely fought with Eric and Irena Chapman's Sigma 33 Amber Haze narrowly losing out to

Nimrod with Beppo Buchanan Smith's Enigma third. Shadowfax took the win from Anne and Andrew Campbell's Ajax with commodore Finlo Cottier's Sadler 32 Allican in third place.

Race officer Colin Kupris, who organised the weekend, kept the boats in the bay on Sunday with the winds giving a mix of gusty conditions to complete calms. Nimrod won Class 1 from Am-

Sailing

ber Haze with Shadowfax Class 2. Derek Grier's Al Harija finished second in Class 2 and Colin Kupris's Flying Fifteen The Kracken was third.

Colin said: 'It was an excellent weekend with good attendance. Conditions were fair to tricky at times but everyone enjoyed the close racing. Thanks to all who contributed to the fantastic food - everyone enjoyed the great spread.'

Finlo Cottier, OSC commodore, said: 'This was a real club event with a mix of boats - some sailing with spinnakers, some white sail with a range of ages aboard - but that's what the club is all about. And the fact we were sailing on Sunday alongside the latest dinghy training course participants was even better.'

'Ian Gibson, our senior RYA instructor, is currently training Oban High School students on their RYA level 2 dinghy course and they also had a great day on the water.

'We hope some may be our future regatta participants.'



Sailors and prizewinners from Oban Regatta with Commodore Finlo Cottier, far right, and race officer Colin Kupris, far left.



Saints Under 13s do the double

Oban Saints Under 13s won the league and shield double in the Dumfries Development Football League. On Saturday June 4 the boys drew 3-3 with Milngavie in the Michael McGinley Shield final but won 4-3 on penalties. Scoring for Saints were Neville Russell (2) and Ruairidh Munro. Goalkeeper Innes Horne saved two spot kicks in the penalty shoot-out. A day later the boys clinched the Under 13s DFDL league title by virtue of a hard-fought 0-0 draw away to Ardencaple. Everybody at the club congratulates the boys for a superb first season at 11-a-side football. The boys are pictured celebrating with the league championship trophy.

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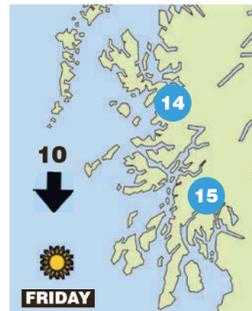
Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

WEATHER

Thursday Sunny intervals
Winds moderate north north easterly
Temperatures 9°C to 14°C.

Friday Sunny
Winds light northerly
Temperatures 8°C to 15°C.

Weekend Sunny on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Winds light north north westerly
Temperatures 10°C to 15°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday June 16, 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	02.43 3.1 09.36 1.6 15.22 3.2 21.11 1.5	Ardrishaig -5.35 Mallaig +0.25		
Fri	03.30 3.3 10.14 1.4 16.02 3.4 22.00 1.4	Campbeltown -5.30 Portree +0.55		
Sat	04.13 3.4 10.48 1.3 16.41 3.5 22.43 1.3	Crinan -0.47 Tobermory +0.16		
Sun	04.54 3.6 11.21 1.2 17.19 3.7 23.25 1.2	Islay Port Ellen 2.00 Dover +5.30		
Mon	05.33 3.7 11.54 1.1 17.56 3.8 *** **			
Tues	00.05 1.1 06.09 3.7 12.29 1.0 18.30 3.8			
Wed	00.45 1.0 06.43 3.7 13.03 1.0 19.05 3.8			

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

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SEE PAGE 7



Glencoe woman is barred from referendum vote

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



Disenfranchised – Victoria Sutherland has lived in Glencoe with her husband Alister for 50 years.

A COMMUNITY councillor who has lived in Glencoe for half a century says she is being treated like an alien after finding out she is ineligible to vote on Scotland's future.

Victoria Sutherland, 72, has a Scottish mother and has lived in Glencoe for 50 years. There, she and her husband, Alister, a Scottish lawyer and the current community council chairman, brought up three children as British citizens, and run a business, Glencoe Cottages, renting holiday accommodation to tourists.

But when only her husband's voting card arrived in the post two months ago, Mrs Sutherland was shocked to discover she could not vote in the upcoming EU referendum on June 23, because, she said, she is an EU citizen domiciled in Britain.

Citizens from EU countries – apart from Ireland, Malta and Cyprus – will not get a vote.

Mrs Sutherland told *The Oban Times*: 'I can't register. I'm being treated like an alien.'

The Glencoe and Glen Etive community councillor said: 'I have a Danish father and a Danish passport.'

'I'm a patriotic Dane, and a Scot, too – I have a Scottish mother and a proud Scottish ancestry. I don't want to give up my Danish citizenship: the Danes are as keen on their nation as the Scots are.'

'Since September 21, I have been able to apply for dual nationality, but I didn't think it was necessary. I was allowed to vote in Scotland's independence referendum, so I automatically assumed I'd be able to vote in the EU referendum.'

She is also able to vote in local government and Scottish Parliament elections, she said.

Commonwealth citizens from 54 states, including Australia, Canada, India, Pakistan, Nigeria and Gibraltar, who live in the UK are eligible to vote.

'It's iniquitous,' Mrs Sutherland added. 'It's very random: it seems to depend on what they had for breakfast.'

'Nobody's pointed out how crazy it is. My Australian daughter-in-law can vote, but I can't. Why can she? She has no economic interest. It's not going to affect her future.'

Mrs Sutherland's husband said a vote to leave the European Union would cause their tourism business, and others in Lochaber, to suffer.

He said: 'A third of our customers and 100 per cent of our staff come from the continent. We can't get people from the West Highlands to do this job, as much as we'd like to.'

Mrs Sutherland added: 'The tourist industry would be decimated if they had to go back, or it was made very difficult to stay.'

Ian Blackford, SNP MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, said: 'It is daft that people like Mrs Sutherland, who live and work here, who make a full contribution and who is allowed to vote in Scottish elections, is not allowed to have a say, like the rest of us, on the future of the European Union.'

Meet your new Moderator



Ella Gill, the incoming Moderator, and Rev Edgar Ogston, who is vacating the post.

ACHARACLE Parish Church welcomed members of Lochaber Presbytery and the local community on Tuesday for a service of communion to mark the end of the presbytery year and the installation of the new Moderator, Ella Gill.

The service was conducted by the retiring Moderator, Reverend Edgar Ogston, and Rev Fiona Ogg.

Mrs Gill is the first female Moderator in Lochaber who is an elder rather than a minister. In her address to the congregation, Mrs Gill picked up on

the suggestion of the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr, that local presbyteries should adopt the theme of the General Assembly for their forthcoming year – 'People of the Way' – the description of the followers of Jesus before they were known as Christians.

Mrs Gill likened the loss of church membership and the well-publicised reduction in ministers to that of pruning a rose bush. Something which had been full of flowers might look as if it had been killed

with severe pruning. However, just as after pruning a rose bush, new growth is stimulated and shoots appear all over the stems of the plant. So, with the church, new growth is appearing, not just where the stem has been cut, but all over.

These new shoots are the lunch clubs, coffee mornings, support for neighbours and strangers – ordinary folk following and putting Jesus' teachings into practice.

The service was followed by refreshments in the community centre.

Fundraising plan to save Mallaig pool

MALLAIG and District Swimming Pool is embarking on a fundraising effort to raise £1.1million for essential refurbishment that will 'secure the facility's future', writes Ellie Forbes.

Twenty-three years of service has taken its toll, with vital equipment failing, which could force the pool to close and mean users having to travel around 40 miles to Fort William.

An application for £275,000 has been lodged with the Highland Council to support the project, and the pool's board is also asking for community help through an online crowdfunding campaign.

Fiona Baker, chairwoman of Mallaig and District Swimming Pool, said: 'With a failing building and public funding being squeezed, we must ensure the business and building are fit for purpose to meet the challenges of the coming years.'

'This refurbishment will not only modernise the building for a better customer experience, but, crucially, will allow us to push running costs down and income up, which needs to happen if we are to remain open.'

Over the past 23 years, 2,420 children have learned to swim at the pool.

Mrs Baker added: 'Mallaig pool has been an amazing success story – teaching the community to swim, catering for fitness and health needs, providing year-round employment and serving the tourist industry.'

A spokesperson for the Highland Council confirmed the pool's application had been received, adding: 'Discussions are at an early stage and will require further scrutiny before the council can reach a decision on any funding.'



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MP demands phone call transcript

IAN BLACKFORD, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, has called for a transcript of a phone conversation between himself and CalMac's managing director as the row over the MV Coruisk continues, writes Monica Gibson.

Mr Blackford said he had made a formal request to MD Martin Dorchester to release details of their phone call on June 1, during which Mr Blackford claims to have been told the MV Coruisk would be redeployed to its original Mallaig-Armadale route.

Five days after the call, CalMac released a statement saying no further changes would

be made to the timetable. Following the report in *The Oban Times*, an emergency meeting was arranged by Mr Blackford at which he asked whether Mr Dorchester's phone calls are recorded.

Mr Blackford said: 'The answer to my questions was 'yes'. I have now put my request in writing. I have yet to receive any further information but I am prepared to submit a Freedom of Information request.'

The meeting last Wednesday was attended by Kate Forbes MSP, transport minister Humza Yousaf, Transport Scotland officials and management of CalMac, including Mr

Dorchester. Mr Blackford said the meeting gave him the opportunity to convey to CalMac the anger felt by his constituents following the apparent U-turn.

He said: 'An admission that did come out of the meeting was that the decision not to redeploy the Coruisk was taken solely by Caledonian MacBrayne. Neither Transport Scotland nor the Scottish Government make operational decisions for the company.'

When contacted by *The Oban Times*, a spokesman said CalMac does not have a policy of recording telephone calls, so no transcript of the conversation between Mr Blackford and

Mr Dorchester exists that they know of.

He added: 'In light of the positive evidence of how the route is performing and in consultation with Transport Scotland, we believe the current arrangements are the best available to meet the many differing demands on our services within the resources we have.'

'The route continues to carry more passengers to Skye via Armadale than it has ever done, with passenger levels up 10 per cent and cars up 20 per cent on the same period last year. Completed sailings have increased by 25 per cent this year.'

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£17,000 raised to 'bring Maddy home'

MORE THAN £17,000 has so far been raised to ensure a young woman is returned home following a tragic accident on Skye last week, writes *Ellie Forbes*.

Twenty-one-year-old Australian Madison Rice died last Monday (June 6) after being struck by a car as she and her boyfriend hitchhiked home after a night out.

The fundraising page, *Get our Madison home from Scotland*, was set up to raise the money as it was revealed she had no travel insurance.

Miss Rice's family has said: 'We hope to get her home as soon as possible.'

'We have the agonising wait for Maddy to make her trip home.'

A comment from the family on the fundraising page on Sunday (June 12) suggested that they were hopeful that Madison would be returned to Australia sometime next week: 'It's looking like Wednesday June 22.'

A quote on the page from The Beauty House Academy where Madison trained said: 'We are in total disbelief to hear that one of our beautiful students is no longer with us.'

'Words can not express our sympathy for all of Maddy's friends and family.'

'Such a beautiful girl. Always remembered, never forgotten.'

At the time of her death, Madison was living with her boyfriend on Skye while working in Kinloch Lodge Hotel at Sleat.

Madison was killed at 1.15am, near the Sligachan hotel.

Mother and daughter aim to help Lochaber Thrive

ELLIE FORBES

eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

A FORT WILLIAM mother and daughter team are 'thriving' for success with their new health and well-being hub.

Izzy Valenti and daughter Katy Macdonald's new venture, Thrive in Lochaber, is a new community resource that aims to promote health and well-being in the area.

Operating from Katy and her husband's Thai restaurant Sugar and Spice, Thrive will be a drop-in point for members of the community who feel isolated or find it difficult to socialise.

Katy and her husband moved to Scotland five years ago to open Sugar and Spice, which her husband runs in the evenings.

The idea for Thrive came about in February after Katy began brain-storming about what the restaurant could be used for during the day.

Currently Katy works at Lochaber college with students who have additional support needs and, with both Katy and her mum having backgrounds in



Katy Macdonald and her mum Izzy Valenti plan to host groups and workshops at Sugar and Spice restaurant.

health and social care, the idea was something they both feel passionate about.

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Izzy said: 'There is an obvious gap in relation to a high street drop-in venue for people who are socially isolated.'

'Our idea for Thrive is still formulating, but what we want to be is a health and well-being cafe that is accessed by individual community groups, with

Katy and I also running groups and workshops here for people.'

'We are currently running a class for young adults with disabilities who just want to hang out with their friends, but often find it difficult.'

Izzy added: 'We are quite unusual because we want to be constantly evolving to the needs of the community.'

Katy continued: 'We want to give people a social and com-

munity presence and design this service according to what people are telling us they need.'

In addition to working with young adults, they hope to run stress management workshops for carers, and support groups for young mums.

'This is a space for parents or carers to come in and talk to one another about any worries or difficulties,' said Katy.

As a young mother herself, Katy said: 'Being a young mum can be very isolating. We want somewhere for young mums to come together. For example, a group of parents could put on a coffee morning where they can socialise and meet people.'

Katy said they are also looking to start a breastfeeding support groups if there is a need.

At the heart of their idea is the importance of well-being, and for both Katy and Izzy socialising is vital.

'Some people find it difficult to go out and socialise with friends, as they are intimidated by large groups of people, but we want to normalise that and make it accessible for everyone.'

Izzy stresses: 'We want it to be a centre where we can bring people together.'

One idea that has been brought to Katy by students at the college is for a dinner club, where 10 people come to café, five will cook, while the other five set the tables.

Katy hopes that this will enable youngsters to work on life skills such as cooking and other soft abilities.

Thrive is also encouraging people in the community who have a skill and want to share it with others, to get involved.

Izzy told *The Oban Times*: 'We have had a fantastic response to this initiative.'

'The carers and families we have spoken to are so excited by this idea, and other professionals within our network have given us lots of encouragement.'

Thrive is in the process of becoming a social enterprise, and is still looking for funding to ensure its development.

Find Thrive in Lochaber on Facebook, or email thrive.cafe@hotmail.com to get involved.

TIMESLINE

Schools to be life-saving centres

THE Western Isles Council has agreed to provide life-saving equipment and training to schools across the area.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar will be the first local authority in Scotland to introduce emergency life support to the Curriculum for Excellence.

The council has pledged £30,000 toward the Lucky2B-Here project, which will see defibrillators installed and training provided at all schools.

Death of climber is confirmed

POLICE Scotland has confirmed the death of a man who was climbing in the Cairngorm area.

Officers received a call of an injured climber on Coire an Lochain at approximately 10.20am on Wednesday June 8.

The man was airlifted to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness with serious injuries and sadly died shortly after arrival.

Students play at fundraiser

PLOCKTON'S National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music welcomed nine new students last week.

As part of the centre's induction week, all pupils performed at a fundraising concert for Counselling Care Skye and Lochalsh at the Clan Donald Centre last Thursday (June 9).

Oban Times
newsdesk
01631 568000

Kamikaze bird behind Corran Ferry blackout

MORE than 300 homes were left without power on Saturday morning after a bird flew into overhead lines in the Corran Ferry area.

The majority of the houses were reconnected quickly after the incident early on Saturday morning but 50 customers experienced the blackout for up to five hours.

Duncan MacDonald, part of the media team for local energy company Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE), said: 'We would like to apologise to our customers in the Corran Ferry and Ardgour area who experi-

enced disruption to their power around 9.30am on Saturday June 11. This was due to a bird flying into an overhead part of the equipment.'

'The incident itself disrupted power for 338 customers but because of the way the system is set up, within around 10 minutes SSE was able to reconnect most of these customers apart from 50 households.'

'Engineers attended the site and all power was restored just after 2.45pm on the Saturday.'

Regarding reports of a loud bang or explosion and sighting of smoke at the time of the

power cut Mr MacDonald said: 'The system is similar to that in your own home - when it detects a fault it switches off. If you think about in your home when the trip switch goes off, you can normally hear a bit of a loud click. So if you think of the size of our equipment, then the noise would be considerably louder.'

Mr MacDonald added that safety is number one priority at SSE, and he again apologised to customers on behalf of the company and said the problem was resolved as safely and quickly as possible.

Keeping our children safe



Above, youngsters from Lochaber primary schools are taught about safety online and at home; and, right, police give a demonstration on being hit by a car at 30mph.

LOCHABER'S primary sevens gathered at the Nevis Centre last week, to take part in the annual Safe Highlander day.

The event, which was held on Thursday (June 8) promotes community safety and health and crime prevention for young people.

The majority of the schools'

P7 classes attended the event, where they had the chance to participate in practical exercises that showed them how to deal with everyday hazards, such as using the internet safely, road and fire safety.

Organisers of the event hoped that the children would leave with a better understanding of personal safety and how

to avoid becoming victims of crimes. All major rescue services took part in the event, as well as High Life Highland and the council.

One member of staff at Spean Bridge Primary School said: 'All of the P7 kids really enjoyed the event, they found it very beneficial and really worthwhile.'

Curry house opens first Indian buffet restaurant

AN AWARD-WINNING takeaway in town is expanding its business and creating the first buffet-style restaurant in Oban. Kebabish Curry House will be renovating the building next door, which was previously known as The Pancake Place and Palava, in order to create an Indian buffet with a set price.

Shaukat Anwar Chaudhry, who owns Kebabish, is confident that the new establishment will be open for business by next month.

He said that it would offer eight salads, and eight sauces, a choice of four starters, three pizzas and 12 mixed main dishes, along with rice, naans, desserts and green tea.

Mr Chaudhry said: 'I think it will go well. I opened the first kebab shop in Oban - serving high quality, healthy food to the Oban community and there's currently nothing like this in Oban: a buffet. I am looking forward to serving a hygienic and healthy buffet to the community.'

'We will need new staff for the dessert side of it and new serving staff for the restaurant.'

Where the current seating area in Kebabish is will be turned in to a dessert parlour, serving Equi's ice-cream, shakes, cakes and sundaes.



BUFFET: Shaukat Anwar Chaudhry, Hashmat Ali Chaudhry and Danyal Ali Chaudhry in front of the new premises.

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POLICE FILES

POLICE in Fort William are appealing for any information in connection with the following incidents:

LAST Friday night (June 10) a yellow dumper truck was driven away from its site at Lundavra. The vehicle was abandoned on Lundavra Road.

Around 7.15pm on Wednesday June 1, a minor road traffic collision occurred involving a Dacia Duster and Ford Jaga on the A830 near Lochaber High School. A third vehicle was close by at the time and the driver may be able to help with inquiries.

Lochaber Police are appealing to the public to remain vigilant in connection with reports of bogus callers. Several reports and incidents involving commens and pressurised selling techniques have been filed over the last few weeks. A number of people and vehicles have been traced and dealt with, and one has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for offences.

Service with a smile sees Jean honoured with BEM

MONICA GIBSON
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

A WOMAN who has served the community with a mixture of friendliness and discretion has received Royal recognition.

Jeannette Robinson, or Jean as she prefers, has run the Lochaline Snack Bar on the old pier for nearly 30 years.

Her commitment has now been recognised as she received a British Empire Medal (BEM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

The news came as a surprise to Jean who said: 'I was in tears. I am still in shock.'

'I have been here for 27 years and it's just a really nice thing to be recognised. I've met so many lovely people over the years.'

The notice came through on the June 11, the day of the Queen's official birthday.

Jean had actually found out the day earlier, but is well versed in the art of secrecy thanks to her former job and she continues to use these skills at the snack bar.

The 71-year-old added: 'I definitely have crossed paths with some celebrities - it's been



Jean who is to be presented with a BEM is looking forward to a few more years running the Lochaline Snack Bar. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography

lovely to meet them but what I always say is that they are on their holidays, so I am very discreet and never talk about who I've met.

'I worked for the Ministry of Defence in my past life so I had to sign secrecy acts and I guess that's just stayed with me.

'I was sworn to secrecy about this award as well, which was difficult, but helped make the whole thing more fun.'

Jean has two grown up children and despite them living away from home, she keeps the cafe opened all year, apart from January, to feed and meet

hungry sailors. Jean hasn't yet found out who is responsible for her nomination, but considering she helps tourists find their way and offers assistance to the emergency services from time to time, she believes there could be a few 'culprits'.

Jean told *The Oban Times*: 'I

don't know who would have nominated me.

'There could be a few people that might have been thoughtful enough but I have just enjoyed my time here and loved meeting everyone.'

'It's a hub of the community down here on the pier, so it has been nice as my family are living down south - they are educated and have started lives of their own.'

'My daughter is a carer so she gets that side from me and my son is a chef and he gets the cooking side from me, so that makes me very happy.'

Jean believes she will be presented with the award locally, but she hasn't heard when or where exactly the event may take place, however she is really looking forward to it and said she 'will need to buy a frock' for the occasion.

Students celebrate graduation day



EIGHTY-TWO students were celebrating after graduating from Lochaber High School. Pupils are pictured here with the Head of Year and Depute Head Teacher Elizabeth Gow and Head Teacher Jim Sutherland.

This year's ceremony was held

at the school on Thursday (June 10). Mr Sutherland said: 'As we say goodbye to another group of sixth years, we've been looking back at their school careers from when they started during our 50th anniversary year in 2010. That six years has seen much change in education

and to our school buildings. This year group has survived - and excelled - through the introduction of new national courses in S4 and new Higher courses in S5 while negotiating their way round a building site! 'Graduation day is always a very special day for the school,

but moving on is part of growing up.

'In saying farewell, I would also like to wish our sixth years all the very best for the future and thank them for the part they have played in making Lochaber High School the good school it is today.'

Gaelic drama school

JUST days remain to apply for a place at this year's Gaelic drama summer school.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's residential experience will be held in Portree between July 4 and 15.

Participants will receive tuition in a variety of drama skills, as well as having lots of fun in the process.

For more information and to access the school's online application form, visit www.feisean.org/ssd.

Community fund

LOCHABER community groups still have time to apply for a £200 grant.

Launched in 2013, Lochaber Housing Association's community fund supports dozens of groups in the area. Priority will be given to first-time applicants, but the association will consider groups that have received grants in the past.

The closing date is July 29 and application forms can be downloaded from the association's website.

TIMESLINE

Caol primary to host open day

STAFF and pupils at Caol Primary School are hosting an open day to mark the closure of the school as it prepares to move to its new campus.

The event is open to all former pupils, parents and staff who would like a last look around the building before it is demolished as part of the project.

The open day will take place on Thursday June 23 from 1pm to 3pm, and then 4pm-6pm.

Mod celebrates record entries

MOD AIRD nam Murchan is set to be a jam-packed day, with organisers saying it is the biggest entry to date.

The event kicks off tomorrow (June 17) at 9.15am, in Ardscoil Aird nam Murchan and Arainn Shuaineirt in Strontian.

The Prizewinners' Concert in Arainn Shuaineirt will be at 7pm.

Visitors are welcomed to both events.

Save cash and save the planet

BE CARBON clever and give yourself a lift.

Carbon clever commuting is an initiative operated by the Highland Council to combat transport emissions and create a low carbon highlands by 2025. It encourages residents to think about alternative travel options, such as car sharing, to help reduce emissions but also increase health levels and save money.

For information on lift-sharing, walking routes and public transport visit: www.highland.gov.uk/commuting/



Matt Bendoris, left, Chris Brookmyre, Gordon Brown, Doug Johnstone and Craig Robertson read from their latest novels in Fort William Library on Friday.

Crime under investigation at festival promo

SIX Scottish crime writers took part in a book signing and discussion in Fort William Library on Friday evening.

The authors were there to promote the fifth annual Bloody Scotland International Crime Writing Festival, which will take place in Stirling in September.

Chris Brookmyre hosted the event and read from his latest novel, *Black Widow*, which tells the story of an Inverness woman who murdered her husband.

Douglas Johnstone gave an excerpt from *The Jump*, about a woman whose son committed suicide, while Matt Bendoris read part of *DM for Murder*, a Twitter murder story featuring a pair of investigative journalists.

Craig Robertson shared an excerpt from his sixth novel, *In Place of Death*, which follows the theme of urban exploration, and Gordon Brown read from *Meltdown*, the second book in his series featuring bodyguard Craig McIntyre.

Following the readings there was a discussion and question-and-answer session.

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Parents vent anger over cuts proposed for school

DAVID MCPHEE
dmphee@obantimes.co.uk

PROPOSED changes to a school on Mull have left parents feeling frustrated and concerned about their children's education as well as the wellbeing of staff.

Salen primary school is set to lose the equivalent of one full-time teacher – one is being deployed to other schools on the island for three days and another for two days. This will result in staff having to teach both Gaelic and mainstream classes.

These adjustments are part of a school census that also requires the head teacher to teach classes three days per week.

Richard Cellett, chairman of Salen parent council, said: 'The head teacher will have to teach three days a week, as well as doing what a head teacher does – manage a nursery, pre-school and a Gaelic and a mainstream school. We all think that is not possible.'

'And it looks like the Gaelic teacher, who will have to teach at other schools, will be teaching mainstream classes as well as Gaelic, which is alarming considering that there's a shortage of Gaelic teachers in the country.'

'The proposed changes are concerning and it's likely that a teacher who has been with us for 31 years will leave and the new Gaelic teacher may leave Mull and get a full-time position elsewhere. If that happens, the school will not be able to survive that.'

In a letter addressed to Argyll and Bute Council's head of service for education, the Parent Council wrote: 'Juggling these different roles is likely to be highly stressful, and we believe

that Argyll and Bute Council has a duty of care to its employees to ensure that this proposal does not induce unacceptable pressure on the head teacher or other teaching staff at the school, and fully considers the wellbeing of its staff before instigating these changes.'

Mary Ireson, a parent of a Salen primary pupil, said: 'For me, it's about the quality of education. The council has already taken away the library service on Mull.'

'We have primary ones coming in who don't know any Gaelic and we have primary threes who are at a different stage of learning. How can we expect one person to teach a class of 23?'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute council said: 'The staffing allocation for Salen primary school is firmly based on the nationally agreed class ratios between teachers and pupils, and the agreed staffing formula for schools. The staffing exercise has identified surplus staffing in both the mainstream and Gaelic classes and, consequently, the council has implemented its

transfer policy and guidance for teachers in respect of members of staff affected. There are no redundancies of teaching staff in Salen primary.'

'A significant number of our head teachers have a combined teaching and management or leadership role within our schools and, consequently, are very skilled and experienced in ensuring best use is made of their allocated time.'

Mary-Jean Devon, councillor for Oban South and the Isles, said: 'It is not a budget cut. This is from the school census, which happens every year and any adjustments are made for the restart in August. There are no teachers being made redundant.'

However, Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, said: 'I am very concerned. The cuts agreed by the full council in February were bad enough but they are being added to by stealth and without any democratic oversight as councillors are told when they inquire that these are "operational matters".'

Have your say on play amenities

RESIDENTS in Upper Achintore are being asked their views on outdoor amenities in the area following the closure of a much-used pitch.

The Lochaber Community Planning Partnership, assisted by Voluntary Action Lochaber, is carrying out the consultation.

An online petition had been created following the abrupt closure of the astro-pitch as reported by *The Oban Times* last month. It has received

more than 550 signatures so far. Concerned residents are now being asked to submit their opinions in writing.

To access a form, visit valochaber.org/upperachintoreplayareas/ or pick a copy up from Lundavra Primary School, Grange Stores (Spar), Fort William Service Point and Voluntary Action Lochaber (An Drochaid).

Responses must be received by Friday June 24, 2016, to ensure they are considered.

Royal honour for stalwart David



One of the highlights of Oban Charities Day at the weekend was an awards ceremony that saw *The Oban Times'* David Buchanan receiving the British Empire Medal for his voluntary service to football from Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, Patrick Stewart. Street party organiser Graham MacQueen paid tribute to David as 'a role model of stewardship' who had been 'the heart of Oban Saints Football Club since its inception in 1960'. Charities day and street party picture special – pages 12 and 13.

Oban Times' digital upgrade helps you 'stay connected'

CONNECTING people with news from across Argyll and the West Highlands has just become easier thanks to significant improvements to *The Oban Times* digital edition.

Earlier this year, the digital edition was made available to read on any smartphone or tablet device, meaning readers can enjoy the paper anywhere, anytime. Now further improvements have been made to the service so people can read each article in full-screen format, as well as being able to flick through pages and pinch and zoom in on articles as before.

To let people know of the changes, *The Oban Times* has launched its new campaign, "Stay connected", which includes a stunning 30-second film of people from Argyll reading the newspaper on their device in beautiful locations, including Oban town centre, the Isle of Kerrera, and North Connel. The film is available to watch on *The Oban Times* website and on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

There is also the chance to win an iPad Mini 2 – all you have to do is sign up to a six- or 12-month digital subscription from today (Thursday June 16) until September 1, 2016. Terms and conditions apply. To enter the competition and subscribe online, from as little as 63p per issue, readers can sign up by visiting an exclusive offer webpage www.obantimes.co.uk/sc3.

Susan Windram, Editor for *The Oban Times*, said: 'We are thrilled to launch our Stay Connected campaign today and to share our new and improved edition with our readers.'

'Whether it's from Calgary Bay on the Isle of Mull or Calgary Canada, *The Oban Times* is the perfect platform to access local news and features from Argyll and the West Highlands no matter where you are in the world.'

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Skipper's death resulted from series of safety failures

AN OBAN boat skipper died in an accident caused by a series of factors, an investigation has found.

Jamie Kerr, 25, was killed last April when a crane collapsed onto him on a workboat at a fish farm on Mull.

Now a report published by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) has blamed a series of safety failings for the

death of Mr Kerr aboard the Carol Anne on Loch Spelve.

Among them, the report says, were safety issues that included no installation guidance being provided with the crane; the crane being installed with smaller and fewer tie bolts than intended by its manufacturer; the lock nuts being of a lower grade material strength than indicated by their markings; and the statutory thor-

ough examination and test of the crane following its installation not identifying the inadequacy of the mounting arrangement.

The MAIB report says: "The crane fell onto the workboat's skipper, who was declared deceased at the scene. The crane had been in operation since its installation six and half weeks earlier. It was not overloaded when it failed."

Mr Kerr, who was employed by Inverlussa Marine Services (IMS), was supervising a 20-year-old deckhand during the unloading of nets at Balure when the tragedy happened.

The report adds: "Mr Kerr ... had worked as a fisherman since leaving school and held a Royal Yachting Association Yachtmaster Offshore certificate that had been commercially endorsed. He

had also completed the mandatory basic safety training required by fishermen and had been trained and certified to operate a sea crane in April 2013."

Mr Kerr joined IMS in October 2013 and was promoted to skipper and started to work on board Carol Anne in January 2015.

The MAIB report makes a number of recommendations, including that the crane's Ger-

many-based manufacturer, Atlas Maschinen GmbH, ensures 'that installation information is provided with all Atlas cranes fitted in the UK' and that IMS and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency 'improve adherence to, and the effectiveness of, established codes of practice with regard to the installation or replacement of shipborne cranes on workboats'.

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant John Stobo

Baggage stolen

POLICE in Oban are studying CCTV footage to try to trace the thief who stole a red rucksack and a green holdall from outside the CalMac offices in the town. The thefts happened on Thursday June 9 at around 5am.

Car targeted

DOOR-TO-DOOR inquiries are continuing in Dalmally after someone smashed the rear window of a car in Scott Terrace between 1pm and 9pm on Wednesday June 8.

The black Vauxhall Corsa contained a set of golf clubs which were left in the vehicle, leading police believe the suspect may have been disturbed.

Bogus callers alert

OFFICERS are warning residents of Dunbeg to be on the alert for possible bogus callers.

A number of villagers reported seeing a blue panel van with around five people in it in the area and several locals reported being visited by strangers purporting to sell items such as plants.

Vandals strike

TWO cars in Tobermory have been damaged by vandals.

In one incident, a blue Audi A3 parked in Ledaig car park was found with three-foot-long scratch. It is thought to have been damaged between 6pm on June 7 and 1pm on June 9.

In the other incident, a silver Saab was vandalised while in Main Street between 7pm on June 8 and 11am on June 9.

Anyone with any information about any of these incidents is asked to call police on 101.

Journey to trace ancestors was 'like going home'

AN AMERICAN descendant of Lismore's last weaver, John MacDougall, returned to her ancestral homeland this month to thank Lismore Historical Society for helping her compile a book of letters between John and his son, who emigrated to Minnesota.

Margaret Miller, John MacDougall's great-great-granddaughter, published her book last year, entitled: 'My Dear Son: Letters from John MacDougall (weaver), Isle of Lismore, Scotland, to his son, John, in America'.

The 37 letters, handwritten between 1870 and 1888, give an insight into the life and thoughts of a landless cottar whose children had either died or left Lismore to begin new, more prosperous, lives in faraway lands. They include news about people and events on the island, in Port Appin, Oban and neighbouring communities.

Weaver John was born on Lismore in 1803 at Ballinmackillichan, and married fellow islander Catherine McCallum of Balure. The couple raised their eight children at Ballinmackillichan, and lived there until Catherine's death in 1886.

'The clearances affected Lismore,' Margaret said. 'Families were being moved off the land, because leases were not being renewed by the landowner.'

'John MacDougall, a weaver, was fortunate to stay, but all his children left Lismore. I don't know how they did it. They didn't have much money. It called on their strength.'

One son born in 1837, also called John, settled in Redwood County, Minnesota, but his father's



Margaret Miller, Lee Ann Stearns, Donna Potter and Bob Wilcox at Lismore Parish Church, and, inset left, emigrants John MacDougall and his wife Isabel McCallum and John in Highland rig before he left for Minnesota.

letters also sent news to other Lismore emigrants in the area, such as Catherine McCallum's sister-in-law Ann McCallum, and Ann's children.

The children and grandchildren of the younger John MacDougall and his wife Isabel McCallum, who were born in the United States, saved the letters and gave them to the Lismore Historical Society in 2011.

Margaret, who took four years to compile the book, told us: 'I came back to Lismore to understand what the letters were saying: a lot of expressions didn't mean anything to me. There was a heavy re-use of names; there were four

John McCallums in the letters. I was pulling my hair out figuring out who all these people were. The people of Lismore have been great - they opened up a lot of the characters.'

One relative brought to life was the younger John MacDougall's sister, who also emigrated to Minnesota in 1877 but who died suddenly a year later.

Her husband took their three oldest boys, aged 10, 11 and 12, to work down the state's copper mines, and put their three youngest boys up for adoption - one of whom was Margaret's grandfather. Margaret is named after her tragic

great-grandmother, who, she says, missed Lismore terribly.

Margaret Miller, who lives in Arlington, Virginia, visited from Sunday May 29 to Wednesday June 1 with her brother Bob Wilcox, who lives in Munich, and their cousins Donna Potter and Lee Ann Stearns from North and South Dakota respectively. They paid respects to the siblings who died or departed at a grave marker, which lists their names, in Lismore Parish Church yard.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'When I came to Lismore, I felt like I was coming home.'

Battles won in war on drugs

Police disrupt dealers' activities

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DRUG dealers in the Oban area are having their operations severely disrupted thanks to a number of initiatives.

Police in the town have been aggressively targeting the drugs peddlers and have made serious inroads into their criminal activity.

Oban-based Inspector Mark Stephen told *The Oban Times*: 'We have had a very positive year and very positive results in targeting serious and organised crimes and the supplies of all kinds of drugs in the Oban area.'

'Our efforts have been led by the community investigations unit, which has made serious inroads in targeting these groups and individuals. We have now got several cases in the criminal justice system waiting to appear in court which could be subject to custodial sentences.'

One of the major initiatives to have paid dividends has been the Shop a Dealer campaign, which saw gratifying involvement from and engagement with local communities.

Inspector Stephen explained: 'We launched Shop a Dealer in December 2014 and it is, in fact, still running.'

'What that campaign really did was to allow us to move forward and have a really successful year. It gave the public an opportunity to get in touch with us to high-

light issues and their information has been vital.

'People can see what is happening in their communities and, from that, different members of the public were giving us snippets of information. It's a bit like a jigsaw - all these pieces of information can be put together to let us see a bigger picture.'

'It empowered the community to be involved and, when the public saw the police taking positive action, it reinforced the relationship between us. And from that we started building even better relationships.'

'People were stopping officers in the street and were happy to provide information because people don't want drug dealers in their communities.'

Inspector Stephen was also quick to praise other agencies that have helped to degrade the drugs trade. 'We have meetings with our partners in education, health and the third sector teams that provide counselling and addiction services.'

'Police Scotland on its own won't solve the scourge of drugs. But when all the partners get together, we are much greater than the sum of our parts. And the community is very much part of that. When we get everyone pulling in the same direction, we can make a difference.'

'In the past year we have had substantial results in terms of tackling local drugs dealers.'

Once you get them rocking back on their heels, we can make inroads into their organisations.

'And when you start to disrupt them, their operations begin to fragment and that means more opportunities for us to add to that.'

Inspector Stephen also added his voice to those that have welcomed the recent banning of so-called legal highs. 'The ban is significant because of the profile of the people who were taking them. They were children and teenagers exposing themselves to all sorts of harm.'

'We've had a number of incidents that required medical treatment. It was very important to get them banned because they posed a real danger as young people thought the word legal made them safe.'

Inspector Stephen also stressed that the drugs situation in Oban and the Argyll area was not as serious as in the inner cities but added that there was no room for complacency. He said: 'The drugs problem is nothing like as prevalent or serious here as in Glasgow and the city centres but it does radiate out.'

'After all, we are only two hours away by car from the urban areas and the people who control these drugs are part of serious and organised crime. And they are always looking to increase their market and they're always looking to extend their criminality.'

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

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

The Barcaldine based company is perhaps better known as a leading manufacturer of polyethylene equipment for the aquaculture industry, but in recent years it has expanded this plastics' expertise to cover a range of outdoor leisure products that is supplied by its subsidiary, Fusion Recycled Plastic Products.

This includes picnic tables and benches, as well as walkways, fences, bridges, way-marking posts and other related products. All these items are ideal for caravan and holiday parks, nature reserves, town centres, urban areas, visitor centres and many other recreational uses. Memorial benches are also supplied - and the company even supplies decking made from recycled plastic!

The tables and benches, and other products are much tougher than wood and are available in colours that blend in naturally with the environment.

Recent customers included the Kilbowie Residential Outdoor Centre near Oban where Fusion Marine



supplied eight picnic tables. These picnic tables were the 'Ganavan' model and are coloured dark brown, providing a subtle and natural appearance. Fusion Recycled Plastic Products also supplied The Rockfield Centre in Oban with benches and picnic tables forming a great sitting out area. The advantages of recycled plastic for such outdoor products include:

- Tough and durable
- Decay resistant
- Low maintenance
- Environmentally friendly
- Slip-resistant surfaces

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

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

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

A number of communities around Argyll have already installed these pontoons and are reaping the benefits. These include the Strachur Bay Mooring Association, Lochgoil Watersports Club, Craignish Boat Club and several others.

Touring exhibition comes to St Conan's

A TOURING exhibition entitled *Scotstyle*, celebrating Scotland's 100 best buildings, will be on view in St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe, from Saturday (June 18) until July 3. St Conan's is the only venue in Argyll and Bute.

During the two weeks, visitors can enjoy a number of special events.

On June 22, children from Taynuilt Primary will be in the kirk making a large textile

collage for this year's St Conan's Cup for Art. The entries for the cup will be on display. Local art groups for adults and individuals will also be at work drawing and painting.

Those wishing to learn more about the history and architecture of St Conan's Kirk can join guide-led tours which take place at 2.30pm each day. And a new information area is being set up in the kirk telling the story of how

St Conan's came to be built and featuring many photographs.

On Saturday June 25 at 7.30pm, Ian Bradley will talk about 'St Conan's and Argyll's mystical landscape', while on Monday June 27 at 11.30am, there will be a 'medical plants walk' with Anna Hill.

The public can vote on the Festival of Architecture at www.foa.com/scotstyle or in person at St Conan's Kirk this month.



Roads are a hole lot of trouble

Condition of surface is slammed after driver is denied compensation

SANDY NEIL
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ARGYLL and Bute has 'the worst roads in Scotland' due to potholes, a meeting of Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council heard last month.

The meeting in Dalmally Church Hall discussed 'on-going efforts to claim compensation for vehicle damage caused by third world roads'.

One local motorist reported she and others had damaged their cars on a pothole on the A819, six miles from Inveraray.

Community council secretary John Kerr said: 'If tourists find

it, they won't come back again.'

The driver, who lives near Dalmally, told *The Oban Times*: 'I was just potting along, when "bang"! I passed people in the lay-by who also had a puncture.'

The repair bill to her tyres and alloys, including labour and VAT, was £1,000. She said mechanics at the garage told her about 15 other vehicles had been damaged by that pothole. Most were hire cars.

In the week after the incident on Monday April 4, she noticed the pothole had been filled in.

She then put in a claim for compensation to Argyll and Bute Council. Its insurance official replied last month:

'There is no automatic right to compensation under Scots law.'

'The courts have confirmed that road authorities are not expected to maintain their roads in a perfect condition at all times and road users should not expect roads to be perfect.'

'The council will have a defence to a claim of this nature, if it can be shown that a reasonable system of inspection and maintenance was in place at the time of the incident and that this system was adhered to.'

'The road is inspected on a bi-monthly basis as per the council's Asset Management Plan. The last inspection carried out prior to your incident

occurred on March 1 2016 when no defects were identified.'

'If a defect develops between inspection periods, they are outwith the reasonable control of the council unless they have been reported. There are no records of this defect being reported from the last scheduled inspection to the date of your incident.'

Therefore, because this 'defect was unknown to the council, and it had 'a reasonable system of inspection and repair', the council denied liability and repudiated the claim.'

The driver, who wished to remain anonymous, said: 'If you go into a pothole, you can't get

compensation unless you can prove someone has reported it. It's difficult to prove if someone has reported it or not - you just have to take the council's word.'

The Oban Times contacted Argyll and Bute Council to ask when, and how many times, the pothole had been reported and when it was filled in.

A spokesperson responded: 'This issue developed very quickly one afternoon. Once we became aware of it, we effected a temporary repair. We continue to carry out reactive repairs as and when required. We have scheduled a permanent repair as part of this year's capital programme.'

The motorist suggested starting an online 'pothole club' for drivers to post photos of the potholes they have reported.

'It's in our interest to inform the council,' she added. 'The onus is on the general public: the council can't be everywhere. It was a big hole, and a lot of cars went into it. Maybe their inspection of the main roads should be more than every two months. We're expected to keep our cars MOT'd, taxed and in good condition. Motorists are keeping their side of the bargain so why isn't the council?'

Potholes can be reported by calling 01546 605514 or through a form on the council website.

TIMESLINE



Craig Biddick.

Head teacher to leave Tobermory

TOBERMORY High School head teacher Craig Biddick will be leaving the school in the near future to take up a position with Midlothian Council. At an Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee meeting last Wednesday (June 8), Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon thanked him for his hard work and many contributions.

Oban beer is to feature in festival

KILTIFTER IPA from Oban Bay Brewery will feature in Aldi's ninth in-store beer festival as part of the retailer's celebration of the best up and coming beers from Scotland.



Six staff complete care qualification

TAGSA Uibhist, in partnership with Cothrom Ltd, has supported six staff to complete an SVQ in social services and healthcare. Pictured are Taggs care manager Kathryn Martin, Melanie Wightman, Mary MacPhee, Tracey Walker, Jeanne Wightman (Cothrom tutor) and Gail Malcolm. Missing are Geraldine and Grace MacKinnon.

Inner Wheel rolls up with £200 cheque

NORTH Argyll Young Carers Service, which supports carers aged eight to 18 who look after those suffering physical or mental illness, were given a £200 cheque by the Inner Wheel Club of Oban last Thursday, during Carers Week.

The sum was raised at last September's Oban Sportive bicycle ride, where the ladies handed out high energy bars at watering and feeding stations along the 50- to 80-mile routes in Kilchrean and Kilmartin.

Morag MacLean, manager of North Argyll Carers Centre, thanked the club for their 'fantastic ongoing support' which 'makes a huge difference', particularly in funding residential and day trips giving young carers a break.

Pictured at the presentation at Albany Street's North Argyll Carers Centre, from left to right: Inner Wheel members Liz Mudie and Morann Donald, branch president Ursula Parry, Morag MacLean, and club members Grace Petrie and Betty Moncrieff.



Iconic Oban church ready to go on market

AN ICONIC church building in Oban that has lain vacant for almost five years will soon be put up for sale.

The former tourist information centre in Argyll Square closed in 2011 after plaster fell from the ceiling. Visit Scotland then moved staff to a new, smaller, establishment situated on the North Pier.

A spokesperson for Visit Scotland said: 'The property was not marketed for sale at the point we vacated for a number of reasons. In the first instance, we were keen to ensure the new location of the information centre would work out in practice.'

'We were also keen to see if there were

any opportunities for greater community involvement in the use of the church.'

'A number of approaches were made in the years following our exit from the property and we had hoped some of these parties might have access to grant funding not open to Visit Scotland, which would allow for a more extensive refurbishment of the church.'

'Unfortunately, none of these approaches came to fruition.'

'The property was also placed on the Scottish Government's site, e-PIMS, so that other public bodies were made aware it was available for sale.'

'Unfortunately, no interest was generated through this route.'

'During this time repairs were carried out to minimise further damage.'

Roddy McCuish, councillor for Oban South and the Isles, said: 'I am delighted with the news that Visit Scotland has decided to put this iconic building up for sale.'

'It has lain empty for far too long in the centre of Oban and it's a wonderful opportunity for someone to buy this building and return it to its former glory.'

The price is yet to be decided but it's hoped it will be on the market within weeks.

Hunt on to trace mystery woman in gold locket

THE great-nephew of a Canadian First World War soldier is appealing for information to help identify a mystery woman who may be from Oban.

Ralph Reid is looking to find the identity of a woman photographed in a locket belonging to his great-uncle, Royal Newfoundland Regiment Sergeant Charles Reid, who was lost in the Battle of the Somme at Beaumont Hamel on July 1, 1916.

He hopes to find out who she was before the centenary of his great-uncle's death.

The locket, made of rose gold, is believed to have been bought from J M McGilvray and Son Jewellers in Oban and features

a photo of Sergeant Reid as well as the one of the mystery woman.

The woman is presumed to have been Sergeant Reid's sweetheart, and may well have been from Oban, where he could have met her

during training in Scotland. But there are no sales records available as far back as 1916.

Mr Reid took the locket to Pat Thompson, owner of Diamond Designs, a jeweller in St John's, Newfoundland, and Labrador to find out more information about it.

Mr Thompson said: 'We do an awful lot of appraisals and, of course, it immediately struck me, being a big fan of history. I immediately began to quiz Ralph about the locket.'

Mr Reid said: 'A woman came from Scotland to visit my grandparents and great-grandparents.'

'We don't know if it is the woman or who she may be.'

Speaking of the mystery woman, Mr Thompson added: 'She would never have known what happened to him as the family had no relationship with this lady.'



The mystery woman.

ALIENERGY BCA insulation
Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland: Area Based Scheme (HEEPS:ABS)

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

**Private homeowner or tenant?
Council Tax Band A-D*?**

Live in Mull, Iona, Islay, Jura, Coll or Tiree (some parts of Oban and Lomond included)?

If yes to the above you could be eligible for funded insulation measures including loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, internal and external wall insulation and underfloor insulation.

*Band D must also have a household income below £20,000 and a poor energy efficiency rating

ALIenergy, based in Oban, are delivering the HEEPSABS programme in your area on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council. Scottish Government funding has been awarded to improve the energy efficiency of properties that are deemed to be in fuel poverty. Please check the ALIenergy website for a full list of eligible postcodes or call us to find out more. Funding is limited and we advise that you register for the scheme as soon as possible.

To register call ALIenergy: 01631 565 183

Or contact Home Energy Scotland: 0808 808 2282

Email: heepsabs@alienenergy.org.uk

Website: www.alienergy.org.uk

Scottish Field JULY ISSUE OUT NOW

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Heartbreak as late goal kills off Lochaber's cup dream



Lochaber's Lachlan Campbell goes in for a tackle with Newtonmore's Norman Campbell.
Photo: Neil Paterson



Lochaber goalkeeper Calum Macdonald was voted man of the match for his outstanding display in the RBS MacTavish Cup final against Newtonmore. He is seen being presented with the Tom MacKenzie Memorial Medal by Tom's daughter Catriona Geegan.
Match report and more photos on pages 30 and 31. Photo: Kim Ferguson

Results from Fort William Golf Club

Golf
MEN: On Sunday June 5 the senior June medal was played with the following result: 1 Henry MacDonald net 66 (79 - 13); 2 Stewart Duncan net 67 (82 - 15); 3 Willie McCann net 68 (81 - 13).

The first and second rounds of the club championship were played over the weekend of June 11 and 12. The leading scores after the two rounds are - Lorne Ross 147 (73 + 74); Steven Jamieson 153 (78 + 75); David Matheson 155 (73 + 82); Eric Wallace 156 (81 + 75); David MacPherson 156 (81 + 75).

The final two rounds takes place over the weekend June 18 and 19.

Ladies: On Tuesday June 7 a medal and eclectic competition was played with the following result: 1 Ann Lovatt net 70 (96 - 26); 2 Kathleen Leitch net 71 (87 - 16); 3 Helen Brian net 73 (93 - 20).

On Sunday June 12 the SLGA Brooch competition was played with the following result: 1 Kay Jerram net 68 (92 - 24); 2 Ann Lovatt net 69 (95 - 26); 3 Iona Cameron net 73 (92 - 19).

The Fort William Open sponsored by Bowman's Skip Hire takes place on Sunday June 26 Tee times available from 8am to 3pm. Contact the clubhouse on 01397 704464 to book a tee-off time.

Plockton season gets under way

Sailing
THE Plockton small boat sailing season began on Saturday June 4 with the first race for the Moore Bowl (local boats) and the first race for the Dubhard Trophy (centreboards).

Only two local boats were ready and the race result was - 1 Graham Sharp, Rona; 2 Douglas Hamilton, Ajax.

Five boats sailed in the centre-board race with the following result - 1 Tristan Southall, Laser 2000; 2 Lauren Glasgow, Fantax; 3 Ian Bullivant, Laser. Commodore this year is Neil MacRae who is second officer on CalMac's boat Finlaggan, which sails from Kennacraig to Islay.

The sailing club were delighted recently when one of their members, Calum Reid, who has been sailing at Plockton for three years, was picked to sail for Scotland at the Eric Twine Championships at Rutland Sailing Club. He raced four times and his best result was 12th and he finished 47th out of 90 toppers.

Tight at the top in Welfare league

Welfare league

Mallaig 6-1 Nevis Range		
Caol Utd 0-7 Mallaig		
Ballachulish 3-2 Nevis Range		
Table	P	Pts
Mallaig	5	12
Tekkerslovakia	5	12
Caol Utd	4	9
Ballachulish	6	6
Nevis Range	6	0

Fixtures: June 20 Caol v Ballachulish at Lochaber High School; June 22 Tekkerslovakia v. Nevis Range at Canal Park.



The team from Ardnamurchan Primary who represented Lochaber in the tournament. Picture: Alba Photos

Gaelic football tournament held in Lochaber

THE Cuach na Cloinne will stay in Lewis for another year following Shawbost Primary School's success in winning this year's competition, beating Daliburgh, Portree, Inverness, Acharacle and Mount Cameron primary schools in the national finals which were held at Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abair. These six schools had qualified for the finals, winning regional competitions which had been held in Lewis, Uist, Skye, Inverness, Ard nam Murchan and Glasgow. A total of 50 teams from 28 schools took part in this year's competition. Laxdale Primary School won the competition in 2015.

Cuach na Cloinne is a national football competition, which creates an opportunity for young people from primary schools across Scotland who attend Gaelic Medium Education to meet and compete against each other and combines their Gaelic linguistic and footballing skills in an inclusive and entertaining manner. The competition is held entirely in Gaelic. The 2016 competition was funded by The

Highland Council, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

The Cuach na Cloinne trophy was presented to the winners by Councillor Hamish Fraser, chair of The Highland Council Gaelic Plan Implementation Committee, who said: 'I would like to congratulate Shawbost on winning this year's Cuach na Cloinne competition. I would also like to congratulate Portree Primary School and BSGI who were second and third and all the other teams for making it to the finals.'

Second

'It is also very fitting that the finals took place at Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abair, which was officially opened in the spring and is the second stand-alone Gaelic primary school in the Highland area, it is also an excellent community facility that can host national sporting events like Cuach na Cloinne.'

Donald MacNeill, ceannard of Comunn na Gàidhlig, who organise the competition, said: 'We were delighted with the

numbers participating in this year's competition. With 50 teams from 28 schools, that is almost 350 youngsters, the highest number ever taking part in the competition. It is highly beneficial and important that such opportunities are created to enable Gaelic-speaking

Primary football

youngsters from across Scotland to play with their peers, to gain an understanding that Gaelic is spoken across Scotland and also to make new friends from other schools.'



Shadowfax, centre, was overall winner at Glencoe Regatta held at the weekend.

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WEATHER

Thursday Sunny intervals
Winds moderate north north easterly
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Friday Sunny
Winds light northerly
Temperatures 8°C to 15°C.

Weekend Sunny on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Winds light north north westerly
Temperatures 10°C to 15°C.

FRIDAY

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 16, 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	02.43 3.1 09.36 1.6 15.22 3.2 21.11 1.5		Ardrishaig -5.35 Mallaig +0.25
Fri	03.30 3.3 10.14 1.4 16.02 3.4 22.00 1.4		Campbeltown -5.30 Portree +0.55
Sat	04.13 3.4 10.48 1.3 16.41 3.5 22.43 1.3		Crinan -0.47 Tobermory +0.16
Sun	04.54 3.6 11.21 1.2 17.19 3.7 23.25 1.2		Islay Port Ellen 2.00 Dover +5.30
Mon	05.33 3.7 11.54 1.1 17.56 3.8 *** **		
Tues	00.05 1.1 06.09 3.7 12.29 1.0 18.30 3.8		
Wed	00.45 1.0 06.43 3.7 13.03 1.0 19.05 3.8		

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate