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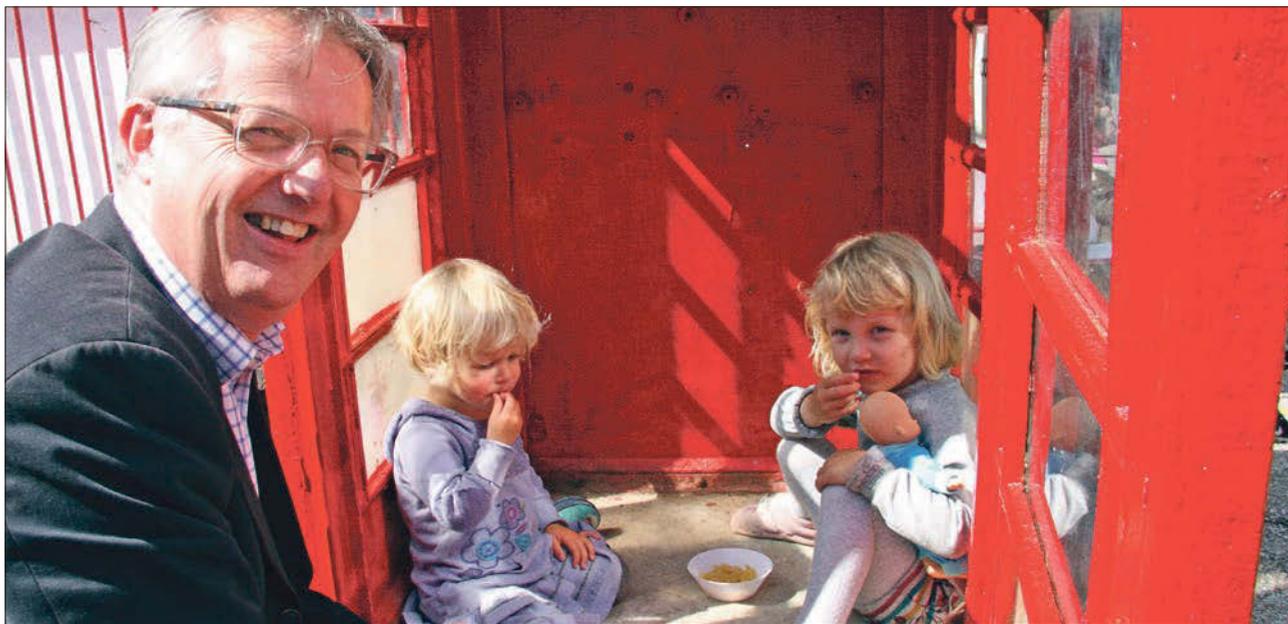
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MP in town for Rockfield community shares launch

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara was in Oban on Saturday to help Oban Communities Trust launch its community shares project at The Rockfield Centre. The day was a great success, with £25,000 shares bought on the first day. For full report, turn to page five.



Man's remarks make for 'very expensive night out'

A Crianlarich man has been fined £700 for making threatening and racial remarks to staff in an Oban pub.

Alexander Hobson, 24, of Strathview, Crianlarich, admitted behaving in a threatening or abusive manner and causing fear and alarm in the bar on November 5, 2017.

Oban Sheriff Court heard on Tuesday that Hobson had been refused alcohol by bar staff, whom he then told: 'If you do not serve me, I will come back and serve myself.'

When he was prevented from doing so, Hobson shouted at one staff member: 'You are South African. You are not even from Oban. This is my town. You are a foreigner from another country. You should not be serving me drinks.'

Defence agent Laura McManus said her client 'had drunk far, far too much ... He has no recollection of these comments,' Ms McManus said. 'He respects those who come to this country to live and work.'

Sheriff John Herald told Hobson it was 'a very expensive night out' and imposed a £700 fine.

Travelodge's Oban bid

by David McPhee
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



Travelodge is looking to build a £5 million hotel in Oban, creating 15 new jobs.

The hotel chain has written to Argyll and Bute Council proposing the two go into partnership.

Travelodge has identified

Oban as an 'up and coming tourism destination' and wants to build its first hotel in Oban to help with 'particular gaps that have been highlighted in the area'.

The company, which recently opened its 44th hotel in Scotland, is looking to expand its Scottish network by opening a further 20 hotels across

the country. Any agreement between Travelodge and the council would see the hotel being built on council-owned land, says Travelodge.

Brian Wallace, Travelodge chairman, said: 'Many local authorities are in possession of large amounts of property and assets that are not being used.

'Investing in a low-cost hotel like Travelodge is an increasingly attractive choice, as it draws visitors, creates jobs and helps boost the local economy.'

In February this year, The Oban Times reported that Argyll and Bute Council was looking to team up with a business partner to redevelop

one or more of its current car parks to 'maximise economic return' on the land.

The three identified locations were: the car park on Oban Esplanade, adjacent to the Corran House and Westbay Apartments; the car park adjacent to Albany Street; and the car park in Tweedale Street.

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OT

Cal comes to Oban on epic sea challenge

A woman paddleboarder is expected in the Oban area this weekend while attempting an epic challenge.

Cal Major, a veterinary surgeon from Devon, is attempting to be the first person to stand-up paddleboard (SUP) from Land's End to John O'Groats.

The journey will take in more than 1,000 miles of paddling and is estimated to take four months.

A surfer and ocean-lover, Cal wanted to do something about the problem of plastic pollution and the harm it causes the wildlife and the natural world.

In 2016, she paddleboarded 300 miles around the Cornish coast, encouraging people to ditch plastic water bottles in favour of a refillable alternative.

In 2017, she became the first woman to SUP around the Isle of Skye highlighting that even remote and wild places are no less vulnerable to the issue of plastics pollution in the marine environment.



Tobermory RNLI volunteer completes Three Peaks Challenge by kayak.

Lifeboat volunteer kayaks 500 miles

A Tobermory lifeboat volunteer has completed the Three Peaks Challenge – with a twist.

Nick Ray, who is also Mull's deputy launching authority, kayaked more than 500 miles between the peaks.

The experienced sea kayaker set off from Loch Eil, near Fort William, on May 15 and paddled 518 miles in between climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon. He finished his challenge less than a month later, on June 10, where he presented the Aberdovey RNLI lifeboat station with a Tobermory RNLI bear.

Nick also walked or cycled a further 80 miles during his challenge in places where he was unable to kayak. His longest day consisted of 15 hours' paddling, travelling 53 miles.

Nick is no stranger to adventure. In 2015, he kayaked around the Scottish coastline

visiting all 47 lifeboat stations, a journey of more than 2,000 miles, raising more than £4,000 for the charity.

Lifeboat operations manager Sam Jones said: 'This is a truly epic achievement by Nick and everyone on the crew has been following his progress.'

'We are also grateful to Nick for the assistance he gives in training by helping the crew to familiarise themselves with kayak scenarios.'

Tobermory RNLI shop seeks new volunteers

Tobermory RNLI's successful lifeboat shop is looking for new volunteers to join its team.

The shop, which is located at the lifeboat station, helps to raise vital funds to help the RNLI to continue to save lives at sea.

There is a small and enthusiastic team of volunteers who have increased sales in the shop by 11 per cent last year, as well as providing information to visitors. The shop is now ranked 81st out of 167 shops in the RNLI, a tribute to their hard work given that many lifeboat shops are on the busy south coast of England.

The team is looking for volunteers to join them who can either commit to a regular shift or can give up just a few hours a month.

Tobermory RNLI's lifeboat operations manager Sam Jones said: 'Our shop volunteers are an integral part of the station.'

'While the team has been very successful in the past few years with us seeing increased

sales and footfall both in the shop and the visitor centre, we know that with more volunteers we can do so much more, especially as the number of visitors to the island is on the increase.'

'Even if you can just commit to an hour or two a month, that could make a real difference and help us to continue to save lives at sea.'

If you are interested in volunteering, contact volunteer shop manager Alan Robson on 07760 426351.



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Graveyards space running out on Mull

by David McPhee
dmcphoe@obantimes.co.uk



People on Mull are unable to prepare for the end of their lives because graveyards on the island are running out of space.

Tobermory, a town with a population of close to 1,000, has only nine spaces left in its cemetery.

And plots cannot be bought until someone has died, meaning islanders cannot prepare in advance.

Billy McClymont, chairman of Mull Community Council and owner of Mull Funeral Services, said: 'This is nothing new to the council. Tobermory is down to nine graves.'

Mr McClymont explained that there are lairs available in other parts of Mull, but 'it's like saying to someone in Oban that Pennyfuir

is full, but there's space in Lochgilphead'.

He continued: 'People want to be buried where they are from, not 30 miles away, especially if you could not be buried on the island. It's not getting to that stage yet, but if you are in Tobermory, it's a concern.'

'There is a moratorium on buying graves because there aren't any. I am concerned that there are other places in the same situation who are unaware of it.'

Councillor for Oban South and the Isles Mary-Jean-Devon raised the issue at the latest Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee meeting: saying: 'A lot of people are wanting to buy their plots and prepare for the end of their life. This really concerns me. What has the council done about expanding graveyards?'

Policy lead for roads and amenity services Councillor Roddy McCuish added: 'I will chase this up as a matter of priority.'

'I am aware that some are full, and some are almost full. We need to do this with the utmost respect.'

'I believe some already have permission to expand. I will chase that up. I can only apologise that no one has got back to you.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'A feasibility study is currently under way to establish how an expansion of the cemetery at Beadoun near Tobermory could be carried out. The process is in the early stages and any expansion would depend on capital funds being available.'

The council is responsible for 13 cemeteries on the island.

Nursing 'crisis' strikes care home and hospital

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



Argyll is in the grip of a nursing 'crisis', causing Oban to lose 'the only nursing home' in the area, and requiring the town's hospital to fill gaps with agency staff, a meeting of health officials was told.

The privately-run Lynn of Lorne Care Home in Benderloch, which looks after 62 residents, is withdrawing nursing care due to a shortage of staff. McKenzie Care gave 13 weeks' notice on April 30 to end its contract with Argyll and Bute's Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).

A meeting with relatives last month, led by McKenzie Care's director of care Jackie Weston and the Argyll and Bute HSCP local area manager Shaun Davidson, heard up to 25 residents currently need nursing care. All residents' needs are being reassessed but there is



Lynn of Lorne Care Home at Benderloch.

a risk some may have to move out of the Oban area to ensure their needs are met – to care homes as far as Ballachulish or Helensburgh, or even further because these homes may not have the rooms or carers required.

One concerned relative contacted The Oban Times. He said: 'How are they going to cope with the move?', adding that Oban was not building the

infrastructure for its growing population of elderly people.

'We are just passing our problems onto another area,' he said. 'People are living longer. They are going to need beds. We should be opening up a ward or two for people who need 24-hour care.'

'If there is space in Oban hospital, get it open and use it. Or they must build premises. It is time for a purpose-built facility.'

The minutes of the meeting, seen by The Oban Times, set out the difficulty the Lynn of Lorne had recruiting nurses in a rural area, despite offering incentives such as a starting bonus, and paying 13 per cent over the COSLA-agreed rate.

It is a national crisis facing local hospitals too, Ms Weston said.

Mr Davidson said that Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital 'is using agency at the moment due to the shortage of nurses'.

Currently, the Lynn of Lorne is run using 50 per cent agency staff, with no night-shift nurses, one permanent nurse and two bank nursing staff.

The Lynn of Lorne made a 'business decision' that it could no longer provide 24-hour nursing care and would, instead, become an enhanced residential care service.

Ms Weston explained the Lynn of Lorne could not attract nurses, and could not run the

home using agency staff long-term: 'Nurse agencies charge two and a half times per hour what we pay our nurses. We also have to pay travel costs to nurse agencies.'

The Lynn of Lorne had hoped to be part of a pilot project to run the home with 'upskilled' senior staff without a nurse, which would be temporary while it tried to recruit nurses, but its grades failed to meet the Care Inspectorate's criteria.

Ms Weston explained: 'Lynn of Lorne did not achieve grades of four, required in all four assessment areas, to be considered for the pilot scheme.'

'The Care Inspectorate recognises we have made improvements and will reassess grades at future inspection.'

One relative said 'care now is the best it has been' at Lynn of Lorne, and that it was 'devastating' there would now be no nursing home in the local area.

Admonished after sexual assault

An ex-Oban High School teacher has been admonished after a sexual assault against a former pupil.

Boyd Sigerson, 42, of Ceum Dhun Righ, Benderloch, admitted touching the 18-year-old woman on her bottom on March 4, 2017, in an Oban shop. Sentencing was deferred for a year to demonstrate good behaviour.

Sheriff John Herald said: 'You have complied with the conditions of the court.'

School is set for Summer Sensations

Oban High School's inaugural Summer Sensations concert is set to be held next Wednesday (June 27).

The concert will feature the school's wind band, string group and soloists. Tickets are £3 for adults, £1.50 for concessions and £5 for families.

Teacher Derek McLeish said: 'As well as great music, this will be a perfect opportunity for ex-pupils to see inside the new school.'



An event took place on Saturday to show young drivers the consequences of dangerous driving.

Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service teamed up to create the New Driver Early Intervention Scheme.

This included a hard-hitting video, where family members who have lost someone in a car accident told their side of the story and how it impacted them.

PC Alan Moore said: 'If we can change the way one person thinks, then it was worthwhile.'

Following this, an outdoor demonstration took place in which the fire service showcased what it does when a serious accident occurs.

More events will be happening in the future. To find out more, contact Oban Police Station on the telephone number 101.

Oban's pontoons bring 2,000 people a week

Oban's new pontoons are bringing almost 2,000 people to the town each week.

Speaking at the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee, Fergus Murray, Argyll and Bute Council's head of economic development and strategic transport,

revealed the figures. He said: 'It's attracting on average 200 extra people per week day and 400 people at the weekend.'

'Fifty boats a day are using the pontoons and seven to eight small private cruise ships are based there at the moment, and we're

hoping to expand that fleet.' Once the pontoons have been active for a year, and the council knows the costs involved, it will look for a contractor to run the facility.

A meeting to discuss expanding the North Pier is also being scheduled.



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OT

Weed-infested Oban bay beach 'dreadful'

by David McPhee
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



The beach at Oban bay has been labelled a 'dreadful sight' due to the number of weeds growing there.

The issue was brought up at last week's Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee meeting, where BID4Oban's Andrew Spence said: 'We have loads of visitors and we are not making a good first impression.'

However, Argyll and Bute Council responded by saying it does not interfere with plant life as this would infringe on biodiversity protocols.

The beach is regularly cleaned by Oban charity Hope Kitchen, which carries out weekly litter picks.

The Oban Times also received a message saying: 'This is a dreadful sight - my first "view" coming off the North Pier. This is just awful and deserves highlighting.'



Weeds are proliferating on Oban bay beach.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'The beaches are cleaned regularly by council staff when resources

permit, and we are also grateful to community groups for their help.

'In some areas of the beaches,

we don't interfere with plant life as this would be contrary to biodiversity protocols and legislation.'

This wasn't the only beach to be highlighted at the area committee.

Councillor for Oban North and Lorn Julie McKenzie said: 'There are numerous issues with Ganavan at the moment.'

'For me, Ganavan should be the jewel in the crown for the area. I have had numerous reports from my constituents regarding the weeds, to loose dogs on the beach, dog fouling, the fact that parking metres were not working, and campervans are not allowed to park overnight. It's an issue we have to look at as an area committee.'

'The swings are another important issue. They have been removed. Parents are concerned about that. They would like to see more facilities out there, rather than less.'

Councillor for Oban North

and Lorn Kieron Green referenced that car parking revenue is above target in Oban, Lorn and the Isles.

This sparked a discussion, which led to the chairwoman, Councillor Elaine Robertson, asking if, as a committee, they should ask about surplus parking revenue being used for the good of the area.

Mr McCuish added: 'If we identified a project that we could spend the money on, such as Ganavan, that would be a better idea. We could maybe look at retaining funding from the car parking for a year or two to upgrade Ganavan.'

A decision about how the surplus parking revenue is spent would have to go through a full council vote.

Speaking about Ganavan, a council spokesperson said: 'We urge beach users to clean up after their dogs and to put all litter in bins or take it away with them.'

Oban lifeboat goes to aid drifting yacht

The volunteer crew of Oban lifeboat Mora Edith MacDonald were called into action by the Coastguard yesterday (Monday June 18).

At 3.02pm the lifeboat was called out following a yacht being discovered adrift in the Sound of Mull, off Craignure.

The RNLI crew left the berth with seven members aboard at 3.09pm and proceeded to Craignure, rendezvousing with the yacht, which had been taken in tow by an Ocean Youth Trust Scotland vessel Alba Explorer.

The lifeboat came alongside the yacht, transferring two crew onto the vessel and establishing an alongside tow. The yacht was checked and is believed to have broken free from a mooring in Craignure bay. The yacht was towed to Craignure, leaving her on her mooring at 4.15pm, under observation from Craignure Coastguard Rescue Team.

Oban lifeboat then left, arriving back in Oban at 4.52pm.

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Oban High Pipe Band finish second in UK

Oban High School Pipe Band took second place in the UK Pipe Band Championships at Stormont Estate, Belfast, on Saturday.

The competition featured 102 bands from around the United Kingdom, Eire, Denmark, Canada and the USA, as well as 41 drum majors, competing for the title of United Kingdom champions in their respective grades. Oban High School Pipe

Band took two second places in piping, a second in drumming and a fifth in the ensemble, putting them second overall behind Dollar Academy, in the novice A category.

The band's Nan Johnstone said: 'We were delighted by the result. This is why we have all the fundraising, to take part in these competitions.'

In grade 1, Inveraray and District took the runners-up

spot on ensemble preference from Field Marshal Montgomery. Mid Argyll Pipe Band came second in grade 4B.

This was the UK Championships' final year at Stormont but a new deal has been signed to keep the competition in Northern Ireland at Lurgan Park from 2019.

The next competition is the European Championships on June 30 at Grant Park, Forres.

POLICE FILES Sergeant Iain MacNicol

■ At around 9.50pm on Sunday June 10, at Corran Brae, Oban, a 24-year-old man allegedly behaved in an abusive manner and assaulted another man. He was subsequently arrested, charged, held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ At about 10.50am on Sunday June 10, on the A82, near Tyndrum, a motorist was stopped for allegedly exceeding the speed limit. The driver, a woman aged 42, was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ At about 3.10pm on Tuesday June 12, a property near Barcaldine

was searched by police. A 64-year-old man was allegedly found in possession of cannabis plants. The man was also charged with driving without insurance. He was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ About 10.50pm on Friday June 15, a vehicle was stopped on the A85 in Connel. The driver, a man aged 31, was found in possession of a knife and counterfeit currency. He was arrested, charged, held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ At about 12.15am on Sunday June 17, in Albany Street, Oban, a woman

aged 41 and a man aged 37 behaved in an abusive manner. The pair were arrested, charged and later issued with a recorded police warning.

■ Between 6pm on Saturday June 16 and 11am on Sunday June 17, a house in Ardconnel Road, Oban, was subjected to an attempted break-in. A door was damaged but no entry was gained and no items were stolen.

■ If anyone has information in relation to the above, or to any incident, they can contact their local police office on 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Shares project is launched

Rockfield Centre raises £25,000 from first offering of community shares

by David McPhee
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



The Rockfield Centre launched its community shares project on Saturday and it proved to be a success, with £25,000 shares being purchased.

The aim of the campaign is to raise enough funds to be able to refurbish the former primary school building.

Since taking ownership of the school in 2015, Oban Communities Trust has raised nearly £2 million.

And it is hoped that by allowing the community to invest in the centre, the trust will raise the remaining funds needed to carry out the refurbishment.

Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance (OLTA) was the first to purchase a share in Rockfield.

Linda Battison of OLTA was there at 10am on Saturday to hand over the cheque.

Linda said: 'We are honoured to be the first to buy shares.'

We weren't even asked - I volunteered it. I thought it was a sensible



The Rockfield Centre celebrates the first share being purchased. 16_T25_Rockfieldcentre01

thing to do and thought it might help to see the local tourism association was 100 per cent behind them.

'I hope it encourages other organisations, businesses and individuals.'

Also showing their support on

the day were Brendan O'Hara MP for Argyll and Bute and Parsley the cat.

Speaking at the event, Mr O'Hara

said: 'What comes over loud and clear is the potential that [the building] has. The potential to be something really special in this community.'

'What I am also struck by is the enthusiasm of the committee and the volunteers. And by the scale and scope of the vision of this place - it's not just saving an old building, it's about investing in the future of this community.'

'I can't wait to see it progress as we go forward.'

The Rockfield Centre's project facilitator, Eleanor MacKinnon, said: 'We are excited about the launch. It's a final step in what has been a short but intensive journey to get to this stage.'

'We could not have done this without the community being behind us all the way.'

'I think community shares is quite innovative. It's quite new for Scotland. We just need everyone to go on the website [and invest].'

To find out more about the shares, visit www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk/invest



Tea ladies Joyce Millar and Margaret MacDonald.



Cooking up a storm are Mary and Dougie Lyndsay, with Gordon McNab, centre.



Picnic time at the community shares party.



Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara meets Parsley the cat.



James Gray of Kinetic Studios with his share purchase.



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OT

Three little words code could be Mull lifesaver

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Bizarre but true these three little words 'Stir, lake, geek' could save someone's life on Mull.

A unique combination of words put together is actually part of a new supercode system now being used by GPs, ambulances and first responders navigating the island in emergencies.

The words are pinpoint markers and can be used to describe an area as tiny as 3m x 3m.

Mull is the first place in the UK to take on the unusual address coding system, helping houses in the most remote spots with no street names to be found more easily.

When Mull GP Dr Prendergast first heard about the system, developed by British technology company What3words, he wanted to



Dr Brian Prendergast delivers one of the What3words plaques on Mull with the help of Jaguar Landrover.

'embed' it into island life.

In agreement with What3words, he received help from retired Tobermory music teacher and IT whizz Alan Parker who took about 120 hours using the special What3words geocode to label the 2,236 houses on Mull and

produce an island-specific database to help GPs get to patients quicker.

Jaguar Landrover also got onboard at Dr Prendergast's request and sent a team of volunteers and expert drivers to deliver wooden plaques to each of the island's addresses

with their individual identifying geocodes. They called it Addressing Mull and made a film about it.

Not only will the What3words codes help get medical help easier to remote islanders, but it will also help with deliveries and holiday-

makers trying to find their way about or give directions to others.

'We are very grateful to What3words and Land Rover for putting Mull on the map in this way. I want to see the code embedded into all aspects of island life. It's genius. It should catch on everywhere eventually,' said Dr Prendergast.

He also hopes media coverage about Mull's geocode system and the film made by Landrover showing off the island's dramatic scenery will bring the added benefit of encouraging other GPs to come and work and live there.

'I'm hoping it will have a positive effect on recruitment which we are struggling with at the moment and encourage more GPs to want to come and work and live here,' he said.

■ To view the video, visit <https://youtu.be/O1VnMqj2pvc>

Stephen is taking one for the Iona team

Fundraisers for Iona's new village hall have been thanked for their 'Junerosity'.

Plans are afoot to replace Iona's much-loved 90-year-old village hall with a fit-for-purpose, multi-use building to meet the needs of the community, estimated to cost under £2.2 million and be completed by summer 2020.

Iona Village Hall Community Trust were given a huge £903,888 boost by the Big Lottery Fund, with the island having to raise the remaining £1.2 million by December 2018.

The trust has so far raised £1,050,817 on its Just Giving page, and said it has been 'blown away' by fundraisers' enthusiasm and ideas.

Stephen Erdal, who has spent many holidays on Iona, is raising funds by getting a World Cup haircut, as chosen by 56 supporters.

'I don't expect you to donate without being able to ladle on a bit of abject humiliation,' he explained. 'The World Cup is upon us. Being Scottish, I have no interest in this whatsoever. But we have seen some truly special hairdos in international football over the years.'

'So here's the deal. If you donate to this amazing community, you get to vote for an iconic soccerball haircut. It will be my haircut for the entire duration of England's journey in the World Cup. I'm not doing this cheap. We need to raise £500 before razor touches scalp.'

He's raised £1,045 already. The options were the Charlton Comber, the Keegan Perm, the Gazza Bleach Job, the Becks Mohican, and Whatever Ronaldo Was Going For In 2002. Stephen visited the barber on Friday, and Ronaldo's barnet won the day, below.

The Iona Primary School Runners are attempting a combined marathon on Monday June 25, and Finlay Macdonald is planning to play 72 holes of golf in one day - Glencruitten, Craignure, Tobermory then Iona - on July 11, with a target of £1,000.

You can donate to any or all of the above via their Just Giving web pages.



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Ruaridh and Siobhan Neish and Scott Walker test out one of the new hot tubs. 16_T25_HotTub01

Business opens with hot tubs and Prosecco

A new Oban business opened its doors last weekend and hosted the perfect open day - with hot tubs and Prosecco. TLC Spas invited members of the public to view its luxury line of hot tubs on both Saturday and Sunday.

Speaking on Sunday, owner Ruaridh Neish said: 'It's been great. Yesterday was packed from start to finish and today there has been a steady flow.'

Ruaridh said his new busi-

ness goes hand in hand with his current business - The Landscaping Centre.

As well as Prosecco for the adults, there was face painting by Kirsty MacKenzie for the youngsters and balloons thanks to Tinks Faces and Balloons.

The new premises, which is located at Unit 2, 17 Lochavullin Road, will be open from 10am until 3pm Monday to Saturday.

Call for phone box ideas

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Dial-a-disco, an aquarium and an out-of-hours cake shop are just some of the light-hearted suggestions for a phone box in Kilmelford bought for £1.

Villagers have given it a bright new coat of red paint but are still debating how to put it to good use.

They bought it from BT earlier this year. So far using it as an information point is the most favoured but there are other suggestions such as it being a safe space to keep the community's defibrillator.

Connel's phone box has already been turned into a book swap scheme.

Meanwhile, villagers living in Dalavich are hoping to keep their phone booth just as it is. A condemned notice was slapped on it last year but it is still in working order outside the shop and cafe.

'Mobile signal is pretty bad

here so we need a reliable line to the outside world. A condemned notice was put on it last year but it's still here and it's still working - long may it do so,' said one villager.

Not far away in Cladich, friends Holly Ford and Bron Campbell opened what was possibly Scotland's smallest cake shop in their decommissioned phone box last May and are hoping to reopen it later this year, further up the road.

Taynuilt's phone box is looking in a sorry state but is not up for sale. Community council chairman Davie Sloss said if it was, members would probably buy it for £1.

'We can't adopt it because BT can't get rid of it yet, apparently. It's because there isn't sufficient mobile coverage in the village for them to do it. But I say if that's the case, BT should be maintaining it, keeping it painted and in good condition - which they are clearly not.'

Oban's Rockfield Centre has just taken delivery of its



Musicians Calum and Finlay McLuckie played next to the red phone box at The Rockfield Centre.



Right: Taynuilt's phone box needs a make-over.

new phone box and will be using it as an information point.

The box caught the eye of Linda Battison from Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance who Facebooked: 'Designed

by the same architect who build St Columba's Cathedral, Oban Walking Tours would love to see one sited next to the cathedral. Would be a great talking point on our guided tours.'

British architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott who designed Oban's St Columba's Cathedral was indeed the man behind Britain's iconic red telephone box. It was the winning design from a 1924 competition to find the look for a national kiosk. The K2 design was introduced in 1926 and over the next nine years 1,700 examples were installed.



The phone box in Connel is used for a book swap scheme.

Oban flood management study begins

People in Oban are being asked for their views and experiences of flooding in an open consultation next week.

Argyll and Bute Council is in the process of investigating flood risk in the area with the aim of finding sustainable solutions, and values input from residents.

The need for a flood study has been identified in the council's Local Flood Risk Management Plan, and will consider river, rainfall and coastal flooding in Oban, and in particular those areas known to be sensitive to flood risk.

It will include consideration of the effects from current climate change predictions.

Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'This is an opportunity for local people to have their say on what they believe the issues are and to tell us about their experiences with flooding.'

The event will take place in The Rockfield Centre, Oban, on Wednesday June 27 from 1pm until 8pm.

WHAT'S ON @ CORRAN HALLS



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TUE JUN 19
Oban Hospice Luncheon Show
Doors 7pm Start 7:30pm
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SAT JUN 23
Ballet West Summer Fun
Part 1
Doors 11am Start 11:30
Part 2
Doors 3pm Start 3:30pm
Tickets: Adults £6 Concession £5

JULY

SAT JUL 7
Master Builders Lego Club Craft Fair Fundraiser
Starts: 10am
Donations Welcome

TUE JUL 24
Snuffbox
Doors: 7pm
Start: 8pm
Tickets: Adult £10
Concession £8

FRI JUL 27
Abbamania
Doors 7pm
Start 7:30pm
All Tickets £20
Reserved Seating

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SATURDAY 4 AUGUST
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THUR AUG 9
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MON AUG 20
Ranagri
7.30pm
Tickets: Adults £10
Concession £8

SAT AUG 25
Funbox
Doors: 1:30pm
Start: 2pm
All Tickets £11 Family Saver £40
Groups 10+ £10 Reserved Seating

WED AUG 29
Far, Far From Ypres
Doors: 7pm
Start: 7:30pm
Adults £15
Concession £10

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- 20.09.18 Lisa McHugh
- 22.09.18 DMI Cancer Trust - We'll Walk This Road Together
- 29.09.18 Stuart Mitchell
- 06.10.18 The Jimmy Shand Story
- 11.10.18 Little Red Riding Hood
- 11.10.18 Ae Fond Kiss
- 15.10.18 Doug Allan
- 25.10.18 Scott Gibson
- 01.11.18 Mike Denver

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- 16.08.18 Auld Hat New Heids



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OT



Face painting is always popular with the children.



The 'human fruit machine' was an excellent idea.



Captain Ellie Cooper joined in with the spirit of the fun day.



Goalkeeper Liam Reynolds makes a great save.

Loads of fun

Beat the goalie, the human fruit machine and toss the wellie were just some of the games that featured at this year's Dunbeg Primary fun day.

The event is one of the school's main fundraisers, and this year was no different. It generated more than £1,700.

Marny McCulloch, head teacher of Dunbeg Primary, said: 'The Dunbeg Primary fun day was a great success, despite the challenges of the weather.'

'The organisation and support of the fundraising committee was exceptional, and I'd like to thank Angela Beard and her team for gathering so many prizes, organising a delicious cafe and putting together so many imaginative and fun activities.'

'The human fruit machine was hysterical!

'The new activity this session was an obstacle course around the school grounds and, incorporating the cycle path, made even

more exciting by access to our woodland.

'The rope bridge and slime crawl were two of the most popular obstacles enjoyed by the children, who looked terrible but smelled great after the former.'

'We raised an astonishing £1,700 on Saturday, thanks to supporters, parents and the generous donations of local businesses. Over the next few months parents, children and staff will agree how to spend it for the benefit of the children.'



Left to right are Innes Mackay, and Ryan and Aaron Reynolds.

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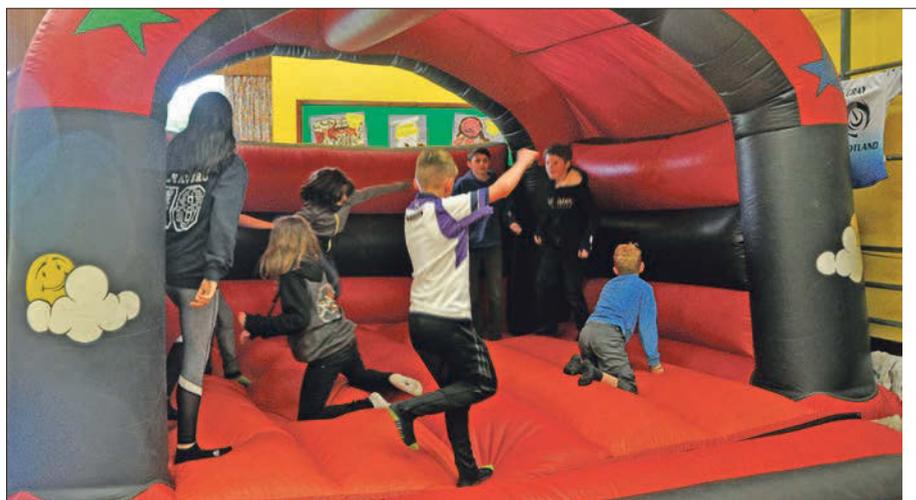


There was keen competition in the welly hurling.



The bouncy castle was a huge hit.

at Dunbeg



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Keep your home smelling fresh during the warmer months with Airwick Mist Kits at half price - ONLY £9.99.

Welcome to Wedding Season! Will you be watching anyone taking a walk up the aisle this summer? Get ready with Gordons Chemists and take a walk up the makeup aisle because Eylure Eyelashes Twin Packs are only £4.99.

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OT

Council's website wins four stars

Argyll and Bute Council's website has been awarded four stars by SOCITM – the society for IT practitioners in the public sector.

In the society's annual Better Connected report, Argyll and Bute is one of only 39 local authorities in the UK to achieve four-star status, out of 418 councils.

SOCITM has been assessing local authorities' online performance since 1999 and evaluates a wide range of digital performance by local public service providers.

Councillor Rory Colville said: 'This is a great achievement for the council's web team and one which they should be very, very proud of.'

'The website not only contains lots of useful information for our residents, businesses and visitors, it also offers a wide range of online services that make contacting the council quick and convenient. We had more than 3.6 million page views last year – the figure speaks for itself.'

Orca fright brothers want their kayaks back

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Terrified brothers who had a close encounter with killer whales on Loch Long are appealing for the return of the kayaks they had to abandon after a frantic paddle to get away.

The sight of two huge orca fins threw 10-year-old Ollie Campbell and his brother Lachlan, 14, into survival mode and instead of paddling back across the loch to their parents on the far side, they headed for the nearest shore.

It happened just as a storm hit on Saturday afternoon.

The boys pulled their blue sit-on Ribex kayaks up onto the beach, just to the right of the old torpedo testing station pier.

Dad Ali had seen the boys paddling at speed.

'It turns out that half way across the loch, they had



turned round to see a huge fin following them. Then they saw another fin. One was bent over, but still enormous. Based on recent sightings of orcas in the Clyde, we can now only assume that they were being followed by orcas!' said mum Fiona, who also has four other children.

When the boys' parents

drove round from their loch-side home at Arrochar to pick up the boys, the kayaks were still there but the barefoot brothers had disappeared.

Their dad managed to move the kayaks to park them up properly before keeping up the search for his sons.

Instead of walking six kilometres home barefoot

Pictured are Daisy, then Ollie back right, Lachy O'Neill and Callan MacEachern in the yellow vests with the two kayaks which the family are keen to have returned.

they had decided to head the other way to a friend's house so they could ring us,' said Fiona.

However, when they went back to collect the kayaks, they had disappeared.

The kayaks could be seen from the family home at Mansfield House across the loch and were last sighted at 3pm on Tuesday but the family had to wait to pick up a car big enough to carry them, before going to collect them. When Fiona was finally able to set out on Wednesday, she discovered they had gone.

'I'm completely gutted. We desperately want them back. The boys are devastated and

feel guilty, but they made the right decisions at the time. Whoever took the kayaks knew they had not been abandoned because they were parked up. They would have known they belonged to children, that they were cherished. It's so mean.

'No one will get into trouble over this. We just want them back. Whoever took them can either put them back where they found them, drop them at our drive or get a message to us. What started as an exciting adventure has turned into a very sad tale.'

'The boys genuinely think they saw orcas. At first we said it must have been porpoise but when they described the size of what they saw, we believe them. There have been sightings of orcas down Dunoon way, so it's not beyond the realms of possibility that they have come into the loch,' she added.

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Looking forward to Lorne Games

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



It's time for the Lorne Highland Games again this Sunday and I'm really looking forward to them.

I love the local feel to the games, as it is busy but not as jam-packed as the Argyllshire Gathering can get. It is more like the Kilmore or Taynuilt Games.

I'm lucky enough to be helping at the Craft and Produce Tent, which is great fun. The children's entries are always something to look forward to and, if I'm lucky, I sometimes get to taste some of the fabulous baking and chutneys.

If you fancy giving it a go all

the details are on the Lorne Games website.

I'm delighted, too, that the flower baskets are all going up again, as they add so much to the look of the town and the holiday feel of the summer.

This year, 50 baskets have been added, extending the reach to Atlantis Leisure, going up Breadalbane Street, around the hospital, and including some for railings which are on the bridge to Combie Street and outside the high school.

Personally, I think it's one of the highlights of what BID4Oban does and thanks must also go to Arthur Piggot at Airds Bay Horticultural, who provides us with such beautiful displays, Duncan MacKinnon for putting them

WHERE IS THIS?



up, and MacQueens for delivering the plants.

It's amazing what a wee bit of co-operation and community spirit can do. Thanks also to everyone for switching the dates about to avoid the bad weather last week.

Last week's photograph was at the the new pontoons. For this week's photo, you don't have to walk too far.

Plan to get parents involved in education

Councillors have agreed a revised parental engagement strategy subject to the launch of the Action Plan to Support Parental Involvement from the Scottish Government.

Councillor Yvonne McNeilly said: 'It's vital that parents take an active interest in their child's education. Evidence shows that pupils behave better, achieve more and have better attendance when their parents are involved in their schooling.'

The strategy was drafted with input from parent councils across Argyll and Bute.

Ensuring high quality partnership working through increased parental engagement and participation is one of the key objectives of the council's education vision and strategy – Our Children, Their Future.

The six objectives of the strategy are as follows:

- Develop strong partnerships with parents.

- Promote and support effective communication between schools and parents.

- Provide support and encouragement for learning at home.

- Support and promote the role of Parent Councils.

- Provide a clear route for parents' concerns and complaints to be resolved.

- Seek views and respond to feedback from parents about this policy.



Cherished babies remembered

by David McPhee
dmcphree@obantimes.co.uk



Dozens of butterflies were released at Dunollie Castle on Saturday in memory of babies who have died.

A short ceremony took place before the release, which featured songs by the Ladies Sequence Choir and poetry from bereaved parents.

Susan Simpson of SiMBA said: 'We have 19 adults and 12 children joining the SiMBA team this year to release butterflies in a beautiful act of remembrance for babies gone too soon.'

Speaking at the event, Susan said: 'We understand each of us has experienced the pain of missing our child's first words, first steps, first day at school, so many firsts.'

'We recognise the strength that each bereaved heart has and we are determined that we will acknowledge our beautiful children.'

Throughout this event par-

ticipants were busy holding and warming up their butterflies to wake them from hibernation.

Following the ceremony, it was time to release the painted ladies and tortoiseshell butterflies.

Some flew to the foliage surrounding Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds straight away, while others took longer to get going.

The butterflies were bred especially for SiMBA in sterile conditions by an award-winning entomologist.

Susan said: 'They have no impact on native species and will acclimatise and settle for a period in these gorgeous gardens. They will feed, mate and eventually migrate to South Africa - such strength in such a wee fragile creature.'

'That, to me, speaks about the fragility and strength in each one of us.'

SiMBA is a charity established in 2005 to support parents affected by the loss of a baby.



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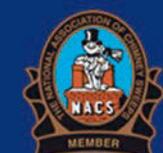
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OT



The crew on the Severn-class lifeboat Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey and her daughter craft carried out an exercise along the newly restored path to the lighthouse at Rubha nan Gall.

Tobermory RNLI tasked to mayday before training exercise

Tobermory RNLI's volunteer responded to a mayday from a yacht on Tuesday June 12 prior to carrying out a planned exercise on the newly restored Tobermory lighthouse path.

The pagers of the volunteer crew went off just after 4pm following a call for help from a yacht in distress in Loch Sunart.

The crew were just slipping lines at the berth when Stornoway Coastguard advised them to stand down as the yacht was no longer in difficulty.

Coxswain David McHaffie said: 'We would much rather be called at an early stage and have to stand down than be called out when things have gone badly wrong. The skipper took exactly the right action.'

A few hours later, at Tuesday night training, the crew carried out an exercise along the newly restored path to the lighthouse at Rubha nan Gall. Four members acted as

casualties while the rest of the crew on the Severn-class lifeboat Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey and her daughter craft carried out a shoreline search to locate, treat and evacuate them.

Operations manager Sam Jones said: 'Since its welcome restoration last year, the lighthouse path is once again hugely popular with locals and visitors. It has seen a significant increase in users compared to a few years ago and, while the path is much improved, there are still some steep drops. Tonight's exercise was aimed at ensuring that we are well prepared for any eventualities on this wonderful path.'

The popular lighthouse path has been restored through a project led by the Mull and Iona Community Trust and supported by Scottish Natural Heritage with assistance from the Northern Lighthouse Board, Scottish Sea Farms and Glensanda Quarry.

Women will be to the fore at Engineering Day

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



Oban's new Lego Club will be themed on the Year of Engineering this weekend.

The Master Builders: Lego and Creative Construction Club only started a few months ago, but people have already donated piles of Lego bricks from their attics and cupboards, and it now attracts 65 children and adults every second and fourth Saturday at Oban's Rockfield Centre from 10am to noon.

Last month it bought even more Lego thanks to £2,500 from the Supporting Communities Fund.

Themes so far have ranged from World Oceans Day and National Train Day to International Women in Engineering Day this Saturday, June 23.

The club is inviting two engineers to guide the session: Karen Wilson, who operates marine robotics at SAMS, and Fiona-Ann Vick, from the Northern Lighthouse Board.

Karen trained as an aircraft engineer with the Royal Navy, doing both electrical and mechanical maintenance on Lynx helicopters, before retraining in marine science at SAMS.

She said: 'We are unusual (and lucky) here at SAMS that the majority of our robotics technicians are female.'

Fiona-Ann served her ap-



'The girls absolutely dominated at the tallest tower building competition,' Lego Club organiser Fee Shaw said.

prenticeship as a plant fitter at Cruachan Power Station, before working as a fabricator making fish farm cages for Fusion Marine, and then becoming a lighthouse electrical technician.

Lego Club organiser Fee Shaw said: 'I decided to hold a special Women in Engineering Day because my three-year-old son had made an innocent remark when we were playing Lego at home and I had selected a female Lego figure to play a

scientist in our game and he remarked that only boys were scientists or engineers or fire fighters and so on, because that is all he had seen on TV and in books.

'I set about trying to explain why that simply wasn't true. Not only can women do any of those careers but they are often leaders in their fields. I realised that to a child the best way for them to accept these truths is to see them rather than simply be told they exist.

'So I have invited some local

female engineers to come and talk to the children about what they do and how they got their positions, as well as giving the children a chance to play with some robots and engineering circuit sets.

'For me, Women in Engineering Day is about acknowledging the fantastic work these women do and making sure they are visible to be an inspiration to children, to show them science, technology, engineering and mathematics roles are for both men and women.'

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Oban attracts students from across the globe

Until recently, Oban's young people had to leave the town if they wanted to study and many never returned, causing a 'brain drain' and leaving an ageing population.

But now Oban has become a university town, a growing number of young people stay here to study and others from all over the world move into the area to gain an education.

Of the 800 students currently studying in Oban, around 12.5 per cent are from outside the UK.

Students from an astonishing 40 countries from across the world are currently registered at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS UHI) at Dunstaffnage and Ballet West at Taynuilt. Argyll College UHI also has a number of European students. Overall, the majority of students are from the EU.

The largest number of foreign students attend SAMS UHI, studying for undergraduate (34), Master (36) and doctorate (14) marine science qualifications. Ballet West has 18 non-UK BA students currently studying dance. Additionally, there

are regular student exchange programmes with Malaysia, Spain, Croatia and the Netherlands, bringing more foreign students for shorter periods to Oban.

'The more diverse a student group is, the more learning can happen as they all contribute different experiences and perspectives,' says Professor Keith Davidson, who heads the education team at SAMS.

'Our foreign students often comment on the warm welcome they receive from the local community - if not from the weather.'

These students are committed ambassadors for Oban in the world. A small number even stay and settle here.

Some start up new businesses, such as Venezuelan SAMS graduate Jessica Giannotti, right.

Beyond the students, also many of the teaching and support staff have come from outside the UK and contribute to growing the university town.

To learn more about the university town project, visit www.obanunitown.org and use #LoveLearningLoveOban.



Jessica set her business up just over a year ago in the Old Teaching Lab at SAMS, Dunstaffnage.
Photograph: Gilberto Martinez

Science is spark for graduate Jessica's designs

Venezuelan SAMS graduate Jessica Giannotti set up her marine-science inspired luxury accessories company Crùbag, based at the Old Teaching Lab at SAMS.

Here she tells The Oban Times what prompted her to start up her company.

'I started Crùbag out of a desire to raise awareness and share the incredible aspects of our oceans that remain inaccessible to us.

'As a student of marine science, I often saw something unique, an unseen colourful, rich and fragile world that



approach inspired me to combine creativity with science. The inspiration was everywhere.

'I realised that communicating the beauty, richness and importance of the oceans in innovative ways, combining science-based development with inspirational designs was my mission.

'I wanted to materialise this unique world in a tangible way, so textiles became the ideal canvas.

'You can touch the fabric and wear the sea on your skin and feel connected to

nature. Now, as a designer, I collaborate with marine scientists to develop ethical textile collections paired with science-based campaigns and booklets with the story behind the collection.

'Our colourful vibrant textiles conceptualise mostly unseen aspects of our oceans, marine life and the environmental issues of our time.

'We share inspiration, ocean-literacy and give a percentage of our profits to research institutions to support continued research.'

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Countries in red are the countries of origin of non-UK students in Oban.

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EXPERTS IN THE FIELD

OT

Tourism firms urged to enter for awards

Businesses and individuals are being encouraged to put forward their nominations and entries for the prestigious Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards with the deadlines just days away.

The annual tourism 'Oscars', which were launched in March, celebrate and honour the best places to stay, eat and drink and enjoy the area's history and culture.

This year 14 honours will be presented in what is regarded as one of the premier industry hospitality awards programmes in Scotland.

Tomorrow (Friday June 22) is the closing date for nominations in three categories: Tourism and Hospitality Hero, Highland Rising Star and Highland Ambassador.

The deadline for entries in all other categories is Monday July 2.

To nominate or enter your business without being nominated, go to www.highland-tourism-awards.co.uk

Call-outs have lifeboat at sea for over 10 hours

The volunteer crew of Oban lifeboat Mora Edith MacDonald had a busy 24 hours with two call-outs and more than 10 hours at sea.

The first incident began when Oban RNLI was tasked by the UK Coastguard to assist a 10-metre motor vessel with engine difficulty near Bach Island at the southern end of the Isle of Kerrera.

The lifeboat launched at 3.55pm and arrived at the scene shortly afterwards.

Upon arrival, it was discovered that the vessel had managed to restart its engine and was therefore escorted back to Oban for repairs. The lifeboat was then ready for service again by 5pm.

Just 10 hours later, at 2.55am, the crew were awoken by the sound of their pagers again.

A 15-metre fishing vessel had suffered engine failure in an exposed area of water six miles south-west of Iona.

The lifeboat made best speed to the area and upon arrival a tow line was passed to the fishing vessel and the long 43-mile tow home lasted until almost midday.

A RNLI spokesperson said: 'It is at times like this that the true nature of our volunteer crew is shown. Many of the crew are dads and, rather than spend Father's Day with their families, they willingly dropped everything to go to the aid of others.'

The lifeboat arrived back in Oban bay shortly before noon and was secured alongside the Railway Pier before returning to her berth where she was refuelled and made ready for service.



The lifeboat towed the fishing vessel for 43 miles back to Oban.

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Volunteers brave rain to do the weeding



Four volunteers from Keep Oban Beautiful met on Saturday at the Sensory Garden on the Esplanade to do a little light weeding and to label some of the plants. Pictured are Claire Rizos, Maurice Wilkins and Kieron Green. The picture was taken by fourth volunteer Maggie Clayton. Unfortunately, rain approaching

from the Sound of Kerrera began to make life unpleasant, so after a couple of hours, four cold and wet weeders decided to call it a day. They will be back before too long, so anyone wanting to join in should keep an eye on the Keep Oban Beautiful Facebook page. Thanks to all who took part.

Volunteers in Uists land cash windfall

The Western Isles Lottery supported Volunteers Week with an award of £300 to the Volunteer Centre in Uist, which works to celebrate local volunteers and volunteer involving organisations.

Volunteers Week ran from June 1-7 with hundreds of events and celebrations across the country to say thank you to volunteers for their time and effort, and positive impact on the lives of others.

Pictured are volunteers from across the Uists receiving a cheque from Uist Council of Volunteering Services, who manage the Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery (WILL) funds in the Uist area, at their annual celebration. The proceeds were raised by WILL supporters from across Uist.



Fish farmer Geoff casts off

Father of three and one of Scottish Sea Farms' top farm managers retires

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



After 40 years of fish farming, Geoff Kidd is still as hooked as ever.

The father of three has just retired as one of Scottish Sea Farms' top performing farm managers, but has no plans to give up on the finned varieties he has become so familiar with over the past four decades.

For he is hoping the painted plaster-cast fish he creates as an art form will become quite a catch.

Mr Kidd, who had a retirement party in Oban on Friday, has been with Scottish Sea Farms since spotting

an advert for a salmon farm assistant at Loch Striven and has been in charge of its sea farm on Mull's Loch Spelve since 1978.

Childhood holidays by the sea sparked an early love of the West Coast for the Geordie, who went on to train as a river biologist at Liverpool University before heading north to start his working life.

During his career, he has seen many changes, including a huge increase in productivity and the number of salmon being farmed.

'Whenever I see people I've worked with over the years, they ask me if I'm still working there and I said they'd hear about it in The Oban Times

when I retired. Well, here it is, my official retirement notice!'

Mr Kidd, who made his family home on Mull, hopes to spend his new-found free time on his fish art.

Years ago he began a natural history project with fish artist Edwin Pickett.

The plan was to catch every different type of fish in Loch Spelve, make moulds of them, produce casts and paint them to become part of a reference collection.

'Sadly, Edwin has since died but he was a great fish artist and has greatly inspired me to keep working on it. It's incredibly time consuming to do the job well. Where it could go, I don't know but I'd

like to think there could be some recognition,' he said.

Once the casts are made, they have to be painted. The fish are dead when the moulds are made but the fresher they are, the better the finished result is because muscle-tone can be captured, explained Mr Kidd, who has fully completed six fish so far.

'Fish are fabulous. The colour changes that fish go through during their life-cycle are remarkable. Their shape changes too. When they are fresh, you still get the muscle tone and see all the different shades and shimmering colours that are often invisible once they get on the fishmonger's slab,' he said.



Jim Gallagher, managing director of Scottish Sea Farms, with newly retired Geoff Kidd and his wife Jane.



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OT

Civic prayer breakfast held

An ecumenical civic prayer breakfast was held last Thursday (June 14) in the Church Centre, Oban.

More than 40 church members, councillors and clergy attended the event, which focused on issues of health and wholeness.

Speakers from Healthy Options and New Hope spoke about their concerns before a time of prayer.

Within discussion times, links were made across various organisations with the aim of greater co-operation for the benefit of the people of Oban and Lorn.



Left to right are Rev James Beaton, Rev Ian MacFarlane, Cath Sheldrick, Pastor Stuart Lawson, Rev Dr Roderick Campbell (moderator), Bishop Kevin Pearson, Bishop Brian McGee, Rev Dugald Cameron, Arno Bremer, Rev Chris Fulcher and Very Rev Margi Campbell.

Jobseeker numbers decline



The M&S store in Oban will boost employment.

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

The number of jobseekers claiming benefits across Argyll and Bute has dropped by three per cent from this time last year.

Marks & Spencer, opening a foodhall in Oban next month, will be one of the

town's newest employers and is recruiting 40 workers.

The store has been working with the Jobcentre as part of the process.

A Department for Work and Pensions spokesperson said: "We are still working with Marks & Spencer for their forthcoming store opening.

"They are due back in the

Jobcentre next week to interview for customer service staff.

"They have recruited their management staff, but unfortunately none of our customers was successful.

"However, I am hopeful that this will create an additional opportunity to fill the posts that have been created

by job switchers leaving existing employers."

According to government figures, the employment level in Scotland has risen by more than 200,000 since 2010 to 2.64 million, with 88,000 more women in work since 2010.

Unemployment has fallen by 100,000 since 2010 to 118,000 out of work.

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a little different we are also offering Digital Photography with Cailean Maclean and Gaelic Creative Writing with Alison Lang as well as several other courses throughout the summer. Each week we offer evening activities which are an essential part of the short course experience, and will include cèilidhs, concerts, music sessions, Gaelic conversation opportunities and various workshops.

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- Piano Accordion with Addie Harper Jr & Stephanie Harper
- Button Box with Robert Nairn & Fergie MacDonald
- Gaelic for Irish Speakers (B)
- Còmhradh & Caint (ADV) with Ailig 'Bhaltos' Dòmhnallach*
- Creative Sound Production with Hector MacInnes

21 - 27/07/18

- Fiddle with Alasdair Fraser*
- Cello with Natalie Haas*

23 - 27/07/18

- Exploring Skye (Gaelic for Beginners) with Muriel Fisher*

30/07 - 03/08/18

- Gaelic 1, 3, 5, 7
- Gaelic for Irish Speakers (ADV)
- Traditional Music Ensemble with Innes Watson
- Isle of Skye Piping School with Decker Forrest
- Gaelic Conversation (LI) with Joy Dunlop*

06 - 10/08/18

- Gaelic 2, 4, 6, 8
- A Seascape of Gaelic Song with Margaret Stewart
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- Gaelic Conversation (UI) with Joy Dunlop*

13 - 17/08/18

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20 - 24/08/18

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Chaplain is there to offer spiritual help

The Oban Times is running a series of articles championing the work carried out by Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles locality.

Each article features a specific service provided by the HSCP and focuses on the staff who provide that service and the role they play in making a positive difference for the people living in Oban and surrounding areas.

This week we look at the work of chaplain Robert MacLeod.



Robert MacLeod has 30 years' experience.

Robert MacLeod is one of Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership's (HSCP) chaplains covering Oban and its surrounding areas.

The role of the chaplain is providing a reassuring service for people in need of spiritual and pastoral support, which includes HSCP staff.

Robert has 30 years of experience in pastoral ministry. He has completed graduate studies in Healthcare Chaplaincy and has 20 years' dedicated service with the NHS.

Robert said: "The HSCP realises that the healthcare challenges faced by the people it cares for may raise their need for spiritual or religious care and is committed to addressing these needs. The demand for the chaplaincy service has grown and is now being delivered to the wider community and local community groups.

"My daily workload is really well-structured and I prioritise and assess my caseloads as this is required to increase my productivity.

"At times it can be challenging due to the rurality of the areas. Working part-time flexible hours means time management skills are necessary to help meet the demands for the service."

On occasions, the chaplain has to make judgement calls with regards to referrals for the service. It can be challenging for Robert responding urgently to all service user demands.

Among the basic spiritual needs that might be addressed within the daily activity of health and social care are:

- the need to be understood,
- the need to be valued as a human being,
- the need for forgiveness, hope and trust,
- the need to explore beliefs and values,
- the need to express feelings honestly,
- the need to find meaning and purpose in life.

Robert said: "The hospital is one of the few places where people of all faiths and none come together. People often think of "the hospital chaplain" as a person in clerical dress.

"I would like to challenge that stereotype to let people know that the chaplain service is available to patients, carers, communities and staff whether religious or not."

Robert participated in research with Emotional Touchpoints (ETs). ETs are a means of helping people to share their story, and the aspects of experiences that are important to them. They help identify things that worked well for them and those that caused concern.

The touchpoints help the storyteller to share and recall their experience of being touched emotionally (feelings) or cognitively (deep and lasting memories). These can be the 'big moments' people return to when retelling their stories, or the 'hidden small acts' that have a huge

impact despite seeming to pass unnoticed. The research programme raised awareness of the diverse needs of people living in rural communities, and in particular the harmful effects on young and older people's health and wellbeing when subjected to loneliness and isolation.

The research also highlighted the need for the chaplaincy service developing and networking with other local services such as North Argyll Carers Centre and the Dove Centre in Oban.

Robert added: "I also support people who may have complex emotional needs. It is really important to ensure that people know about the chaplaincy service and are given the opportunity to be supported, signposted or referred to suitable health and social care services including local partner agencies.

"Evaluating spiritual care can be problematic but often an acknowledgement from a patient, a smile, handshake or seeing people who have struggled for whatever reason move on following input from the Chaplaincy service is always very rewarding.

"I have come to regard my years within healthcare as some of my most fulfilling, privileged and rewarding years of service."

Chaplains are available to offer confidential non-judgemental support. Please contact the chaplain if you wish support or to know more about what the chaplaincy service can offer. Email robert.macleod2@nhs.net.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



The constancy of landscape contrasting with the moving cycles of our own lives is a phenomenon that has long fascinated me and never ceases to have an effect when visiting places that have been important in previous times of life.

This is never felt more keenly that when returning to the areas that were significant when growing up. There is no doubt that periods of separation from home accentuate these contrasts, and to an extent it is that very separation that gives the perspective that fuels these particular emotions and makes more clear the human changes against the enduring geography.

The embryonic stages of the song Walking on the Waves was conceived from that concept of transitional lives changing against the background of a constant landscape. In a very different context, John MacLean, The Balemartin Bard (1827-1895) wrote powerfully of it in one of the verses of the protest song Oran anitoba when he described people as 'strangers on the face of the Earth'.

Last weekend, I was home on Tiree for a few days and it was neither romance nor forced emigration that was the nature of the human changes being contemplated, but the ageing process and the changing roles that come with it.

My auntie was home from California, where she now lives, and as we had done many times before over the years, we went for a walk along the Balephuill side of Kenevara and over the edge of the hill to the stony beaches on the south-eastern tip to have a picnic.

Although this is the more accessible side of the hill when compared with the deep gorges, sea caves and cliffs of the western edge, it is still strewn with small gullies and obstacles that make it potentially dangerous for those walking.

The last time I did this walk with my mum and Auntie Teen would have been around 20 years ago and the contrast in the role of responsibility was clear. Now in her middle seventies, mum is not as agile as she used to be and, rather than her worrying about where her mis-

chievous child was and what dangers he might be bringing upon himself among the cliffs and crevices, I was the one doing the worrying - trying to find the easiest route in and out of the beach, fretting that we didn't have a phone signal if anything untoward happened and having moments of thinking that that the whole escapade was a bit irresponsible.

We even worried at points that we may indeed have to float her out on a high tide if she couldn't make it back up the steep climb from the shore!

Thankfully, with a prod now and again and heave here and there, accompanied by much hilarity, we made it over the hill to Teampull Phàraig that marked the beginning of the easy and level walk back to the car. A great day was had and the effort needed and the wee bit of worry made it all the more rewarding.

The landscape was exactly the same as the last time we were there together but the human beings were very different. The cycle of life never ceases to move.

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Farms see drop in sea lice and salmon disease

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



Scotland's two leading salmon farmers have reported a sustained improvement in fish health during the first five months of 2018, with a marked reduction in disease-related mortalities.

Figures for Marine Harvest Scotland and Scottish Sea Farms show the number of fish that died as a result of disease fell by more than half between January and May compared with the previous six months.

Disease-related mortality is also lower year on year, with the two sea farmers reporting a reduction of 61 per cent and 27 per cent respectively compared with the first six months of 2017.

The sustained improvement follows a challenging year for some farms owing to warmer than average sea surface temperatures. These warmer temperatures can encourage marine organisms to thrive where ordinarily they might not occur in abundance, posing threats to fish health in the form of harmful algal or jellyfish blooms, as experienced



Two leading salmon farmers say there has been a sustained improvement in fish health during the first five months of 2018.

in 2017. In response, both producers have invested in new technologies, including equipment to monitor salinity and oxygen concentration in real-time, helping farmers make swift and informed decisions, innovative new netting helping to eliminate gill disease and underwater cameras to observe salmon within the pens and respond quickly to any changes in innate behaviour.

Veterinarian and head of fish health at Marine Harvest Scotland, Meritxell Diez Padrisa said: 'Each individual farm effectively has its own

micro-environment and therefore faces its own challenges. However, by taking a tailored approach to farm management based on the local marine ecosystem with prevention at its core, we have been able to increase the protection offered to the salmon in our care.'

Both producers are also investing in multi-million pound state-of-the-art hatcheries which will enable young salmon to be grown to a larger, more robust size, thereby shortening their time at sea and lessening the chance of infection from other marine

creatures. Meanwhile, adding to the improvement in overall fish health, both companies have reported significantly lower lice levels from January to May 2018. In the case of Marine Harvest Scotland, sea lice levels were 49 per cent lower compared with the previous six months, while Scottish Sea Farms were 34 per cent lower.

Ralph Bickerdike, head of fish health at Scottish Sea Farms, said: 'Colder temperatures witnessed over winter 2017 have some part to play in this reduction, helping slow the growth of sea lice.'

'However, we're also seeing the cumulative impact of investment in integrated sea lice management, including sea lice shields which reduce the number of lice entering salmon pens, use of cleaner fish which eat sea lice and hydro and thermolicer technology which washes off and collects sea lice.'

'The result is we're seeing some of our healthiest, strongest fish yet.'

Across the sector, the Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation says figures show sea lice levels are at their lowest since July 2013.



Left to right: Lawrence Cowan, Scotland manager for Breast Cancer Now, Jen Hardy, Perjeta Now campaigner, and Donald Cameron MSP.

Cancer drug campaign for Scottish women

'Women in Scotland should be able to access the life-extending breast cancer drug Perjeta like women can in England and Wales', Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron has argued in Holyrood.

The campaign to make the drug available in NHS Scotland has been driven by the charity Breast Cancer Now Scotland.

Donald Cameron MSP joined secondary breast cancer patient and Perjeta Now campaigner Jen Hardy at Holyrood to support the charity's petition calling for the manufacturer Roche, the Scottish Government and the Scottish Medicines Consortium to work together to make Perjeta routinely available on the NHS in Scotland.

Perjeta, taken in combination with Herceptin (trastuzumab) and docetaxel, a chemotherapy drug, is a first-line treatment for patients with HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer.

It gives patients with incurable breast cancer nearly 16 additional months of

good-quality life, on average, compared to the alternative treatment option of trastuzumab and docetaxel alone.

While it has been the standard of care in England for more than four years, Perjeta has been rejected three times by medicines approval body the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) as it is not considered cost-effective.

Following a meeting at the Scottish Parliament between patients, MSPs, the Scottish Government and Roche, it was announced the drug company intends to make a new application to the (SMC) for Perjeta to be considered for NHS use in Scotland.

Mr Cameron said: 'It is a travesty that women with incurable breast cancer in Scotland are missing out on a life-changing drug now routinely available in other parts of the UK. The extra time Perjeta offers could mean the world to patients. It's the hope of being able to see their children grow older or spending another Christmas with loved ones.'

OBE awarded to Craignish charity founder Jamie



Jamie Spencer.

Jamie Spencer from Craignish has been awarded an OBE in the Queen's birthday honours.

Jamie, who is director and founder of the charity Feedback Madagascar, was given the honour for services to health, social development, education and the environment in Madagascar. Jamie

was recognised for his outstanding contribution in rural Madagascar over the past 25 years.

Through the charity's work, 45,000 people now have access to clean drinking water, 77 new schools provide education to approximately 19,500 pupils and deforestation has been significantly reduced over a

huge geographic area in the southern part of the country.

Jamie said: 'This is absolutely magnificent. This will honour all the people we have worked with in Madagascar and all the people who have supported us so much over the years. The future of Madagascar must be in the hands of its people.'

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Dalmally charity in urgent plea for help

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Argyll-based charity Mary's Meals is launching an emergency campaign calling for help to reach desperately hungry children caught up in the worsening crisis in war-torn South Sudan.

The fighting is forcing families from their homes, schools are being destroyed and 6.3 million people are facing a hunger crisis. As the lean season between harvests approaches, this figure is expected to rise and more than seven million people – almost two-thirds of the population – could soon be at risk.

The charity is one of the few organisations providing reliable and consistent food delivery to schools in the country, working alongside its local partner organisation, the Diocese of Rumbek, to feed desperately hungry children at 40 schools in Rumbek, Yirol and Mapuordit in the Lakes state, a region that has been plagued with persistent



Children enjoy Mary's Meals at Mazzolari school, South Sudan.

violence and food insecurity. Now more hungry children are turning to Dalmally-based Mary's Meals for help as rising numbers of families arrive in the area where the charity is working, having fled from other parts of the country. The daily food Mary's Meals provides is

not just a powerful incentive to come to school, but is also a vital lifeline for vulnerable children in need of nourishment.

As the charity launches its Crisis In South Sudan appeal, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, founder of Mary's Meals, said: 'The plight of children in South

Sudan is truly heartbreaking. For them, the promise of a daily school meal has never been more important. Those delivering food to schools in South Sudan are telling us that heavy rain has flooded roads, making it impossible to reach some schools by car.

'Instead, they are carrying the heavy sacks of food on foot, sometimes over great distances, because they know how much the children in those villages need it.

'We are determined to keep our promise to the 1,257,278 children around the world who rely on Mary's Meals. With more hungry children arriving at schools in South Sudan each day, we also need help to meet the growing demand there.

'We hope to ensure that every new child enrolling at schools in South Sudan already serving Mary's Meals can receive a daily meal and, as funds allow, also expand our programme to reach 1,657 additional children at five new schools in the country. We can do this with support, while continuing to expand our programme around the world to reach many more children.

'I want to thank with all my heart those who are supporting our mission at this time. Together, we can save lives and bring hope to innocent children.'

Community council finances are fine

Finances are looking fine for Kilmelford and Kilninver Community Council.

After latest outgoings, the community council's bank account has just under £800 in it.

The treasurer's report at last week's community council meeting said for 2017-2018 it received £434.30 from Argyll and Bute Council. For the year ending March 2018, it spent £1,341.19.

Spending included £1 for car park rental, a £35 data protection fee, village hall hire came to £132 and getting its three defibrillators signed off by an electrician totalled £446.

The accounts have been audited.

Five-star accolade for island distillery

Isle of Raasay Distillery is delighted to announce that its visitors' centre has been awarded VisitScotland's highest five-star visitor attraction accreditation, joining the ranks of some of the most unforgettable locations in the country.

Argyll MP explains Commons walkout

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara said he walked out of the House of Commons 'to stand up for constituents following attempts by the Tory government to silence Scotland's voice on Brexit'.

The MP joined the SNP's Westminster leader, Lochaber's Ian Blackford, in protest, after the Speaker asked him to leave during Prime Minister's Questions.

Mr O'Hara described last week's events in the Commons this week as 'scandalous'.

Oban's Tesco store introduces unwanted plastic point

Campaigners protesting at plastic food waste are celebrating a 'small but significant' victory after a supermarket introduced a collection point in its store.

Call-to-action group Awakening In Argyll last month co-ordinated a series of plastic attacks on Oban's three supermarkets, encouraging shoppers to dump their unwanted food plastic in trolleys outside before

handing it back to the stores.

The action came two days after Tesco's product boss Jason Tarry pledged the supermarket chain would remove all packaging that is hard to recycle from its business by 2019.

Protester Moira Newiss said campaigners had held a conversation with the fruit and veg manager at the Tesco store on the day of the plastic attack and he said people were

already leaving their unwanted plastic with them at the tills. He promised to ask his bosses about providing a bin at the end of the aisles.

This week, a collection point cage was spotted near the tills.

Mairi Stones from Awakening In Argyll said: 'Tesco has put a cage out for us to leave our packaging. It's a small but significant result from our unwrapping.'



Marc Headley and Moira Newiss were campaigning outside Tesco to reduce plastic use.

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Harris gin wins top national recognition

There was recognition for the Isle of Harris Distillery at the recent Scotland Food and Drink Excellence Awards.

Having received the award for distilling, Isle of Harris Gin was also recognised as Product of the Year thanks to what managing director Simon Erlanger described as 'the superb work by the island team'.

With 25 awards for design, branding and product to their name, these awards are regarded by the distillery as especially significant as they focus on the quality of the spirit itself.

Attending the ceremony in Edinburgh, head distiller Kenny Maclean said: "These awards mark out the wonderful work of our home-grown team but, more importantly, help secure the future of the distillery and, in turn, jobs for islanders."

"The distillery is helping to reverse the downward trend of population decline on Harris, which was due - in part - to the need for some islanders to move away for work."



The team at the Isle of Harris Distillery celebrate their awards. ^{OT}

Invaluable lessons teach youngsters the importance of saving

Financial literacy is not a skill we are born with. Learning how to manage money effectively requires acquiring a few important life lessons that parents can pass on to their children from a relatively young age, according to Iain Cairns of Argyll Financial Services.

Junior Individual Savings Accounts (JISAs)

are a good way for children to learn about the benefits of saving money for the future.

The advantage of JISAs is that they are tax free and, once the account has been opened by the parent or guardian, anyone can make contributions, including grandparents, friends and family. The savings limit for the 2018-19

tax year is £4,260. Children gain control of their JISA at age 16, but the money cannot be withdrawn until they are 18. The account then automatically rolls over into an adult ISA.

The value of investments can go down as well as up. Past performance may not necessarily be repeated.

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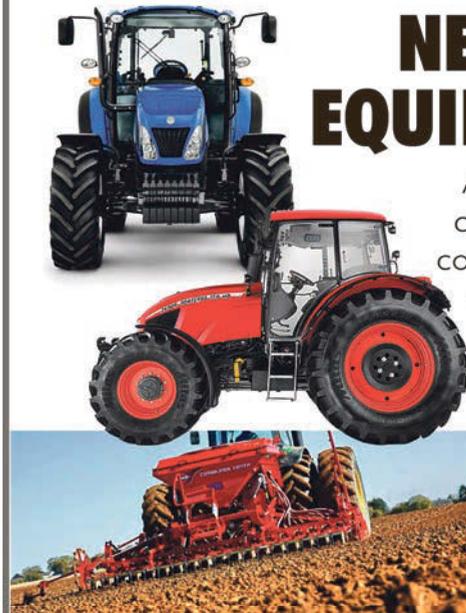
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The McCooravan was snapped on its way to Edinburgh, near Lochgoilhead

Highland coo-ravan on the moove

The McCooravan was spotted last week making its way through the Argyll Forest en route to the Royal Highland Show at Edinburgh.

An artistic collaboration between two homegrown brands, Argyll Holidays has teamed up with Steven Brown Art to create the Highland holiday home, which showcases the artist's unique artwork.

Calf way to Edinburgh, the

McCooravan was snapped while making its journey to the capital where it will be on display at the Royal Highland Show this week (Thursday to Sunday, June 21 to 24).

It will then take up permanent residence at Argyll Holidays' Drimsynie Estate holiday village, where visitors will be able to enjoy a Scottish break in style.

Lisa Allan Downie, marketing manager at Argyll Holidays, said:

'Steven Brown's signature McCo is recognised around the world and we're a huge fan of his work. Beyond canvases and prints, the famous cow now emblazons everything from cushions and duvet sets to tea towels and china mugs, and we're very proud to have the first McCooravan.'

Holiday-makers will be able to stay in the McCooravan later in the year.

Caledonian Sleeper reintroduces Oban bus link after trial success

A direct bus connection between Oban and the Caledonian Sleeper service is being reinstated after a successful trial last year.

The complimentary non-stop connection – available exclusively to Caledonian Sleeper guests – will connect Oban with the service's nearest stop at Crianlarich.

Operated by West Coast Motors and funded by Transport Scotland, the new summertime connection will make it easier and more convenient for people to travel between Argyll and the UK's capital city.

Ryan Flaherty, Serco's managing director at Caledonian Sleeper, said: 'One of our key priorities is to help improve connectivity for communities across Scotland and this bus link will help to do exactly that.'

'This new connection will make it even easier for people in Oban to get to London.'

'Oban and wider Argyll is an extremely popular tourist destination, both for London residents and people travelling from abroad, so this also provides a fantastic opportunity for Argyll's thriving visitor attractions and accommodation providers to shout about this new link.'

Caledonian Sleeper will also be working in partnership with CalMac to highlight the islands that can be reached from Oban.

The Oban bus service will run at 7.40pm on Sundays and at 8.30pm Monday to Friday, with a return service from Crianlarich railway station on Monday to Saturday mornings in line with the Caledonian Sleeper timetable.

Guests looking to use the bus service should confirm so when booking their travel with Caledonian Sleeper. For more information or to book a journey, visit www.sleeper.scot.

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Argyll works to preserve all our yarns of yesteryear

People across Argyll and Bute are being encouraged to take part in a unique project that will help to preserve tales about the area for future generations.

Argyll and Bute Youth Services is calling on people of all ages to help gather stories, film clips, photographs and objects about the area to celebrate the uniqueness of Argyll and Bute.

The Digital Storytelling Project is part of the national Year of Young People and aims to bring together our younger and older generations to share their stories and folklore tales of yesteryear.

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for education, Councillor Yvonne McNeilly, said: 'This is not only a great way of capturing precious stories about the area, but it's an excellent opportunity for a mix of generations to work together. Argyll is teeming with folklore tales, from giant serpents and mermaids being spotted on our coastlines in years gone by, to stories of haunted caves and bloody battles. We've got a lot to talk about.'

'The Year of Young People is all about bringing generations together and celebrating our young people. It's an opportunity to showcase their talents and create a positive perception of them in our society. This project is a perfect way to do that and is just one of the many things our youth services team has been up to.'

'I can't wait to see the outcome of the storytelling project and would encourage people to come forward and help.'

The council's youth services team is working in partnership with the education service and Digital Breeze. A workshop will be held in August where, having gathered everything they need, our young people will be able to create a platform for uploading the content – perhaps in a book, e-book or CD, for example.

If you would like to take part or help gather content for the project, contact Roanna Clark, youth participation officer, on 01546 604752 or email roanna.clark@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

History that was written in stone

Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



Apparently, we are all archaeologists now but I wonder how much simple archaeology we pass every day without giving it a second glance?

Top of the list must be dry-stone walls and dykes.

To qualify for the term 'dry-stone dyke', the wall has to be free of mortar and rely on good construction for its strength and durability. The style of a dyke varies throughout the country and depends on the nature of the stone and the purpose for which it is built.

In general, freestanding dykes (as opposed to retaining dykes) are built of two 'skins' of stone with a batter, which tapers the dyke evenly on both sides from ground level to the top. These skins are tied together by stone laid length-ways into the wall.

Stone walls are a feature of Argyll and are of interest because of their construction and the contribution they make to the local character of the landscape. Many were built as estate, croft and field boundaries, sheep fanks and enclosures for stock and shelter.

Dykes divide fields with differing soil types and therefore different management regimes. For example, head, or hill dykes, form the boundary between inbye land and rough grazings. They can show periods of land improvement, or define drove roads, once important for stock-movement.

The way dykes are built and their overall pattern in the wider landscape, reflects local geology, quarrying history, crafts and traditions.

Dry-stone walling in Argyll stretches back thousands of years, to the chambered cairns of Nether Largie, Achnacree and Camas na Gael (Ardnamurchan), and the timber-laced hill forts and duns that were the centres of power of local chieftains at Rahoy, Kilmore and Kerrera and the Iron Age brochs on Lismore.

John Campbell, fifth Duke of Argyll (1723-1806), who owned huge swathes of Argyll, including much of Mull, Morvern, Lismore, Coll, Tiree and Kintyre, was an agricultural reformer, improver and farmer on a grand scale, and recognised the value of enclosing land, especially round valuable oak woods. His interest and drive resulted in the building of thousands of miles of dry-stone walls.

Many of his dykers, or cowans as they were more commonly called, were local men but, as the land-hungry flock-masters from the Borders poured into the Highlands with their Cheviot sheep, they brought their own dykers who used different techniques and styles.

There are places where both can still be seen side by side. The greatest dyke-building period was from 1750 to 1850, following the Enclosure Acts.

How much did it cost to build a new dry-stone wall in Duke John's day? In a contract between his chamberlain and two Morvern dyke-builders, Angus and Archibald MacInnes, dated July 6, 1786, the agreed rate for erecting one, four-foot high and three-foot broad at the foundation, 18 inches at the top and finished off with two divots, was 2/6 a yard (12.5p).

That might seem cheap, but if you take into account much of the material for a new wall had to be prised out of the ground and carried some distance in all weathers, it was hard, back-breaking work. Little wonder the same length today would cost anything between £40 and £80 a yard, excluding material.

With the advent of wire, which was cheaper, easier and quicker to use, dry-stone dyking took a back seat for a while. Now, as interest in environmental issues increases, it is prospering and sits comfortably within these parameters, being a sustainable product made from natural materials.

Although initially appearing more expensive than fencing, with regular maintenance a dry-stone wall could stand for 100 years and at the same time provide shelter and habitat for a wide variety of animals, birds, slow-worms, mosses and other plants.

But where are today's dykers?



The Dry-stone Walling Association of Great Britain (DSWA) was founded in 1968 to promote a greater understanding and knowledge about the traditional craft of dry-stone walling and to encourage its repair and maintenance.

DSWA operates a nationally accredited craftsman certification scheme listing 29 professional members scattered between Shetland and the Borders, with two in Argyll. Morvern has been fortunate in having had some excellent resident dykers in modern times, including Michael Robertson (Fiunary), Donald Kennedy (Doirmamairt), Neil MacDonald (Rhemore) and Willie Lamont (Lochaline), some of whom have either retired or passed beyond the Great Divide.

Not so Murdo MacAskill from nearby Glenuig who, along with his team, was engaged a few months ago by Scottish Water to build a section of dry-stone walling at their new water treatment plant at Knock above Lochaline.

Murdo is a man you don't meet every day. At first glance you might take him for an orthopaedic surgeon getting ready to perform a delicate hip replacement or rebuilding a knee cap. But then you might wonder what he was doing standing beside a pile of rock at the roadside, hammer in hand, wearing a red hard hat and no white coat.

In many respects he is, indeed, a surgeon.

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Murdo MacAskill, master dry-stone dyke builder at Lochaline (Photograph: Iain Thornber); below, the mysterious dry-stone wall on Suilven in Sutherland which has puzzled walkers and climbers for centuries (Photograph: Alan Boswell); and, bottom, an estate boundary wall on Roshven which runs from sea level to the 2,800 summit cairn (Photograph: Iain Thornber)



working not with ageing bones but old stones, methodically selecting and placing each component with the same sensitivity of eye and hand as any physician.

Murdo's family hailed originally from the shores of Loch Brittle on Skye before moving to Tomatin, a small village in Strathdearn about 16 miles south of the city of Inverness on the A9, where they were stone masons and bards.

Murdo's paternal grandfather, also Murdo, who died in 1983 aged 74 years, was known as the 'Bard of Strathdearn'. He wrote many fine poems, including the following which I am not aware has been published before.

The Dry-stone Dyke

Hammer dress to clear the line
A dry-stone dyke is masculine
And shows the world a rugged face
Where pretty smoothness has no place

Levellings must not be high
The course above must bind and tie
Directly on the stones below
These are things all men must know

Wedge the horizontal spaces

Build with care the upright places
Gravity is not our friend
So use a wedge's thicker end

Never let a chance go by
To dress your work to please your eye
For every gap there is a pin
As you find them, tap them in

When the cope stones are in place
The rural scene our work shall grace
Enduring as its weathered stones
When we are nought but crumbling bones.

It is sad to see so many fine old field dykes in Morvern and elsewhere in Argyll, when they are damaged by machinery or animals, being patched by post and wire or, worse still, wooden pallets.

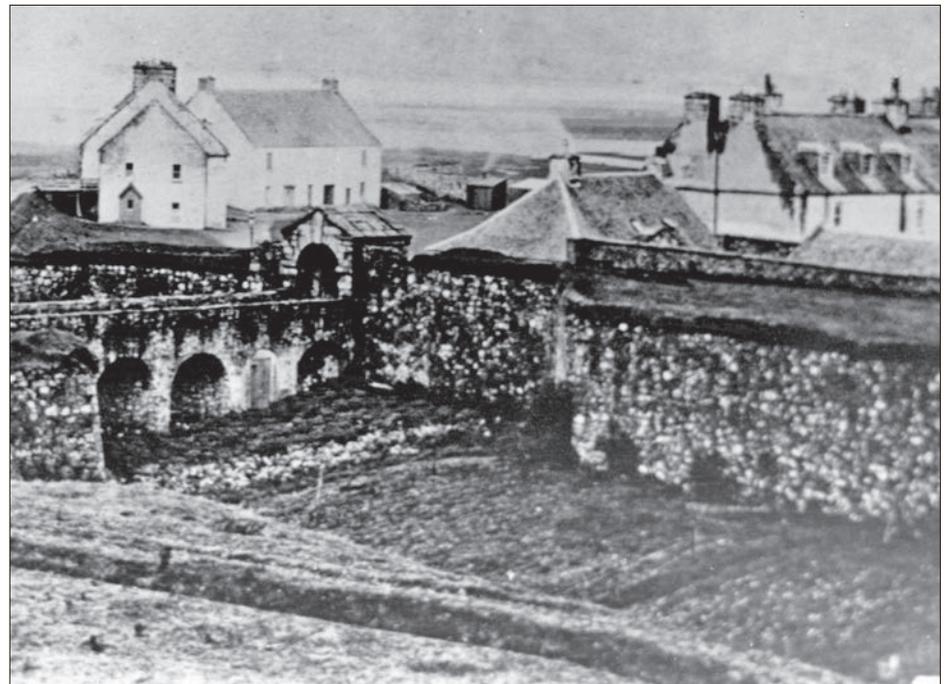
Any farm or estate entered into an agri-environment scheme (CPS, RSS or ESA) has the dykes on the holding identified in the conservation audit. These dykes are protected and cannot be removed. Grants are available under the current scheme to fund dyke work. A large amount of restoration has been carried out in Perthshire as part of the Breadalbane Environmentally Sensitive Area Scheme. It would be good to see something similar happening on some Morvern estates.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

We delve into our archives to bring you faces and places from yesteryears



Reader John Hay, from Taynuilt, sent in this photograph which, he says, is 'of a sale of work day in Dalintart Hospital (Oban) in the late 1880s'. Can anyone put names to faces?



The old Fort in the early 1900s.

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OT

LETTERS

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

The tourism and hospitality sector in Oban and Argyll continues to expand, with visitor numbers remaining buoyant.

Many accommodation providers have been reporting year on year that their occupancy rates are as strong as they have ever been.

As we have reported on a number of occasions in recent months, the construction of a new Premier Inn in Oban town centre is continuing.

Now, as we report this week, Travelodge, another chain of budget hotels, wants to build here as well.

As a statement from the company said: 'Travelodge has identified Oban as an up and coming tourism destination and wants to support the council with particular gaps that have been highlighted in the area.'

'There is a need for good quality and value accommodation which Travelodge will offer with its first hotel to open in Oban.'

The difference between the Travelodge proposal and the Premier Inn development is that the former wants financial involvement from Argyll and Bute Council – with the local authority retaining ownership of the hotel and receiving an annual rent into its revenue budget or selling the hotel with Travelodge as its operator after completion.

There is a debate to be had regarding this proposal and whether it is best use of hard-pressed public finances.

We have no doubt the senior figures in the council will give it serious consideration and we await the outcome with interest.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve 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 phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed.

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

At the Oban Times we 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 we have published anything that is factually incorrect, please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephone on 01631 568000; or write the Editor at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial 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 by calling 0300 123 2220 or email: inquiries@ipso.co.uk. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Action is needed to address
problems at post office

I am writing this email after reading your recent article about the Oban Post Office and as a former postman I can fully agree with the 'whistleblower's' letter.

I left the post office due to a number of issues.

First and foremost, the management have no clue what they are doing.

They have no people skills and just constantly undermine the long-term hard-working postmen and women there.

They seem to be on a witch-hunt to chase the long-term staff out the door and replace with part-time staff which will save costs in wages.

This has led to extremely low staff morale and, as your article mentions, a lot of people leaving and going off sick due to stress.

I, in particular, felt victimised and also lodged a complaint with my union after consulting the anti-bullying policy.

So the post office spokesperson in the article who said they have had no complaints is telling lies, which does not surprise me in the slightest.

In general, the long-term staff are being treated like naughty school children and not being trusted to do their jobs. This includes people who have been doing the job 30-plus years.

The Royal Mail head office needs to acknowledge the staff changes and realise that there is a massive underlying problem, instead of denying everything and making out things are just fine in Oban.

The main problem is the management changes that have happened and action needs to be taken before they lose any more of their long-term staff and also before anyone else has to be referred off work by a doctor due to stress.

I would ask the public to please be patient with the current staff as they are doing their very best in a dire working situation.

Name and address supplied.

Thanks to Good Samaritans
for help after breaking ankle

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the people who helped me when I slipped near the top of Beinn Lora on Friday June 1 and badly fractured my ankle.

I had gone walking with my two boys, aged seven and 14, to admire the glorious views on a beautiful day, so when a simple slip resulted in a very obviously badly broken ankle, we were quickly in a very difficult position.

Just as quickly a local walker, Rob McCallum, responded to my shouts, staying with me and the two boys and helping keep us all calm. Kirsty and Peter from Oban police arrived and were equally caring and reassuring.

Unfortunately, it was a busy Friday so mustering the mountain rescue team proved challenging but eventually a helicopter from Stornoway search and rescue with Mark and Josh aboard arrived and, with great care, skill

GET IN TOUCH

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YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase local people's images each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here,

simply send it to editor@obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street,

and humour got me and the boys safely in the helicopter and down to Glasgow.

I underwent reduction of the complete dislocation that evening and pinning and plating of the fracture the next morning and will be off work for around four months.

I cannot express how much the kindness of these strangers meant to me.

As a medical professional, I know they all considered it just part of the job, but it is so important that we don't lose sight of the value of simple human compassion, displayed in bundles by each of them.

Particular thanks to Rob and his wife Kate, whose reassuring presence got me through the first hour.

I'm looking forward to getting back to Oban and the hills later in the year and, although I'll be nervous, I'll remember the advice from Josh on the helicopter not to let this simple accident stop me getting back up there.

Jillian Connor DM MRCOG,
Consultant obstetrician,
University Hospitals Southampton.

New compact Oban Times is
great to read in the garden

Just a wee email to say congratulations on the compact edition.

I was delighted when I picked up last week's edition at my newsagent here in Edinburgh. It's great for reading in the garden during this nice weather too.

Please keep up the excellent work.

Michael Downey FCIBS,
Chartered banker, Edinburgh.

Changes were inevitable
but are disappointing

I suppose that it was inevitable that the once excellent Oban Times would go compact.

When any survey of readers was undertaken on this, I do not know, and I have read it every week for more years than I can remember. The way the new compact has been endorsed on numerous pages is obviously for those

Social Media  



Oban beach has become overgrown.

Our story about the weeds infesting Oban beach struck a chord with readers.

Lucy Garthwaite: 'Our environment is becoming so sterile, everything cut back to within an inch of its life or blasted with weed killers. What is so wrong with leaving an area to naturalise with wild plants and flowers. Folks should be more concerned with litter and go pick it up instead of moaning about it and blaming the council.'

Sarah Clarke: 'Marine plants growing on the shore line - it's natural And part of the eco system - haven for the ducks - the beach is clean of rubbish that's the main eyesore - this is lovely - maybe someone should catalogue the diversity of the plants.'

Milly Odonnell: 'It does look untidy compared to rest of the town!'

Annie Atwood: 'Please clean up the beach what a shame.'

Toni Cooke: 'Looks more like a field terrible.'

Christina Turtle: 'Nature! I'd be more concerned with the oil on the water and the rubbish that is washed up!'

Derek Snedden: 'Take a walk around Loch Etive at Connel..... RAW SEWAGE pumped straight in.... Looks Stunning..... and smells like, well, Sewage.'



Fort William. This week's photograph is by Angela Bailey, from Benderloch, who said: 'I drive past this view every night on my way back home from Tralee chippy. Spectacular skies at Connel.'

of us who do not agree with the new format to be silent so as not to be identified as fuddie-duddies.

I had not realised there were so many short-armed readers who have been struggling for decades to control their broadsheet paper with a mind of its own.

Could they not fold the paper in half to facilitate easier reading?

We should have realised things were changing when the Lochaber News was incorporated into the Oban Times.

There are no alternatives to The Oban Times, so please do not ruin the paper that was so good in a radical way that the then Duke of Argyll was forced to cancelled his subscription!

**Lorna Byrne,
Locheilside, Fort William.**

There is no problem with toilets at Ganavan Sands

Last month I arrived in Oban at about 4.30am for the 6.30am loading of a CalMac ferry.

It was a real pleasure to find the Ganavan Sands toilets open - and immaculately clean. Thank you for that, Oban.

But who is Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson who said: 'The toilets at the beach are cleaned daily, and we have recently taken the decision to lock them between 8pm and 8am due to an ongoing issue with mindless vandalism.'?

Complete tripe! What vandalism?

The toilets were in perfect condition and a credit to Oban.

The withdrawal of this kind of service is now typical of councils all over Britain - and Oban has fallen into that trap.

I did notice a new set of steel gates had been installed.

It was obvious the council was up to some dirty tricks, so I was not surprised to read your article in The Oban Times (June 14).

The council has been too quick to close these toilets on that pretext. But any excuse would do if truth be known.

**Geoffrey Tyson,
Capel Garmon, North Wales.**

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



THOIR DHOMH DO LAMH, an tiotal air fear de na h-òrain bhrèagha agus ainmeil a sgrìobh an t-Urramach Iain MacLeòid nach maireann, agus faclan a th' air a bhith air m' inntinn gu mòr bho chionn ghoirid airson adhbhar neo dhà.

Chaill mi fìor dheagh charaid bho chionn ghoirid agus gu deimhinnte bidh an saoghal againn uile a bha eòlach agus measail air nas fhalaime agus nas aonaraiche às aonais Iain 'Ùisdean' MacLeòid còir.

Tha faisg air dà bhliadhna bho thòisich an trioblaid tinneis mu dheireadh air Iain agus mar a bha an uine a' dol air adhart gun leigheas ri lorg bha cuisean a' fàs nas dubhaiche, ged a bha e fhèin a' cumail a' dol le spiorad dòchais.

Aig ìre àraid chaidh innse dha nach robh leigheas ri bhith air an trioblaid a bh' air agus gun teagamh 's e buille a th' ann an leithid sin de dh'fhiosrachadh an dà chuid ga chluinntinn, agus cumail air adhart leis.

Ach rinn an ceatharnach seo dìreach sin, agus bha a bhith na chuideachd a cheart cho taitneach 's a

bha riamh, agus bha an ùidh a bh' aige fhèin às na bha a' tachairt gun lasachadh.

Bha aon rud sònraichte a thachair thar na mìosan mu dheireadh dhe mo chuid eòlais air Iain agus b' e sin gun robh e a' crathadh làmh leam gach turas a dhealaicheamaid, agus bha mi a' tuigsinn gur dòcha gun robh e a' dèanamh sin eagal 's nach b' e sin an turas mu dheireadh a choinnicheamaid.

Ach mar a tha fios againn uile 's e an aon ghealltanais a th' againn agus chan eil dìth cràidh neo tinneis na dhearbhadh air dad a bharrachd saoghail.

Tha deagh chuimhne agam bhom òige air mar a bhiodh daoine a' gabhail beannachd' le càch a chèile, an dà chuid nuair a bhiodh neach a' fàgail na sgìre, agus cuideachd nuair a bhiodh cuideigin air leabaidh bàis.

Tha ar co-fhaireachadh le Annag, bantrach Iain, agus an teaghlach gu lèir agus bidh sinn ag ionndrainn, agus a' cuimhneachadh le meas mòr air sàr Ghàidheal.

B' e an t-adhbhar eile faclan an òrain aig Iain

MacLeòid a bhith nam inntinn na dealbhan a nochd de Cheann-suidhe Ameireagaidh Dòmhnall Trump agus ceannard Choirea a Tuath, Kim Jong Un, a' crathadh làmh a chèile.

Coinneachadh eachdraidheil a dh'fhaodadh crìoch oifigeil a chur air an staid cogaidh a th' air a bhith eadar an dà dhùthaich sin bho chionn faisg air seachdadh bliadhna.

Grèim goirid eadar dà bhois ach tachartas cho mòr 's a chunnacas sa chearna sin den t-saoghal bho chrìoch an dàrna cogaidh mhòir.

Tha luchd na cèille feadh an t-saoghail mhòr an dòchas gur e càirdeas a tha seo a mhaireas agus gum fàs sìth mhaireannach às a' chrathadh-làimhe iongantach a bha seo.

People worldwide watched with interest and hope as United States President Donald Trump shook hands with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

May all that hope be realised in lasting peace.

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

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DISTRICT NEWS

TAYNUILT



Public arts sculptor David Wilson working at The Shielling.

Public art sculptor David Wilson has been adding the final touches to Taynuilt's own memorial to love with the help of a team of stonemasons.

This Sunday, June 24 the community is invited to make their way up to The Shielling to see it for themselves, 1,500ft up Beinn Glas overlooking Glen Etive and to enjoy a celebration picnic.

The memorial was inspired by Taynuilt artist Evelyn MacDonald who died last year.

Before she died, Belfast-born Evelyn and her husband Sam MacDonald from Barguilean had talked about creating a lasting memorial to the Deirdre of the Sorrows love story that captured their hearts, telling the tale of two runaways from Ireland who hid in the glen.

The Shielling project will eventually have a website at thedeirdreshielling.co.uk for people who visit to leave selfies, thoughts and feelings.

Sunday's community picnic, from 2pm-5pm, is free and there will be transport for those who need it from the car park at Angus's Gardens on the Glen Lonan road although it is hoped people able to make the 2km uphill hike will go by foot to make the most of the views.

MULL AND IONA

A group of around 20 women and children representing Mull and Iona joined thousands of women in Edinburgh to celebrate 100 years since women in Britain secured the right to vote.

The Edinburgh Procession was one of many taking place simultaneously in UK capitals to commemorate the women's suffrage movement.

More than 20,000 people from throughout the country took part in the processions. The group from Mull and Iona were supported by the arts organisation Comar.

A special banner was created for the islanders taking part.

Artist Alicia Hendrick ran workshops between April and June with groups throughout the islands and created pennants for all participants.

They also created a 'much-admired' main banner that was carried by members of the group throughout the two-hour march.

Alicia Hendrick said: 'Our banner is a celebration of the inspirational women of our islands. It takes the shape of a sail held aloft by oars and incorporates a handmade fishing net.

'At its centre, a map of Mull is filled with images of island women and in the sea surrounding the map are inscribed the names of more women we admire.

'Influenced by the Suffragette banner-maker Mary Lowndes, we have incorporated the very fabric of our islands, using local tweed, tartan and beeswax and have embroidered lyrics, words and poetry from local women writers.

'A sash across the main banner carries as our motto the words 'We Know Where We're Going' in local wool.'

At the start of the project, the artist invited councillor Mary-Jean Devon to speak to the Comar banner group on her role in public life.

Following this, Mary-Jean joined the group and helped make the banner.



Women from Mull and Iona took part in the Edinburgh Procession.

OBAN

Dancers from as far afield as Colorado in America and Holland stepped out with enthusiasts from Barcaldine, Dalmally and Lochgilphead for a summer night of Scottish country dancing in Oban.

The event on Tuesday June 5 in the Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road, was or-



Helen Jackson, Liz Mudie and Judith Small from Oban Inner Wheel at the strawberry tea.

Taynuilt strawberry tea boosts carers' funds

Oban Inner Wheel served up a fundraising treat at their strawberry tea in Taynuilt.

A torrential downpour failed to stop people turning out for the event on Wednesday June 13, held for the second year in the village hall. Last year's event raised £400 for Riding For The Disabled

and this year's funds will go to North Argyll Carer's Centre in Albany Street.

The Inner Wheel group has already raised £1,000 for the carers' charity this year.

'We're hoping the strawberry tea will top that up nicely,' said Inner Wheel member Christine Marlow.

ganised by the Lorn (Argyll) branch of Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

It was one of a series of dances to be held throughout the summer on the first Tuesday of the month from 8pm to 10pm.

Teacher Sue Porter walked the dancers through each dance before the music started. At the end of the night the Colorado family left with the contact for a local Scottish country dance group back home.

Tickets for the next event are £4 for dancers and £2 for spectators.

Classes run from September to Easter, the only requirements being soft shoes and a love of dance.

The first class of the new season will be Monday September 24 at 7.30pm at the Church of Scotland Centre. Call Sue Porter on 01631 563103 for more information.



Scottish country dancing at the Church of Scotland Centre in Glencruitten Road.

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MULL

Bosses from a Mull-based outdoor pursuits charity making a difference to young vulnerable and disadvantaged lives have been to Buckingham Palace.

The visit for The Roses Charitable Trust (RCT) was courtesy of its supporters The Garfield Weston Foundation.

The foundation was one of RCT's first donors when it began 26 years ago and invited the charity's chairman Geoffrey Johnston together with founder member and director

of operations Andy Spink to London for a reception hosted by Prince Charles.

The event was a celebration marking 60 years of grant-making across the UK. Since 1993, Garfield Weston has donated £87,000 to RCT which runs its outdoor activities from Tavool House.

The RCT was also recently invited to attend the Scottish Children's Lottery Parliamentary Reception in The Members' Room at Holyrood hosted by MSP Rona Mackay.

Last year it was awarded £10,000 lottery funding.



Roses Charitable Trust chairman Geoffrey Johnston, left, and director of operations Andy Spink meet HRH The Prince of Wales.

Lottery cash for skiffs and songs

A new Argyll choir and rowing club are amongst projects sharing in National Lottery grants worth £384,459.

The funding, being shared by 51 voluntary and community groups, comes from National Lottery Awards for All Scotland which awards grants from £300 to £10,000.

Achnamara Village Hall Committee has been given £4,336 to launch a rowing club and buy material for building a skiff, while the newly-formed Dunoon Community Choir received £4,548.

Friends of Abbeyfield Fundraising Committee was granted £5,000 to run health and well-being activities for older people in and around Ballachullish, including keep-fit classes and drama/music therapy sessions.

A National Lottery Awards for All spokesperson said: 'No matter how big or small the award, there is something for everyone in this latest round of National Lottery grants.'

'Each group will use its funding to bring people together to share new skills, make friends and to become more connected to services and activities in their area.'

'We look forward to seeing the impact of this funding over the coming months.'

At random

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



Hair-raising issue

We published hundreds of photos on our website and social media last week from Oban Live, the vast majority of them showing smiling, happy people posing with The Oban Times selfie frame.

They included pictures of some of the police officers who did a superb job making sure the two-day event went off without a hitch.

One of the photos showed two bearded officers and, bizarrely, drew some considerable opprobrium directed at the men in question for having facial hair.

I was totally bemused by the strident criticism, which included phrases such as 'scruffy and unprofessional' and 'cheap T-shirt uniform' and accused them of 'looking like binmen'.

First, the uniform is hardly their fault: all police officers in the country wear the same. And why the slight against binmen?

What also struck me is that some of these critics were themselves former police officers.

But, seriously, what on earth does it matter if a police officer has a beard? These dedicated public servants deserve our thanks for the challenging job they perform, not criticism for their facial hair.

I suppose the critics were also upset that some of the officers at Oban Live were also sporting face paint as they joined in with the carefree spirit of the event.

Excellent tours

My colleague David McPhee wrote an excellent piece last week after joining one of the new walking tours in Oban.

Organised by BID4Oban, the walking tours are a great idea and deserve to be a success.

Anything that adds to the visitor experience is to be welcomed.

We want tourists to go away well pleased with time they have spent among us and telling their families and friends what a great part of the world this is.

But David admitted that, though born and bred in Oban, the tour was an eye-opener for him in terms of information gleaned during the tour.

I would encourage all local residents to find the time to take a tour. I certainly intend to make the effort.

What do you think?

Write to me at mlaing@obantimes.co.uk or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB, or call 01631 568021.

Communities asked to partner up over cemetery upkeep

Communities are being asked to consider partnering up with Argyll and Bute Council to help maintain graveyards.

Hot weather has seen a growth spurt of grass and weeds in cemeteries across the district but has also sparked complaints.

Kilninver, Taynuilt, Appin and Oban's Pennyfuir cemeteries were among those reported as overgrown.

People at Kimelford and Kilninver Community Council heard numbers of funerals had also gone up recently which meant they had to take precedence over maintenance jobs – although workers were now 'catching up'.

Councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'It's not just here. It's been everywhere,' and added she had been speaking to other communities, to find out if there was any interest in them working with the council to look after their own cemeteries.



Taynuilt's overgrown cemetery earlier this month.

Cutting responsibilities would still be down to the council but weeding and edging could be taken on by interested villagers, she said.

Concern was expressed at the meeting about the risk of the community getting sued if someone got hurt as a result of villagers' main-

tenance efforts but they were told Argyll and Bute Council and community councils should have insurance to cover that.

The community council is now taking the partnership idea to the church community before reporting back to their Argyll and Bute councillors.

Dalmally resident Graham Mackechnie contacted The Oban Times about the state of cemeteries. He said the one in Dalmally, which has since been cut, was so bad people could have made hay from it. He said council cuts over the years had seen cemeteries neglected.

'When my granny died years ago the cemetery was immaculate. When my brother died last year we had to spend a couple of hours ourselves to tidy round. They've lost manpower through all these cuts. If there's too much work to be done, then some of the council top-heavy paid managers should come out and give them a hand,' he said.

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School's out

FOR SUMMER



Soon it will be the summer holidays and echoes of 'can I play Fortnite?' will be heard from houses throughout the area.

It can be difficult to balance leisure activities with how much screen time to allow your children.

However, in this 'school's out for summer' feature, we will arm you with ideas, so you have a reply when the inevitable sighs of 'I'm bored' commence.

GET OUT AND ABOUT

There are lots of events and activities on offer for children through the summer, so check the newspaper, local websites and the bulletin board at the library for story times, arts and crafts days, classes and special interest groups.

Many community activities such as this are free or very affordable, so they won't break the bank.

GET CULTURE

Museums and galleries often have special exhibitions aimed at children in the summer, and usually have free or reduced entry for children.

This is especially true with this year with it being the Year of Young People.

We're blessed with a number of historical castles in our area.

Have a look online and see if you're

Cruise Sanda Isles this weekend aboard Waverley!

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favourite monument has special offers on for young people.

GET COOKING

With the popularity of shows such as the Great British Bake-Off, following recipes in your kitchen is something the children might just consider cool.

This is a great activity for a rainy day. Let the young people pick a recipe, go shopping for ingredients and cook something together. It doesn't need to be fancy or complicated – it could be truffles, cookies, a cake or something a little more healthy.

It's also a great way to get them to try new things, because if they've helped to create the goodie, they will be much more likely to give it a go.

GET LOOKING

Organise a treasure hunt with clues and prizes – inside if it is rainy or in the garden if it is dry. The whole neighbourhood could get involved and hide things up and down the street.

GET CREATIVE

Set up an arts and crafts day with canvas, paints or even crayons. Frame the resulting masterpieces – it makes great art for the children's rooms or the kitchen.

GET OUTDOORS

Dry days are great for picnics, ball games, a camp-out or a walk, even if it's in your own garden.

Have a family mini-Olympics with sack races, tug of war and foot races. Let the youngsters make 'medals' and celebrate the event with a picnic.

Summer is ideal for a family camping trip, and with a variety of sites for every taste, from roughing it to glamping, you don't have to go far.

Remember that it's not necessary to fill the child's schedule every minute of the summer.

By letting them play on their own in their rooms or in the garden, they will develop imagination and independence.

And Fortnite is fun.

Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

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Tobermory	Fri 6 - Sun 8 July

The Greatest Showman sing-along (PG) 95 mins
30/06 at 5.30pm, 03/07 at 1pm

Edie (12A) 101 mins
30/06 at 8.30pm, 02/07 at 8.30pm, 04/07 at 8.30pm,
05/07 at 2pm, 06/07 at 8.30pm, 08/07 at 2pm

Isle of Dogs (PG) 101 mins
01/07 at 2pm

The Breadwinner (12A) 94 mins
01/07 at 5.30pm, 04/07 at 5.30pm, 08/07 at 5.30pm

Avengers: Infinity War (12A) 149 mins
01/07 at 8pm, 02/07 at 5pm, 05/07 at 8pm, 06/07 at 5pm, 07/07 at 8pm

Sherlock Gnomes (U) 86 mins
07/07 at 2pm

Love, Simon (12A) 109 mins
07/07 at 5.30pm

A Quiet Place (15) 90mins
08/07 at 8.30pm

Before **Edie** we will show a short film about the Suilven Path Repair Project.
Before **Love, Simon** we will screen a free photo presentation: **Marcelo Brodsky - 1968: The Fire of Ideas**. Book at: www.screenmachine.co.uk. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults.



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Yes, you read that right – the sun must have gone to our heads. Whether you have flown from Oban to Orlando, Fort William to Faro or Benderloch to Benidorm – it Disney matter (get it?). You can still get access to The Oban Times and Lochaber Times on your snazzy digital device of choice. You will get full access to our website, updated every day, PLUS a full digital copy of the paper.

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ending on August 8, we are offering a month's digital access for only 79p – the usual price for a week's subscription. So, if you are lucky enough or rich enough to afford a four-week break, we have got you covered.

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OUTDOORS



Fergus Ewing tries a new e-cargo bike with Claire Daly of Sustrans and Stuart Henderson from Transport Scotland.

People told to get on e-bikes

Two new funds are being announced to encourage more people to start using electric bicycles, particularly for shorter journeys.

The Low Carbon Transport Loan Fund will have £500,000 available for interest-free loans of up to £3,000 to help individuals and businesses purchase e-bikes and e-cargo bikes.

The E-bike Grant Fund will allocate £700,000 for local authorities, public sector agencies, community organisations, colleges and universities to encourage large-scale e-bike adoption. It is expected grants will fund e-bike pools, secure cycle parking and safety equipment.

A further £100,000 will be available through the E-bike Grant Fund to let members of the public test ride e-bikes at Home Energy Scotland advice centres, active travel hubs and community centres.

The funding was announced by Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity Fergus Ewing at the Scottish Transport Summit in Glasgow on Thursday June 14.

'These funds are the latest in a range of measures the Scottish Government is introducing to encourage sustainable and active travel,' said Mr Ewing.

'We want more people, who undertake shorter journeys, to leave their cars at home and go by bike for the benefit of their health and our environment.'

Ocean rower just 'happy to be alive'

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk



Solo ocean rower Niall Iain Macdonald said he is 'just happy to be alive' after a terrifying ordeal which ended in him being rescued by a cargo ship a quarter of the way into the challenge.

The 44-year-old from Lewis had to be rescued from his boat, ALBA, last Friday after his cabin was swamped and his systems started to fail during heavy seas.

Niall Iain was rowing solo across the North Atlantic to raise at least £100,000 for Scottish mental health charity SAMH – and to raise awareness of mental health issues. So far he has reached more than £20,000 on his Just Giving NY2SY page.

The Gaelic broadcaster from the Isle of Lewis, who was more than a quarter of the way into his North Atlantic challenge, was battered by severe weather during the night and forced to make a Mayday call before abandoning ship.

He was picked up from his liferaft on Friday morning by a Dutch cargo ship, the DOLFIJNGRACHT. His boat, which has suffered extensive damage, has been abandoned at sea.

Niall Iain's support team learned of the incident in a phone call from the deck of the DOLFIJNGRACHT on Friday. He was able to provide further details in an email, where he described the harrowing rescue – and spoke of his relief at still being alive.

The rescue comes just two days after an NY2SY update, celebrating the fact that Niall Iain was more than a quarter of the way home, having passed 871 miles or more than 1,400 kilometres and averaging about 40 miles a day.

His main shore support, Leven Brown, had said he was doing 'an amazing job' and 'making good time'.



Ocean rowers Niall Iain MacDonald, left, and Leven Brown.

Leven also spoke of the use of sea anchors during heavy weather. A sea anchor works in a similar way to a parachute and is used to stabilise a boat in bad weather. It is attached to the bow of the boat on a line, under the surface of the water, and increases the boat's drag.

It helps to minimise loss of position during bad weather, when the rower is inside the cabin, and also points the nose of the boat into the wind, helping to reduce the risk of capsizing.

He said last week: 'My memory of the North Atlantic is that you could be in a storm in the morning at sea anchor and in the evening you could be doing five knots towards home. The weather is all over the shop.'

In his email, Niall Iain describes being hit side on, repeatedly, by waves.

He pressed the red emergency button on his VHF and issued a Mayday call. He spoke with the UK Coastguard on the sat phone who advised there were vessels around and they were being directed to his position. An aircraft was also being sent to the scene. After trying to raise anyone on his VHF, Niall Iain then saw the VHF aerial had been snapped.

As systems started to fail, he eventually received a call on his hand-held VHF from the cargo vessel DOLFIJNGRACHT that they were making their way to his location.

'As harrowing as the rescue was for me, the captain and crew of the DOLFIJNGRACHT did an amazing job getting me onboard in very difficult conditions (4m waves and 2m swell according to the captain). I am just happy to be alive, I haven't really thought about anything else,' he said.

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National park communities invited to village hall summit

Communities across Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park are being invited to an event offering advice and support on running community halls and facilities.

The Community Partnership, supported by Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority, is holding a village hall summit on Wednesday June 27, offering managers and volunteer committees of village halls and community spaces the chance to benefit from expert advice and guidance.

The summit, the first of its kind in the national park, will bring together all those in the area who manage these facilities to provide inspiration and practical advice from a range of partners across the national park.

It will feature case studies of other village and community halls using their space in innovative or impressive ways, practical workshops that will help managers to create an outline development plan bespoke to their hall, and networking and access to advice from over 20 experts.

The aim of the event is to empow-



er hall managers to deliver actions that will improve the quality of the service and facilities they provide to their communities – a vision outlined in the National Park Partnership Plan 2018-2023.

Stuart Mearns, director of rural planning and development, at Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority, said: 'The National Park Partnership Plan sets out an exciting vision for our communities that ensures they are empowered and supported to influence and deliver actions that improve their quality of life and place.'

'This event is just one example of partners in the plan coming

together to make that vision a reality. The village hall summit promises to be a practical and productive day which will offer big benefits for those spaces which bring together our communities.'

'I would encourage anyone with a role in managing a village or community hall to come along to hear from experts and learn best practice from your peers, so that you can begin forward planning an exciting and sustainable future for your hall.'

Dinah McDonald, chairwoman of the Community Partnership, added: 'Our village halls have always been the heart of rural communities.'

'Ensuring a sustainable future for these spaces in today's world can seem an increasingly difficult challenge to the many volunteers who are the core of their success.'

'This summit promises to offer tools and support to make that job far easier and the future of community spaces more exciting.'

The village hall summit takes place at the National Park Authority headquarters in Balloch on Wednesday June 27 from 4pm to 8.30pm.

This week's walks

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted before hand for meet-up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy. Further information at www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk. Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk.

Saturday June 23 Fiarach, Tyndrum

The rocky summit of this Graham affords fine views of the many bigger hills in all directions. It is the highest point on a prominent wall-like dolerite dyke.

Start from the CP at Dalrigh, NN343291. Head SE on a track to cross the bridge over the River Fillan then turn SW alongside the railway for about 1km.

Cross the bridge over the railway and continue SW on the track to the forest boundary at NN331271. Head E up the hill, outside the forest fence. At NN342269 the fence turns S, passes close W of Lochan Fiarach and may be followed directly to the summit of Fiarach 652m. It is worth walking a short distance SW from the summit for a view of the dolerite 'wall'.

Descend ENE on undulating rough ground to a corner of the forest boundary fence. Cross the fence at NN352264 and continue down E on open or sparsely planted ground to reach the boundary fence of a mature evergreen plantation. Pass around its N side to reach the head of a rough track at NN360264. Follow the track down NE to reach the WHW and follow this to cross the A82. Continue on the WHW to Kirkton Farm, past the St Fillan's Priory site, and back to Dalrigh.

Grade: M; Distance: 12km; Height to climb: 500m Map(s): LR50, EX364; Meet at Longsdale car park, Oban, at 9.25am or Glencoe village car park at 9.40am. Start at 10.30am. Leader: Sally Cameron 07810 464994.

Thursday June 28 Spean Bridge to Fort William by Leanachan Forest

A pleasant linear route mostly on tracks through land just to the south of the West Highland railway. Parking advice will be posted nearer to the date. Meet at Fort William bus station to catch the no. 41 Roy Bridge bus, leaving at 9.30 for Spean Bridge at 10.05.

Start at the Woollen Mill bus stop in Spean Bridge. Go to Spean Bridge Golf Course, making our way up beside the fairway and into rough woodland. Cross this, going W to reach pasture-land.

Cross the grass to side road at NN209809, turn S uphill until forest entry at NN209800. Follow the track W, crossing the access road for Nevis Range at NN161784.

Reach Torlundy at NN146772 and turn onto the access road to the North Face CP. Continue on the track to a sharp bend then turn right up the short path to the 'puggy line'. Turn SW along this, then W on the footpath to the distillery. Cross the A82 roundabout and continue W along the River Lochy, past the old Inverloch Castle, along a section of the Great Glen Way back to the cars.

Grade: L; Distance: 16km; Height to climb: 150m; Map(s): LR41, EX399/400; Meet at Fort William bus station for 9.30am departure. Start of walk at 10.05am. Leader: Helen Critchley 01397 712346 or 07789 25370.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

Sunday June 24 Sgurr Mor, Sgurr an Fhuarain, Loch Arkaig

This hill is situated in very remote country. From the car park near Strachan, take the track to Glendessary and then go north on the path to the high point.

The path goes NE, so leave the path to go north into Glen Kingie and cross the river (not always easy). Join the path on the north side of the river and take it west and then NNE on to the SW ridge of Sgurr Beag. Continue over Sgurr Beag, then down steeply to the col and up steeply to the summit of Sgurr Mor.

To return, continue east on the path and then SE to the col below Sgurr an Fhuarain, which may be climbed from here. Descend steeply on grassy slopes to cross the river Kingie and rejoin the outward route.

Distance: 22km; ascent: 1300m. Suggested by Anne Scouler and John Burton; coordinator: Andrew Gilbert.

Oban in Airbnb's top five for destinations in Scotland

Oban reached fifth place on Airbnb's top destinations in Scotland, behind Skye, but ahead of Perth, Aberdeen, St Andrews and Dundee.

Oban's local economy was boosted by £7.3 million last year, with the typical host earning £6,100, an Airbnb study has claimed.

Altogether, it said hosts and guests using Airbnb generated £482.9 million of economic activ-

ity in 2017 in Scotland alone. The breakdown reveals that Scottish hosts have earned £113.4 million, with 1.4 million people using the Airbnb platform to visit Scotland.

Natasha Mytton Mills, UK policy manager for Airbnb, said: 'Scotland has long been one of the most vibrant and enticing countries for visitors from across the world.'





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Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an Iar

Great local food the key for Tayvallich Inn's new owners



It was a Sunday when the phone rang, recalls Brian Masson - and it would be a call that would prove to be life changing.

The call to Brian and his wife Kathryn came out of the blue from Chris Plummer and Ian McAdam, then owners of the Tayvallich Inn.

'How do you fancy taking over the pub?' was the key phrase.

'It was something that we'd never considered,' said Brian. 'I have been coming to Tayvallich for 50 years, starting with family visits to Castle Sween with my parents.'

'We knew the pub well and were regular customers. We spent weekends and holidays in Tayvallich over the years, and loved the place. In fact, we got married

six years ago in the Tayvallich Inn, so it's somewhere that has always been close to our hearts.'

They were 'desperate' to live in Tayvallich, but with a background in the elderly care industry, Brian and Kathryn were initially unsure about the jump to running a thriving local pub in rural Argyll.

'We thought about it,' Brian continued, 'then it was a case of "what the hell". Kathryn is a really good cook, and we both like food.'

The couple took over the reins in February 2017, and it's a move they are relishing.

The couple set about building on the Tayvallich Inn's existing reputation for good food and a warm welcome.

Kathryn explained: 'We inherited a great team, so we had continuity. The manager Danny Briggs had been there six years and Aaron Jones, our chef, for four years, so that was fantastic.'



"We spent weekends and holidays in Tayvallich over the years, and loved the place. In fact, we got married six years ago in the Tayvallich Inn, so it's somewhere that has always been close to our hearts."

A tasteful refurbishment has given the dining area and bar a fresh, open feel, and paintings by local artists adorn the walls.

Brian and Kathryn introduced a new range of tempting gins and real ales - but good food remains the vital ingredient.

'We aim for freshly-prepared food using local suppliers,' said Brian. 'Seafood is our speciality, and we serve scallops hand-dived and then landed in Tayvallich. Our langoustines and crab are caught in the Sound of Jura, and our meat comes from Oban.'

The Tayvallich Inn can accommodate up to 80 people in the restaurant, bar and outside decking area, and is proud to employ local people.

'We think phase one of our gradual upgrading has been pretty successful, and we are keen for people to take a trip out to beautiful Tayvallich and enjoy a good meal in a friendly atmosphere.'



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Tayvallich, Lochgilphead, PA31 8PN
www.tayvallichinn.com

For reservations contact us on
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Life's a Beach



2018

Your guide to some of the West Coast, Highland's and Islands' most beautiful beaches



Life's a Beach

The perfect
staycation.



Life's a beach and beaches are for living!

We are so, so lucky living here with some of the finest coastline and beaches in the world on our doorsteps. Beaches and seas considered so important that they are protected by law because of their scenic or scientific importance. People come from all over the world to work on them, study them or have their holidays on them! Here are some of our favourites.

The West Highlands and Islands are packed full of beaches and magnificent ones at that.

So our question this summer is which one is yours? Which is your special place, the beach that draws you back, time-after-time? Is it one with special memories from your childhood, a romance, the incredible view or just because it makes your dogs wild with delight when you slip off their leads and let them run free?

There are so many beaches, each with their own unique features so do you have a number of special favourites you return to for different reasons?

Do you have one for your toddlers to enjoy, all soft white sand and safe shallows to paddle and play? Or a rock pool beach where older

kids can explore and widen their knowledge of marine life, ornithology, wildlife, plants, geology, cloud formations and the stars at night? Yes, life's a beach and it teaches us about life in so many ways.

Or do you have different beaches for different needs? A beach to celebrate and party on, a beach you go to sit and think out your troubles. A chill out beach to meditate or pray; where the seascape connects you to something deeper and more spiritual within yourself?

A beach that's guaranteed to banish your blues – a beach where whatever the weather you wrap up and walk amidst the wind and the sound of Atlantic rollers crashing on shingle - an exercise that blasts whatever is bugging you clean out of your system.

What ever, wherever, whenever enjoy your beaches this summer and make friends with some new ones this year from the ones we have here.

Many of the images have been taken by an old friend of The Oban Times, who is greatly missed, the late Dennis Hardley one of life's gentlemen and a true professional with a great eye for a photograph. It is always an honour to present his work, with the kind permission of Tony Hardley.

And we would also like to thank Ron at www.islayinfo.com and Eilidh Carr of Coralbox gift shop, Berneray for also allowing us to use some of their fine work.

7 things your beach life should include at least once

Land on the beach: The Outer Hebrides is home to the world's only beach runway, Traigh Mhòr on Barra doubles as the island airport.

As Logan Air advises the timetable is 'subject to tides - flights work to a flexible timetable as the runway disappears twice a day under the incoming tide'. The Glasgow to Barra flight features regularly is aviation 'best' lists. The airport terminal doubles as a very popular café.

Picnic: Doesn't matter if it is just a can of Irn-bru and a packet of crisps or a full-blown beach barbecue, food tastes better on a beach. What could be better than food and drink eaten on a beach nearby where it is produced, or the catch landed.

Sand castle: Build one with a child or just with your own inner-child along. Save different-shaped packaging to create shapes. A cut open washing-up liquid bottles makes a brilliant Scots baronial turret

Go to the movies: Find the spot from your favourite movie, visit it and re-enact the scene.

Rock pooling: There is a whole world in that tiny pool of water, waiting to be refreshed by each tide. Go explore – bring the Blue Planet out of the television right to your children's finger tips. A trip to the Ocean Explorer Centre at the Scottish Association for Marine Science at Dunbeg, Oban, would help them get so much more out of the experience.

Fly a kite: Kite flying seems to have gone out of fashion – beat those bearded hipsters to it, by making kites cool again. Also a great way to gently wean kids away from their mobile phones; no way can you fly and kite and hold a mobile at the same time.

Thank the beach: Say thank you to the beach for being such a gracious host and providing you with a wonderful day out by taking your litter home with you. Give the beach a thank-you gift by not only taking your own but having a quick litter pick of anything that other rude, ungrateful guests might have left behind.

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Isle of Tiree: Balinoe Beach



Close By:

There is a post office at Balinoe, and the Farmhouse Café in Balemartine is within walking distance.



Don't miss:

This beautiful island provides lots of inspiration for artists, so be sure to visit Dorinda Johnson's studio gallery in Scarinish, Patricia Sharp's studio gallery at Caolas and Tiree Glass right there in Balinoe.



Useful websites:

www.isleoftiree.com
www.southernhebrides.com
www.calmac.co.uk



GETTING HERE: From Oban, the vehicle/passenger ferry to Tiree, or Flybe operates a regular air service from Glasgow Airport. From the ferry, follow the road up from the pier, at the junction turn left and follow signs to Crossapol, then follow signs for Balemartine. Before reaching Balemartine on the right is a sign for Balinoe.

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Where? Isle of Tiree

The Hebridean Island of Tiree is famous for its fabulous beaches and tropical-like climate in the summer, and Balinoe Beach is one of the best places to experience it all. After all, Tiree is known as the 'Sunshine Isle,' with the warm Gulf Stream and some of the British Isles' most glorious sunshine. The waters are so renowned that surfers from around the world make the pilgrimage to 'hang 10 and compete in the annual Tiree Wave Classic. Balinoe Beach boasts sand so white you'll need sunglasses, fringed by machair dunes on one side and sapphire waters on the other- a postcard perfect spot if ever there was one! Whether camping or enjoying the hospitality of one of the area's fine lodgings, Balinoe Beach should be on everyone's summer bucket list.



TYREE - GIN -

Made with Kelp & Machair Botanicals from the Inner Hebridean island of Tiree, Tyree Gin is an exciting addition to the 'Hebridean Gin' market.

Alongside the core botanicals, the predominant flavour of Tyree Gin is achieved through six locally foraged botanicals: Eyebright, Ladies Bedstraw, Water Mint and Angelica collected from the island's rich and fertile machair ground together with Kelp and Sea-Belt from the wild Atlantic Ocean which combine impeccably to create a true taste of Tiree.

Tyree Gin is available to order now at tyreegin.com

Harris: Luskentyre Beach



Close By:

The main ferry port of Tarbert (10 miles north of Luskentyre) has shops, cafes, restaurants, Harris Tweed shops, distillery, post office and a bank.



Don't miss:

More beaches, Harris Tweed fashion and crafts, island boat tours from Tarbert, The Summer HebCelt Festival on Stornoway (further north on Lewis, just an hour on the bus from Tarbert)

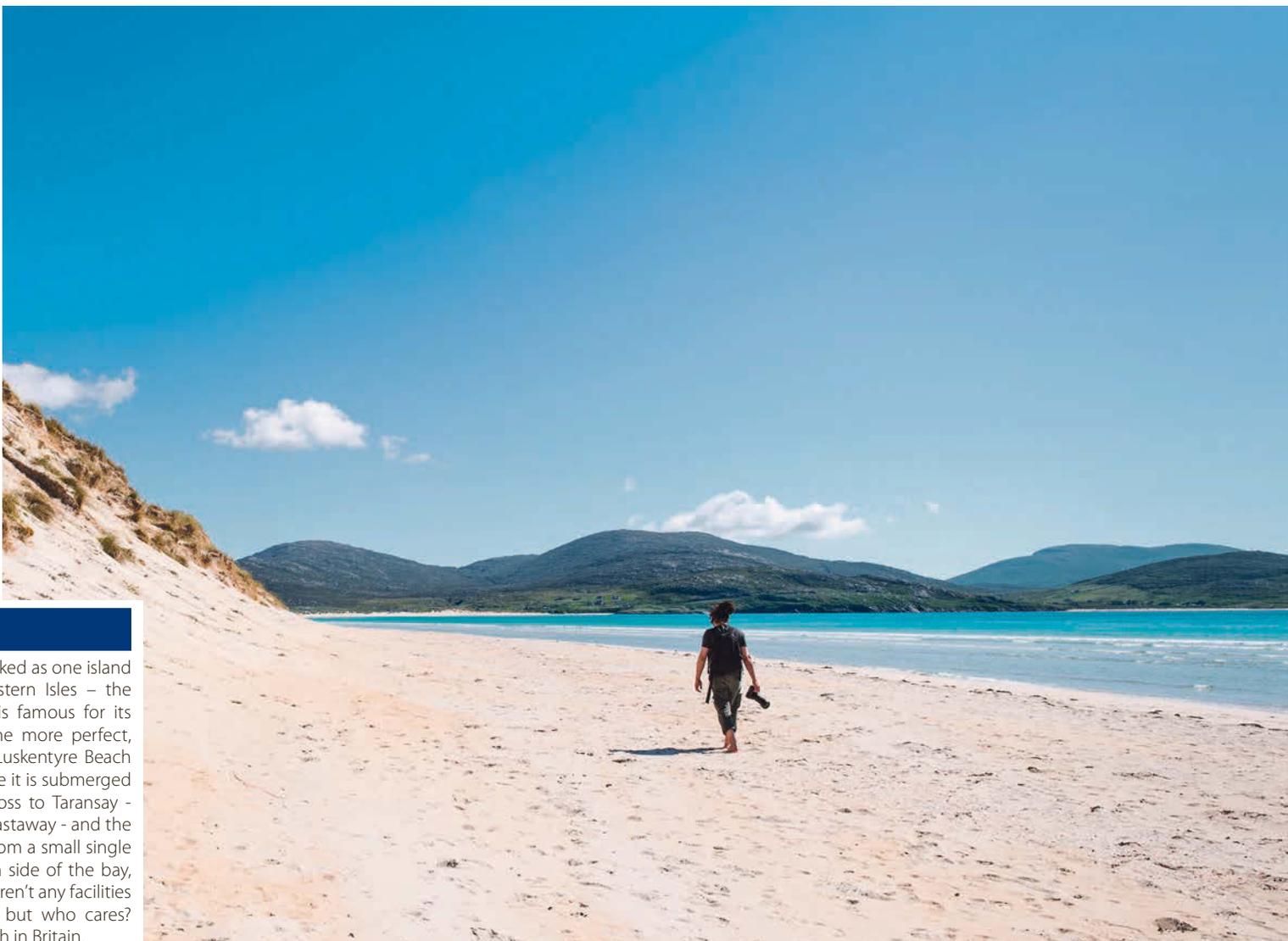


Useful websites:

www.calmac.co.uk
www.hial.co.uk
www.visitouterhebrides.co.uk

Where? Isle of Harris

The Isle of Harris and Isle of Lewis are linked as one island and are otherwise known as the Western Isles – the largest of the Outer Hebrides. Harris is famous for its spectacular beaches, and there is none more perfect, perhaps anywhere in the world, than Luskentyre Beach on the south west coastline. At high tide it is submerged under crystal clear waters, looking across to Taransay - made famous as the setting for BBC's Castaway - and the mountains of north Harris. Accessible from a small single track road that arches across the north side of the bay, Luskentyre is fairly easy to reach. There aren't any facilities (other than a toilet block nearby-ish), but who cares? You've arrived at arguably the best beach in Britain.



GETTING HERE: The easiest crossing is from Uig (Skye) to Tarbert (Harris) with CalMac. Explorers will love the CalMac Hopscotch 8 ticket which starts at Oban and finishes in Ullapool (4 separate journeys tailored as you wish). Flybe operates a number of flights to Stornoway from Glasgow, Inverness, Oban, Campbeltown, Barra and Tiree.

Barra: Traigh Mòr Beach



Close By:

There is a café in the airport terminal, toilets and many more restaurants and shops within 5 miles of the beach.



Don't miss:

Barra Heritage & Cultural Centre, Balnabodach deserted village, Kisimul Castle



Useful websites:

www.isleofbarra.com
www.calmac.co.uk
www.hial.co.uk

Getting here: Calmac operates a ferry from Oban to Castlebay 5 times a week. It takes around 5 hours so treat it as a mini cruise and enjoy the journey! Flybe operates a scheduled flight from Mon-Sat, landing straight on the beach during low tide.



Where? Isle of Barra

The island of Barra is the most southerly of the inhabited Outer Hebridean islands and boasts the only beach runway in the world to handle scheduled airline services.

Traigh Mòr beach has been home to Barra airport for 80 years and has been voted as the world's most spectacular landing strip. The beach stretches between the villages of Ardhmhor and Eoligarry on the northern tip of the island. In between high tides and aircraft landings, the beach is open to the public. It is very popular with cockle collectors, photographers, walkers and those that want to just gather to watch the out-flight entertainment! An absolutely stunning beach.

Barra Airport Cafe... where the plane lands on the beach!

Items prepared fresh each day including baking, local seafood and fish.



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VISITOR INFORMATION

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E: info@buthbharraigh.co.uk

North Uist: West Beach, Berneray



Close By:

A shop, tea room, post office, church, community hall and visitor information centre at The Nurse's Cottage. There are no pubs and only one restaurant, so if you fancy eating out, you can hop across the causeway to Lochmaddy on North Uist.



Don't miss:

The East Beach too, Lobster Pot Tearoom and the opportunity to get stuck into working on a local farm – ask around for how to get involved.

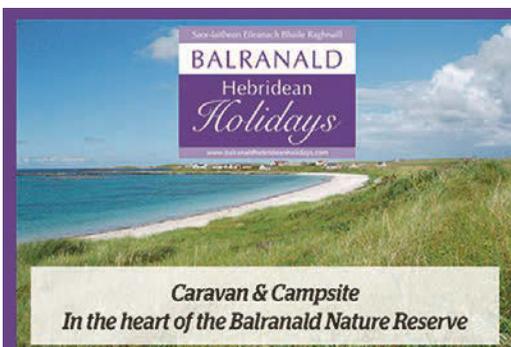


Useful websites:

www.calmac.co.uk
www.hial.co.uk
www.isleofberneray.com

Getting here: CalMac ferries go to Lochmaddy on North Uist (then travel by car across the causeway) or into Berneray from Leverburgh on Harris. Regular scheduled flights from Glasgow, Stornoway and Benbecula. A great bus service on the island connects with flights and ferry arrivals.

Photo: Eilidh Carr of Coralbox gift shop, Berneray



Hougharry, North Uist, HS6 5DL

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www.balranaldhebrideanholidays.com

Where? North Uist

The small and beautiful Island of Berneray is situated between Harris and North Uist, linked to the latter by a 900m causeway. It is just 2 miles by 3 miles and inhabited by around 130 people who support themselves and the island's rich heritage mainly through crofting, fishing and tourism. Stunning beaches adorn the coastline and the uncrowded West Beach, which can be reached via the village of Borve, stretches for 3 spectacular miles. Nature lovers will be on the look-out for seals, otters, snipe, corn crakes, barnacle, greylag and Brent geese. The shoreline is home to numerous splendid wading birds including snaderlings, turnstones, red shanks, oyster catchers and curlews. A glance to a clear sky at night will often reward you with stars, meteors, comets and the breath taking northern lights.



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Ardnamurchan Peninsula: Sanna Bay



Close By:

The village of Portuairk is the western most settlement on the British mainland. Kilchoan has a shop and the ferry terminal to Tobermory on the Isle of Mull.



Don't miss:

Don't miss on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula: The Ardnamurchan Lighthouse is nearby and has a lovely tea room.



Useful websites:

www.sannabay.co.uk/
www.wildlochaber.com/ardnamurchan/wildlife/sanna-bay
www.calmac.co.uk



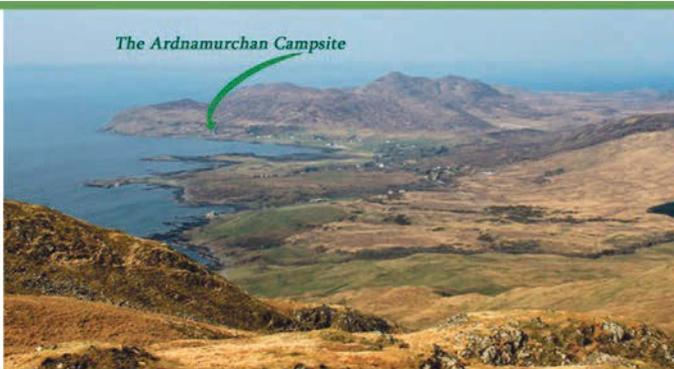
GETTING HERE: Take the Corran Ferry from Inchree near Onich. Take the signed right turn not far from Kilchoan.

Where?

Ardnamurchan Peninsula

If you are looking to truly get away from it all, then Sanna Bay on the tip of the Ardnamurchan Peninsula offers one of the most remote and spectacular beach experiences in Scotland. Located six miles from Kilchoan, it's quite a trek to reach Sanna, including a ferry crossing and 30 miles along a single track road, across a stunning extinct volcanic landscape now clothed in purple heather. But that's part of its beauty-you'll miss the crowds and nothing stands between you and Sanna's vivid turquoise seascapes. There is a gravel car park and telephone box there, but no other signs of civilisation. Instead, enjoy the dunes and rock formations, look for swooping sea eagles and playful otters, and do some frolicking yourself in the tranquil rock pools that dot the bay. Climb the rocks for stunning views over Isle of Skye, Muck, Eigg, Rhum and Canna- that alone is worth the drive!

ARDNAMURCHAN CAMP SITE
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 07717 181745



Welcome to Ardnamurchan Camp Site
 The ideal place from which to explore West Ardnamurchan - with dramatic volcanic land and sea scapes, pristine beaches and tranquil coves.

www.ardnamurchancampsite.com

Camusdarach Beach, near Morar



Close By:

The charming port of Mallaig is a thriving port on the famous Road to the Isles, but is less crowded than other coastal towns. Find a range of shops and services here, and enjoy some of Britain's freshest fish and chips in one of its renowned chippies. Arisaig also offers warm hospitality and is home to the Land, Sea and Islands Centre, with fascinating displays about the area's natural and cultural history.



Don't miss:

Wildlife Cruise from Western Isles Cruises: Operating daily from Mallaig throughout July to September, this trip is designed to fit in with the Jacobite Steam Train. Leaving Mallaig you will travel out to Green Island on the Knoydart Peninsular where you will see seals relaxing on the rocks. Mallaig Pier, PH41 4QD. www.westernislescruises.co.uk



Useful websites:

www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/morar/silversands/
www.road-to-the-isles.org.uk/morar.php



GETTING HERE: From Fort William, take the road to Mallaig and you will find Camusdarach Beach between Mallaig and Arisaig. Camusdarach car park is just off the B8008. Cross the wooden bridge and through the wooden gate and the path is signposted. Use postcode PH39 4NT for guidance, although this will take you to the nearby campsite.

Where? Village of Morar

Beautiful Camusdarach Beach is an arc of white glistening sand and sparkly waters that sits just south of the estuary of the River Morar, thought to be the shortest river in Britain. The views from Camusdarach look out to the hills of Cuillin on the Isle of Skye and across the the rugged blue peaks of Rum and steep cliffs of Eigg. It is arguably one of the most scenic parts of the Scottish Highlands, between Arisaig and Mallaig on the Road to the Isles. There are plenty of opportunities for swimming (take care), rock pooling, walking and sunbathing. Camusdarach is the beach featured in the film Local Hero and is a popular place on tours of film locations.



Visit the Road to the Isles

Experience the Western Highland's 'Road to the Isles' running between Fort William and Mallaig. Stunning wild mountain scenery, sea views, sandy beaches and spectacular sunsets behind western islands. Fantastic food, superb scenery and Highland hospitality at its best. Find out where to stay, what to do and what's on at www.roadtotheisles.org.uk



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Mull: Calgary Bay Beach



Close By:

Shops, café, gallery, B&B's, self-catering accommodation. Cafe@calgary Arts is now open for the summer. The art gallery is open 10am-5pm for teas, cakes and lunch. The Sculpture Walk is open all year, dawn till dusk.



Don't miss:

Calgary Art in Nature, Staffa boat trips, Mull Theatre, Seafood in Tobermory.



Useful websites:

www.calmac.co.uk
www.holidaymull.co.uk



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GETTING HERE: Calgary Bay is best reached by car, some 55 mins along the A849. CalMac ferries run frequently each day from Oban to Mull (40 mins to Craignure) as well as crossings from Kilchoan and Lochaline. Once on the island there is a great bus network to get you around if you don't have a car.

Where? Isle of Mull

Calgary Bay is located north west of Mull, 12 miles from Tobermory and 5 miles from Dervaig. The craggy landscape hugs a soft shell sandy beach and is undoubtedly Mull's finest. There aren't many white sandy beaches on Mull that are outstanding but this one truly is. A wonderful place to relax and take in the views to the neighbouring islands of Coll and Tiree. Calgary is Gaelic for 'The meadow beside the bay'. The beach can be accessed by a lovely 300m sculpture walk which families will love. Nature and wildlife lovers will be watching out for Sea Eagles, Otters, Basking Sharks and much more. 'Many consider Calgary beach the finest beach in Scotland if not the UK'.

Mull Highland Games

Thursday 19th July 10.30am

Erray Park, Tobermory

- Solo Piping - Highland Dancing - Heavy and Light Track and Field Events

A great day out for all the family
Refreshments available on the field.

Contact:
Florence Kirsop
Tel: 01688 302001

Mull: Kilvickeon Beach, Nr Bunessan



Close By:

A pub, shop with post office, gift shop and the heritage centre.



Don't miss:

Weaving Workshops (Isle of Mull Weavers), Kilvickeon Church & Mariota's Stone



Useful websites:

www.holidaymull.co.uk
www.calmac.co.uk
www.isle-of-mull.net



Where? Isle of Mull

Buinessan is a small village located on the south west corner of Mull. Kilvickeon is a beautiful white sandy beach with lots of pretty coves to explore. Getting there is part of the fun and a lovely walk over farmland gives the chance to explore an old chapel and cemetery along the way. Be careful though, the road is very rough underfoot. Look out for seals and beautiful sea birds and across to Garbh Eilean - a tidal island on this stunning beach. The beach is sheltered in places and is a wonderful place to paddle, swim (be careful of the tides) watch a beautiful sunset and generally chill out. The Ross of Mull Historical Centre is located at Millbrae Cottage beside the ruins of the Old Corn Mill, on the edge of Buinessan Village. Car parking is available by the bridge.

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GETTING HERE: CalMac ferries run frequently each day from Oban to Mull (40 mins to Craignure) as well as crossings from Kilchoan and Lochaline. Buinessan is on the road from Craignure to Fionnphort. Just before Buinessan follow the road signposted to Scoor. The rough track leads to a very small car park opposite Kilvickeon Old Parish Church and Cemetery. A right turn here will take you on a 10 minute walk to the beach.

Mull: Ardalanish Beach



Close By:
Ardalanish Farm and
Isle of Mull Weavers.



Don't miss:
A trip to the Farm
and Mill Shop. Where
you can take a tour of
the weaving mill and
understand how the
weaving process works.
Well worth a visit.



Useful websites:
www.calmac.co.uk
www.holidaymull.co.uk

Photograph: Ardalanish Farm
and Isle of Mull Weavers



Where? Isle of Mull

Absolutely gorgeous, the beach can only be accessed on foot but the small parking area is only about half a mile above the beach. From Bunessan, take the left turn up the hill, signposted Uisken. After about a mile and a half there's a sign pointing to the right to Ardalanish Weavers. This takes you to the tiny community of Ardalanish and the parking is off to the left.



GETTING HERE: Park in the beach car park or at the weaving mill at Ardalanish and enjoy the last 10 min walk to the beach.

Ardalanish
Isle of Mull Weavers
Weaving Mill and Farm Mill Shop
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Beautiful beach and farm trail
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www.ardalanish.com

Islay: The Big Strand

7 miles
of sandy
beach



Close By:
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Course, the town of
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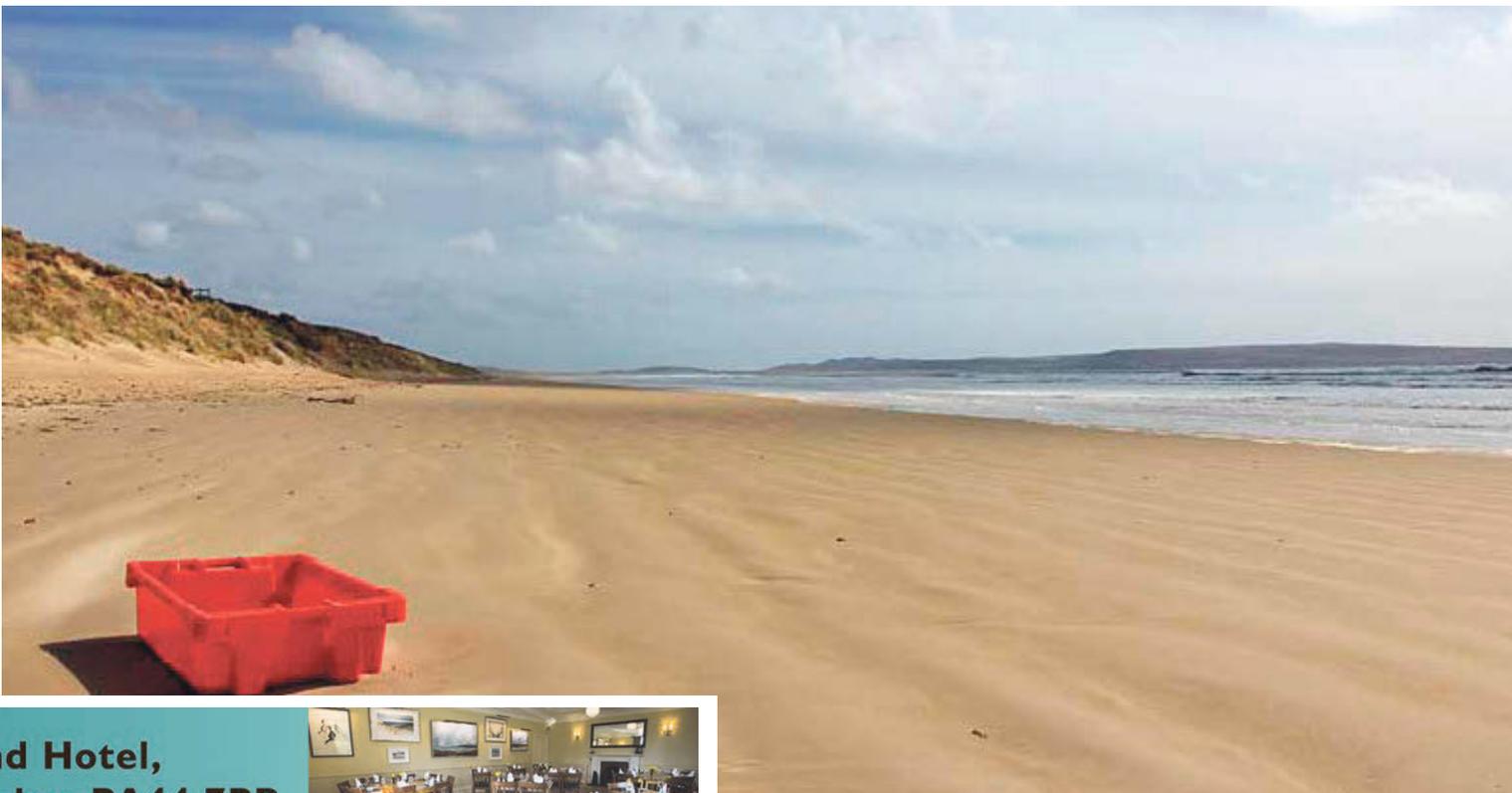


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Useful websites:
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www.islayinfo.com

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Dinner from 6.00-9.00pm
Bar Menu in Katie's Bar 6.00-9.00pm



Where? Isle of Islay

The Big Strand is a wonderful stretch of 7 miles of golden sands from Laggan (north) to the Oa Peninsula (south), bypassing the edge of the airport about halfway. There are few interruptions to a perfectly refreshing walk and it's ideal for dog walking, flying a kite, surfing, making sandcastles, watching the sunset and enjoying the stunning views across to the Oa Peninsular and the Rhinns of Islay. For active beach dwellers and their energetic offspring there are some lovely high sand dunes here to explore.

GETTING HERE: See 'Port Ellen Beach' for more info about getting to Islay. There are surprisingly few access points to The Big Strand, considering the length of the beach. You can get to the beach via Kintra Farm in the south, a bumpy track to the north of the airport and though Laggan Estate in the north. Whichever route you take you have a lovely wee walk before reaching the beach itself.

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SCOTLAND

www.calmac.co.uk/destinations

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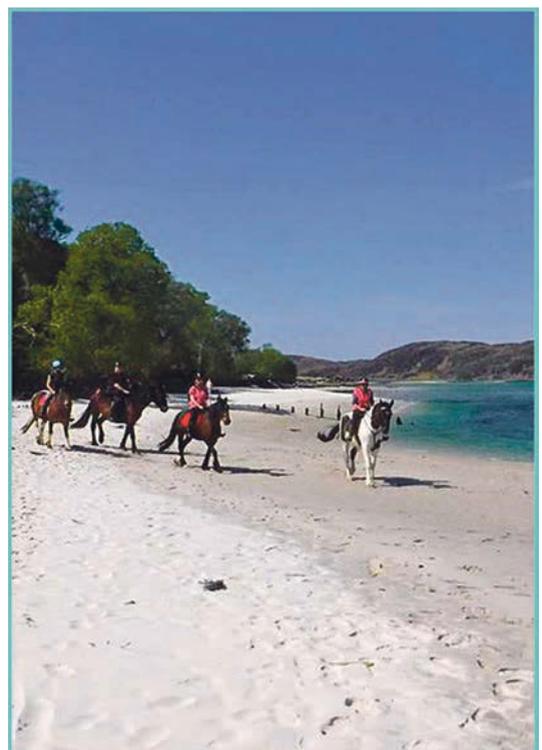
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Islay: Port Ellen



Close By:

Many hotels, shops, restaurants, Port Ellen Marina, 3 world-famous distilleries (there are 8 working on Islay), Kilnaughton Chapel, The American Monument – and lots more!



Don't miss:

Kilnaughton Chapel, The American Monument and a plethora of things to see and do throughout the island.



Useful websites:

www.hial.co.uk
www.calmac.co.uk
www.islayinfo.com



Where? Islay

The Isle of Islay is the most southerly of the Inner Hebridean Islands and is otherwise known as the Queen of the Hebrides. The Island is both tranquil and buzzing – a wonderful place for an activity packed holiday – or a totally relaxing one! There are two ferry terminals on Islay: Port Ellen and Port Askaig. As you approach Port Ellen on the ferry you look onto the row of whitewashed buildings overlooking the golden sands – a stunning sight on approach. Kilnaughton Bay stretches west of Port Ellen and is one of Islay's most accessible beaches. Kilnaughton Bay at the White Hart Beach is shallow and perfect for paddling, with views across to Carraig Fhada Lighthouse and the Mull of Kintyre. It is also home to the Islay Beach Rugby Tournament involving 27 teams!

GETTING HERE: CalMac ferries run frequently each day from Kennacraig to both Port Ellen and Port Askaig and from Oban (via Colonsay) on a Wednesday and Saturday. There are also scheduled flights from Glasgow and Oban to Islay operated by Flybe.

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Sunday. Stores P.O and fuel on site

Islay: Port Charlotte Beach



Close By:

Port Charlotte has two hotels, a restaurant, a museum, shop and cafes. On the outskirts of the village there is a children's playpark, where you can enjoy a meal at the cafe.



Don't miss:

Museum of Islay Life, The Wildlife Centre, Bruchladdich Distillery. Nowhere is too far away on Islay and the whole Island is full of places of natural and historical interest.



Useful websites:

www.islayinfo.com
www.calmac.co.uk
www.islayjura.com



Where? Port Charlotte, Islay

The conservation village of Port Charlotte is one of the prettiest on Islay with its whitewashed stone buildings perched on the stunning shores of Loch Indaal. The village was built in 1828 by Walter Frederick Campbell (The Laird of Islay) and named after his mother, Lady Charlotte. It is perfectly situated as a base from which to explore the island and it's safe sandy beach on the shore of Loch Indaal is a wonderful place for families to relax and enjoy lovely surroundings and gorgeous views across the water.

GETTING HERE: Once on Islay, Port Charlotte is best reached by car. It is 16 miles from Port Askaig or 20 miles from Port Ellen. From Bridgend, follow the signs to Portnahaven and follow the A847 for 8 miles.



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1 Charlotte Street
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Email: office@no1charlottestreet.com

Oban: Ganavan Beach



Close By:

Beach shop, car park and public toilets and many cafés, pubs, hotels, activities and attractions in the town.



Don't miss:

Boat trips to the islands from Oban, McCaigs Tower, Oban War & Peace Museum



Useful websites:

www.obantimes.co.uk
www.oban.org
www.calmac.co.uk



Where? Oban

Oban is known as the 'gateway to the isles', as well as the 'seafood capital of Scotland'.

Oban boasts a ferry terminal and train station making it one of the most accessible main towns of Argyll, despite its remote location. Ganavan Sands is a wonderful beach for families, popular with visitors and locals alike. The picturesque sandy blue flag beach boasts easy access, ample parking and great views out to Mull, Lismore and Morven. The beach lies adjacent to a super coastal walk. Sunbathing, rock pooling, kite flying, watersports, hill walking and relaxing are all perfect ways to pass the time on this beach.

GETTING HERE: Approaching from the north, head through the town and once you see the Corran Halls and Cathedral in front of you, continue along the shore road approx 2 miles to Ganavan Beach. If approaching Oban from the north on the A85, come down the hill into Oban (with its glorious vista across the bay) and turn right at the first mini roundabout (heading towards the sea) and right again at the next one which will take you on the road to Ganavan. The coastal and quiet road from Oban to Ganavan Sands is widely used by the local community for walks, running and cycling. Little Ganavan is another popular beach found along this road



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Benderloch: Tralee Bay



Close By:

Playpark beside the beach, car park, village shop, café, fuel garage with plenty of beach and holiday supplies and Ben Lora hill walking.



Don't miss:

Tralee Bay Fish and Chips at the entrance to Tralee Bay Holiday Park, Kintaline Farm Shop and Plant Centre, Oban Sealife Centre, Loch Creran, Isle of Eriska Hotel and Spa, Dunstaffnage Castle and Castle Stalker shop and café in nearby Appin.



Useful websites:

www.oban.org.uk
www.benderloch.com
www.tralee.com



Where? Benderloch

Tralee Beach is tucked away near the village of Benderloch. It is just 9 miles from Oban, across the Connel Bridge. This lovely beach has shingle at one end with soft golden sand at the other. Children will love the dunes and craggy rocks (great for rock pooling) and it's a great space for beach games, BBQ or picnic, swimming, paddling, leisurely walks and total relaxation. Even though guests and holiday home owners at the adjoining Tralee Bay Holiday Park have direct access to the beach, it never gets overcrowded.

GETTING HERE: Access to the beach is via a short walk by a signposted footpath from Benderloch village at the Ben Lora Café, where there is a car park. There is another car park at the west end of the beach off the South Shian road.

Isle of Colonsay: Kiloran Bay



Close By:

Colonsay is 10 miles long and two miles wide so everywhere is close by, with a good selection of accommodation from hotel to back packers' lodge and a wide mix of holiday rentals. With a café, restaurant and bar, incredible wildlife, a publishing house, a brewery and its own gin, plus a thriving shop, what more does an island need?



Don't miss:

Look out for the wild goats, believed to be descended from Spanish ones washed ashore from an Armada shipwreck off Colonsay. Do not leave this island without a jar of its wildflower honey!



Useful websites:

www.colonsay.org.uk/
www.colonsayshop.net
www.colonsayholidays.co.uk/
www.calmac.co.uk
obanandtheislesairports.com/
www.wildthymespirits.com



GETTING HERE: Ferry or flight from Oban. From ferry at Scalasaig turn right, keep going right, follow the road for about 3.5 miles. Park alongside the beach. Enjoy.

Where? Isle of Colonsay

Kiloran Bay on Colonsay, an island where you are spoiled for choice when it comes to beaches, but this one is extra special with Atlantic rollers for surfers and about a mile of golden sand. The island is home to a wide range of wildlife on land, sea and air with plenty to see from the beach.

Kintyre: Machrihanish Bay



Close By:

The village of Machrihanish is home to the lovely Ugadale Hotel, as well as the remains of the Fessenden Mast, which made the first ever cross Atlantic voice transmission in 1905.



Don't miss:

Machrihanish Golf Course. The stunning first hole drives over the corner of the beach, and is widely considered one of the best opening holes in the world.



Useful websites:

machrihanishdunes.com/indulge/beach
www.machrihanishbirdobservatory.org.uk/latest.html
www.machrihanish.net



Where? Machrihanish, Kintyre

Looking out over the Atlantic Ocean, Machrihanish is an action seeker's perfect playground. Located on the blustery west coast of Kintyre, the beautiful golden beach stretches for three miles, and the huge swell allows for one of the best surfing spots in the country. The beach is also a runners paradise, with views to Northern Ireland in the south up to Islay and Jura in the north making it a wonderful training ground. Two challenging golf courses pepper the huge dunes next to the beach, a designated Site of Scientific Interest, with an array of wildlife often seen soaring in the skies and frolicking in the waves. At the very tip of Machrihanish there is a Seabird and Wildlife Observatory which provides the perfect look out.

GETTING HERE: From Campbeltown follow signs for Southend, B842. At Stewarton, continue ahead for Machrihanish on B8.

Kintyre: Carradale Beach



Close By:

The village of Carradale offers services and shops, as well as several nature walks in the surrounding woodlands.



Don't miss:

Torrisdale Castle overlooks the bay, and while it is run as a private lodge, there is the organic Tannery and Craft Shop on site.



Useful websites:

www.carradaleharbour.co.uk
www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/carradale/carradale



Where? Carradale, Kintyre

Located south of the quaint village of the same name, Carradale Beach boasts one of the most delightful harbours in Kintyre. On Carradale Bay, the wide sandy beach faces south, making it a lovely spot to paddle, sunbathe or beachcomb. Enjoy the panoramic views across the Sound of Arran, and look for the wild goats that inhabit a Scottish Wildlife Trust nature reserve on the east side of the beach on Carradale Point. Paul McCartney found inspiration from Kintyre's gorgeous coastal scenery, and you will too when you visit Carradale Beach!

GETTING HERE: From Lochgilhead on the A83, five miles south of Tarbert take the B842 to Carradale. Or go by ferry from Adrossan to Arran, then drive to Lochranza for the Claonaig ferry to Kintyre and down the B842 to Carradale.




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www.ashbankhotel.com





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Tel 01583 431665 www.carradalebay.com



Kintyre: Southend Beach



Close By:

The village of Southend has services and shops, plus a fabulous 18-hole links golf course.



Don't miss:

Look for 'St Columba's Footsteps' etched in rock centuries ago to show where Christianity was first brought from Ireland to Scotland.



Useful websites:

www.southendargyll.org.uk
www.visitkintyre.info



Where? Southend, Kintyre

Only 13 miles from Ireland, Southend Beach in Kintyre is steeped in natural beauty and history. Whether you prefer sunbathing or surfing, there is something for every taste at Southend's beautiful beaches, all without the crowds you might find at other spots. You can view oyster catchers, dolphins and the resident seal colony from Keil shore as well as Neolithic caves. Or, for the more adventurous, choose to hike on the nearby Kintyre Way, which has its terminus here. Dunaverty Castle overlooks Southend, and several important historical sites are nearby, including the ruins of Keil School and St. Ciaran's Cave, which is said to hold relics of the Irish saint. Be sure to get a taste of the local seafood, served pier to plate- it doesn't get any fresher!

GETTING HERE: From Oban on the A83, pick up the A83 in Lochgilhead all the way down to Southend on the tip of Kintyre.

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Isle of Arran: Blackwaterfoot Beach



Close By:

Blackwaterfoot Harbour, Kinloch Hotel and Shiskine Golf Course.



Don't miss:

Special attractions throughout Arran include Machrie Standing Stones, King's Cave, Lochranza Castle Ruin, Brodick Castle and Gardens and a hike up Goatfell Mountain!



Useful websites:

www.calmac.co.uk
www.visitarran.com

GETTING HERE: With CalMac, Arran is easily accessible from Ardrossan (Ayrshire) to Brodick which is the main town on Arran. A ferry runs from March to October from Claonaig (near Tarbert) to Lochranza at the north of Arran. You can also get there from Campbeltown, via Ardrossan.



Where? Isle of Arran

Arran, known as 'Scotland in Miniature' is one big breathtaking experience. It is a superb holiday destination for the whole family with its many beaches, castles and castle ruins, Goatfell Mountain, golf courses (7 of them!), play parks, a whisky distillery, brewery, miles of walking and cycling trails, watersports, horseriding...the list is endless. When it comes to beaches there are very many, but among the top 3 (in our opinion) is Blackwaterfoot Beach on the west coast of the island. A short walk from the small car park next to the Kinloch Hotel will take you past the golf course onto a beautiful expanse of golden sand to wander along and play in. Another hidden gem is Kilmory Beach accessed by a small path at Kilmory. Head down the farm track at Torrinn, or via 'Lovers Lane' to find this lovely spot.

Sands of Morar



Close By:

Fort William, with its charming shops, eateries and outdoor activities for the whole family, is just down the road.



Don't miss:

A boat trip from Arisaig Harbour is a great way to spot wildlife, such as seals, dolphins and a variety of sea birds.

Useful websites:

www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/morar/silversands/
www.road-to-the-isles.org.uk/morar.php



Where? Coastline of Arisaig and Morar

The Silver Sands of Morar - even the name is evocative of tranquil azure waters lapping against sugar sand beaches. Like something out of the Caribbean, this renowned string of gorgeous beaches has inspired artists and filmmakers for generations- in fact, scenes of The Highlander and Local Hero were filmed here.

The tropical look of The Silver Sands of Morar will certainly charm you, but the views over the Small Isles- Rum, Eigg, Muck and Canna- can't be beat. The area is popular with walkers and beachcombers, as the beaches are easily accessed from the road. Find a campsite, drive from beach to beach, or take them all in as a trail. What better way to while away a beautiful sunny day?

GETTING HERE: From Fort William, take the 1st exit onto A830. Turn right onto Columba Rd/B8008 and look for the signs.

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Cowal: Otter Ferry



Close By:

They don't call this Argyll's secret coast for nothing; slightly further afield you have the luxury of Portavadie Marina and the ferry to Tarbert; the villages of Tighnabruach and Strachur and the hurly-burly of Dunoon and the Clyde and its ferries.



Don't miss:

The opportunity to visit now, before Otter Ferry gets better known; you'll be able to boast you were there first.



Useful websites:

www.argyllsecretcoast.co.uk
www.theoystercatcher.co.uk
www.portavadie.com
www.calmac.co.uk



GETTING HERE: From the A83 take the A815 to Strachur then the A886 and B8000 along the shore of Loch Fyne to Otter Ferry. From Dunoon go north along the A815, turn left onto the B836 and then right onto the A886 and follow the sign left to Otter Ferry. For sailors the volunteer pier association has 10 moorings and a pontoon for public use just beside The Oystercatcher.

Where? Cowal peninsula

Otter Ferry on the Cowal peninsula, on the eastern side of Loch Fyne, so small and sleepy it has a timeless quality. You wouldn't be surprised if the Vital Spark arrived and Para Handy and the crew dropped off passengers and coal.

The eastern side of one of Argyll's ancient ferry routes, now disappeared. The Old Ferry Inn has been reborn as The Oyster Catcher, with a menu packed full of local produce. Safely tucked in behind Otter Spit it is a popular spot for sailors with a glorious sweep of white sand. The area is home to an interesting mix of food producers and artists as seen at the art gallery at Otter Ferry and an eclectic mix of accommodation.

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Lochaber: Cuil Bay



Close By:

Golf, segways, outdoor activities in Ballachulish and pony trekking; the area between Appin and Ballachulish is scattered with good places to eat, dine and stay.



Don't miss:

The stunning views down Loch Linnhe with Eilean Balnagowan in the bay, Shuna island beyond, the Appin coast and on a clear day the north of the Isle of Lismore.



Useful websites:

www.wildlochaber.com
www.glenceoactivities.com
www.westcoastmotors.co.uk



GETTING HERE: The A828 links the A85 at Connel with the A82 at Ballachulish. The beach is signposted from the centre of the village, taking the single track road by the Duror Primary School. There is parking around the bay; the road is a dead end but please do not block access to farms. The 918 Oban-Fort William bus stops in Duror.

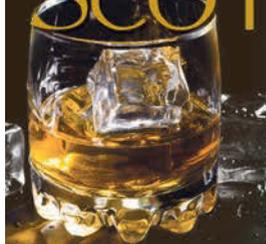
Where? Cuil Bay, Duror

Take your kids on a Scottish safari to Cuil Bay to live-out their own wild-life documentary and become mini-Attenboroughs.

Load them up with guides, binoculars and a magnifying glass and get stuck in!

There's oyster catcher, ringed plover, eider duck, gannet gulls and auks on sea and shore and pipits and larks in the fields. Watch for otters, sea and golden eagles. Explore ponds and burns for dragon flies and damselfly and identify (but never pick) the wild flowers. Small and secluded but big in status, this beach on the Ardsheal Peninsula is protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

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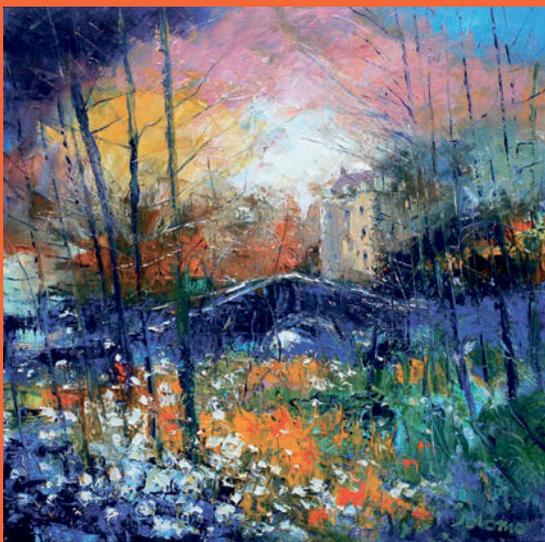
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Tel: 01397 702476 Fax: 01397 702768

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MORRISON



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September	Walker Galleries	Harrogate
October	The Glasgow Gallery	Glasgow
November	Iona House Gallery	Woodstock

www.jolomo.com

LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Festival weekend sees Killin alive with music



What do you get when you mix together three of the Isle of Man's most respected trad musicians with one of Scotland's fresh up-and-coming talents? Mec Lir, of course.

Killin came alive with music this weekend, attracting a record number of people – more than 1,500.

This year's line-up boasted artists including Blazin' Fiddles and Niteworks on the Friday, Peatbog Faeries, Mec Lir and Hò-Rò on the Saturday and a seated concert with

Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain on the Sunday.

Not only was there music to enjoy by all ages, but also an array of fringe events on offer.

On Saturday there was a Highland Hustle workout, ukulele workshop and a craft fair with craft activities

all day. The Sunday featured the McLaren High School Pipe Band parading down the Main Street, a community coffee morning with the local Community Choir and Killin Primary School Choir.

Festival-goers could also enjoy the open stage competition featuring

several emerging artists from the local area and beyond. Katie Allan and Abigail Pryde were crowned as the winners, securing a spot on the 2019 line-up. Portnellan kindly sponsored the session tent this year, which was free entry for all throughout the weekend to enjoy The Camans, The

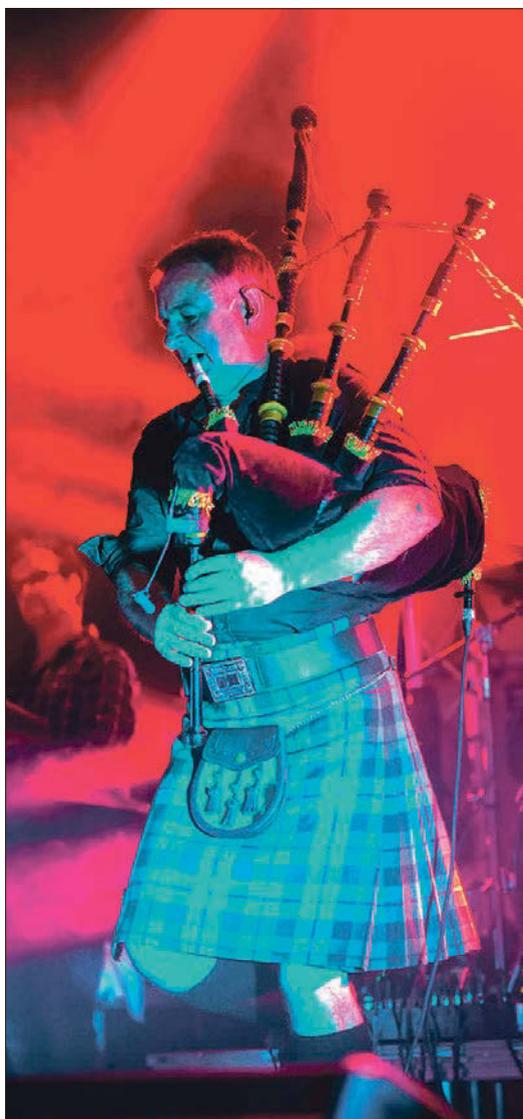
Mocking Dogs and the Coaltown Daisies.

Award-winning band Elephant Sessions have been announced as 2019 headliners with early-bird tickets now on sale from www.killinmusicfestival.com

Turn to p50-51 for more photographs.

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<p>MUTHU BEN DORAN TYNDRUM ★★★★ TEL: 01838 400373</p> 	<p>MUTHU DALMALLY DALMALLY ★★★★ TEL: 01838 200666</p> 	<p>MUTHU ROYAL HOTEL TYNDRUM ★★★★ TEL: 01838 400272</p> 



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Tees White Tees
Pairings 3-Ball
Handicap Max 18

SUNDAY
- ROUND 2 -

Colin Christie Quach
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Better your hole-by-hole score!

Format 18-hole, Eclectic
Pairings By score, with
low scores teeing off last

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FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: When might it be too cold to enjoy Mackie's ice cream?

Terms and Conditions apply.

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition - your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you wish to receive news and offers from the third party running the competition, then please mark the words 'OPT IN' on your postcard entry. If you enter various competitions on one card, you will be opting in for every competition running. Unless you opt in to receive further marketing information we will only contact you if you win a prize in the competition. Scottish Field (Wyvex Media) will retain your information for a maximum of 3 months after the competition closes and then it will be deleted. If you have opted in to receive third party information, the data you have supplied will be passed to the third party company running the competition. This may be used for the purposes of the third party contacting you regarding new products and services for a period of 3 months, unless you agree to an extension with the third party company at a later date.



Clockwise from bottom far left: Calum MacKenzie Jones; The McLaren High School Pipe Band; the piping hot Peatbog Faeries; Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham treated their audience to a sit-down concert on Sunday; the velvet-voiced Kim Carnie; Robbie Greig from Tannara; Glasgow-based four-piece Suas; Katee Kross and The Amberjax; and the Van Susans.

Photographs: RW Allner

WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town
Diary bid4oban.co.uk

Thursday 21st June

Oban Health Walk
Oban Congregational Church
Hall
10am - 11.30am

**Live Music & Entertainment
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FREE JUKEBOX EVERY
THURSDAY

Friday 22nd June

**Oban Dance Academy
- Cheerleading**
Glencruitten Church Hall
All Day

**Live Music & Entertainment
@ Markie Dans**
Gunna Sound
Free entry
Open till 1am

**Live Music & Entertainment
@ The Lorne Bar Oban**
From 9pm
Free Entry

Saturday 23rd June

**Oban Dance Academy
- Cheerleading**
Glencruitten Church Hall
All Day

**Live Music & Entertainment
@ Markie Dans**
Sandra MacBeth
Free entry
Open till 2am



**Live Music & Entertainment
@ The Lorne Bar Oban**
From 9pm
Free Entry

**Master Builders Lego &
Creative Construction Club**
The Rockfield Centre
10am - 12pm

**Kevin MacNeil Writing
Workshop**
The Rockfield Centre
2pm - 4pm

Let's Make a Scene #19
The Rockfield Centre
8pm - 10.30pm

Sunday 24th June

Hill Walk
Loch Arkaig, Fort William
All Day

**Live Music & Entertainment
@ Markie Dans**
QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm
£1 per person, max of 6 per
team
Win £20 bar voucher

Wednesday 27th June

**Live Music & Entertainment
@ The Lorne Bar Oban**
Lorne Pub Quiz
Starting at 9pm
£25 bar voucher prize and free
pizza at half time

Events may charge. Please visit
www.obanwhatson.co.uk for more details.

To list your event, please call **01631 568000**

The Oban Times supports local charities and not-for-profit event organisers.

Let us know about your forthcoming event to appear for free in our listings, in association with Oban Town Diary. We have reduced our community noticeboard box adverts to just £10 plus VAT (where VAT is applicable). It pays to advertise with The Oban Times - first for community news, business news and events throughout Oban, Lochaber and the West Highlands.

Contact **Nadine or Rhona**
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Summer dining in Oban: Manor House

At the Manor House, Head Chef Gerard Mccluskey and his team work hard to ensure that the restaurant maintains its high standards after winning Regional Kitchen of the Year in 2017

and securing an AA-listed two-rosette label. The kitchen is proud to be able to cater for everyone, always including a tasty vegetarian option. Gerard describes his cooking style as 'classic

French with a modern twist'. Local, quality suppliers of fresh fruit and vegetables,

meat and fish are used to help create a delicious range of dishes. The Manor House

offers a new and exciting five course menu every evening, served between 6.45pm and

8.45pm. Lunch is also served between 12pm and 2pm with specials changing daily.



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Countdown to Cowal

Once again Scotland's premier family-friendly Highland Gathering will feature its traditional send-off.

Western Ferries confirmed that as part of its longstanding and wide-reaching local sponsorship programme, it is once again supporting the Cowal Highland Gathering's closing fireworks display, which has become a firm favourite with gathering-goers of all ages.

The gathering's chairman, Ronnie Cairns, thanked Western Ferries for its continued support of Argyll's 'only international event' saying: 'To once again have Western Ferries as one of our main sponsors is great news for us.'

'Their support goes well beyond sponsoring the closing fireworks display. During the event they lay on extra sailings between Hunter's Quay and McInroy's Point, allowing competitors, spectators, exhibitors and entertainers to get to and from the gathering with minimal delay.'

'Today's confirmation of this continuing support is the perfect way to kick off the countdown to this year's event.'

Western Ferries managing director Gordon Ross said: 'This is one of our favourite weekends in the calendar,

celebrating Highland culture as well as showcasing Dunoon and Cowal as a year-round tourist destination.

'The Western Ferries' fireworks finale is a fitting end to three days of world-class competition which is enjoyed by locals, visitors and competitors.'

Among the attractions already booked for this year is a stellar line-up of traditional bands for the ever-popular Friday night Gig at the Gathering (GATG) and for the Ceilidh Tent the following day.

The 2018 GATG will be headlined by Cowal favourites Trail West, with Beinn Lee and The American Rogues in support. The Ceilidh Tent will boast The American Rogues, Beinn Lee, Heron Valley and Tide Lines, the last two of which are back by popular demand having wowed last year's Gig at the Gathering. Heron Valley also provide the soundtrack to the main video with their single Home.

The music is just one of the gathering's many attractions. Possibly the biggest – and the one with the most competitors – is, of course, the Highland dancing. Last year a record number of dancers travelled to the gathering, which hosts both the Scottish and World Highland

Dancing Championships and is the most popular and spectacular Highland dancing competition on the planet.

Cowal Highland Games will welcome competitors from all corners of the globe, with dancers from Canada, the USA, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa all flocking to Dunoon with the aim of wresting the silverware from the local competitors.

The dancing is not the only international competition at the gathering. It also hosts the only international heavy athletics contest in Scotland, which usually attracts athletes from Iceland, Germany and other European countries.

The piping, too, promises to be a major attraction as always, with bands and solo pipers battling it out to be crowned Cowal champions.

This year's Cowal Highland Gathering runs from August 23-25. For more information contact info@cowalgathering.com or visit www.cowalgathering.com





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The Meadow Orchestra from Edinburgh performed at the inaugural concert in memory of Taynuilt's Elisabeth 'Bette' Graham.

Full house for cathedral memorial concert

St John's Cathedral was packed on Sunday for the inaugural concert in memory of Elisabeth 'Bette' Graham.

Oban Music Society is hoping to make the concert an annual event as a way of commemorating the Taynuilt woman.

By leaving behind a 'very generous' bequest, Bette helped the society to purchase a Steinway piano, which is housed in St John's Cathedral. Sunday's concert consisted of a full orchestra

– the Meadows Orchestra from Edinburgh – who performed Elgar's Serenade for Strings, and Mozart's 24th piano concerto and 40th symphony.

They were accompanied by Peter Evans, conductor and soloist, who played the Steinway piano.

The music got under way at 4pm, and after Mozart, Elgar and Dvorak, the audience were entertained by solo violinist Uli Evans.

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M' ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAIN 21 T-ÒGMHIOS THURSDAY 21 JUNE
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Air an Toir (rpt)
19.30 Aithne air Ainmhidhean (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Fianais
21.00 Bha Mi Latha Samhraidh (rpt)
21.55 **UR | NEW:** Belladrum 2017: Deaf Havana

DÌDÒMHNAICH 24 T-ÒGMHIOS SUNDAY 24 JUNE
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18.30 **UR | NEW:** Seachd La – News Review
19.30 Sorchar nan Reul (rpt)
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22.50 Dhan Uisge (Firth of Forth) (rpt)
23.00 Corp agus Anam (rpt)
23.50 Belladrum 2017: I See Rivers (rpt)

DIHAOINE 22 AN T-ÒGMHIOS FRIDAY 22 JUNE
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
18.35 Machair (rpt)
19.00 An Là – News
19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
19.30 Prosaig (rpt)
20.00 Air an Ùrlar (rpt)
20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beo (rpt)
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23.50 Dhan Uisge – Firth of Forth (rpt)

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16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.26 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
19.30 Machair (rpt)
19.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
20.00 Prosaig (rpt)
20.30 O Mo Dhuthaich (rpt)
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22.50 Belladrum 2016 – Breabach (rpt)
23.10 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)
23.30 Air an Rathad (rpt)

DIARDAIN 27 T-ÒGMHIOS WEDNESDAY 27 JUNE
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Fuine (rpt)
19.30 Aithne air Ainmhidhean (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 O Mo Dhùthaich – From Uist With Love (rpt)
20.56 Binneas – Na Trads (Malinky) (rpt)
21.00 Sar-sgeòil: His Bloody Project (rpt)
22.00 **UR | NEW:** An Sgrùdaire
22.15 **UR | NEW:** Dhan Uisge (Isle of Arran)
22.25 **UR | NEW:** Belladrum 2017: Vukovi
22.30 Port – Siorrachd Chorcaigh (rpt)
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23.30 Air an Rathad (rpt)

Guevara (rpt)
22.45 Sgeul Seolaidh (rpt)
23.00 Tannadice '87 (rpt)
00.00 Gun Sgot? (rpt)

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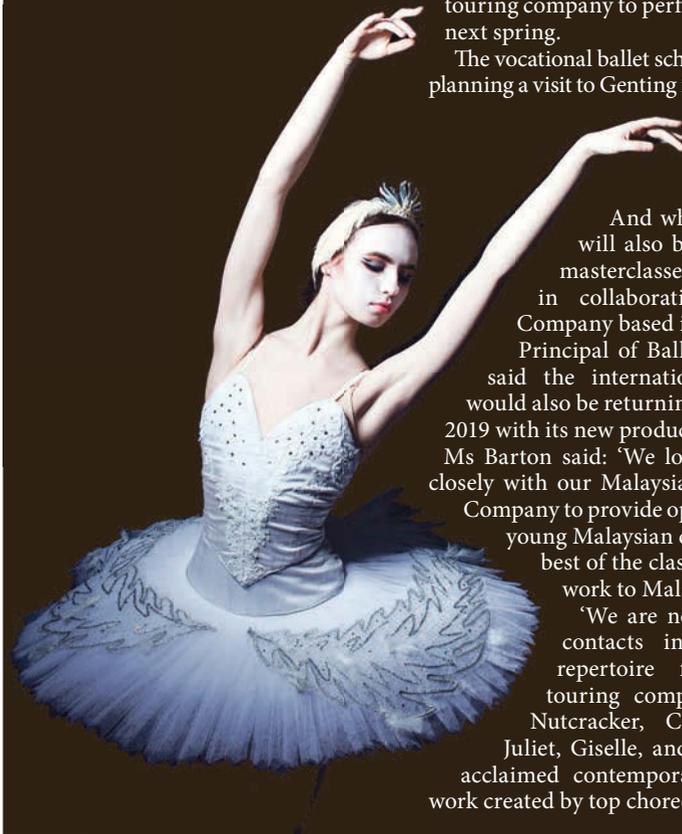
email: studio@obanfm.org.uk or call us on 01631 570057

MONDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20.00 John McLuckie's Show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Station close down
TUESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darlings's Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2
WEDNESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 17.00 Drivetime with Camp-

bell, 19.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll - Len + Ken, 20.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre
THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00 Christines Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight, 11.00 Margo Till Midnight
FRIDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny, 17.00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 17.30 Drive Show, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig,

20.00 Lewis Bingham, 21.00 Peter Rainnie
SATURDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Stephen, 10.00 Sat Morning Live, 11.00 Saturday Morning, 12.00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowsher, 12.03 Sat Morning Live, 12.05 Saturday Morning Live, 13.30 Clyde, 18.00 Sports View - Dream Team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight
SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning With Breege, 10.00 Sunday Morning, 11.00 Sunday Brunch With Archie, 12.00 Sunday Brunch, 16.30 Archie Darling, 18.00 Ken's Friends - Ken Hunter, 19.00 New Country Show - David Entwhistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

Ballet West announces tour plans for Korea and China



Plans are afoot for Ballet West's international touring company to perform in Korea and China next spring.

The vocational ballet school in Taynuilt is already planning a visit to Genting in Malaysia for six public performances of Swan Lake between August 24 and September 2 this year.

And while they are there, they will also be presenting a series of masterclasses for young dancers in collaboration with The Dance Company based in Malaysia.

Principal of Ballet West Gillian Barton said the international touring company would also be returning to Genting in autumn 2019 with its new production of The Nutcracker.

Ms Barton said: 'We look forward to working closely with our Malaysian partners, The Dance Company to provide opportunities for talented young Malaysian dancers and to bring the best of the classical and contemporary work to Malaysia.'

'We are now establishing further contacts in the Far East. Our repertoire for the international touring company will include, The Nutcracker, Cinderella Romeo and Juliet, Giselle, and Coppelia, and well as acclaimed contemporary work and original work created by top choreographers.'



THE RETIREMENT REVOLUTION

Ever-increasing life expectancy means larger retirement pots are now needed. This means the age-old practice of stopping work at 65 is being replaced by phased retirement; many are reducing hours or responsibility, but extending their working lives by several more years, bringing with it a host of new financial considerations.

So, for the generation now contemplating retirement, the trick is to plan ahead so that pension provision meets both your financial needs and wider hopes for personal fulfilment.

Contact us for further information.

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Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Robert joined Glasgow Islay Choir last Wednesday in an evening of song paying tribute to Runrig.

Govan Gaelic Choir cèilidh in full swing

I was intending a quiet evening last Thursday, ahead of a busy weekend of gigs, and was walking down Argyll Street to meet a friend for dinner in the Thai Siam – where, if you're ever looking for a bite to eat in Glasgow, you get a cracking portion of sweet and sour duck.

As chance would have it, the route from my flat to this restaurant takes in such sites as the Islay Inn and the Park Bar. I choose my restaurants carefully.

As I passed the Park, I was hurriedly ushered in by those outside and found myself in the midst of a brilliant, homely cèilidh hosted by the Govan Gaelic Choir. Members and associates of the choir were all giving their own party pieces and it really made for an excellent night.

The Glasgow Islay Gaelic choir are due to host a similar style of cèilidh in the Islay Inn this Thursday June 21.

Glasgow Islay Choir pay fitting tribute to Runrig

Last Wednesday night, I had the pleasure of singing as part of a wonderful line-up paying tribute to Runrig in front

of a packed out Glasgow University Union as part of the West End Festival.

The concert was a lovely idea by the Glasgow Islay Choir who have had a long affiliation with the band – who call it a day this summer after 45 years on the road.

Myself, Gary Innes, Fiona Hunter, and Mike Vass all greatly enjoyed taking part and giving our own takes on Runrig songs, while the choir (and soloists) showed exactly why Runrig have continually put faith in them over the years.

A special mention must go to my wee Glasgow Islay Juniors who sang Dùisg mo Rùin in front of possibly their biggest audience to date.

We now break for the summer and, on our return, we will be working towards the national Mòd in October. Potential new members (eight to 18 years) are very much welcome to email me in the coming weeks.

Skerryvore album continues rising

The 21st century challenges for print media were in evidence last week as I reported that Skerryvore's new album, *Evo*, had reached the top 20 in the iTunes charts – only to discover on so-

cial media, moments after my copy was submitted, that *Evo*'s remarkable rise had continued all the way to the giddy heights of number six.

I send my congratulations to the Skerryvore boys not only on a phenomenal achievement but also on a brilliant album which I thoroughly recommend you get your hands on as soon as you can!

Clydebank Cèilidh raises a great amount

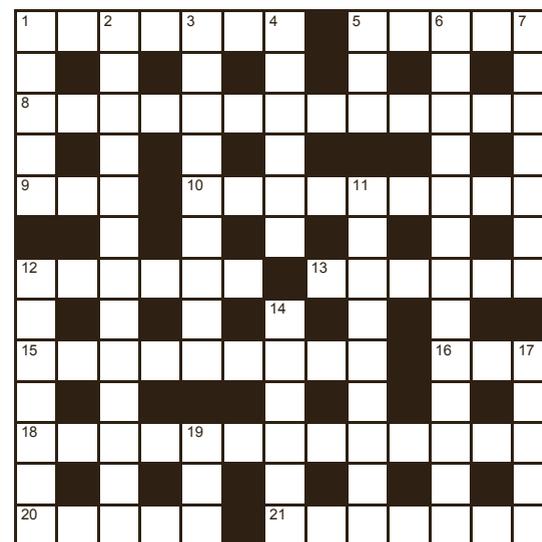
Clydebank & District Highland Association recently held their annual cèilidh in aid of Erskine Hospital. A cheque amounting to £800 has been donated to this very worthy cause and the committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to this very special evening in any way.

Pub scene

Islay Inn
Thursday June 21: Glasgow Islay Choir
Friday June 22: Twist of Fate
Saturday June 23: Parting Glass

Park Bar
Friday June 21: Scott Harvey
Saturday June 22: Dodgy Ground

Crossword



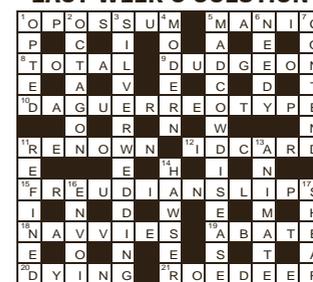
Across

- 1 The amount of smoking material that can be held in a smoking container (7)
- 5 Very talkative (5)
- 8 Excellent for the environment (6,7) (6,7)
- 9 John's surname perhaps? (3)
- 10 Small vehicles (9)
- 12 This is found after the rain (6)
- 13 3.26 light-years (6)
- 15 Inclining (9)
- 16 Deciduous tree (3)
- 18 Trooper (6,7) (6,7)
- 20 Pushy or uneasy? (5)
- 21 This could fill many a cruet! (7)

Down

- 1 Measured walk? (5)
- 2 Plumb (13)
- 3 Blueprint (5,4) (5,4)
- 4 Usually found inside (6)
- 5 Not me anyway! (3)
- 6 Explodes when hit (10,3) (10,3)
- 7 Egg membrane (4,3) (4,3)
- 11 Very pleasant to behold (9)
- 12 A safe place to use building blocks maybe? (7)
- 14 Legendary (6)
- 17 Holy text (5)
- 19 Greet in Scotland! (3)

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Enquiries – **Innes Weir 07387 971776**

CVs to **Christina.Smith@steinsvik.no**

or post to:

Christina Smith, Steinsvik UK, Unit 35B, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William, Inverness-Shire, PH33 6PR

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The Northern Lighthouse Board – www.nlb.org.uk is the General Lighthouse Authority for Scotland and the Isle of Man, responsible in law for the provision and control of a network of marine aids to navigation – lighthouses, buoys, beacons and a precision satellite-based navigation service.

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For further details and an application pack please e-mail jobs@nlb.org.uk or download an application from our website www.nlb.org.uk/InformationCentre/WorkingForUs/Vacancies/

Closing date: 9th July 2018.

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Completed application forms should be returned to recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk

Closing date for applications is
Friday 6 July 2018

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is seeking to recruit a part-time experienced youth worker for 25 hours per week.

This job will include evening and occasional weekend work. Salary is £10.25 an hour. However, this could rise to £12.25 depending on qualifications and experience.

For further details please see our website www.obanyouthcafe.co.uk

We are also looking for a sessional youth worker to work with young people with disabilities.
Closing date for both jobs: Sunday 8th July 2018

Live in Care Worker

Elderly gentleman in Oban area with spinal injury is looking for an experienced live-in carer to support him as part of a team. This will be a really varied role. You will assist the individual in all aspects of their care needs (e.g. personal, physical, emotional and administering medication). You will provide attention, when needed, over a 24 hour period, whilst ensuring the individual retains their comfort and dignity. During the day you may also accompany him locally.

It is expected that you will be proficient in all aspects of manual handling and use of compensatory equipment. Mandatory training will be provided and 'downtime' hours respected.

A background in nursing or health care would be advantageous.

Applicants should have a valid UK driving licence, be reliable, practical, organised, display compassion, be willing to deal with personal care and have a good sense of humour.

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tracydavies@bidfood.co.uk



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Vacancies: Freshwater Husbandry Operatives

We currently have vacancies at our Ormsary site in Argyll for husbandry operatives to assist in the production of juvenile Atlantic salmon.

We want to recruit people looking for a career in fish farming and ideally it would be great if you had some previous experience or relevant qualification and hold a UK driving licence, but not essential. What is important is that you are enthusiastic and want to join our team, we will provide an extensive training package tailored to your individual needs.

If you're interested or just want to find out more information first, then get in touch with me, Simon Reynolds, either by e-mail or letter at the addresses below.

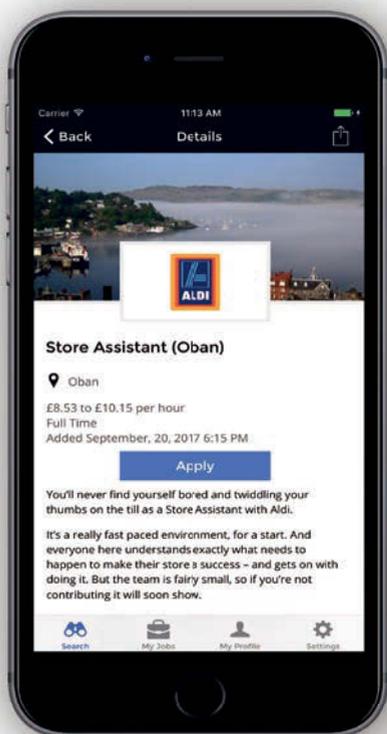
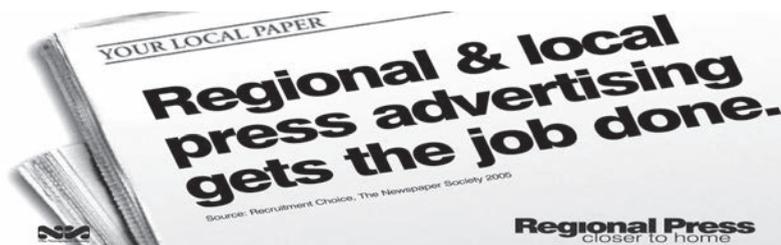
Closing date is 16th July 2018.

Simon.reynolds@hendrix-genetics.com

Tel: 01880 770720

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FARMING

The future has virtual fencing

Technology is something all forms of agriculture has embraced and, in the future, it will be key to increasing productivity, enhancing the biodiversity of our environment and, most importantly, giving farmers and crofters a fair return for what we provide, writes Martin Kennedy, NFUS vice-president.

It also has the potential to make farming and crofting on really extensive units easier to manage when there are fewer people who have the traditional skills required to help sustain such an important part of the agricultural economy.

It is now 10 years since we bought our GPS system for the tractor.

Sowing fertiliser on bare ground that has been grazed or spreading on grass stubble for a second cut used to be challenging, particularly in dry weather when you struggled to see your previous mark. The GPS system allows you to see exactly where your previous run was and guides you to where you should be on the next run, eliminating overlap or underlap, and making fertiliser usage much more efficient. Spraying was also time-con-

suming. We would always have markers out on the field and have to get off the tractor after every round to move the markers for the next round. This process was more difficult in uneven fields where you needed markers in the middle as well.

Now, I go around the field twice using the last pass option, set the line and continue across the field until finished. Much quicker, and more accurate and efficient.

Cutting silage or hay is also simpler.

And this year, we soil-mapped three fields – about 16ha. The results were very interesting, especially when it came to the pH of the soil. We took 18 samples in every half hectare, giving a more accurate result across the field.

The next step was to engage a contractor with the technology and software in their tractor to spread lime only where it was required as the field pH information was linked through the software to the computer system for the spreader.

To the casual onlooker who didn't know what was happening, you would think the spreader was knackered

as watching it going up and down the field saw some bits get a heavy dose of lime while some had nothing. The reality is the system was levelling up the field and again making maximum use of the product.

The next technological step is one into the unknown whereby we want to look at the research being done into the possibilities of virtual fencing – something that could change hill farming radically.

The idea is that you plot a virtual boundary fence by GPS on an unfenced hill and, as livestock move closer to that boundary, they get a signal through an electronic chip or collar that will make it uncomfortable for them if they were to try to cross the boundary.

Taking this to its logical conclusion would be the ideal scenario whereby plotting an ever-reducing boundary that changed every half hour or so, you could go away for the weekend and come back on the Monday morning and all the sheep would be in the hill park ready to go.

Although that's probably a long way off, there's no doubt that things like this could be possible and affordable.

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Around the markets

Stirling – United Auctions on Thursday June 14 sold 2498 prime sheep comprising of 888 new season lambs selling to an average of 234.70p & 991 old season lambs with an average of 170.40p & 619 ewes and rams. New Season Lambs (888) – Lahill Craiq (Suff) £138; Balcaskie (Tex) £136; Easter Ochtermuthill (BTex) £134.50; Shanry (Char) £130; Kinloch (Cross) £104; Binn (Zwa) £82; Carse of Trowan (BF) £73. Old Season Lambs (991) – Easter Ochtermuthill (BTex) £289p; Lahill Craiq (Suff) £268p; Bangour (Char) £263p; Carse of Trowan (BF) £196p; Ledlation (Zwa) £192p. Old Season Lambs (991) – Westerhill (tex) £114; Halls (Cross) £109; Muchraw (Chev) £106; Dyke (BF) £99; Shannocher (Suff) £96; Sauchrie Mains (Mule) £89. Old Season Lambs (991) – Muchraw (Chev) £226p; East Kirkton (Tex) £216p; Halls (Cross) £191p; Shannocher (Suff) £188p; Halls (BF) £178p; Broachrigg (Mule) £166p. Ewes (619) Westpark (Tex) £130; Kinloch (BTex) £123; Merryhill (Suff) £109; Binn (Cross) £84; Ledlation (BFL) £87; Garvald Mains (Chev) £78; Drumoider (Mule) £76; Halls (BF) £76; Rams – Easter Buchlyvie (Suff) £120; Broachrigg (Tex) £119; Westloch (Chev) £90; Glendampth (BF) £80.

Stirling – Caledonian Marts on Thursday June 14 sold 177 cattle comprising 91 prime bullocks, heifers and young bulls, five OTM cattle and 81 cast cows and bulls. All classes met a similar trade to that of last week. Prime bullocks averaged 220p. Prime heifers averaged 231p. Young bulls averaged 205p. Beef cows averaged 143p. Dairy cows averaged 102p. Heifers sold to 258p (twice) for Limousins from W Pettigrew, Faskine, Airdrie, and Miss J MacKay, Harelaw, Barrhead selling to D Campbell and Son Butchers, Callander, and Hugh A Black and Sons, Stirling and to £1705 from A S Hay, Mains of Cultmalundie, Tibbertmore.

Bullocks sold to 255p for a British Blue from A S Hay, Mains of Cultmalundie purchased by T Johnston Butchers, Falkirk and to £1651 for an Aberdeen Angus from F C Eccles, Bruckley, St Andrews to Buffalo Farm Butchers, Kirkcaldy. Young bulls sold to 215p for a Limousin from Mains of Throsk, Stirling and to £1479 from the same farm. Heifers per kilo 252p and 250p Learielaw 248p and 242p Meadowend 240p (twice) Brockwoodlees 238p Meadowend and Whiteside 232p and 230p Easterton (Owen) Bullocks per kilo 250p West Woodlane and Faskine 245p West Woodlane 242p Brockwoodlees 240p Mawcarse, Bruckley and West Woodlane 238p Over Inzievar, Bruckley, Mawcarse and Brockwoodlees 235p Meadowend and Learielaw 230p Cander Mains and Over Inzievar Bulls per kilo 210p (twice) South Woodlane 208p Mains of Throsk Also forward were 81 cast cows and bulls.

A much plainer show across the board of Beef cows resulted in the overall average being slightly easier, levelling out at 143p but selling to an astonishing £1800 for an AA Cow from Keithhill Cattle Company, Humber, and to 179p from the same home. A leaner show of Dairy cows forward averaged 102p selling to 129p from J Craig, Carneil, Carnock and to £890 from H Harper, Kaimhill, Bridge of Weir. Bulls and cast males averaged 120p selling to 154p from W A Hume and Co, Easter Clune, Dunfermline and to £1400 for a Shorthorn from P Oag, Waterloo, Caithness. Other leading prices: Beef cows per head: £1660 and £1550 Humber Mill £1540 Cairnbog £1440 Humber Mill £1380 Burnhead Beef cows per kilo: 178p Cairnbog 176p, 174p and 167p Humber Mill 166p Burnhead Dairy cows per head:

£800 Kaimhill £780 Drumglass £730 Gibblaston Dairy cows per kilo: 127p and 126p Kaimhill 115p Meldrum 113p Gibblaston Bulls per head: £1040 Gryffwraes £1010 Hallquarter.

Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd., (June, 12th) sold 9 prime cattle. Prime Bullocks (3) averaged 227.3p (-1.8p) and sold to 230.0p per kg and £1,265.60 gross. Prime heifers (6) averaged 224.2p (-9.3p) and sold to 234.0p per kg and £1,380.60 gross.

Dingwall – Dingwall and Highland Marts on June 12 sold nine prime cattle. Prime bullocks (3) averaged 227.3p (-1.8p) and sold to 230.0p per kg for a 545kg Shorthorn cross and £1,265.60 gross for 565kg Shorthorn cross both from Bridgend Farm, Dingwall and both selling to Messrs John M Munro Ltd, Dingwall.

Prime heifers (6) averaged 224.2p (-9.3p) and sold to 234.0p per kg and £1,380.60 gross for a 590kg Limousin cross from Shoreton Farms, Culbokie selling to Messrs Fraser Brothers, Butchers, Dingwall. Other leading prices per kg: Bullocks: Bridgend Farm, (SimX), 228.0p; Bridgend Farm, (SHO), 224.0p. Heifers: Shoreton Farms, (LimX), 231.0p; Shoreton Farms, (CharX), 227.0p; Bridgend Farm, (LimX), 226.0p. Other leading prices per head: Bullocks: Bridgend Farm, (SimX), £1,254.00; Bridgend Farm, (SHO), £1,253.50. Heifers: Shoreton Farms, (CharX), £1,305.25; Shoreton Farms, (LimX), £1,305.15; Bridgend Farm, (CharX), £1,176.00. Dingwall and Highland Marts on June 12 sold 192 prime sheep. New season lambs (73) averaged 238.1p (+4.3p) and sold to 255.8p per kg and £110 gross. Old season lambs (38) averaged 178.4p (+5.5p) and sold to 207.1p per kg and £93 gross.

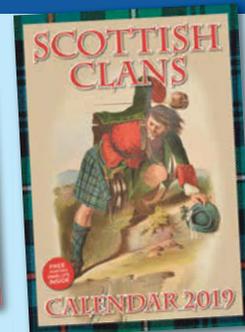
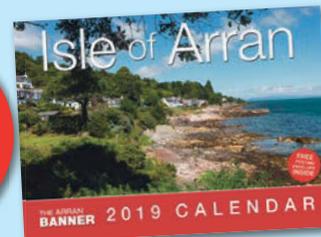
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SUMMER MOTORING



Campbeltown Motor Company's 21st-century stylish showroom

Campbeltown Motor Company's showroom refurbishment is Peugeot perfection

It has created a Kintyre base for the French firm's 21st century Blue Box dealership design.

The original Snipefield showroom was purpose-built two decades ago in 1998. Its current appearance, which has taken about four months to complete, reflects a complete redesign to match the brand's identity across Europe.

Campbeltown Motor Company's Alistair Gorman said: 'With a very strong product range, including the multi-award winning Peugeot 3008, Peugeot is determined that its dealerships enhance the quality, engineering and style of its vehicles.'

'The design of Campbeltown's branch will be the same as branches in France.

The product range has great specifications, the engines are more and more efficient and have

the best green credentials. The aim was to give customers a great Peugeot experience as soon as they enter.

'We hope it may encourage customers who have not experienced Peugeot in the past few years to take a look and see what is on offer.'

'The 3008 is a great seller in Campbeltown.

'The service desk area has changed and we have opened up the central side room creating a relaxed customer seating area.'

The customer area has a state of the art coffee machine and it is tempting to linger while waiting for servicing and perhaps to start browsing the new cars.

Due to the redesign Campbeltown Motor Company hopes to be able to fit in one more model with each part of the range being represented. The cars in the showroom demonstrate plenty of

features so that customers can experience exactly what is available.

The main building work was completed by McKinven and Colville, Stephen Blackstock painted the exterior and sprayed the ceiling and Duncan McMillan completed the carpeting and tiling.

Alistair added: 'It is also a great environment in which to work.'



The exterior of the refurbished Campbeltown Motor Company.



Inside the showroom.



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We are open Monday to Friday 8:00 – 17:30 and every Saturday 8:30 – 13:00

www.campbeltownmotorcompany.co.uk

Campbeltown Motor Company, Snipefield, Drumore, Campbeltown 01586 552030



All finance prices above based on 6000 miles per annum. Images shown for illustration purposes only. Terms & Conditions apply. Age restrictions may apply on certain models. Excess mileage charges may apply. Contact us for more information. Alternatively email us at cmc@peugeotmail.co.uk

REASSURANCE

BUILT IN

Your second most important purchase

Owning a car is an essential component for those of us who live in the beautiful but distant and vast west Highlands.

Without it our lives would come to a standstill: how would we ever get things done? How would we get to work, take the children to school, do the weekly shop or visit friends?

It can be no surprise then that buying a motor car is, for most people, the second most important purchase they will make, next to purchasing their house.

The number plate has been around for many years. The first country to introduce it was France in 1893, but cars grew ever more popular in the UK.

The British government decided to take steps to regulate vehicles on the nation's roads.

Number plates would also be useful in the event of an accident or crime, making it easier to track down the owner of the vehicle and take appropriate action.

Eventually, the UK also adopted the number plate using index marks of one or two letters. Today's approach features an 'age identifier' in the middle of plate and has been in force since September 2001.

The first two letters represent the 'local memory tag' indicating where the vehicle was registered. The third and fourth digits are known as the 'age identifier' and change every six

months – in March and September. The digits in March will always be the same as the last two digits of the current year.

For example, a car registered in London from March this year would have the digits LA17. In September, 50 is added to this number, so if the same car was registered in September 2017 the number plate would be LA67.

The final three letters are chosen at random, generated by a computer, but are carefully checked to ensure no offensive results are created! Personalised registration plate demand boomed in Britain last year: a whopping 374,968 private personalised plates were sold and registered in the UK over the course of last year – an increase of 12 per cent over 12 months.

What is believed to be the world's most expensive personalised number plate went on sale this year, when British automotive designer, Afzal Kahn, put his prized F1 plate on sale in Britain on Plates4Less. The plate was listed at £12,250,270.83, which increased to £14,700,405 once compulsory government charges were added.

Kahn purchased the F1 registration plate for £440,000 in 2008, which set a UK record for the most expensive plate sold at auction. It resided on his Bugatti Veyron.

The DVLA estimates more than £2 billion has been raised for

the Treasury at its specialised number plate auctions over the past 25 years.

Here are the next five most expensive plates sold in the UK:

2. 25 O – £518,480

The most expensive plate in the UK was purchased by a classic car dealer. Selling for just over half a million pounds in 2014, it was the perfect plate to be fitted to his Ferrari 250 GT SWB, worth a staggering £10 million.

3. X1 – £502,500

The X1 was bought by a private buyer in 2012. According to the DVLA, it is registered to a 2008 Mercedes.

4. G1 – £500,000

Formerly the most expensive plate in the UK, it sold at auction for exactly half a million pounds in 2011. The plate now sits on a 2015 model Aston Martin.

5. S1 – £404,063

The S1 is thought to be the first legal registration plate in Scotland. First sold in 2008, the plate now has an estimated value of closer to £1 million.



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The award-winning Isuzu D-Max continues its year of success with 'Best Workhorse Pickup' Award at the 2018 Trade Van Driver Awards.

Praised for its trademark workhorse credentials, the Isuzu D-Max claimed the title for its hardworking nature, gutsy performance and low cost of ownership. Judges of the award also credited the D-Max for its robust build and high-class appearance.

Presented at the CV Show, the award continues the success the Isuzu D-Max has already enjoyed in 2018. Known for reliability, capability and workhorse credentials, the Isuzu D-Max proves quite clearly 'It Just Works'.

William Brown, managing director at Isuzu UK, said on receiving the award: 'The Isuzu D-Max has a solid reputation

as the professional pickup, working hard for drivers and offering class leading durability. This award is another testament to that reputation, especially as the judging panel consisted of industry experts and professional pickup drivers alike.'

The award-winning D-Max has already had a successful 2018 being named both WhatVan? Pickup Of the Year 2018 and Professional Pickup and 4X4 Magazines Most Reliable Pickup of 2018, impressing judges across the board with its workhorse nature, unbeatable reliability, 1 tonne payload and maximum 3.5 tonne towing capability.

For more information on the Isuzu range head to www.sandsservices.co.uk/ or call 01292 880080 for further details and offers.



Trade Van Driver AWARDS 2018

S&S SERVICES, HEATHFIELD, AYR TEL: 01292 880080 or JOHN M:07831 808702

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Gavin Wilson

Sales manager for Helensburgh Subaru

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The Mazda Rx-7: Celebrating an icon at 40

- Produced across three generations from 1978 to 2002, the Mazda RX-7 celebrates its 40th birthday.
- Over 800,000 examples of this ground-breaking rotary-powered sports car produced.
- Successful in competition and loved by owners, the RX-7 established Mazda as a sports car brand.

The year was 1978, UK inflation hit a six-year low, the Bee Gees dominated the charts, while flared trousers and bouffant hair were the height of fashion. It was also the year that Mazda unveiled the RX-7, a car that played a vital role in establishing Mazda's reputation for building celebrated driver's cars.

In the 1970s, car makers the world over found themselves faced with the grim reality of a global fuel crisis. Soaring petrol prices meant few drivers wanted to own big, gas-guzzling V8 sports cars, so a new approach was needed. Responding to the challenging environment, Mazda's brightest brains set about creating a new kind of sports car, one that would be smaller, lighter, more efficient and – most important of all – fun to drive.

So in the home market of Japan, Mazda revealed the ground-breaking RX-7. Its compact yet powerful rotary engine allowed the power unit to be mounted lower and further back resulting in a car that set new standards in road holding. The formula was a hit with customers and critics alike. Car and Driver magazine, one of America's most influential car magazines, placed the Mazda RX-7 on its annual Ten Best list five times.

The original RX-7 'FB' proved a huge success. More than 470,000 driving enthusiasts bought one, before the second generation 'FC' model was introduced with turbo power in 1985. The third generation 'FD' followed in 1992 until production of the iconic RX-7 ended in 2002.

In addition, the RX-7's success in competition around the



globe further cemented its position as a one of the world's best sports cars. The RX-7 took overall victory in the 1981 Spa 24 hours, competed at Le Mans, took part in the awe-inspiring world of Group B rallying and claimed the 1980 and 1981 BTCC titles. In the USA, the RX-7 took an unmatched 100 wins in 12 years of IMSA competition and won the GTU class at the 1979 Daytona 24 hours.

Win Percy, the British racing driver who took both the RX-7s BTCC championships, was blown away by the speed of the Mazda RX-7. 'I won the title in 1980 and team owner

Tom Wilkinshaw said, "Let's go for it and try to win races outright next year." We duly did, beating the Rovers and Capris and I took the title again. It was a very capable little car – you really could call it a giant killer.'

And Pierre Dieudonné, who drove a Mazda RX-7 to victory in the 1981 24 Hours of Spa, added: 'That win was very important to Mazda. It was the first time a Japanese car manufacturer had won that race – the RX-7 didn't have the image of something like a Porsche. But winning at Spa gave it the prestige.'

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- EPC - E

£340,000

Pennyfuir Cottage, known locally as The Cottage, halfway house, Oban is a lovely 4 bedroomed detached property set in a large plot near Dunbeg. The Cottage is well maintained and has lots of potential to develop. Though the property is set near a road, this doesn't detract from the tranquil setting of The Cottage where you can have total privacy and listen to the waterfall in the garden.

WEST DRIVE, ARDBRECKNISH

- Detached House
- 2 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms
- Beautiful Loch Views
- Off road parking
- Integral Garage
- EPC - E (51)

OIEO £275,000

Built in 2005, 9 West Drive presents a rare opportunity to purchase a beautiful modern detached 2 bedroom house in the picturesque rural location of Ardbrecknish, Loch Awe. The property has stunning views over fields, Loch Awe and Ben Cruachan. This property would make the ideal holiday retreat or rental investment. Viewing is highly recommended!

ROSE COTTAGE, TAYNUILT

- **£5,000 under home report**
- Detached Bungalow
- 2 bedrooms / 1 bathroom
- Off road parking
- Well maintained
- Ideal holiday home
- EPC - E

OIEO £175,000

Rose Cottage is a beautifully maintained property that sits in a picturesque situation near the village of Taynuilt. The property was originally a crofter's cottage and the current owner has done a fabulous job of keeping the original features intact. When entering the property through a kitchen garden door you instantly feel at home in the spacious kitchen. There is plentiful wall and floor units and ample space for a dining table. The large window opens up onto lovely country views and is a bright room.

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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
18/02031/FUL	Land West Of Tigh A Claddaich, Achateny Acharacle		Erection of boat shed and toilet/ waiting area building
18/02710/LBC	Inverloch Castle Torlundy Fort William		Demolition of glass houses, refurbishment and extension to former stables building in walled garden (to convert to hotel room accommodation)
18/02590/FUL	Grazing Near Eigg Primary School Galmisdale, Isle Of Eigg		Installation of 10m high telecommunications monopole and associated equipment within stock proof compound
18/02465/FUL	Land 90M NE Of Achnasol House, Achnabobane Spean Bridge		Erect new dwelling house and garage
18/02700/FUL	Land 60M South West Of St Anthony's Argyll Road, Fort William		Erection of house (renewal of planning permission 15/01586/FUL)
18/02588/FUL	BT Exchange Galmisdale Isle Of Eigg		Erection of 8m high telecommunications mast within fenced compound
18/02550/FUL	Site 105M North East Of Woodside Cottage Glenancross, Morar Mallaig		Erection of two houses and formation of shared access
18/02579/FUL	1 Abbeyfield Court Park Road, Ballachulish		Alterations and stair extensions
18/02589/FUL	Land 220M SW Of 4 Cuagach, Isle Of Eigg		Erection of 4m high telecommunications mast within fenced compound
18/01362/FUL	Land At Duror, Appin		Erection of house
18/02200/FUL	Lag-Na-Lion Ormsaigbeg Kilchoan, Acharacle		Erection of shed, reconstruction of outbuilding and installation of air source heat pump

Time period for comments is 14 days & 21 Days for 18/02710/LBC
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

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

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgillehead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
18/01206/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access and installation of treatment plant	Land South East Of Old Schoolhouse Cladich Dalmally Argyll And Bute
18/01300/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and garage	Land North East Of The Birches Glencruitten Oban Argyll And Bute
18/01303/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land East Of Pine View Lodge (Site B) Barcaldine Oban Argyll And Bute
18/01281/PP	Change of use of land to form burial ground, formation of access road and erection of open shelter	Sithean Riabhach Langamull North Dervaig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
18/01157/PP	Removal of condition 2 relative to planning permission reference 11/00875/PP (Redevelopment of 2 existing barns, 1 stable building and a static caravan to erect a dwellinghouse and form a new private vehicular access) in relation to existing barns and stable building being removed from site	Land North East Of Altnavullin Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute
18/01169/PP	Change of use of garage/workshop/gym to form two self catering units and regularisation of building position.	Tidereach Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1PT
18/01181/PP	Erection of croft house, formation of vehicular access and installation of septic tank	Tynribbie Croft Land East Of 20 Kirkton Appin Argyll And Bute
18/01264/PP	Erection of 8 dwellinghouses and formation of vehicular access	Imeraval Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute
18/01308/PP	Change of use of land for the siting of catering trailer	Land South Of Hawthorn Cottage Salen Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA72 6JB
18/01233/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Cairnmona Mossfield Drive Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4EN

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.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



First Registration of a Croft

John William MacDonald Dougall and Carol Dougall have registered their croft Ardionra, East End, Iona, in the parish of Kilfinichen and Kilvickeown C5199 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 the 13th March 2019. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is AO726.

Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times



Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

Regional Press
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John and Anne Keenan has registered their croft 5&6 Upper Inveroy, Kilmonivaig 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 28, 2019. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C5128.

Proposed Let of a Part of a Croft

Dugald Leslie Cameron is applying to let the tenancy of part of croft at Croft 1-6 Corriebeg, Kilmallie (Register Number I2222) to Christopher Malcolm Cameron of Dalaraban, Upper Achintore, Fort William, PH33 6JR. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot by Thursday 19th July.

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First Registration of a Croft
Jane Marie MacEachen has registered their croft 5 Bunacaimb B, Arisaig and Moidart (also known as 5B Bunnacaimbe, Arisaig and Moidart C5116) 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 15, 2019. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is I6071.

Proposed Assignment of a Croft
Dugald Leslie Cameron is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at Croft 1-6 Corriebeg, Kilmallie (Register Number I2222) to Christopher Malcolm Cameron of Dalaraban, Upper Achintore, Fort William, PH33 6JR. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot by Thursday 19th July.

First Registration of a Croft
John Macdonald has registered their croft 27 Mingarry, Arisaig and Moidart 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 July 31, 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4553.

Argyll and Bute Council
DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
(B845 BARCALDINE-TAYNUILT-TAYCREGGAN ROAD, TAYNUILT)
(PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2018
Argyll and Bute Council proposes to introduce a no waiting at any time restriction on both sides of a section of the B845 Barcaldine-Taynuilt-Taycreggan Road in Taynuilt, extending from its junction with the A85 Trunk Road to a point 10 metres or thereby north of School Brae. The proposed restrictions aim to address road safety concerns caused by inconsiderate parking. Full details together with a plan and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the traffic regulation order can be inspected by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/trafficorders or viewed during normal office hours at:-
(i) Argyll and Bute Council, Customer Service Point, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban;
(ii) Taynuilt Post Office, Main Street, Taynuilt;
(iii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.
Any person wishing to object to the proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing providing their name and address, to the Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT or by emailing TRO-Objections@argyll-bute.gov.uk, by Friday the 12th July 2018. Letters of objection will be replied to after the closing date of the period for objections.
Jim Smith, Head of Roads & Amenity Services,
1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD
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www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
27 PRIVATE MOORINGS
LOCH SUNART, STRONTIAN

Notice is hereby given that Sunart Community Company has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of 27 private moorings at: (WGS84)

Location	Latitude	Longitude
Area 1,	56° 41.317'N	005° 34.614'W
Loch Sunart,	56° 41.312'N	005° 34.776'W
Strontian	56° 41.350'N	005° 34.779'W
	56° 41.351'N	005° 34.618'W
Area 2,	56° 41.273'N	005° 33.168'W
Loch Sunart,	56° 41.140'N	005° 33.156'W
Strontian	56° 41.101'N	005° 33.661'W
	56° 41.183'N	005° 33.676'W

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Ardnamurchan Library. For more information please contact lzzy@sunartcommunity-company.co.uk

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference:

06648 Sunart Community Company

Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES



Blast date:
Tuesday 26th July
Blast time:
12:00hrs – 14:00hrs

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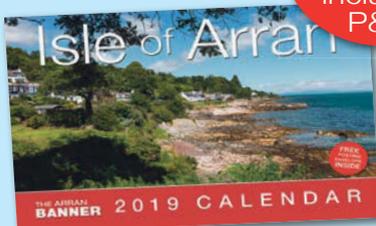
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BIRTHS

LEACH - Kirsten and Andrew are delighted to announce the birth of their son Ben Alexander on June 8, 2018 at Lorn and Islands Hospital. A wee brother for Niamh, grandson for Pamela and David and Helen and Andrew. Special thanks to midwives Rosie and Ronnie.

DEATHS

BANNATYNE - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on Thursday, June 14, 2018, John of 22 Longsdale Terrace, Oban, aged 85 years. Beloved father of Christine and the late Caroline. Father-in-law of Andy. Much loved brother of Margaret and Duncan and the late William and Mary. A friend to many, who will be sorely missed. Funeral on Thursday, June 21, 2018 at 1.00 p.m. at Oban Parish Church, Oban, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery.

CHRISTIE - Peacefully at home in Bishopton on Tuesday June 12, 2018, Helen MacFarlane, beloved wife of the late Hamish Christie, ISO, much-loved mother of James, Aileen and Duncan. Loving granny of Euan, Robbie and Fyn. Dear sister of Jessie and aunt of Ellen, Morag, Ann and Kirsty.

HARPER - (Tobermory/Turrieff). Suddenly but peacefully at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary on Saturday, June 16, 2018, Gordon (aged 78), much loved husband to Anne, father of Hazel and Morvern, father-in-law to Calum and Kevin and Seanair to Scott, Carrie, Samia and Ava. Greatly missed.

HOWARD - Strathcona and Mount Royal. Donald Euan Palmer Howard, 4th Baron Strathcona and Mount Royal, died peacefully at home on the Isle of Colonsay on Saturday, June 16, 2018, aged 94. Beloved husband of Patricia, father of Jane, Katie, Caro, Alex, Andrew and Emma and grandfather of seventeen. Funeral to be held on Colonsay on Tuesday, June 26 at 2pm. No flowers please. Memorial service will be held in London in the autumn, details to be announced later.

MACLENNAN - Peacefully at Kingsmills Care Home in Inverness, Effie (née MacDonald) formerly of Scarp, Caol and Inverloch on June 19, 2018, aged 92 years, beloved wife of the late Angus, caring and cherished mum of Hugh Dan and Isobel, grandmother to Colin, and mother-in-law to Kathleen and Calum. Service to be held at Kilmallie Free Church, Caol near Fort William on Saturday, June 23, 2018 at 12:30pm, thereafter to Kilmallie Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations are welcome at the service for Kingsmills Care Home (Inverness) Residents' Fund or forwarded to William T Fraser and Son, Funeral Directors, Culduethel Road, Inverness.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ELDER - Donald, Anne, Kelly (niece) and family would like to thank Moss Park and Raigmore Hospital for the care given to Ian during his illness. Our thanks also go to Rev R Baxter for his very inclusive service and our thanks also go to Scott at John McLellan, Funeral Directors for his caring and professional service.

MACINTYRE - Geraldine and family would like to thank all relatives and friends for the kindness shown to them following the sad loss of Peter. Special thanks to all medical staff involved in Peter's care over the years, particularly Dr Wilmington, Dr Calder, Ballachulish District Nurses and all staff at Ballachulish Medical Practice for their exceptional kindness and care. Grateful thanks to Fr Andrew Barratt for his comforting service, to Jimmy Forsyth and John MacCallum, to Duncan Gunn and Alan MacKenzie and staff at McFall Funeral Directors for their respectful funeral arrangements. Thank you to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside and who kindly donated £850 which will be donated to Cancer Research UK and Ballachulish District Nurses. Peter will always be loved and sadly missed.

REDFERN - Joan would like to thank all family and friends for their kindness and support following the sad loss of her mum Elizabeth. Thanks to Drs Calder and Wilmington of Ballachulish Medical Practice, Dr Patrick Byrne aka mum's superdoc at Belford Hospital, Jennifer Potts and Stewart Ross, specialist renal nurses. Thank you all for wonderful care. Also thanks to Crossroads Lochaber, to Jamie, Beth and all the team at McFall's, thank you for kindness and professional services. Special thanks to Rev Dr Malcolm Kinnear for spiritual comfort, Melville Paton for music and McDonald Bros for beautiful flowers. To Loch Leven Hotel thank you for lovely catering and thanks to Oban Tesco boys, "Mrs Glencairn" loved you all. Special thanks to Jean Coke, Cathy Allardyce, Emma and Amy Nicolson for taking part in the service. Finally a very special bunch who were mum's beloved girls - Ballachulish District Nurses for whom the collection raised £1,418.

MEMORIALS

HILL - In memory of Ann, died June 17, 1998. 20th anniversary. Someone too special to ever forget.
- Christy and family.

MACCOLL - In loving memory of Kathie, devoted mum and mum-in-law, who died June 20, 2013. Those we love don't go away. They walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear.
- Elspeth and Billy.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of my dear mother Mary Ann MacEachen, who passed away June 25, 1988. The years pass by But memories stay Loved and remembered always.
- Inserted by her loving daughter Flora.

MACLELLAN - Remembering Donald MacLellan, Morar (1954 - 2017).

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- The MacLellan Family

MACPHEE - Treasured memories of my dear mother Marion Lawrie, who passed away June 21, 1992.

Forever in our hearts you'll stay Loved and remembered every day.
- Dugald, Janis and family.

MURPHY - Patricia, died June 26, 2008. You weaved your thread around us all binding us together, instilled the importance of family love which will live on in us forever.

Ten years have gone but we all know as our broken hearts still miss you so.

Cherished memories of a loving wife, proud mum and wonderful nana.
- Patrick and family.

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.

STEWART - In loving memory of a dear mother and granny, Nan, who died June 25, 2002.

Gone are the days we used to share But in our hearts you are always there.

- Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families.

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Obituary: Tom Webster, Oban Mountaineering Club member

Tom Webster, RAF pilot, agricultural scientist, mountaineer

August 27, 1923 - June 2, 2018

Tom Webster, who has died aged 94, was an agricultural scientist and former RAF pilot.

Tom described himself as a 'street child', growing up in Glasgow's Southside.

His natural intelligence and scientific curiosity were irrepressible so when, at the age of 15, he was employed by the Glasgow Corporation, his boredom in the work led to much mischief-making with his contemporaries.

He lived for the weekends and vividly recalled days cycling from Glasgow to Arrochar to climb the Cobbler, cycling back in time for bed (an 80-mile round trip).

The Second World War was to change the course of his life. He initially signed up to the RAF as a navigator but, at his brothers' suggestion, he tried out for the pilot exams.

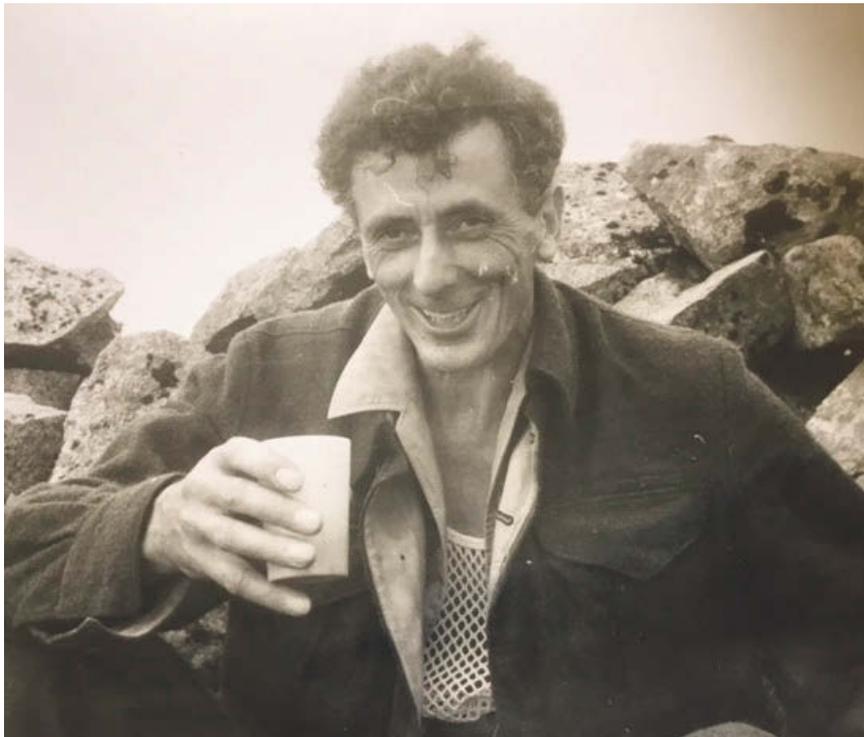
He excelled and spent the war flying B24 Liberator bombers with a mostly Canadian crew. For the latter part of the war he flew low altitude reconnaissance in South Asia.

The war catapulted the working class boy into education. After demobilisation in 1947, Tom enrolled at Glasgow University, studying agriculture. Completing his postgraduate course at Aberystwyth University, he then went on to work at Sutton Bonington Agricultural College.

But the work he was most proud of, at the NIAB research facility in Cambridge, focused on collaboration with new EU colleagues to harmonise standards in crops and agriculture.

It was at a dance at the Millport Garrison, Cumbrae, that Tom, always a charmer, met a good looking young nurse interested in going climbing. Tom and Alice Spence were married in December 1951 and they had two children, Glynis and Tom. The family spent many years in Cambridge, with their house full of pets.

Always a keen sportsman, he was an enthusiastic member of many teams from basketball to cricket but his sport of choice was hockey, which he played regularly throughout his working life until retiring back to Scotland.



Tom Webster

The move north enabled Tom and Alice to explore their shared passion for the outdoors. The Scottish scenery providing fertile inspiration for Alice's paintings and sparking Tom's interest in geology.

The man could never be kept from the mountains so retirement saw him joining the redoubtable Oban Mountaineering Club, being part of the mountain rescue team - until his 80th

year, when the insurance would not cover him - and becoming Munroist no: 3449.

Tom was devastated when Alice was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease and chose to end her life in Switzerland.

Yet even after an injury necessitated amputation of his leg at age 87, the man could be found up the Cobbler with his trusty dog and even, once, skiing the

slopes of Aviemore. A walk with Tom would always involve a wee song, a joke and a curious look at the flora and fauna.

No one could ever meet him without feeling touched by his exceptional intellect, his range of knowledge, and most of all his joie de vivre.

He is survived by his two children, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

THOUGHT for the week

'Do not worry, saying "what shall we eat?" or "what shall we drink?" or "what shall we wear?" for the pagans run after these things, and your Heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and these things will be given to you as well'
- Matthew chapter 6:31-34

Modern life gives us plenty of reason to worry. We lead stressful lives and this can easily be corrosive and depressive to our mental and physical health.

The worst thing we can do in that situation is to reject help and keep our problems to ourselves.

Jesus would not have advised people not to worry without suggesting a remedy.

This lies not in seeking wealth or comfort, but in joining the many people worldwide who have discovered the spiritual support that is freely available from God. This is what Jesus called God's kingdom.

God's influence is not otherworldly, it is an essential part of life, we are required to learn to recognise and accept it, just as we accept food and drink.

In worship of God in our churches we come together both individually and collectively to seek God's will and guidance in our lives, leaving our worries and fears with God and supporting each other on our journey.

Geoff and Janet Fairbairn

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Rev Morag Muirhead installed as moderator of Lochaber Presbytery

The Rev Morag Muirhead became the moderator for Lochaber at a Presbytery service in Fort William Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church on Tuesday June 12.

Moderator Rev Fiona Ogg conducted the service and installed Rev Muirhead as moderator for the forthcoming year.

Rev Muirhead was ordained as a minister at Fort William Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church in May 2013 and appointed to that church as part of the ministry team. Morag trained as a minister after several years as a reader and elder. Apart from church connections many in the

town will know Morag due to her career in teaching in Inverlochy Primary School until her retirement in 2009.

During the service the challenges of change facing the mission and ministry of the church nationally as well as locally were highlighted.

In the meeting which followed the service heard about the outreach of both local and national churches. After the devastating earthquake in Nepal in April 2015 local churches and individuals responded to the appeal for money to help build houses. There was a very generous response from Lochaber and people heard how £310,000 had been raised

in total. This has been put to good use in establishing an infrastructure of roads, water and power in the area affected. Schools have been built and houses are beginning to be constructed in a way that is sustainable and more robust in the event of future earthquakes.

News from congregations included reports from the General Assembly from our youth representative Samuel Jones and one of the commissioners Cath Fraser. Local events throughout Lochaber were reported.

Morag is hoping to visit some of the churches and projects throughout her year of office.

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OT

GOLF

'Grudge' match ends with honours even



Dalmally and Oban Rotary Club members.

The annual Dalmally versus Oban Rotary Club 'grudge' match resulted in an unexpected draw. Adopting a 'mini-Ryder Cup' format, teams from both sides played fourball, foursomes and singles matchplay.

A beautiful evening, with the course at its best, a tightly fought match ended with a convivial evening in the clubhouse. Dalmally Golf Club is always delighted to see the gents from Oban Rotary and their support for the club.

Recent results:

Club Championship round 2: 1 Martin O'Keeffe (net 58); 2 Tony Graham (net 64); 3 Graeme Mackechnie (net 65). Graeme MacKechnie best scratch (72)

June medal: 1 Calum Macfarlane-Barrow (71); 2 Tony Graham (74); 3 Jim Livingstone (75).

Coming up: Dalmally Gents' Open – Sunday July 1. To enter, visit www.dalmallygolfclub.co.uk

MacIntyre in the money



Robert MacIntyre

Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre made the cut after finishing in a creditable 33rd place out of a field of 156 in the

Hauts de France Open played at Saint-Omer Golf Club in Lumbres last week.

Robert carded rounds of 74, 71, 73 and 70 for a total of 288.

The Glencruitten golfer makes a return to home soil this week when he takes part in the European Challenge Tour's SSE Scottish Hydro Challenge hosted by Macdonald Hotels and Resorts at the Spey Valley Golf Club in Aviemore. Play gets underway (today) Thursday.

Glencruitten

David McCuish leads the Championship 1st round with a score of 63, followed by Phillip Murphy and Graham MacColl on 67. In the George Smith 1st round Ian Cameron leads with a score of 79 - 20 = 59, Steven McCuish scored 70 - 9 = 61 and Stuart Cameron 77 - 14 = 63.

On Saturday the Argyll and Bute Handicap Championship takes place at Glencruitten.

Taynuilt

The Lochnell Quaich first round and medal played at Taynuilt on Sunday June 7: 1 Donald Cattanach 66-6=60; 2 David Howie 64-3=61; 3 Andrew Diggory 67-6=61.



Taynuilt golf club

Oban rugby star Abi helps Scots to 7s triumph



The successful Scotland 7s squad after winning in Amsterdam. Photograph: SRU

Scotland gain promotion back into the Grand Prix Series

Oban's international rugby star Abi Evans was part of the Scotland Women 7s who began their summer campaign this month by winning the Amsterdam Sevens tournament.

The women's team got off to a great start with a 24-12 victory over Comite Cote d'Argent, before crushing HRC Xtreme 70-0, Abi being one of the try-scorers.

Scotland then thumped Dambusters 47-0, Abi again among those who crossed the whitewash as the first day came to a close.

The Scots girls started day two by beating Paarse Rebellen 45-0, then defeated Mo Sistas 33-0.

It was then on to the quarter-final against Comite Cote

WOMEN'S RUGBY

d'Argent, with Scotland winning 41-12, with Abi scoring again.

The semi-final saw a scoreline of Scotland 28, Hong Kong 14, Abi helping the team to the win with another touchdown.

Scotland triumphed 26-5 over Almaty in the final, though Abi was not among the scorers on this occasion.

Having gained promotion back into the Grand Prix series by winning the Rugby Europe Trophy in 2017, the squad will play Grand Prix tournaments at Marcoussis, Paris, on Friday and Saturday, June 29 and 30, and Kazan on Saturday and Sunday, September 1 and 2.



Abi Evans.



The Argyll Rally presents crews with classic forest tests as well as brand new stages.

Photograph: Lindsay Photo Sport

Scottish Rally Championship heads for Dunoon

Returning to the Scottish Rally Championship calendar for the first time in more than a decade in 2017, the Argyll Rally, which takes in the Dunoon area on June 23, provides competitors with a nostalgic blast as well as a fresh challenge with plenty of new stages on the itinerary. The event is organised by Mull Car Club.

With last year's winners Euan Thorburn and Paul Beaton not competing this time around, 2018 will also see a new winner of this re-invented classic event.

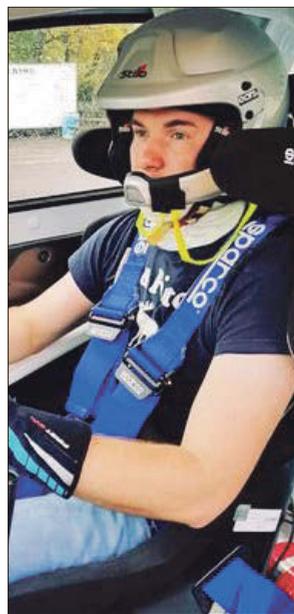
Boarding the ferry in strong contention to etch their names onto the trophy are the three leading drivers in the championship table: Donnie MacDonald, Andrew Gallacher and Mark McCulloch.

MacDonald and co-driver Andrew Falconer have enjoyed a strong start to their second season in a Ford Fiesta R5, grabbing third overall on their home event, the Snowman Rally. The pair haven't been on the podium since but are yet to feature outside the top six in 2018, finding themselves at the head of the championship going into the Argyll Rally.

Gallacher and Jane Nicol lead the championship after the Snowman and Speyside Stages, but dropped to second following a fairly anonymous performance on the Scottish Rally. The duo

have been mightily impressive so far this year, however, and are the only crew starting the Argyll Rally to have won an SRC round already this year. They will be looking to extend their tally of wins to two aboard their Ford Focus WRC and recapture some of the momentum they lost in Lockerbie.

McCulloch and co-driver Michael Hendry are the SRC's form crew, taking their best championship result with second on the Scottish Rally. Having switched from a Mitsubishi Evo IX to a Ford Fiesta R5 this season, the pair have been right on the pace since their first stage in the



Mull's Alasdair Currie.

RALLYING

car and are looking more and more threatening with each passing event. With Scottish Rally winner David Bogie not competing in Argyll, can McCulloch and Hendry finally get that first SRC win in Dunoon?

Alasdair Currie from Mull leads the junior battle heading to Argyll, but will face stiff competition from fellow Fiesta ST driver Grant MacRae and MG ZR pilots Niall Cowan Jr and Scott Peacock to keep his advantage. Currie will be tough to beat, however, having won the past two rounds in this championship.

Adding extra incentive to an already appetising battle is the opportunity to receive the SRC John Horton Star Driver Award. Paddy Munro, Marty Scott and Angus Lawrie have already booked themselves a spot in the end-of-season shoot-out that will see drivers compete for the opportunity to receive a day's tuition with Finnish rally legend Tapio Laukkanen. With such a strong prize to aim for, competitors will be out to impress when the action begins on June 23 in Argyll.

The 2018 ARR Craib MSA Scottish Rally Championship consists of seven forest events across Scotland, taking in over 300 competitive stage miles.

Martial arts

IAIN RODGER

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Kyokushinkai Karate

Grading tests took place over Saturday and Sunday of last week, more details of these will be in the next column.

The annual beach training session is planned for Saturday June 30 and as usual will be held at Kilmory Knap. This is a free session open to anyone who doesn't mind getting wet!

The classes continue throughout the school summer holidays and new members are welcome right now. Kyokushin is universally known as the 'strongest karate' and the word itself translates to 'ultimate truth', meaning that you can find out the real truth of your character through rigorous training.

If you think this is for you please contact Iain Rodger (6th dan) on 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk. Alternatively, send a message to Caledonia Kyokushin on Facebook.

Kick boxing

Beginners are always welcome at Senshi Do Kick Boxing. If you are after cardio and strength training without the fighting then Monday's Kick Fit session at 6pm would be perfect for you. Wednesdays have the junior (5-14 years) session at 4.30pm then the seniors (15 and over) at 6pm. These sessions cover the technical and tactical sides of K1 style kick boxing as well as the cardio and strength training required to get you fighting fit. Fridays have another junior session at 4.30 until 6pm. Sundays have the women-only session at 10am and junior fight club at 11am.

Find the club on Facebook (Senshi Do Kickboxing) or contact Wullie Rodger (6th dan) on shihanwill@gmail.com or 07480 273190.

Shukokai Karate

Anyone looking for more details on these

clubs should contact Kenny Gray (5th dan) on kenni.gray@btinternet.com or 07884 183905.

BJJ

Oban BJJ held a seminar with European champion John Nicolson.

This four-hour seminar covered half guard escapes and counters. John took his time to help and answer any questions anybody had about problems they were having in their game.

The reintroduction of MMA to Thursdays is becoming popular. Our past experience in MMA includes getting fighters to main events in shows and having a proud record of wins all over Scotland on MMA cards.

The MMA class is set for beginners with basic movement, combinations and wrestling. Club coach Coogie Potter had this to say: 'We welcome all-comers no matter where you're starting from. Why not come and try to see if this suits you?'

For more information, contact Coogie Potter on coogiepots@gmail.com

Wado Kai Karate

The Park Primary School class (part of Kaishin Wado Kai) is now closed for the summer break but will resume on the August 27.

If you have a child aged 7-10 and want to know more about this class, please contact Mike on 07709 229284 or email m.faulkner6@btinternet.com

Kaishin Wado Kai at Dunbeg School is on a Tuesday from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. All ages are welcome at the club training sessions. Mike Faulkner said: 'We are a small and friendly club with four black belt trainers available to help students at any time.'

For more details contact Sensei Chris Bruce (7th Dan) at crb999@btinternet.com



Oban BJJ held a seminar with European champion John Nicolson recently.

OT

GOLF



Winners of the recent Seniors' Open at Taynuilt.

Taynuilt Seniors' Open

Munro's of Oban sponsored the Seniors' Open played at Taynuilt Golf Club on June 13:

Winners were: ladies – 1 Susan Asher (Taynuilt GC) 34 pts (38); 2 Fiona McGlynn (Taynuilt GC) 31 pts (16); 3 Wilma Frew (Dalmally GC) 30 pts (15); gents – 1 Rob Graham (Taynuilt GC) 42 pts (15) BIH; 2 Samuel Hutchison (Taynuilt GC) 42 pts (22); 3 John McIlroy (Kenmore GC) 38 pts (17).

Ladies' longest drive at 7th/16th holes: Lily McKay (Dalmally GC).

Ladies' nearest the pin at 6th/15th holes: Wilma Frew (Dalmally GC).

Gents' longest drive at 1st/10th holes: Donald Cattanach (Taynuilt GC).

Gents' nearest the pin at 3rd/12th holes: David Currie (Taynuilt GC).

Margaret takes Lochgilphead title

The weather could not have been better at the recent Lochgilphead Golf Club championship and, while nice dry fairways gave a good run on the balls, it also meant it was harder to control on the greens.

Margaret MacKinnon was definitely on her game with level par for the first nine. She lost her stride a little on the inward nine but still finished with a gross 76, giving her an eight-stroke lead over Kathleen Young.

The second round saw equally good weather as the ladies set off. There was no way Margaret could be beaten and scoring a gross 77 on day two made her ladies' champion for the third year in a row, beating Kathleen by a massive 19 strokes.

The secondary Stableford competition was won by Fiona McLeod with 76 points, beating Ele Hunter by two points.

Isle of Skye results

Ladies' section: Sunday June 10, medal – 1, Donalda Johnston 85(20) net 65; 2, Sandra Dew 103(36) 67; 3, Jill Mackinnon 93(19) 74.

Tuesday June 12, Stableford – 1, Donalda Johnston 35pts; 2, Sandra Neill 32 pts; 3, Sandra Dew 30pts.

Gents' section: Sat/Sun, June 9/10, Stableford – 1, Daniel Macdonald 44pts; 2, Danny Steele 41pts BIH; 3, Kyle Pirie 41pts.

Wednesday June 13, Strath Cup – 1, Donald Bethune 39pts; 2, John Allan Macleod 37pts; 3, Lou Gordon 36pts.

SHOOTING

Wet conditions at Glenfinnan

Glenfinnan Gun Club held a shoot on Saturday in wet conditions.

There was a disappointing turn-out of just 13 guns.

First competition for the Angus The Gate Quaich was won by I Love (senior); second competition for A Mackellaig Shield won by I Love (senior) /Ewen McColl; third competition for MacCracken Cup won by David MacKenzie; high gun for the day for J MacLeod Cup won by David MacKenzie; Under-18 won by Cameron Morgan.

Inverlochy take the honours at Macaulay sixes

The Artemis-sponsored Macaulay Sixes took place on Sunday at Mossfield Stadium in Oban and attracted 29 teams.

The winners of the main competition for P7 and under were Inverlochy, who defeated Taynuilt 1-0 in the final, with Taynuilt taking the Oban Celtic Shield.

The Alastair Campbell Shield for P5 and under was won by the Braxi Boys also from Inverlochy, who defeated Bute in a very exciting final after extra time by one penalty to nil.

The Macaulay Development

PRIMARY SCHOOL SHINTY

Trophy was won by Rockfield Rapids. The best boy of the tournament was Duncan MacEwan from Rockfield and the best girl was Anna Nicholson from Kyles.

The Macaulay Association would like to thank everyone involved on Sunday, especially the parents and coaches who took their teams to the event, the girls in the teas, raffle and tuck shop, the referees and scorers, and to Artemis, the sponsor who presented each team with a bag of sports products.



Winners of the Oban Celtic Shield were Taynuilt.



Rockfield Rapids won the Macaulay Development Trophy.



The best boy and girl of the tournament – Anna Nicholson Kyle's and Duncan MacEwan Rockfield.



Bute.



Kyles.



Inverlochly winners of the Ian Cumming Trophy.



The Inverlochly Braxi Boys were winners of the Alasdair Campbell Shield.



Aberdour.



Rockfield.



The Macaulay Association trophy table.



Park.



Lochgilphead.



Inveraray.



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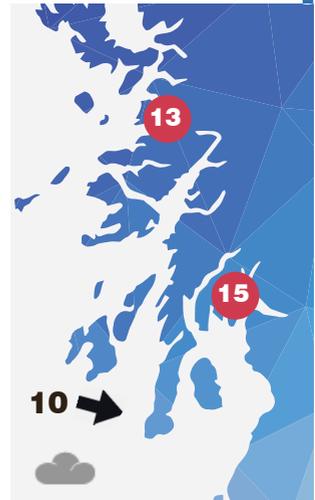


WEATHER

Thursday
Sunny intervals
Breezy from the west north west
Temperatures
8°C to 15°C.

Friday
Cloudy
Breezy from the west north west
Temperatures
9°C to 15°C.

Weekend Outlook
Cloudy on Saturday
Cloudy on Sunday
Breezy from the west south west
Temperatures
11°C to 15°C.



FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday June 21, 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	06.19	1.4	12.36	2.9
	18.11	1.2	***	**
Fri	00.44	3.1	07.35	1.4
	13.47	2.9	19.18	1.3
Sat	02.00	3.1	08.43	1.4
	14.14	3.1	20.26	1.3
Sun	02.58	3.2	09.36	1.4
	15.28	3.2	21.26	1.3
Mon	03.43	3.3	10.19	1.3
	16.07	3.4	22.17	1.3
Tues	04.22	3.4	10.56	1.2
	16.44	3.6	23.01	1.2
Wed	05.36	3.6	12.05	1.1
	17.58	3.8	***	**

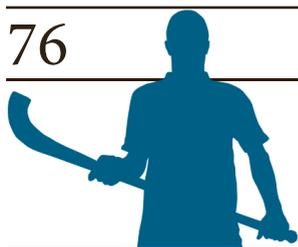
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd



SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

'More win MacTavish Cup

Newtonmore won the cottages.com MacTavish Cup, Kilmallie reached the Tulloch Homes quarter-finals and Oban Camanachd and Kyles Athletic won through to the Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-finals following the shinty action on Saturday.

cottages.com

MacTavish Cup Final

**Kinlochshiel 1
Newtonmore 2**

Newtonmore lifted the cottages.com MacTavish Cup for the 42nd time after they beat Kinlochshiel 2-1 at The Bught Park, Inverness.

There have been contrasting fortunes over the years in this competition with Newtonmore record winners whilst Kinlochshiel were playing in their first MacTavish final.

Youngsters Cameron Kennedy, Kinlochshiel, and Calum Tuckwood, Newtonmore, were the mascots on the day, having won a shinty skills competition run by sponsors cottages.com in the lead up to the final and they joined club officials Norman MacArthur and Biz Campbell in leading the teams out.

On a wet day in Inverness, Camanachd Association president Keith Loades accompanied Wendy Halliday and Stuart Walkden from the sponsors as they were introduced to players and officials.

After wins against Lochaber and Kilmallie, Newtonmore were going for a third successive success in this tournament. Paul John MacKintosh opted to start Glen MacKintosh on the bench, following his return from a broken rib. Jamie Robinson kept his place in the side following his comeback the previous week after suffering broken fingers. Michael Russell continued in attack, whilst Rory Kennedy picked up Keith MacRae and Norman Campbell were given a marking job on John



The winning Newtonmore team. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

MacRae. Kinlochshiel captain Paul MacRae had recovered from a hamstring strain to start at full centre. Boss Johnston Gill's main dilemma was whether to start Ali Nixon or Duncan 'DA' MacRae and he chose the former in attack with the latter taking up a place on the bench. Oliver MacRae played at wing centre with Finlay MacRae continuing at full back.

There was a minute's silence ahead of throw-up to remember Newtonmore Chieftain David Cheyne who died recently.

Newtonmore made the better start and, from the throw-up, Rory Kennedy won the ball and delivered a long pass down the middle to Iain Robinson who spun past Finlay MacRae and raced goalwards. Robinson was judged by referee Calum Girvan to have been brought down by MacRae just outside the 'D' though. Steven MacDonald found Evan Menzies with the resultant free-hit but he shot over under pressure from Mark MacDonald.

Evan Menzies found Iain Robinson

and his turn and shot on six minutes was saved with his feet and then cleared by Kinlochshiel keeper Scott Kennedy before Michael Russell could take advantage.

Iain Robinson continued to look lively and showed great awareness as he took down a David MacLean cross from the right before turning and dragging the ball past Conor Cormack, but his shot went well over the top.

The opening 10 minutes were almost all Newtonmore but it took a superb Rory Kennedy challenge to halt Keith MacRae's progress down the right as Kinlochshiel tried to make their mark on the final.

There was a nervous moment for the Newtonmore support when Norman Campbell stretched to get to a Jordan Fraser ball from the left into the danger area after Ali Nixon had won possession. Campbell's touch wrong-footed keeper Kenny Ross but the ball dropped just past the keeper's right post for a corner.

Kinlochshiel were coming more into it and Kenny Ross did well to clear a Keith MacRae free-hit from the left, which was played across goal.

John MacRae steered the ball wide on 18 minutes after Ali Nixon had touched on a huge Conor Cormack shy from the right, from well inside his own half.

Keith MacRae was then crowded out as Newtonmore struggled to clear their lines and his effort went wide.

Newtonmore went back on the attack and Evan Menzies found Steven MacDonald at the back post but, with David Falconer in close attention, his strike went past keeper Kennedy's right post.

Kenny Ross had to deal with a dangerous Donald Nixon ball from midfield which dropped on the goal and John MacRae couldn't find the target from the re-bound.

A deflected Iain Robinson effort looped past the keeper's left post and the final was now flowing from end-to-end. Kinlochshiel broke the deadlock on 31 minutes.

Ali Nixon's cross from the right was palmed down by Kenny Ross but the keeper couldn't get the ball away and John MacRae took advantage, pushing the ball across goal where Keith MacRae stretched to turn the ball home at the keeper's left post.

A wicked back-hand John MacRae shot from the left rose over the top shortly after the re-start.

With five first half minutes remaining, the rain got heavier, making for a slippery surface. Evan Menzies dispossessed Mark MacDonald who slipped on the Newtonmore right and cut the ball inside, past Finlay MacRae, before shooting at Scott Kennedy who cleared for a corner. David MacLean's corner from the right fell to Menzies but this time Kennedy saved with his feet at the expense of another corner which was cleared.

Evan Menzies looked Newtonmore's best bet for a goal and it arrived a couple of seconds into first half stoppage time. Norman Campbell started the move, sending a long ball out of defence which Menzies took down on the left before playing it to Steven MacDonald. MacDonald's initial strike was blocked by Conor Cormack but MacDonald gathered the rebound and found Menzies who had run inside. Menzies shot goalwards from almost 30 yards out and although Finlay MacRae got his caman to the ball, he deflected it past his own keeper to make it 1-1.

There was only time to restart the final before referee Calum Girvan brought the first half to a close and Newtonmore went into the break with their tails up.

The rain continued to fall and

Kinlochshiel went out to regain their lead. Jordan Fraser tugged a shot wide after taking a Keith MacRae pass 60 seconds into the second half whilst, at the other end, a Fraser MacKintosh shot was deflected for a corner.

Newtonmore took the lead for the first time on 54 minutes. Craig Ritchie cleared out of defence and Michael Russell played the ball on to Iain Robinson who made light of the tricky conditions underfoot and allowed the ball to bounce before getting away from Finlay MacRae on the Newtonmore right. Robinson sped into the D and tucked the ball low past Scott Kennedy from a tight angle by the keeper's left post to make it 2-1.

Newtonmore know how to see out games but the question was could they do so with more than half an hour remaining?

Kenny Ross did well to thwart John MacRae who had dispossessed Norman Campbell inside the 'D' with the Newtonmore veteran perhaps fortunate not to be penalised for hacking in his bid to recover the situation.

Newtonmore made the game's first changes just after the hour mark with Fraser MacKintosh and David MacLean replaced by Glen MacKintosh and Neil Stewart, who both joined the attack. Steven MacDonald and Michael Russell dropped back to the wing centre positions.

Rory Kennedy needed treatment to a thigh knock but was able to continue.

The Newtonmore substitutes set out to make their mark with Glen MacKintosh immediately making a nuisance of himself and Neil Stewart slicing an effort wide of the keeper's right post.

The Newtonmore goal survived a scare on 68 minutes when John MacRae broke away from Norman Campbell down the Kinlochshiel right. Campbell got back to block but the ball fell for Jordan Fraser and Andy MacKintosh did well to deflect his shot away for a corner.

It then took a superb Jamie Robinson challenge as he appeared from nowhere to prevent Keith MacRae getting a clean strike on target.

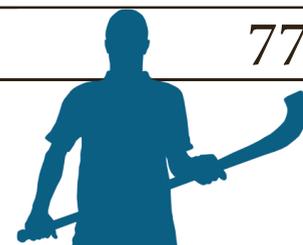
Kinlochshiel continued to press and Jordan Fraser blazed wide at the second attempt after collecting John MacRae's ball from the right.

Kenny Ross was calm on 76 minutes as he used his chest to kill a ball into the 'D' before tapping the ball out for a corner.

Scott Kennedy made a fine save with his hand when Evan Menzies shot from space at the back post after Neil Stewart's bouncing ball from the right was missed by Mark MacDonald.



Newtonmore captain Andy Mackintosh takes a sip from the MacTavish Cup. Photograph: Neil Paterson.



Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup

MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup

Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

Norman Campbell limped off with nine minutes remaining, with Fraser MacKintosh returning.

Rory Kennedy showed his class as he slid in to win possession, preventing Jordan Fraser mounting another Kinlochshiel attack.

A Newtonmore goal at this stage would probably have seen off Kinlochshiel and Iain Robinson raced down the left and slipped the ball across goal but Glen MacKintosh couldn't direct his effort on target. A really well-timed Finlay MacRae challenge halted Even Menzies' progress as Newtonmore launched a dangerous break forward.

Play switched to the other end and Kenny Ross had to be careful as he cleared Keith MacRae's cross from the left with John MacRae looking to capitalise from any slip-up.

There was a break in play as Michael Russell received treatment after Mark MacDonald's clearance caught him on the side of the face.

Kinlochshiel made their first change on 87 minutes with Duncan 'DA' MacRae replacing skipper Paul MacRae in midfield.

Iain Robinson continued to cause problems and cut in from the right and shot goalwards. Scott Kennedy got the ball away and Glen MacKintosh was penalised for a late charge on the keeper.

Newtonmore's Craig Ritchie went off on 90 minutes after taking a knock to the knee with Drew MacDonald taking over.

Finlay MacRae had now pushed forward and Steven MacDonald, now in defence, tripped John MacRae as he tried to control a high Conor Cormack ball. Ali Nixon took the free-hit but Steven MacDonald blocked John MacRae's strike, deflecting the ball for a corner. Oliver MacRae took it but Newtonmore defended well.

Keith MacRae looked to have got away from Rory Kennedy but the Scotland defender recovered well to get a blocking challenge in and MacRae's shot went wide.

With just over six minutes stoppage time played, referee Calum Girvan sounded the final whistle.

The win notched a third consecutive success for Newtonmore in this North of Scotland knock-out cup competition and gives Paul John MacKintosh's side the first senior silverware of the 2018 shinty season.

The defeat may be a huge disappointment for Kinlochshiel but the league leaders still have plenty to play for this year with a Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter-final tie against Newtonmore at Kirkton to come.

Newtonmore again proved the doubters wrong with Iain Robinson, Rory Kennedy and Evan Menzies the pick of their players.

Kinlochshiel captain Paul MacRae received the Tom MacKenzie man of the match award.

Newtonmore captain Andy MacKintosh received the MacTavish Cup and silver-mounted caman from Wendy Halliday from sponsors cottages.com



Fort William captain Lewis Clark with the MacTavish Juvenile trophy.

Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup second round

Kilmallie 4 Inveraray 0

Kilmallie won through to the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter finals after beating Inveraray 4-0 in their second round replay at The Canal Parks.

Kilmallie's Daniel Stewart returned and started on the bench. Influential defender Steven Stewart was missing, so Martin Stewart went to half back whilst Lewis Birrell faces a spell on the sidelines with an elbow injury.

Inveraray's Garry MacPherson started a second suspension this term and he will also miss his side's next three games following his red card against Glasgow Mid Argyll last weekend.

The sides had drawn 0-0 at The Winterton a fortnight earlier and great goal-keeping from Inveraray custodian Scott MacLachlan, including a brilliant stop from a Liam Cameron drive which was heading for the top corner of the net, kept the first 38 minutes of the game scoreless.

Michael Rodger gave Kilmallie a deserved lead on 39 minutes though when he took a pass from Liam Cameron and beat his marker before scoring.

The heavy rain meant the pitch was starting to carry a lot of water but referee Martin MacLean kept the game going and Stephen Mcalister, who started at full centre before going to wing centre, sent a looping ball into the net with around 20 minutes remaining.

Kilmallie took Daniel Stewart, Andrew Mcalister and Jordan MacPhee off the bench to freshen things up.

Michael Rodger capitalised on a defensive slip to take the ball around the keeper to make it 3-0.

Innes Blackhall added a fourth, netting following a goalmouth scramble.

Kilmallie will now host Kyles Athletic in the quarter-finals.

Speaking after the game, Kilmallie manager Mark MacPherson said: 'It was a really good performance and we're very much looking forward to playing Kyles Athletic in the next round. Our keeper Shane Gillies will miss that game but Kevin Toye will come in and has the experience to handle it. Before that we have the Balliemore Cup semi-final against Beauly, who have been coming onto a game as their win over Fort William showed, and we want to win that one.'

Kilmallie's season is going well and they are sitting top of the Marine Harvest National Division.

Mark MacPherson added: 'Liam MacDonald, Liam Cameron and Robbie MacFadyen returning to the squad this season has been a huge boost. It gives me options I never had last year.'

'Our defence has also been key this year. Iain Robertson's experience at full back is huge and, along with Robbie MacFadyen, who has been our player of the year so far, Steven Stewart and Cam Clark, who has been outstanding for a 15-year-old, we have a strong, settled unit at the back.'

'It gives me a headache in who to select, but I don't mind that.'

Artemis Macaulay Cup quarter-finals

Oban Celtic 0 Kyles Athletic 8

Kyles Athletic won through to the Artemis Macaulay Cup semi finals, overcoming Oban Celtic 8-0 in their noon throw-up at Ganavan.

Andy MacDonald and Ross MacMillan returned for Oban Celtic although MacMillan's eye injury meant he didn't finish the match. Craig MacMillan was still banned, whilst David Hill and Fulton Ronald were also missing as was holidaying keeper Iain MacFarlane who was a big loss.

Lewis McPhee was free to play but

both he and Fulton Ronald will both miss this Saturday's league match at Inverness as their bookings in Celtic's last outing against Kilmallie triggers a suspension.

Roddy MacDonald recovered from a knock to start for Kyles but Callum Miller remained sidelined.

Oban Celtic started well and were very much in the game until Roddy MacDonald's opener on 16 minutes.

Grant Irvine added a second a couple of minutes later before making it 3-0 on 36 minutes. Oban Celtic had the chance to pull a goal back when referee Graham Cameron awarded them a penalty just before half time. However, the normally reliable Ross MacMillan sent the spot-hit over the bar.

Ross MacRae on 55 minutes and Thomas Whyte a couple of minutes later made it 5-0.

Kyles turned the screw late in the game with Scott MacDonald on 76 minutes, Robbie MacLeod on 79 minutes and a second from Thomas Whyte a couple of minutes later making the final score 8-0.

This final scoreline was harsh on Oban Celtic although they did contribute to their own downfall by conceding some soft goals.

Oban Camanachd W/O v Ballachulish

Oban Camanachd were given a walk-over into the semi-finals when Ballachulish, who play two divisions below, were unable to raise a team for their tie at Mossfield.

The Oban side were 9-0 winners when the sides met in the Artemis Macaulay Cup eight weeks earlier.

Oban Camanachd now play

Continued on page 78



Fixtures

Saturday June 23

**Tulloch Homes
Camanachd Cup
second round replay**
Kingussie v Caberfeidh

**Liberty British Aluminium
Balliemore Cup semi final**
Fort William v Glasgow MA
at Taynuilt
Beauly v Kilmallie - 1pm

**Aberdein Considine
Sutherland Cup
third round replay**
Fort William v Strachur

Strathdearn Cup second round
Caberfeidh v Kingussie

Bullough Cup second round
SCOTS Caman v Kyles Athletic
at Dunoon - noon

Marine Harvest Premiership
Lochaber v Newtonmore
Oban Caman v Glenurquhart
Kyles Athletic v Lovat
at Dunoon - 3pm
Skye v Kinlochshiel

National Division
Inverness v Oban Celtic
Strathglass v Inveraray

North Division 1
Glenangry v Glenurquhart - 3.45pm
Kinlochshiel v Newtonmore
John Matheson

South Div 1
Bute v Lochside Rovers
Aberdour v Tayforth
Kilmory v Ballachulish
Inveraray v Col Glen

North Div 2
Kilmallie v Boleskine
Inverness v Lovat - noon
Lewis v Lochaber
Lochcarron v Beauly
Strathglass v Strathspey

South Div 2
Oban Celtic v Aberdour
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Bute

All throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated.

Results

Saturday June 16

**cottages.com
MacTavish Cup Final**
Kinlochshiel 1 v 2 Newtonmore

**Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup
second round replay**
Kilmallie 4 v 0 Inveraray

**Artemis Macaulay Cup
second round**
Oban Caman P v P Ballachulish
Ballachulish unable to field a team, walkover to Camanachd
Oban Celtic 0 v 8 Kyles Athletic

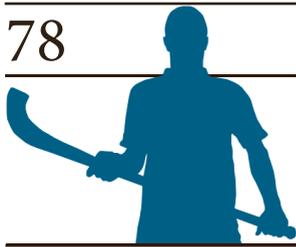
Bullough Cup
Strachur 21 v 0 English Shinty
Bute 0 v 1 Glenorchy
Glasgow MA 1 v 4 Lochside Rov

**Marine Harvest
Premiership**
Lovat 3 v 4 Lochaber

**Marine Harvest
National Division**
Strathglass 2 v 1 Glasgow MA

**Marine Harvest
South Division One**
Kilmory 1 v 0 Col Glen
Bute 7 v 1 Taynuilt

**Marine Harvest
North Division Two**
Strathspey 1 v 7 Lovat
Beauly 7 v 1 Kilmallie
Caberfeidh 3 v 1 Lochaber
Boleskine 2 v 2 Strathglass
Lewis 2 v 5 Lochcarron



SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Continued from page 77

Kyles Athletic in a mouth-watering semi-final tie.

Marine Harvest Premiership

**Lovat 3
Lochaber 4**

Lovat missed the chance to close the gap at the top of the Marine Harvest Premiership when they lost 4-3 against Lochaber in their 12.30pm throw-up at Balgate.

Both teams were weakened due to injuries.

Lovat's Drew Howie failed to recover from a twisted knee suffered against Newtonmore the previous week so Daniel Grieve went to full back. With Martin Mainland out and Mark Kelly and Scott MacKenzie longer term absentees, Chris Johnston and Danny Kelly started in defence. Lorne MacKay was deployed at centre so Graeme MacMillan came into attack. Thomas Fraser was also missing so Bailey MacKay and manager Fraser Gallacher were Lovat's only substitutes.

Brennan MacDonald remained in interim charge at Lochaber following Neil MacDonald's departure a fortnight earlier and although he was carrying an injury, he was stripped as Lochaber's only substitute. Lochaber travelled without Brian MacDonald, Duncan MacKinnon, Kevin Ferguson, Stuart Matheson and John MacKenzie. Keeper Alistair MacDonald was also missing so Sandy Corrigan took over between the sticks after a year in New Zealand.

The first half was a flat affair with both teams not reaching the levels they are capable of. The morning rain made it slippery underfoot which didn't help.

Lovat took the lead on seven minutes with a scrappy goal. The Lochaber defence allowed a falling Marc MacLachlan to scramble the ball home from just outside the 'D'.

Lovat created a number of early chances and they would later pay for not taking them.

Lochaber almost levelled on 33 minutes when Danny Delaney got past his marker but his shot from 15 yards went into the side-netting.

From the goal-hit, Graeme MacMillan gathered possession

on the Lovat right and found Greg Matheson who bulleted the ball from 20 yards out. But his shot went just by the keeper's left-hand post.

Lochaber's Shaun Nicolson came close on 41 minutes when he peeled away from Callum Crudden but his strike went just the wrong side of Stuart MacDonald's right post.

This pattern of play continued into the second half and there was little sign of the goal-glut that was to come.

Lochaber extended their lead with a disputed goal on 59 minutes. Greg Matheson found space on the Lovat left and rocketed the ball past a helpless Sandy Corrigan to make it 2-0. Lochaber claimed Duncan Davidson was offside, which was supported by the goal judge. But referee John Angus Gillies ruled Davidson had left the 'D' in time and the goal stood.

Lochaber pulled a goal back straight from the re-start. Danny Delaney blocked a clearance out of the Lovat defence. The ball landed for Shaun Nicolson on the left and he steered the ball into the net from 20 yards.

The game had now come alive and Danny Kelly paid tribute to football's World Cup, executing a slide tackle on Lochaber's Pat Toal and earning a yellow card in the process.

Lochaber scored the goal of the match on 74 minutes. A shy from the right fell to Conor Sweeney who turned his marker before slotting an inch-perfect pass to Pat Toal on the left who beat keeper Stuart MacDonald to make it 2-2.

Lochaber took the lead for the first time in the match on 82 minutes when the ball took a wicked bounce past Chris Johnston. Conor Sweeney took advantage, scoring from 15 yards out on the right to make it 3-2.

If Lochaber thought that was a winning goal, they were mistaken as Lovat were level a minute later. Following the re-start, a long ball forward from midfield was played to Greg Matheson who fought through a couple of challenges to go one-on-one with the keeper and the Scotland forward played the ball low into the bottom corner of the net from the edge of the box to make it 3-3.

The game took another twist from the throw-up as Conor Sweeney picked the ball up on the Lochaber right and found Shaun Nicolson in space. With Chris Johnston



Lovat's Lorne MacKay is crowded out by Lochaber's Stuart Callison and Martin Johnstone during the Marine Harvest Premiership match last Saturday. Photograph Donald Cameron.

Strathglass man down, Nicolson held off the challenge and blasted the ball past the keeper for what would be the winning goal.

There was still time for Lovat to make a late appeal for a penalty, citing a 'kick' inside the Lochaber 'D' but referee Gillies waved away their claims.

The two points take Lochaber four points clear of the relegation zone.

Barry MacDonald turned in a man of the match performance in the visiting defence. Stuart Callison played well on the left wing, whilst Shaun Nicolson looked back to the player who won international honours a couple of seasons ago.

Lovat were slack in defence where they badly missed Drew Howie's organisational skills. Craig Mainland did well in the Lovat midfield whilst Graeme MacMillan acquitted himself well in his first senior start for some time.

Marine Harvest National Division

**Strathglass 2
Glasgow Mid Argyll 1**

Strathglass moved off the bottom of the table after beating Glasgow Mid Argyll 2-1 in their 1pm throw-up at Cannich.

Strathglass had a number of players back after being without several regulars in recent weeks. Josh Fraser was free of suspension and their only absentees were George Phimister, Ally McAdams and Penri Jones.

GMA travelled north along usual lines. Strathglass had the better of the first half, creating numerous opportunities. GMA goalie Robert Dunning was in top form though and made some crucial saves including a diving stop from a Scott Douglas penalty 10 minutes from the break.

The hosts took the lead on 38 minutes when a Scott Douglas pile-driver rattled off the post and Steven Hyslop netted the rebound.

GMA's equaliser came on 65 minutes. It was a good finish from Jamie MacFadyen who broke free to slip the ball past Adam Todd from inside the 'D'.

The winning goal came three minutes later when Strathglass full centre and skipper Michael Stokes fired a 40-yard drive high in to GMA net.

GMA pushed hard in the second half and put Strathglass under a fair amount of pressure, however, full back Donald Fraser superbly marshalled the Strathglass defence whilst Adam Todd put in an excellent performance between the sticks.

Bullough Cup second round

**Glasgow Mid Argyll 1
Lochside Rovers 4**

Lochside Rovers are through to the Bullough Cup semi-finals after they defeated the Glasgow Mid Argyll second team 4-1 at Yoker.

Stephen Sloss came out of retirement to help Lochside and started at full back. With no Oban Camanachd game, Daniel Sloss played at full centre.

Alan Brunton in the GMA goal made a fine save with his stick, low to his right, to turn a Lennon Campbell effort away for a corner on six minutes.

GMA took the lead on 12 minutes when former Oban Celtic player Mark Bain netted. A free-hit on the GMA right was sent high into the goal area. Stephen Sloss got the ball away but only as far as Bain who scored with a good, low finish.

Lochside equalised from the penalty spot on 21 minutes when GMA keeper Alan Brunton was penalised

by referee David Mitchell for a 'kick' as he stretched his foot out to make a save. Lewis Buchanan finished well from the spot.

The Oban side took the lead on 28 minutes following good interplay between Ross Campbell, Lennon Campbell and Lewis Buchanan. Ross Campbell's shot was saved by keeper Brunton but Lennon Campbell turned the re-bounce home. Brian MacCallum in the Lochside goal was tested on 40 minutes, saving a shot from distance so it remained 2-1 at the break.

Lochside took charge when Ewen MacCorquodale cleared from defence and Lennon Campbell took the ball down and spun away from his marker before striking the ball low across the keeper to make it 3-1 with 56 minutes gone.

GMA came within a whisker of pulling a goal back a minute later when Lawrence Belleni's looping effort hit the Lochside bar.

Lochside sealed the win on 70 minutes. A terrific through-ball from Lennon Campbell sent Lewis Buchanan one-on-one with the keeper and the Oban youngster rounded the goalie before finding the net from a tight angle.

Lochside took keeper Brian MacCallum off to give 15-year-old Dougie MacDonald valuable game time between the sticks and he made some good saves late in the game.

Lochside's Ewen MacCorquodale turned in a man of the match performance in defence whilst Lennon Campbell and Keith Burnett, playing his first full game after injury, also caught the eye.

**Bute 0
Glenorchy 1**

Glenorchy beat the Bute seconds 1-0 in their noon throw-up at The Meadows.

The game's decisive moment came on 20 minutes when Iain Livingstone scored what proved to be the winner.

**Strachur 21
English Shinty Association 0**

Strachur were too strong for the English Shinty Association, winning 21-0 in their quarter-final tie at Strachurmore.

Angus Campbell scored five times, whilst Iain Wilson found the back of the net four times. Steven Thomson grabbed a hat-trick, whilst braces from Iain MacLennan, Scott Ferguson, Ally Mirrlees and Allan Paterson as well as a Sam Bulloch strike completed the scoring.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

**Bute 7
Taynuilt 1**

With neither the Kyles Athletic reserves nor Aberdour in league action, Bute took advantage by beating Taynuilt 7-1 in their 3pm throw-up at The Meadows.

The fast pitch suited Bute's passing game whilst Taynuilt's Gerry



Half time efforts to clear the pitch of water at the aptly named Canal Park during the Kilmallie v Inveraray Camanachd Cup replay.

Photograph: Abridgesidephotography.

Kilmurray was free of suspension. Zander Kilmurray gave Taynuilt an early lead but the islanders led 4-1 at the break before scoring three more times in the second half.

Robert Walker and Ian McDonald both grabbed hat-tricks with William Boag getting the other.

The win means Bute climb a point ahead of Aberdour into second.

Kilmory 1 Col Glen 0

Kilmory edged out Col Glen at MacRae Park.

Kilmory's Duncan MacBrayne served a one-match suspension for passing through the disciplinary points threshold. The hosts were more along usual lines for the first time in a long time after absences had contributed to a four-match losing run.

Kilmory's Steven Gilmour had a first half effort chopped off for offside by referee Graham Fisher.

Kilmory's top scorer Alister MacArthur made the difference, scoring the only goal of the game on 51 minutes. Kilmory had started the second half well and when the ball was played in to Hal Jones at half forward, he passed it to Alister MacArthur who took a quick touch and then buried the ball into the bottom corner of the net.

Marine Harvest North Division 2 Caberfeidh 3 Lochaber 1

League leaders Caberfeidh colts fought back from a goal down to beat the Lochaber colts 3-1 in their 1pm throw-up at Castle Leod.

Caberfeidh were looking to get back to winning ways after last week's draw with Lewis. They enjoyed much of the early pressure, but fell a goal behind on 22 minutes when Lochaber's Ben Delaney lost his marker to score.

Caberfeidh brought on Jamie Matheson, who has been troubled with a hamstring injury for most of the season. The switch paid immediate dividends when Matheson controlled a long pass forward and blasted the ball home from the edge of the 'D' to make it 1-1 at the break.

Colin MacLennan's introduction on 55 minutes added even more potency to the home attack. And it was MacLennan who put Caberfeidh ahead for the first time, rifling the ball high into the net from 30 yards out.

Caberfeidh, with youngster Russell MacKenzie excellent in defence, pushed on to take control of the game but the outcome was in the balance until Stewart Krzyzanowski scored to make it 3-1. Caberfeidh stay ahead of Lochcarron on goal difference with a game in hand.

Lewis Camanachd 2 Lochcarron 5

Lewis Camanachd's four-game unbeaten run came to an end when they lost 5-2 to second-placed Lochcarron at Shawbost.

David Bauermeister put Lochcarron ahead but Paul Duke levelled. Lochcarron went on to take charge with Peter MacKenzie

scoring twice and Sean MacCuish and Liam Arnot getting the others.

Ally Lamont pulled Lewis back to 4-2 but Lochcarron took the points to stay second in the division.

Strathspey Camanachd 1 Lovat 7

The Lovat seconds came from a goal down to beat Strathspey Camanachd 7-1 in their 1pm throw-up at Grantown Grammar School.

Donald Colville gave Strathspey the lead on 22 minutes but Raymond Rennie levelled three minutes later.

Martin Bell hit a quick-fire double on 29 and 31 minutes to leave Lovat leading 3-1 at the break.

Raymond Rennie got his second on the hour and Ryan Ferguson made it 5-1 five minutes later.

Raymond Rennie completed his hat-trick on 68 minutes and Martin Bell did likewise on 74 minutes to complete the 7-1 win for third-placed Lovat.

Beaulie 7 Kilmallie 1

A strong Beaulie reserve team stay in sixth place after beating the Kilmallie reserves 7-1 in their 1pm throw-up at Braeview Park.

Duncan Anderson struck on 23 and 34 minutes to give the hosts a 2-0 lead at the break.

Ross Forbes added a third a minute after the re-start and Conor Ross on the hour and a second from Ross Forbes on 66 minutes made it 5-0.

Kilmallie's Andrew Gibb pulled a goal back on 81 minutes but a second from Conor Ross on 88 minutes and a Daniel Lamont strike a minute from time made the final score 7-1.

Boleskine 2 Strathglass 2

Boleskine and the Strathglass seconds drew 2-2 in their 1pm throw-up at Smith Park.

Neil Hope and James Anderson scored for the hosts but a rare George Phimister goal and a first goal at this level from Rory MacInnes gave Strathglass a share of the points.

Youth shinty

North of Scotland MacTavish Juvenile Cup final

Kingussie U17 1 Fort William U17 2

Fort William lifted the MacTavish Juvenile Cup, coming from behind to beat Kingussie 2-1 in their 1pm throw-up at The Bught Park.

Michael Slimon gave Kingussie the lead on 20 minutes but Lewis Clark levelled a couple of minutes later. Victor Smith scored the winning goal on 43 minutes and Fort William captain Lewis Clark lifted the trophy. Fort William's Lachie Shaw won the Sandy MacKay medal for man of the match.

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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

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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.

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INSIDE THIS WEEK:
'More win MacTavish Cup

Athletics success for high school pupils



Finbar Dunne in discus action.

Last weekend, the Scottish Schools athletics competition took place at Grangemouth Stadium. This competition brings together the best of Scotland's junior athletes with a very high qualifying standard required in order to take part.

This year two Oban High School pupils - Grace Thompson S6 and Finbar Dunne S6 - both achieved this standard after a very long, cold winter of intense training.

Their efforts were rewarded with Grace winning a bronze medal in discus and Finbar winning a silver medal in shot put.

As a result of this success, Finbar has been selected for

ATHLETICS

the national athletics team to take part in the schools international competition in July, which this year is being held in Scotland.

Grace, too, has been rewarded and is reserve for the national team. This is the second year in a row that Finbar and Grace have achieved international selection and the fourth year in a row that Oban pupils have made the team with Finbar's brother Paddy being selected in 2015 and 2016.

Both pupils are coached at Oban High School by school athletics coach Duncan MacIntyre.

Oban Saints announce pre-season fixtures

FOOTBALL

Oban Saints have announced an attractive schedule of pre-season games and tournaments starting with the D & K Lafferty Cup tournament at Mossfield and Glencruitten on Saturday July 7.

Taking part are SPL clubs St Johnstone and Hamilton Accies along with Championship sides Dundee United and Alloa Athletic and SAFL Premier Division hosts Oban Saints.

Saturday July 21 sees the Oban side take on Vale of Leven Juniors with Kincardine providing the opposition on July 28. Both games are at Glencruitten.

This is followed by the annual Argyll and Bute Tournament in Lochgilphead on August 5. Saints have been drawn in Group 2 along with hosts Lochgilphead Red Star, Port Glasgow and Neilston. Group 1 features Campbeltown Pupils, Kilsyth, Dunoon and Tarbert.

Saints end their pre-season with a home game against South Lochaber Thistle at Glencruitten on Wednesday August 8.

Pre-season training is on Mondays and Wednesdays starting on Monday July 2. New players are more than welcome to come along.



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Strontian care home success

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

After almost a year of campaigning, Dail Mhor House care home in Strontian will open its doors to residents next month for the first time since last August.

The facility was suddenly closed last summer in order to deal with an emergency plumbing issue, and since then the Strontian community has been campaigning to prevent the closure of the home 'by the back door' and stop residents from being 'shipped out' to other care facilities.

The campaign – which amassed 2,000 signatures on its petition – lobbied NHS Highland to secure the future of the care home, which has been identified by local GPs as the most critical need for healthcare in the area.

This week, final building work was completed and staff are getting ready to welcome the first group of respite clients who are expected in July.

'After a great deal of pressure from residents and community councillors meeting with officials, we're pleased that Dail Mhor will reopen, even if for the foreseeable future it won't operate as a full-

time residential care home,' said James Hilder, chairman of the combined community councils' working group.

'Rather than have no care centre locally, we've tried to work pragmatically with NHS managers, reopening the building part-time to meet immediate respite need.

'It is our hope that now this service is available it will build up and we really need any families who would like a respite service to talk to their GP or care worker to request the service.

'This will help to develop regular opening hours so that in the not-too-distant future we'll have a more comprehensive range of care services being delivered for the benefit of local residents – near and far.'

Campaigners repeatedly criticised NHS Highland for the 'appalling way in which the facility was closed', with residents virtually 'shipped out overnight', and the way in which dedicated staff were treated throughout the process.

'Those criticisms haven't gone away,' said Joanne Matheson, of Acharacle Community Council. 'We

Continued on page three

School sports day is no yoke at Lundavra...



The Olympics had nothing on the young sporting stars of Lundavra Primary School this week, including the wee ones from the nursery, when they battled it out for sporting glory at their annual sports day events, featuring everything from the traditional egg and spoon race to the hat race. More photographs on page 17.

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Admonished for being of good behaviour

A Fort William woman who had admitted behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting and swearing when she had gone to the home of a former boyfriend last summer, was admonished when she appeared at the town's sheriff court this week.

Gemma Kane, 23, of Shaw Place, committed the offence on August 16 at a flat in Fort William High Street.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald had deferred sentence on mother-of-one Kane to be of good behaviour for six months. And this week Sheriff MacDonald, on hearing Kane had kept out of trouble, ordered her to be admonished.

Woman, 60, sentenced for attack on husband

A Lochside woman was placed on a year-long supervision order at Fort William Sheriff Court this week after she injured her husband on the neck and hand with a knife during an argument she herself described to police as 'very violent'.

Frances Young, of Arden House, Lochside, appeared for sentencing after pleading guilty at an earlier court appearance to assault on May 19 last year at Arden Vale, Torlundy, Fort William.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald heard from Procurator Fiscal Robert Weir that Young, 60,

had been watching television on the day in question when her husband, Alasdair, had returned.

'He had consumed some alcohol, as had the accused, and he had brought home a pizza for them to share,' said Mr Weir. 'At some point that evening, they were both in the kitchen area and the accused was trying to open the pizza from its packaging and was struggling to do so.'

'The accused had a knife to deal with the pizza – and at this point it is accepted by the Crown that there was an element of provocation by

the witness [Mr Young] as a result of which the accused turned round and lashed out with the knife, cutting the neck of the witness.'

'The witness had then tried to grab the knife and was successful in doing so.'

Mr Weir explained Mr Young had then contacted his son who took him to hospital in Fort William for treatment.

Three days later the matter was reported to the police after the accused gave her version of events concerning a separate matter involving a disturbance and details about the knife incident emerged.

Young had told police her husband had 'smashed her over the head' with an oven dish. Mr Weir added: 'Her husband accepts there was an element of provocation involved and that the injury [to his finger] was partly as a result of him trying to get the knife from the accused.'

Young's defence agent, Michael Chapman, said his client had lodged a plea of guilty under provocation which had been accepted by the Crown.

'She had been struck with an oven dish – not some light oven tray but quite a weighty

object – and she accepts she retaliated when the knife was already in her hand.'

Mr Chapman told Sheriff MacDonald his client and her husband had been together since she was 16, but that over the last 10 years problems with alcohol had developed.

Sentencing her, Sheriff MacDonald told Young: 'This is a very serious charge. It is always a serious matter when it involves a knife.'

'But I have listened to what has been said on your behalf and I understand the circumstances in which you found yourself.'

Arrest warrant issued for Fort man

An arrest warrant was issued at Fort William Sheriff Court this week for a local man who failed to appear in connection with an alleged breach of bail conditions.

Aidan Maclean-Stewart, of Fern Court, failed to appear at court on Tuesday. Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald ordered that a warrant to apprehend Maclean-Stewart, 21, be issued.



Kinlochleven man must carry out 120 hours' unpaid work

A Kinlochleven man who admitted having herbal cannabis worth around £970 hidden in the spare wheel well of his car was ordered to do 120 hours of unpaid work in the community when he appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court this week.

James Nicol, of Foyers Road, had pleaded guilty at a previous court appearance to committing the offence on March 18 last year on the B863 road from Glencoe to Kinlochleven, near Invercoe campsite.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald heard how Nicol, 45, had been stopped by police officers on mobile patrol who became suspicious on smelling what they thought might be can-

nabis. During the subsequent search of the vehicle, they found a black toiletry bag in the spare wheel well.

'Inside that bag was another bag containing a herbal substance, which later turned out to be 165g of herbal cannabis with a value of about £970,' said Procurator Fiscal Robert Weir.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said his client had been quite candid when interviewed by the police officers, explaining the cannabis had been for his own personal use.

'My client is 45 years old and in full-time employment.'

'He has two jobs in fact,' said Mr Melrose.

'Mr Nicol accepts he has to

be punished. He co-operated fully with the compiling of the background report and is content to go along with the recommendations contained in it concerning unpaid work.'

Mr Melrose added that Nicol had completed a 'fairly significant' drugs detox programme of his own volition.

Issuing a community payback order for 120 hours of unpaid work, Sheriff MacDonald told Nicol: 'This was a fairly significant quantity of drugs but I note the terms of your plea and what is contained in the [background] report and am persuaded to deal with this matter in accordance with the report.'

Sheriff orders Claggan man be arrested after no-show

An arrest warrant was issued for a Fort William man after he failed to appear for sentencing at the town's sheriff court this week.

Building site worker Antonio Sabiu, 61, of Polmona, Claggan, was due to be sentenced for four offences after a trial last month, including the reset of a car and number plates.

Sabiu had admitted charges that on December 11, 2017, at North Road, Fort William,

he had driven a car without insurance or an appropriate licence. He denied two other charges involving the reset of a pair of number plates and a VW car worth £22,000 on the same date and at the same location, but was found guilty after the trial.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald had deferred sentence for the compilation of a criminal justice social work report.

Sabiu was ordered to appear back at the court for sentenc-

ing on Tuesday of this week but made no appearance.

Solicitor Hamish Melrose, acting as a local agent for Sabiu's usual solicitors, said his information was that Sabiu had not attended the meeting required for the compilation of the background report.

'And he has not appeared today and I have no explanation for that,' Mr Melrose told Sheriff MacDonald, who ordered a warrant to apprehend be issued.

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Success at last for campaigners

Continued from page one

truly hope that NHS Highland will think twice before treating any other patients, families and communities with such contempt, but now's the time for us to celebrate success. We're a long way from achieving the modern, thriving hub we envisage, but this is a very positive place for us to be starting from.'

With work in the building now completed, the building has been deep-cleaned and a weekly physiotherapy service, delivered from Dail Mhor, started yesterday (Wednesday June 20).

'It is extremely regrettable that so many people had to go to so much trouble and effort to get the attention of NHS Highland over this issue,' said John Jones, of Sunart Community Council.

'Thankfully, we've had the support of the board of directors in agreeing that it is wholly unacceptable for facilities to be closed without notice, and without adequate alternative arrangements in place.'

'We could not have got to where we are now if it hadn't been for the massive support and help we've had from a large number of people throughout Lochaber and beyond, and the working group are extremely grateful for everything they've done.'

The local primary health care team has been liaising closely with the working group and is supportive of the future plans for Dail Mhor. The team is understood to have been the first to highlight the desperate need for respite accommodation locally, and pointed out that the availability of respite care

at short notice will help keep people out of hospital.

The working group acknowledges that finding good and reliable staff to undertake care work is particularly difficult in remote rural communities. Work will need to be done to build trust again in the NHS locally, and a concerted, ongoing programme of recruitment will need to take place.

Ross Mackenzie, area manager for the west, added: 'We will continue to work with both the community and our Highland Council colleagues to explore additional alternative models of care for the future. This will include housing-based solutions in local communities that will help support residents to remain in their own homes for longer, which will complement the provision of locally-based respite.'

The five community councils working together to try to persuade NHS Highland to reopen the Dail Mhor House care home in Strontian are planning afternoon and evening open-house sessions on Monday June 25. The sessions will provide an opportunity for anyone to come and look around the building, to offer suggestions about what services they would like to see run from the building and to discuss short-term plans and longer-term options.

Anyone is welcome to drop-in between 2pm and 4pm. At 7pm there will be a short presentation when the working group will give an update on what has been happening and people can ask questions and offer ideas. Other open house events are being planned, and a full public meeting is due to take place in late July.



Police are investigating the death of a man found outside Iona Court, Fort William, last Thursday.

Police inquiries ongoing into death of man in Fort William

Police in Lochaber are continuing inquiries into the death of a man found outside Iona Court, Fort William, last Thursday, June 14.

The man, who was discovered shortly before 5.20am, has been identified as Raymond McPhee, 26, from Fort William.

Detective Inspector Scott Macdonald said: 'I

can confirm Mr McPhee's death is non-suspicious and our inquiries are ongoing to establish the full circumstances. Thanks go to the local community for their patience and understanding during the police investigation.

'I would also extend our gratitude to the members of the public who have helped with our inquiries so far.'



Ardnamurchan High School students at staff at their annual graduation dinner.

Ardnamurchan High School hosts pupils' graduation dinner

Ardnamurchan High School last week held its annual graduation dinner at the Loch Leven Hotel, North Ballachulish.

Organised by school captain Kate Bradley, staff and students enjoyed an excellent meal after which head teacher Christopher Millar-Craig shared stories about the pupils' time at the

school, which sparked many more to much hilarity.

He also praised the young people for their dedication and contribution to the school, with each student receiving an Ardnamurchan High School conference folder as a memento.

'We are always very proud of what our young people achieve.'

'One hundred per cent of our pupils go onto positive destinations,' said Mr Millar-Craig.

'We wish them all the best for their future careers.'

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Painter fined and banned from road

A teenage Caol painter and decorator was fined a total of £400 and banned from the roads for six months after admitting motoring offences at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Liam MacKinnon, 19, of Fern Court, Caol, appeared before Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald at the court this week.

MacKinnon had pleaded guilty that on November 30 last year, at West End car park in Fort William, he had driven a car without the owner's consent and without insurance, and that he had driven another car without insurance on November 24 of last year on the road between Aonach Mor and Nevis Range.

MacKinnon's pleas of not guilty to charges of taking a car without the owner's consent at Camanachd Crescent, Fort William, on November 30 and driving

that car without insurance or a test certificate; and driving a car without insurance or a test certificate in Camanachd Crescent on November 29, were accepted by the Crown.

Procurator fiscal Robert Weir told the court that at about 10.30pm on the night of November 24, police on patrol had stopped MacKinnon's vehicle.

'Officers suspected there might be no insurance in place but the accused was allowed to continue and provide a certificate of insurance at a later date but was then unable to do so,' explained Mr Weir.

'And it turned out that the vehicle referred to in charges one and two was, in fact, his brother's vehicle and the accused accepted he did not have permission to drive it or have insurance.'

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said his client was a

first offender who had been largely self-employed since leaving school at 15.

'He has been largely self-employed as a painter and decorator and the vehicle referred to in charge six [driving without insurance on November 24] was used for not just leisure purposes but for work also,' Mr Melrose told the court.

'He believed he was insured when he was stopped by the police on that occasion but it transpired his insurance had run out four days before.'

'He says he was unaware of his policy lapsing and had received no reminder so it was inadvertence on his part that caused charge six.'

Mr Melrose went on to explain that MacKinnon had afterwards used his father's van for work for a period but when this became unavailable he had taken his brother's vehicle.

'He had used it after getting work to render the outside of

a house in Fort William. But permission was not given and he did not have insurance for it. Since that incident he has not worked at all - he has been living off his savings, but these are running out.'

'However, it is likely he will be working locally again in the next two weeks or so for another painter and decorator.'

Sheriff MacDonald fined MacKinnon £200 on each of the driving without insurance charges, as well as endorsing his licence with six penalty points for each of the offences.

He was endorsed and admonished on the charge of driving a vehicle without the owner's consent.

However, under the totting up procedure, the total of 12 penalty points from the two insurance charges saw MacKinnon disqualified from driving for six months.

Claymore stolen from Canna House

Police Scotland is appealing for information following the theft of a historic claymore sword from a museum in the Small Isles.

The sword was removed from Canna House on the Isle of Canna and is believed to have been taken sometime between Wednesday June 6 and Saturday June 9.

The seven-feet-long weapon - which dates back to the 17th century - is described as a two-handed broadsword with a double-edged blade, a wooden grip and a stamped fleur de lys.

Reporting officer Constable Neil Davies said: 'Incidents like this are extremely unusual in the Small Isles and I can assure people we are working to establish what has happened to the sword.'

'We would like to speak to anybody with information that could help with our inquiries.'

'There is no indication that entry was forced to



The two-handed broadsword has a double-edged blade and is stamped with a fleur de lys.

the museum so anybody who was at Canna House over this period may have information which could assist us.'

Anyone with information can contact Police Scotland on 101, quoting reference NP2758/18, or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Community groups invited to apply for housing association grants

Lochaber Housing Association is inviting applications for a sixth round of grants from its community fund.

Grants of up to £200 are available for Lochaber-based community groups.

Launched in 2013 with funds being made available through the successful private sector initiative, Lochaber 365, run by Lochaber Housing


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Association Property Services, the association's community interest company.

The association has helped to support dozens of local community groups throughout Lochaber.

Priority will be given to first-time applicants but the association is happy to consider applications from organisations which have received grants in the past.

The closing date for completed applications is Friday July 27.

Forms can be downloaded from the association's website or by contacting Nicola Gilberton 01397 702530.

WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

■ The next Lochaber Transport Forum bus users' group meeting will take place on Friday June 22 at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church at 11.30am.

■ Glengarry Ladies' Shinty Club will be taking part in a sponsored static cycle this Saturday (June 23).

The team will attempt to cycle a total of 200 miles in 12 hours, from 8am to 8pm, at the Great Glen Trading Centre in Fort Augustus.

■ Kilmallie Community Centre committee is calling all gardeners and volunteers to help with the restoration of Kilmallie Community

Gardens in Corpach on Saturday (June 23), from 10am to 1pm.

Contact Sarah Kennedy on 07768 805040.

■ Nether Lochaber craft fair takes place on Saturday June 30 at Nether Lochaber Hall, Onich, from 10am to 4pm. Contact Berit for more information on 01397 705539.

■ A coffee morning and raffle will take place on Saturday July 7 in aid of Barking Mad Dog Rescue which rescues and rehomes dogs from the streets and kill shelters of Romania.

The team has recently

rehomed two dogs from the charity and wanted to boost the charity's coffers by organising the events. There is more than £1,000 worth of prizes donated by local and national businesses.

The event will be held in Ballachulish Hall from 10.30am until 1pm, with highlights including a book stall, tombola, table top treasure hunt and guess the birthday of the dog.


email us at editor@bantimes.co.uk
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SNP walkout was not a publicity stunt, says MP

VIEW FROM WESTMINSTER

Ian Blackford MP explains what led to the SNP walkout after he was ordered to leave the House of Commons



You are probably aware that last week I was ordered to leave the House of Commons debating chamber by the Speaker during Prime Minister's Questions and was quickly followed by my fellow SNP MPs.

Well, no matter what the national media may have claimed, I can assure you that this was no pre-determined stunt, but the result of trying to secure justice and a fair hearing for the people of Scotland.

On the previous evening,

a debate was held on the European Withdrawal Bill during which discussion was supposed to take place on how this affected the devolved assemblies.

Incredibly, this part of the debate was allocated just 15 minutes, during which no Scottish MPs were selected to have a say.

This in itself was a ludicrous situation, but in end it was never even discussed due to time limitations.

Despite this, a vote was taken to leave out a devo-

lution amendment from which Labour abstained, in what I can only describe as a shocking dereliction of duty.

Let me quote the Prime Minister, who had previously said she wanted 'a future in which Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England continue to flourish side-by-side as equal partners'.

So why is her government, through this vote, totally ignoring the views of the Sewel Convention?

It states that the UK parliament 'will not normally legislate with regard to devolved matters without the consent' of the devolved parliaments. It applies when legislation changes the law in a devolved area of com-

petence, alters the legislative competence of a devolved legislature, or alters the executive competence of devolved ministers.

The Scottish Parliament voted overwhelmingly, by 93 to 30, to refuse legislative consent for Clause 15 of the EU Withdrawal Bill, and as such it should have passed through the House of Commons and not been removed.

This will allow the UK government to legislate in important devolved areas including the environment, food standards, agriculture and fishing.

Due to this shocking move, I asked Theresa May for a further debate so that the rights of the devolved

assemblies could be established and MPs have their say. After a non-answer, I turned to the Speaker asking that parliament go immediately into private session to discuss this very serious constitutional matter.

At first he seemed to agree, then changed his mind after advice from a third party (do watch the proceedings for yourself on my Facebook page) and, when I persisted, was ordered to leave.

However, having made the case, I did secure a three-hour debate on Monday evening (June 18), calling for the UK government to implement Clause 15 and respect the devolution settlement.

Oddly enough (but to no

great surprise), the Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell, did not lead the debate for the government, but sat quietly until I demanded several times that he explain his total inaction in defence of Scotland.

Ultimately, the motion was defeated by 80 votes to 51, the bulk of the smaller number being made up of Scottish MPs and the larger by Tories who turned up in the voting lobbies, having not attended any part of the debate.

Scotland must have a voice and our Scottish Government treated with respect by Westminster if a constitutional crisis is to be averted. The clock is ticking!

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Exiled Russian wins extradition battle

An exiled Russian scientist now living in Lochaber has won a court battle to remain in Scotland.

Fifty-eight-year-old Dr Alexander Shapovalov, who lives in the Highlands with his partner and their two young children, fled to Scotland in August 2015 after being accused of a £40,663 fraud. He was sentenced in his absence to 10 years' imprisonment.

Russia had made two requests for the extradition of Dr Shapovalov – the former director general of the Scientific Centre of Applied Chemistry in St Petersburg – in September 2016 and August 2017.

Following a hearing in Edinburgh and 12 days of evidence, Sheriff Nigel Ross last Tuesday (June 12) refused both requests.

The sheriff said that extraditing him would be in breach of his human rights and found that Russia had abused the

court process as the fraud charges were unfounded.

In his written judgement, he stated that it was a feature of the case that the Russian Federation provided very little evidence and he did not accept it as reliable.

He said there had been an unprofessional approach by Russia to give proper and full instruction to the Crown Office, with Russia withdrawing all co-operation for a period for no reason. This, he said 'was inconsistent with the conduct expected of a responsible and well-governed state careful to observe its international obligations'.

Sheriff Ross said he treated the evidence of Dr Shapovalov as 'accurate, credible and reliable'.

Dr Shapovalov had spent one year under house arrest before the trial in Russia started with the trial lasting another year, conducted in one two-hour sessions per month.

The evidence was largely written and 'the statements suspiciously similar in appearance and content'.

Also the main witnesses did not attend court, despite summonses. The alleged fraud was not proven and Dr Shapovalov expected acquittal. At the end of the trial, however, the prosecutor was changed and the new prosecutor asked for a nine-year sentence.

One week before sentencing, Sheriff Ross said Dr Shapovalov 'lost faith that he would be acquitted and faced a long period of custody in dreadful conditions'. He fled with his partner and child. She was pregnant with their second child and he was sentenced to 10 years' custody in his absence.

Dr Shapovalov, said the sheriff, was clear in his view that the trial verdict was pre-determined.

Sheriff Ross said he accepted that the extradition proceed-

ings amounted to an abuse of the court process and that they were founded to secure Dr Shapovalov's presence in Russia and remove his assets.

'In my view, it is proved that the prosecution is brought for reasons other than a genuine body of evidence showing guilt of the charges and is therefore an abuse both of the St Petersburg court and, by extension, of this court in making the request for extradition. I am therefore under a duty not to accede to the request for extradition.'

Taking into account the effect Dr Shapovalov's extradition would have on his partner and two young children, Sheriff Ross stated: 'This is a quite exceptionally compelling combination of features and would require extradition to be refused even in the face of a robust and principled extradition request, which latter point is open to severe doubt in the present case.'



Officers educated motorists about safe driving around cyclists.

Police spotlight on safe driving around cyclists

Police in Lochaber have been promoting safe driving around cyclists as part of Operation Close Pass.

Officers were out on the A830 near Fort William police station on Monday using a mat which shows how much space a cyclist

should be given when being overtaken by a vehicle.

Ten drivers were spoken to and warned about the manner in which they overtook an unmarked cyclist while other motorists spoke with officers at a check site.

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CalMac managing director is appointed

The board of David MacBrayne Limited has appointed Robbie Drummond, pictured right, as managing director of CalMac Ferries Limited.

Mr Drummond has been acting interim managing director since February.

Commenting on the appointment on Tuesday,



David McGibbon, chairman of CalMac's parent company, David MacBrayne Limited, said: 'Robbie's performance during his tenure as

interim managing director has been excellent during one of the most challenging periods in the company's recent history.'

The board of David

MacBrayne is continuing with the process of recruiting a chief executive officer for the David MacBrayne Group.

Mr Drummond said: 'It is a huge honour to be appointed as managing director of CalMac at a very exciting time in the evolution of west coast ferry services and I am looking forward to continuing the improvements and customer focus set out in the bid.'

Fire service veteran retires after 18 years



Firefighter Neil Mellis has retired after 18 years' service in Strontian and was given a grand send-off by his colleagues. Left to right: Pat McElhinney, Chris Findlay, Neil Mellis, David Robertson, Isobel Baker, Aidan Edwards, Robert Dunn, Rob Capell, Laura MacConnachie and Lesley Jones.

Residents invited to help plan new Fort hospital

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber residents are being given a 'once-in-a-lifetime opportunity' to help plan the replacement Belford Hospital at Blar Mhor in Fort William.

Highland Council will be hosting a workshop to discuss the Lochaber Health and Social Care Redesign with residents and assess the balance between services provided at home, in the community, in care homes and in the replacement for the Belford Hospital.

Working in collaboration with NHS Highland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, West Highland College UHI and the Scottish Government, Highland Council secured land in Fort William at Blar Mhor in 2015 which has been made available for a new hospital.

The council has submitted

a notification of proposed development for the site masterplan and this week the proposals were noted at the south planning applications committee.

A workshop has been arranged for Thursday August 9. The event will be run by an external healthcare planner and will include representatives from NHS Highland, service users, third sector organisations and community representatives to help understand why changes are necessary and to start to plan for the future.

Deputy director for NHS Highland's north and west operational unit Tracy Ligema said: 'The workshop will help us to illustrate the strategic case for change and what this will mean for services in the future.'

'Some of the challenges we face include building constraints. We will also be highlighting the on-going



The Belford Hospital in Fort William is being replaced.

Photograph: A Brightside Photography.

need for closer links across hospital and community services. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for local people to redesign our rural general hospital alongside the services provided in the community.'

NHS Highland's head of estates Eric Green said the new hospital will cost more than £30 million and stressed it is important to plan it right and involve local communities.

to provide as much care out of hospital settings unless there is clinical need to do so. Being able to demonstrate what has already changed will be important when we come to make the business case for investment.'

The workshop will be held in Fort William from 10am to 3pm on Thursday August 9 with the venue to be confirmed.

A steering group has produced questions and answers that have been asked by members of the public, elected members and staff. The questions and answer document and other information about the redesign are available to view on the NHS Highland website. Anyone interested in attending the workshop should contact NHS Highland's head of PR and engagement Maimie Thompson on 07814 618 591 or at Maimie.thompson@nhs.net for further information.

Walkers and climbers urged to speak up for wild land

Mountaineering Scotland is urging walkers and climbers to support greater protection for wild land.

New legislation, The Planning (Scotland) Bill, which aims to affect how wild land is protected, is going through the Scottish Parliament. It has passed the first stage but still has two more stages to go through, where amendments to it may be lodged by MSPs.

A Mountaineering Scotland spokesman said: 'Get in touch with MSPs and let them know how important wild land is, because we need them to look at how the planning system works for our environment, especially the network of Wild Land Areas, and for them to support an amendment for wild land protection. You can help influence the bill by letting MSPs know how you feel about protection for Wild Land Areas and equal rights of appeal and asking for their support at Stage 2 of the Bill's passage through Parliament.'



The crew of the Severn-class lifeboat Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey and her daughter craft carried out an exercise along the newly restored path to the lighthouse at Rubha nan Gall.

Tobermory RNLi responds to yacht mayday call in Loch Sunart

Tobermory RNLi's volunteer responded to a mayday from a yacht on Tuesday June 12 prior to carrying out a planned exercise on the newly restored Tobermory lighthouse path.

The pagers of the volunteer crew went off just after 4pm following a call for help from a yacht in distress in Loch Sunart. The crew were just slipping lines at the berth when Stornoway Coastguard advised them to stand down as the yacht was no longer in difficulty.

Coxswain David McHaffie said: 'We would much rather be called at an early stage and have to stand down than

be called out when things have gone badly wrong. The skipper took exactly the right action.'

A few hours later, at Tuesday night training, the crew carried out an exercise along the newly restored path to the lighthouse at Rubha nan Gall. Four members acted as casualties while the rest of the crew on the Severn-class lifeboat Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey and her daughter craft carried out a shoreline search to locate, treat and evacuate them.

Operations manager Sam Jones said: 'Since its welcome restoration last year, the lighthouse path is once again

hugely popular with locals and visitors. It has seen a significant increase in users compared to a few years ago and, while the path is much improved, there are still some steep drops. Tonight's exercise was aimed at ensuring that we are well prepared for any eventualities on this wonderful path.'

The popular lighthouse path has been restored through a project led by the Mull and Iona Community Trust and supported by Scottish Natural Heritage with assistance from the Northern Lighthouse Board, Scottish Sea Farms and Glensanda Quarry.

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Heading heading heading

Kate Forbes MSP has welcomed a fresh round of improvement works to the main road on the Isle of Skye as part of £1.5m programme.

Resurfacing is already underway on the A87 at Ard Dorch to Luib as well as Kensalyre, but further work will continue into July and August on an overnight schedule.

The constituency MSP for Skye, who has been raising problematic stretches of road with Transport Scotland, added that she would like to see similar works being carried out on the A82 as soon as possible.

Ms Forbes said: 'Since the winter, I have not stopped pushing the roads' authorities

to fix the worst stretches of Highland roads.

'A lot of work has been done in the past few months, with thanks to the teams at Highland Council and BEAR for their efforts.

'Both Transport Scotland and Highland Council are fully aware of the state of the roads and it has been a case of getting additional funding and asking for clarity on the programme of works.

'Clearly there is still work to be done. I drive across the constituency enough to know that we're far from being pothole free.

'I will continue to lobby the roads authorities until all stretches are fit for purpose, though that won't happen overnight.

'I'm pleased that Transport Scotland is about to start another phase of work on the A87, backed up by £1.5m.

'This will cause a bit of disruption but I hope that drivers will recognise it is worth it for an improved road surface. There is still more to do on the A82.'



Kate Forbes MSP.

Volunteers in Uists land windfall



The Western Isles Lottery supported Volunteers Week with an award of £300 to the Volunteer Centre in Uist, which works to celebrate local volunteers and volunteer

involving organisations.

Volunteers Week ran from June 1-7 with hundreds of events and celebrations across the country to say thank you to volunteers for their time

and effort, and positive impact on the lives of others.

Pictured are volunteers from across the Uists receiving a cheque from Uist Council of Volunteering Services, who

manage the Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery (WILL) funds in the Uist area, at their annual celebration. The proceeds were raised by WILL supporters from across Uist.

Farms see drop in salmon disease and sea lice

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

Scotland's two leading salmon farmers have reported a sustained improvement in fish health during the first five months of 2018, with a marked reduction in disease-related mortalities.

Figures for Marine Harvest Scotland and Scottish Sea Farms show the number of fish that died as a result of disease fell by more than half between January and May compared with the previous six months.

Disease-related mortality is also lower year on year, with the two sea farmers reporting a reduction of 61 per cent and 27 per cent respectively compared with the first six months of 2017.

The sustained improvement follows a challenging year for some farms owing to warmer than average sea surface temperatures. These warmer temperatures can encourage marine organisms to thrive where ordinarily they might not occur in abundance, posing threats to fish health in the form of harmful algal or jellyfish blooms, as experienced in 2017. In response,



Sustained improvements in fish health were recorded in first five months of 2018.

both producers have invested in new technologies, including equipment to monitor salinity and oxygen concentration in real-time, helping farmers make swift and informed decisions, innovative new netting helping to eliminate gill disease and underwater cameras to observe salmon quickly to any changes in innate behaviour.

Both producers are also investing in multi-million pound state-of-the-art hatcheries which will enable young salmon to be grown to a larger, more robust size, thereby

shortening their time at sea and lessening the chance of infection from other marine creatures. Meanwhile, adding to the improvement in overall fish health, both companies have reported significantly lower lice levels from January to May 2018. In the case of Marine Harvest Scotland, sea lice levels were 49 per cent lower compared with the previous six months, while Scottish Sea Farms were 34 per cent lower.

Ralph Bickerdike, head of fish health at Scottish Sea Farms, said: 'Colder temperatures over winter 2017 have some part to play. However, we're also seeing the cumulative impact of investment in integrated sea lice management, including sea lice shields which reduce the number of lice entering salmon pens, use of cleaner fish which eat sea lice and hydro and thermolicer technology which washes off and collects sea lice.'

'The result is we're seeing some of our healthiest, strongest fish yet.'

Across the sector, the Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation says figures show sea lice levels are at their lowest since July 2013.

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Geoff is still hooked after 40 years

One of Scottish Sea Farms' top managers retires, but has no plans to give up on his love of fish

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

After 40 years of fish farming, Geoff Kidd is still as hooked as ever.

The father of three has just retired as one of Scottish Sea Farms' top performing farm managers, but has no plans to give up on the finned varieties he has become so familiar with over the past four decades.

For he is hoping the painted plaster-cast fish he creates as an art form will become quite a catch.

Mr Kidd, who had a retirement party in Oban on Friday, has been with Scottish Sea Farms since spotting an advert for a salmon farm assistant at Loch Striven and has been in charge of its sea farm on Mull's Loch Spelve since 1978.

Childhood holidays by the sea sparked an early love of the West Coast for the

Geordie, who went on to train as a river biologist at Liverpool University before heading north to start his working life.

During his career, he has seen many changes, including a huge increase in productivity and the number of salmon being farmed.

'Whenever I see people I've worked with over the years, they ask me if I'm still working there and I said they'd hear about it in The Oban Times when I retired. Well, here it is, my official retirement notice!'

Mr Kidd, who made his family home on Mull, hopes to spend his new-found free time on his fish art.

Years ago he began a natural history project with fish artist Edwin Pickett.

The plan was to catch every different type of fish in Loch Spelve, make moulds of them, produce casts and paint them to become part of a reference collection.

'Sadly, Edwin has since died but he was a great fish artist and has greatly inspired me to keep working on it.

'It's incredibly time consuming to do the job well. Where it could go, I don't know but I'd like to think there could be some recognition,' he said.

Once the casts are made, they have to be painted. The fish are dead when the moulds are made but the fresher they are, the better the finished result is because muscle-tone can be captured, explained Mr Kidd, who has fully completed six fish so far.

'Fish are fabulous. The colour changes that fish go through during their life-cycle are remarkable. Their shape changes too.

'When they are fresh, you still get the muscle tone and see all the different shades and shimmering colours that are often invisible once they get on the fishmonger's slab,' he said.



Jim Gallagher, managing director of Scottish Sea Farms, with newly retired Geoff Kidd and his wife Jane.

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Fun and games mark end of youth season

As rain lashed Lochaber Rugby Club's Banavie pitch last Saturday ahead of its mini rugby awards and fun day, organisers feared the day may be spoiled.

But the club's young stars turned out in force in wet

weather gear and got stuck into the day's festivities.

Lochaber Rugby Club holds the event every summer to celebrate the end of the youth rugby season and to hand out prizes to the season's outstanding players.

The presentations were made at the start of the afternoon then the fun and games began, with plenty to keep children and parents occupied.

Team games and other activities allowed players to bring out their competitive side.

The assault course proved tricky in the slippery conditions but the youngsters still made a good go of it.

Tug-o-war competitions proved popular with the children as they tested their strength against each other. Some first team players and parents got in on the action too, which made for some exciting face-offs.

Saturday morning rugby coaching will start again in August after the school holidays.



Youth players take on first team members in the tug-o-war. JP F25 LRFC 02



Lochaber RFC youth team trophy winners 2018. JP F25 LRFC 01



Laughter during the tug-o-war. JP F25 LRFC 03

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Kilmallie Community Council

Kilmallie Community Council (KCC) met on Monday May 28 at Kilmallie Community Centre.

Among the items discussed were:

■ Police update: Sergeant Ross McCartney reported the usual seasonal rise in road traffic accidents. There had also been an increase in alcohol related driving offences.

Two local officers are being trained in road accident investigation to reduce the need for officers to travel from other areas to investigate road accidents.

■ Pedestrian crossing on A830 at Corpach Co-op: It had been agreed at the April meeting that further consultation was needed to respond to Transport Scotland on its proposed changes to parking and the bus stop to incorporate a pedestrian crossing at Corpach.

This consultation will be

held at the KCC meeting on August 27.

■ Engagement with neighbouring community councils: Three members of KCC had attended a meeting of the Association of Fort William Area Community Councils (FWACC) in April.

There were some issues where it was advantageous for community councils to work together, for example, improvements to public transport and services, and others where there would be differing views. Any decisions taken by KCC with respect to actions by FWACC need to be agreed first by KCC members.

■ Banavie War Memorial: Volunteers had cleared scrub around the war memorial to allow for a path. It still needs to be levelled and surfaced.

Parking close to garages in Clerk Drive, Corpach: KCC had been informed of concerns over a letter from

Highland Council regarding parking in Clerk Drive blocking access to garages leased by the council to residents. Only seven of 29 garages are currently being used. It was agreed no action was required unless further issues were raised by residents.

■ Strategic transport pre-appraisal: Mandy Ketchin had attended a workshop in May in Fort William as part of an ongoing study into transport issues in the area. Discussions from the workshop will be used to confirm the list of problems to be tackled and to inform the development of Transport Planning Objectives and possible solutions. The report of the workshop had just become available.

The next meeting of KCC will be at 7.15pm on June 25 at Kilmallie Community Centre and will include the annual general meeting.

School spending concern

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Kate Forbes MSP has praised a school building programme's £63m investment in the Highlands – but questions why the local authority continues to have the worst school estate in the country.

Since 2009, the SNP has given Highland Council £50.6m to build new schools and £12.5m to refurbish buildings – the second highest amount of all local authorities in Scotland – more than Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow city councils.

But the MSP for Lochaber highlighted that despite this significant investment from the Scottish Government, Highland Council has the worst school estate in Scotland and that she has personally visited schools on the Isle of Skye, Lochaber and Dingwall that are in desperate need of improvement.

Kate Forbes MSP said: 'Despite receiving more

funding than nearly all other local authorities, Highland Council still has the worst school estate in Scotland. Most schools have been built in densely populated areas including Inverness.

'So while it is good news Highland Council received so much funding through the Schools for the Future programme, it is sad this funding has not gone further so that more school buildings could benefit.

'I can think of several schools in my constituency, including Broadford, St Clements and Invergarry, which are in dire need of refurbishment but have been left until last.

'Supporting Highland pupils, teachers, parents and wider communities with state-of-the-art school buildings, combined with the £170m Attainment Scotland Funding this year, should help ensure every child in Scotland gets the best possible start in life, no matter what school they go to.'



Kai and mum Linda collect the winner's cheque from Lochaber Times' senior reporter Mark Entwistle. JP F25 Kai collects his cheque



Kai's dad Kenny shows winning runs in the family as he poses for a bonnie baby competition when he was a toddler.

Caol's Kai follows in dad's bonnie baby winning ways

He might only be 15 months old, but Kai Duncan Laverty of Caol is already a star performer in front of the camera.

His photograph raked in almost 800 votes in the Lochaber Times' Bonnie Baby competition, meaning parents Kenny and Linda Laverty picked up the winners cheque for £500.

And when Linda and young Kai popped into our office in Fort William High Street on Thursday to collect their cheque,

Kai showed himself a natural performer for our photographer.

Kai's delighted parents live in Fern Court, Caol, and have four other children – Kai's older brothers Connor, Kyle and Aaron plus big sister Shannon.

Linda, who works at the Moorings Hotel, Banavie, says Kai never stops.

'He's a very happy wee boy, full of beans and always on the go. He's very popular with everyone and we're ecstatic he

won.' Lochaber Times editor Susan Windram was delighted with the response to the competition from readers.

'It was tremendously popular with our readers, with more than 150 wonderful photographs entered from across the Lochaber Times and Oban Times circulation areas.'

And it emerged the family is no stranger to bonnie baby competitions as dad Kenny also took a top prize when he was a toddler.

Search on for Isle of Muck teacher

Highland Council is looking for a new principal teacher at Muck Primary School - the southernmost island of the Small Isles in Lochaber.

The post is advertised with a home for rent and a generous relocation package with head teacher support provided.

Muck Primary School currently has nine pupils with 10 youngsters attending its nursery.

Harbour authority member retires

Mallaig fish merchant Andy Race has stepped down from the harbour authority after 28 years' service.

Mr Race was first elected onto Mallaig Harbour Authority board in 1990. A presentation in honour of his 28 years will be made later this year. Former Morar resident Jim Wilson is taking over from Mr Race.

Crofters worried about earnings

Earning a living is the main worry of crofters, The Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) has revealed.

The SCF surveyed its members about their concerns for the future. The biggest single worry was economic viability, with 37 per cent quoting this or Brexit.

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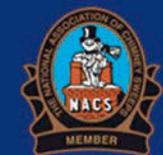
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Tourist spend hits £64.5m in Hebrides

The tourism spend in the Outer Hebrides has been estimated to be worth £64.5m, according to a recent visitor survey, after islanders welcomed more than 200,000 visitors to the area last year.

At last Wednesday's meeting of the comhairle's sustainable development committee, members were presented the findings of the 2017 Islands Visitor Survey, which show an increase in tourists visiting the islands since the last survey in 2013.

The friendliness of locals, value for money at visitor attractions and quality of local produce impressed the 218,965 people who visited the islands in 2017 – with 82 per cent saying they were 'very satisfied' with their experience. However, the poor quality of digital connectivity across the islands, such as mobile networks, wifi and 3G or 4G, was the most significant area of dissatisfaction.

Figures revealed in the survey show the average spend

per capita of visitors was £309, up from £245 in 2013, while the average spend for leisure visitors was higher at £344. This gives an estimated value from tourism spend in the Outer Hebrides in 2017 of £64.5m – an increase of 20 per cent since 2013.

Leisure and tourism was the main reason for people visiting the Outer Hebrides last year, up by 14 per cent in four years, while business and work-related trips made up just under 20 per cent. Visiting friends and

relatives made up 12 per cent.

Although most of the leisure visits were from people in Scotland (55 per cent), the islands attract people from all over the UK and Europe, while there was a significant proportion of North American tourists to the islands.

Friendliness of local people and standards of accommodation received the highest satisfaction scores in the survey, while the quality and value for money of visitor attractions was commended.



Donald John MacSween receives the Celebrating Communities Award from Sally Magnusson and Ashley Pringle, chairman of CLD Standards Council for Scotland.

Lewis wind farm trust wins charity award

Wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust won a major accolade at the Scottish Charity Awards last Thursday night – taking the Celebrating Communities trophy.

The award is for their charity work, funding and supporting community projects with the profits from their wholly community-owned wind farm at Beinn Ghrideag outside Stornoway.

It was an exciting night at the awards, which were hosted by Sally Magnusson in Edinburgh.

The awards are run by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, the national body representing the interests of charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises.

The shortlist included 40 individuals and organisations from across the third sector in Scotland.

Donald John MacSween, general manager of Point and Sandwick Trust, was there to collect the award.

He said: 'This has been a great night for the trust and recognition of the great support we enjoy from the Point and Sandwick community and further afield.'

'We're so proud of this fantastic achievement, coming only half way through this, our second year of grant donations to the diverse community groups in our area. We hope to continue making a significant contribution to our community in the years ahead.'

Man dies in helicopter accident

Police Scotland has confirmed the identity of the man who died in an incident involving a helicopter on North Uist on Wednesday June 13.

Peter Clunas, 59, from the Newburgh area in Aberdeenshire, was the sole occupant of a PDG Aviation Services helicopter when it crashed into the water at Loch Scadavay.

Mr Clunas's family said: 'We would like to thank emergen-

cy services for all their efforts at the scene of the accident.

'Peter was a larger than life character who loved flying. He leaves a partner Angela and two sons, Alasdair and Bob, from his previous marriage to Jane.

Chief Inspector Ian Graham said: 'Our thoughts remain with Mr Clunas's family and friends at this difficult time, as well as the local community on North Uist.'

Young musicians shine at Skye provincial Mòd

Young musicians took centre stage at the recent Skye provincial Mòd as hundreds of pupils from across the island took part in traditional competitions.

A new registered Highland dancing also took place at the Mòd for the first time in many years, with dozens of youngsters competing. The competition was brought to the Mòd by Dannsairean An Eilain Sgitheanaich.

Music trophy winners: Precenting Bun-sgoil (Mòd shield): Anna Varwell, Cille Mhoire. Precenting 'Ard-sgoil (Mòd shield): Beth Chaimbeul, Ard-sgoil Phortrigh. Precenting (Mr & Mrs J Budge): Archie MacCoinnich, Sgoil Stafainn.

Nicol Campbell (Under 14 – most points): Declan Malloy, Ard-sgoil Phortrigh.

Murdo MacDonald Memorial (Gàidhlig Air): Archie MacLean, Ard-sgoil Phortrigh.

Gàidhlig Society of London (March): Archie MacLean, Ard-sgoil Phortrigh.

Most points (under 18): Archie MacLean, Ard-sgoil Phortrigh. Tongadale (advanced violin):



Sleat Primary School instrumental winners: Emily MacDonald, Caramarie MacCalman, Rosie Winkelmann, Maeve MacGillivray, Alasdair Stiùbhairt and Aonghas MacKinnon. Photograph: Gwen Cuthbertson

Rachel Henderson, Elgol. Urras Baile Fhlòdaigearraidh Quaich (Luadh): Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh and Sgoil Stafainn.

Runrigtrophy (Folk group): Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh. Oban Rosebowl (English Unit/school with most points): Raasay Primary.

Fiddle group (Secondary): Ard-sgoil Phortrigh. P1-3 Verse Speaking: Bun-sgoil Stafainn. P4-7 Verse Speaking: Bun-sgoil Stafainn. P1-3 Action song: Sgoil Stafainn. P4-7 Action

song: Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire. Choir: Clann Thròndairnis.

Ross Gillies Memorial (highest individual music points in singing, primary): Seònaidh Forrest, Sgoil Shlèite and Peter Martin, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh. Highest total in oral competitions: Bun-sgoil Shlèite.

The McKeeve Trophy (open solo): Stuart Jackson. Skye Mod Committee Trophy (Skye song): Fiona MacNab.

Sir Iain Noble shield (primary traditional): Ross MacLeòid, Bun-sgoil GhàidhligPhortRìgh.

Urras an Eilein Quaich (aggregate prescribed solo and traditional - high school): Erin Nic'Illosa, Ard-sgoil Phortrigh.

Silver medal (girls age 13-15 fluent) Erin Nic'Illosa, Ard-sgoil Phortrigh.

Silver medal (girls age 13-15 learners): Eilidh MacPherson, Ard-sgoil Phortrigh.

Highland Dance winners Primary age four Pas de bas: 1-Ceitidh MacNab Pas de bas & High Cuts: 1-Ceitidh MacNab.

Primary age five Pas de bas: 1-Anna Langlands. Pas de bas & High Cuts: 1-Jenna Macfarlane.

Primary age six Pas de bas: 1 Ava Mackenzie. Pas de bas & High Cuts: 1 Ava Mackenzie.

Fling: 1-Ava Mackenzie. Beginners

Fling: 1-Ailish Mclaughlin. Sword: 1-Ailish Mclaughlin.

Sean Truibhas: 1-Ailish Mclaughlin.

Novice Fling: 1-Emma MacNab.

Sword: 1-Anna Varwell. Sean Truibhas: 1-Anna Varwell.

Premier Barracks: 1-Beth Campbell.

Hornpipe: 1-Beth Campbell.

Blue Bonnets: 1-Gemma Taylor.

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Laxdale youngsters are hailed as green pioneers

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A class of 11-year-old Lewis pupils have been recognised as environmental pioneers after wowing sustainability experts in a national competition.

The competition was part of leading travel company TUI UK and Ireland's Better World Detectives programme, which forms a key part of the company's sustainability strategy and is designed to use the excitement of travel to stimulate young imaginations and practically engage children in the global issue of sustainable tourism.

Aimed at seven- to 11-year-olds, the programme provides captivating teaching resources and cross-curricular lesson plans which not



The Laxdale pupils are celebrating their success.

only equip students with the knowledge to better understand key issues, but actively encourages them to consider what they can do to help protect the environment.

Laxdale Primary pupils on Lewis impressed with

their creativity and passion to make a difference to the environment.

The youngsters created The Plastic Pollution Patrol, holding a full school assembly explaining all their learnings and replacing all canteen

plastic straws with paper straws.

They also worked with the younger classes to create plastic pollution displays throughout the school and created a huge turtle – one of the creatures most at risk from marine plastic pollution – out of recycled bottle tops.

To acknowledge their achievements, TUI UK and Ireland organised a special hands-on learning day in collaboration with the Marine Conservation Society.

As well as classroom activities, the students explored the nearby beach and went on a 'rubbish' treasure hunt looking out natural and litter items, and calculating how many years it would take for plastic items to biodegrade.

Betty Hepburn, P7 teacher at Laxdale, said: 'The children

were really inspired by Better World Detectives and wanted to share what they'd learned with the whole school.

'The pupils were so excited to have won the competition and they thoroughly enjoyed their learning workshop with the Marine Conservation Society.

'It's really important that this generation is educated on sustainability issues – which is why it's great that big companies like TUI are putting resources like Better World Detectives into the education system because that will help eradicate the problems we face.'

Director of Sustainability at TUI UK and Ireland, Jane Ashton added: 'We were so impressed by the pupils at Laxdale; their response to Better World Detectives is exactly what we aim for.'

Trust doubles its show sponsorship

Anticipation is building for this year's Point Agricultural Show on Saturday July 14 – and community wind farm charity Point and Sandwich Trust is pleased to announce it has doubled its sponsorship of the event.

The Point Show, held for the first time in 2003, is a hugely popular community event. Depending on the weather, it can attract a couple of thousand visitors and locals who now live away on the mainland are known to come home for it.

It is held at the Aird School showground, with gates opening at 1pm. The official opening – by broadcaster Anna Macleod this year – takes place at 1.30pm. Gate entry prices are £4 for adults, £2 for children and £10 for a family ticket of two adults and two children.

There are around 12 competition sections, including the community award for best village – sponsored by the Stornoway Trust – and many categories for livestock, fruit and vegetables, baking, arts and crafts. The horse show has returned this year and there will be plenty of entertainment, including a performance by the Lewis and Harris Pipe Band immediately after the show opens.

There will be plenty for the children, including bouncy castles and face painting, and there is also a welly decorating competition this time, as well as some popular games including 'hook a duck' and 'splat the rat' and a Nerf gun range, run by Pursuit Hebrides.

Teas, coffees and cakes will be provided, plus a barbecue, offering burgers and hot dogs.

Business improvement partnership is backed

A meeting last week of the comhairle's Sustainable Development Committee saw members endorse the formation of a Community and Business Improvement Partnership for Stornoway.

During 2017, the comhairle drew together the various studies which had been carried out into the regeneration of Stornoway.

Concurrent work by Stornoway Port Authority on their port plan and Stornoway Trust on their Parks for People (Lews Castle grounds) project presented the opportunity

to tie together all these town centre work streams into one cohesive masterplan.

The potential for an integrated vision for the entire centre of Stornoway was recognised and 360 Architecture was commissioned by the comhairle and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to undertake this work.

A Stornoway Vision working group has been established and has now met three times, most recently in May.

The comhairle is leading on developing and supporting the working group.



The comhairle trophy for best performance at the Mòd Ionadail Leòdhais concert was presented to Sarah MacBain of Breasclete School for her story on the war. Sarah was at Thursday's meeting of the comhairle's Gaelic Committee to show the trophy.

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EXPERTS IN THE FIELD

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Ardnamurchan Mòd remembers stalwart

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Dozens of young traditional musicians travelled to Ardnamurchan High School last Friday to showcase their talent at the annual Mòd Aird nam Murchan.

The five peninsula primary schools, the high school and pupils from Mull, Oban and Fort William took part in choral, solo singing, instrumental, poetry recitation and conversation competitions on Friday June 15. The committee was also delighted to have several adult competitors this year as well as Burach, Morvern's adult Gaelic choir.

Despite inclement weather everyone had a great day and adjudicators commented on the high standard of entries. Everyone agreed Ardnamurchan High School was a wonderful setting for

Young musicians hit all the right notes in tribute to Charlie MacColl

the Mòd. In the evening, a packed audience enjoyed the prizewinners' concert.

The event was particularly poignant this year as Mairi MacColl, Charlie MacColl's widow, and their son Callum attended to present the trophies.

Convenor Fiona MacLean told the audience what a great supporter Charlie had been of the Ardnamurchan Mòd.

Following a ceilidh in Kilmallie last year, his family donated a substantial sum to Mòd Aird nam Murchan.

As well as running a workshop a few weeks ago for local primary school

children, the committee used some of the money for the Charlie MacColl Memorial Shield, to be awarded to the local learner or fluent speaker achieving the highest mark in conversation classes, as he was so passionate about encouraging youngsters to learn and converse in Gaelic.

In its inaugural year, Mairi presented the shield to Sean MacLellan, Ardnamurchan High School, for achieving an outstanding mark in the 13-15 years' fluent conversation class.

Committee members were delighted that after months of hard work by pupils, teachers



Laura Robertson won two competitions in instrumental and piping and a second in the 13-15 years poetry recital. The next day, Laura took part in the Stirling Mod where she won two competitions and took a second and a third place.



Ryan Cameron of Kilchoan Primary School won the Cupan Shuardail (Swordle Cup) for the highest Gaelic mark in local learners poetry U13 and the Mòd Aird nam Murchan Trophy for highest Gaelic mark in poetry open U13.

and tutors everyone performed so well and enjoyed themselves. Good luck wishes were extended to everyone competing at the National

Mòd in Dunoon later this year. The committee looks forward to welcoming everyone back to Ardnamurchan next year.



Above: Mairi MacColl presents the Charlie MacColl Memorial Shield to Sean MacLellan, Ardnamurchan High School, for attaining the highest mark in conversation competitions, fluent and learners.



Seamus Buchanan who won the 13-18 years accordion competition.



Sean MacLellan, right, won first prize in the fluent speakers conversation aged 13-1, along with Christy MacPherson, left, who came joint second with Rachel Ford, centre. All three are pupils of Ardnamurchan High.



Flora Sutherland of Oigridh Shuainart who was first in her own choice solo.



Christopher McCowan who won the new conversation competition for Gaelic learners aged 13-18.



Sisters Kara and Layla MacIntyre from Coisir Og Loch Alainn. Layla was second and third in her two singing competitions and Kara, in her first Mòd, was first in solo singing learners 5-6 years. Kara also won two trophies – The Kate Stewart Memorial Cup for highest music mark 5-8 years and the Mod Aird nam Murchan Trophy for highest total in music and Gaelic combined local open 5-8 years.

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Trophy winners

Junior section – oral

Cupan Shuardail (Swordle Cup), local learners, for highest Gaelic mark in poetry under 13 years: Ryan Cameron, Kilchoan Primary School.

Mòd Aird nam Murchan trophy, open under 13, for highest Gaelic mark in poetry: Ryan Cameron, Kilchoan Primary School.

Lochaber Gaelic Development Group Cup, local Gaelic Medium poetry

13-18 years: Maighsi Rough, Ardnamurchan High School.

Caithness Glass Trophy, local learners poetry 13-18 years: Rachel Bolton, Coisir Og Loch Alainn.

Lochaber Gaelic Development Group Quaich, conversation open 5-8 years: Duncan Macaulay, Acharacle Primary School.

Lochaber Gaelic Development Group Quaich, conversation open 9-12 years: Alasdair Mackay, Acharacle Primary School.

Charlie MacColl Memorial Shield for conversation local under-18 learners and Gaelic Medium: Sean MacLellan, Ardnamurchan High School.

Graham Croal Trophy, open under-18 years, highest mark in any competition: Sean MacLellan, Ardnamurchan High School.

Junior section – singing

John S Thomson, Glenborrodale Cup, local solo for highest Gaelic mark in any competition, 9-13 years: Parker Dawes, Acharacle Primary School, and Rowan Willis, Coisir Og Loch Alainn.

Peter MacQueen, Ardgor Memorial Cup, local solo for the highest music mark in any competition 9-13 years: Alexander Pervan, Acharacle Primary School.

Mòd Aird nam Murchan trophy open for highest mark in music and Gaelic 9-13 years: Alexander Pervan,



Ardsgoil Àird nam Murchan folk group who won their competition.



Left: Eilidh Morrison, Acharacle Primary School, took first place in her solo 7-8 years singing competition, singing a piece of her own choice.



Flora Sutherland, Amy MacLachlan, Mairi-Ann MacGillivray and Isabella Sutherland of Oigrìdh Shuaineart – winners of The Campbell Memorial Shield.



Rachel Bolton, Ardnamurchan High School, and Coisir Og Loch Alainn won the Caithness Glass Trophy for highest mark in learners poetry 13-18 years and the Ardnamurchan Mod Shield for highest mark in all keyboard and piano competitions under 18 years. Rachel won other competitions, including solo singing for girls 16-18 years.



Chloe Curtis and Emma MacLachlan who took part in solo singing for girls learners aged 13-15.

Acharacle Primary School. The Daily Record Quaich, local solo for highest Gaelic mark 5-8 years:

Isla MacKechnie, Coisir Og Loch Alainn.

Kate Stewart Memorial Cup, local solo for the highest music mark 5-8 years: Kara MacIntyre, Coisir Og Loch Alainn.

Mòd Aird nam Murchan trophy open for highest mark in music and Gaelic 5-8 years: Kara MacIntyre, Coisir Og Loch Alainn.

Scottish Natural Heritage Trophy, solo open for highest total in music and Gaelic 13-18 years: Floriana Lawrence, Coisir Og Loch Alainn.

The Joan Smith Memorial Cup, unison singing, for the choir with the highest mark in Gaelic and music under-18: Acharacle Primary School.

The Convenor's Cup, unison

puirt-a-beul, for the choir with the highest mark in Gaelic and music under 18 years: Lochaline Primary School.

The Campbell Memorial Shield, one song, for the choir with the highest mark in Gaelic and music under-13 years: Oigrìdh Shuaineart.

Special competitions
Mod Air nam Murchan Shield, action song under 10 years: Acharacle Primary School.

Iain Ross Cameron Drimnin Memorial Cup, folk group under-18 years: Acharacle Primary School.

Senior section

Sheila Dewar Memorial Cup Song of the District: Stuart Jackson, Lochaline.

Christina MacLaren Memorial Trophy for highest mark in Gaelic: Stuart Jackson, Lochaline.

Maclean of Ardgor Memorial Challenge Cup for highest total in Gaelic and music: Stuart Jackson, Lochaline.

Ceilear Trophy overall winner in adult choir competitions: Burach.

Conductor's Baton for the choir with the highest mark singing two songs of own choice: Burach.

Iain MacPherson Trophy, learners under-13 years, for highest mark in fiddle: Megan Curtis, Kilchoan Primary School.

Sunart Oakwoods Trophy, 13-18 years, for highest mark in fiddle: Frances MacDonald, Ardnamurchan High School.

Donald Boyd Quaich, local under-13 years, for highest mark in fiddle: Megan Curtis, Kilchoan Primary School.

Gillespie MacMillan Mod Cup, under-18 years,

for highest mark in accordion: Seamus Buchanan, Ardnamurchan High School.

Ardnamurchan Mod Mini Silver Cup, under-18 years, for highest mark in chanter: Archie Johnston, Bunessan Primary School.

Ardnamurchan Mod Shield, under-18 years, highest mark in piano or keyboard: Rachel Bolton, Ardnamurchan High School.

Ardnamurchan Mod Clarsach Cup, under-18 years, for highest mark in Clarsach: Aine O'Rua, Lochaber High School.

Ardnamurchan Mod Guitar Cup, under-18 years, for highest mark in guitar: Nathan Pleming, Ardnamurchan High School.

Ailean Mhic a'Phearsain Plaque, under-18 years, for highest mark in piping: Laura Robertson, Fort William.



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Ardnamurchan Mòd



Siblings Duncan and Anna MacAulay both won their Gaelic conversation competitions.



Parker Dawes of Acharacle Primary won the John S Thomson Glenborrodale Cup for the highest Gaelic mark in any competition ages 9-13.



Left: Acharacle Primary School choir won the under -13 choral rural.

Below left: Acharacle Primary School won the Mod Air nam Murchan Shield for their action song in the under-10 category.

Right: Acharacle's Alexander Pervan won the Peter MacQueen Ardgor Memorial Cup for local soloist with the highest music mark in any competition 9-13 years.



Acharacle Primary School won the Iain Ross Cameron Drimnin Memorial Cup for folk groups under-18.



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- Gaelic 1 & 2
- Gaelic Conversation (LI) with Muriel Fisher*
- Piano Accordion with Addie Harper Jr. & Stephanie Harper
- Button Box with Robert Nairn & Fergie MacDonald
- Gaelic for Irish Speakers (B)
- Còmhradh & Caint (ADV) with Ailig 'Bhaltas' Dòmhnallach*
- Creative Sound Production with Hector MacInnes

21 - 27/07/18

- Fiddle with Alasdair Fraser*
- Cello with Natalie Haas*

23 - 27/07/18

- Exploring Skye (Gaelic for Beginners) with Muriel Fisher*

30/07 - 03/08/18

- Gaelic 1, 3, 5, 7
- Gaelic for Irish Speakers (ADV)
- Traditional Music Ensemble with Innes Watson
- Isle of Skye Piping School with Decker Forrest
- Gaelic Conversation (LI) with Joy Dunlop*

06 - 10/08/18

- Gaelic 2, 4, 6, 8
- A Seascape of Gaelic Song with Margaret Stewart
- Clàrsach (B-ADV) with Ingrid Henderson & Deirdre Graham
- Gaelic Conversation (UI) with Joy Dunlop*

13 - 17/08/18

- Gaelic 1, 3, 5, 7, 9
- Digital Photography with Cailean MacLellan
- Gaelic Creative Writing with Alison Lang
- The Music in the Fiddle with Charlie McKerron

20 - 24/08/18

- Gaelic 2, 4, 6, 8, 10
- Adam Sutherland School of Fiddle*
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good music session or two in a unique learning and cultural environment. At the heart of a warm and friendly community, we are offering various Gaelic classes from beginners to advanced, levels 1-10. As well as our Gaelic courses we have a number of music courses including Under 18s Piping and Drumming with Iain McFadyen and Andrew MacPherson, Isle of Skye Piping School with Decker Forrest, various levels of Clàrsach taught by Ingrid Henderson and Deirdre Graham, Argyll Gaelic Song with Joy Dunlop and if you fancy something

a little different we are also offering Digital Photography with Cailean Maclean and Gaelic Creative Writing with Alison Lang as well as several other courses throughout the summer. Each week we offer evening activities which are an essential part of the short course experience, and will include cèilidhs, concerts, music sessions, Gaelic conversation opportunities and various workshops. For a full list and further information, please visit our website www.smo.uhi.ac.uk or contact us at cg.smo@uhi.ac.uk or (+44) 1471 888 240 / 246.

The cùrsaichean a bharrachd air an làrach-lìn againn. A full list of courses is available on our website.

Lundavra sports days fun

Children of all ages took part in Lundavra Primary School's two-day sporting extravaganza this week.

Parents watched on eagerly as the young athletes did battle in egg and spoon races, short distance sprints and agility tests.

There was even a chance for spectators to get involved with a number of races for older generations.

Primary 1 to 3 were competing on Monday, while the primary 4 to 7 competitions took place on Tuesday.

Prizes were handed out to the outstanding performers over the two days at a prize-

giving after events finished on Tuesday.

A school staff member said: 'Congratulations to everyone in primary 1-3 for a fantastic sports day and well done to the keen mums, dads, granies and grandpas for taking part in the adult races – even though we did need a re-run of the mothers' race!'

'Thank you very much to the spectators who came and cheered even though the weather was a bit dreich. A massive thank you to Mrs Cairns and her primary six helpers for keeping everything running so smoothly.'



A colour co-ordinated duo lead the girls' short dash.
IF F25 Lundavra race P1

Maxi Maxwell loses control of the egg just metres from the finish line. IF F25 Lundavra Maxi Maxwell egg race



Speed and agility were not the only skills tested at the sports day as high levels of concentration were required for the hat race.
IF F25 Lundavra hat race. All photographs Ian Ferguson, The Write Image.

Linda's dash for trolley glory at Fort Lidl store

Lucky Linda Melrose bagged herself a trolley dash at the recent Fort William Lidl family day.

Linda, who lives in the town, won a chance to grab as much as she could in a limited time in a prize draw.

Ross Millar, Lidl UK's regional director for

Scotland, said: 'Our Lidl family fun day at our Fort William store was a great success. We were delighted to offer one lucky prize draw winner a trolley dash in store last Saturday. Well done to Linda who stocked up a host of quality Lidl goodies.'



Lucky Linda Melrose, left, and Fort William Lidl store manager Catriona Fraser.

VIEW FROM the chamber

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is delighted to be part of the Scottish Government's Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) initiative, which aims to bridge the gap between education and employment.

Last month, 24 third-year Mallaig High School pupils were put through mock interviews by local employers.

The chamber thanks John MacLellan of The Underwater Centre; Ged Kilcoin of Lochaber Smelter; Jane Henderson of West Highland College UHI; Fraser MacDougall of BT Openreach; Alyson Smith of Lochaber Hope; Nancy Campbell of the Mackintosh Centre and Chris Vind of Glencoe Activities.

They all kindly volunteered their time, knowledge and experience to help prepare the young people for their future careers.

The employer-led mock interviews offer valuable experience to the young people, with employers providing informal feedback on the day, followed by written notes on their strengths and areas for improvement.

Sometimes the interviews provide long-term inspiration: one 15-year-old girl who was interviewing for a fictional hotel manager's job admitted she really wanted to be a diver, but didn't think it was realistic.

Luckily, John MacLellan of The Underwater Centre was her interviewer and told her about the career opportunities in diving and the great training available just along the road.

It is not just the young people who get a lot out of the interviews.

Ged Kilcoin of Lochaber Smelter said: 'It was a pleasure to be involved in this process and we were all extremely impressed with the level of application and commitment demonstrated by all the students we met. I hope this will continue as it will serve them well in the future as they build their careers. A fantastic day.'

Call 01397 705765 if you'd like to get involved in employer-led mock interviews or to find out more about other ways your business can help to shape our future workforce.



Left to right: Alyson Smith, Chris Vind, Fraser MacDougall, Jane Henderson, John MacLellan and Ged Kilcoin in Mallaig.



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www.whc.uhi.ac.uk/schools/foundation-apprenticeships

LT

Fresh hope Dornie toilets will stay open

Highland Council has told the constituency MSP it is confident it can keep the under-threat toilets at Dornie Hall open.

Kate Forbes MSP had raised the potential closure of the toilets with the council on behalf of constituents after the local authority ended a funding agreement with Dornie and District Community Hall Association for use of the facilities.

A lack of funding could lead to the closure of the toilets, which have disabled access and are coach-friendly. Dornie Hall is a short distance from Eilean Donan Castle, one of Scotland's top tourist attractions, and a petition has gathered more than 4,500 signatures.

Kate Forbes MSP said: 'I had written to Highland Council because of the concerns raised locally. The toilets are clearly well used, particularly at the height of the tourism season.'

'Highland Council has obviously been listening and thanks to the efforts of local councillors and local people, I am hopeful the toilets will remain open. They are the only disabled toilets in the area and due to the layout of the car park many coach parties use the facilities. If these toilets close, there will be no provision locally.'

'This could result in an increase in outside toileting which will only have a negative effect on the local environment. I remain hopeful Highland Council can reach an amicable solution with Dornie and District Community Hall Association to fund these toilets.'

School uniform grant increased

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Financial support for many families in Highland towards the cost of school clothing has been increased from £90 per pupil to £140 from the academic year beginning 2018.

Working in partnership with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA), the Scottish Government has agreed all Scottish councils will provide a minimum £100 school clothing grant for eligible families from academic year 2018/19.

Councillor Andrew Baxter, chairman of the council's care, learning and housing committee, said: 'Providing this level of financial assistance with the costs of school



Councillor Andrew Baxter.

clothing for eligible families means Highland pupils are better equipped to attend school and to focus on their education without the stigma of wearing clothes that don't fit. Assisting parents and carers with the cost of school

clothing can help to alleviate poverty in the Highlands.'

In 2017/18, the Highland Council provided £90 per school pupil per annum, the fifth highest rate in Scotland, which was fully funded from the council's revenue budget. In 2017/18, more than 3,700 Highland pupils benefited from a school clothing grant.

The additional funding provided by the Scottish Government from 2018/19 will top up the existing rate, taking the council's grant to £140 per pupil. This exceeds the £100 minimum amount agreed with the Scottish Government by £40 from academic year 2018/19.

Council leader councillor Margaret Davidson, chairwoman of the poverty and inequalities working group,

said: 'The average cost of clothing school pupils in Highland ranges from £106 to £130 per pupil which is a significant outlay for parents. I welcome this increase as it helps to reduce inequalities for families and is one of the measures being taken to proactively address poverty, in particular child poverty.'

Applications for school clothing grants can be made at highland.gov.uk/school-mealsandclothinggrants. Alternatively, application forms are available from the council's operations team on 01463 703645.

Help with the completion of the form is also available from the council's welfare support team which can be contacted on Freephone 0800 090 1004.



Lorna Gillies, left, and Gemma Carver.

Designers shine at Fort William fashion show

Glamour and local businesses came together to celebrate local talent at a fashion show in Fort William on Saturday.

The event at Ben Nevis Distillery was sold out, with models showcasing the work of Nonchalant, West Highland College, Lorna Gillies and GC Couture.

Designers Lorna Gillies and Gemma Carver showed their new collections which are available from their pop-up shop on Fort William High Street.

Katryn Muir sang jazz as the models returned to the catwalk for the finale along with the designers.

A raffle in aid of stem cell research included prizes from the designers.

A delighted Lorna and Gemma told the Lochaber Times: 'Thank you to everyone who helped and supported us through this event.'

'We are truly touched by the turnout to the fashion show and couldn't have done it without the help of our beautiful models, friends and family.'

'Special thank you to our photographers Jessica Crighton and Kenny Ferguson, Pixel Spirits, Katryn Muir, Chocolate Box and Ben Nevis Distillery for making this night special.'

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Highland Council launches new anti-bullying policy



From left: Bernadette Cairns, head of additional support needs Highland Council; Elizabeth Blogg and Julia Coe, Misty Isle Youth Forum, Portree High School, and Kirsty Baird, health development officer, Highland Council.

The Highland Council launched its new 'Positive Relationships and Bullying Prevention Policy and Guidance' last week at the High Life Highland Highland Youth Parliament (HYP) annual conference in Inverness.

This is the first care and learning policy developed by young people across Highland from initial consultation through to its launch.

The previous bullying prevention guidance was due for review in 2017.

Following a discussion between Bernadette Cairns, head of additional support

needs, and members of the Misty Isle Youth Forum, where young people identified the previous policy no longer reflected the landscape across Highland schools, it was announced at the HYP conference in June 2017 the policy would be redeveloped by young people across Highland, launching at the conference in June 2018.

During the 2017/2018 academic session, young people from the Misty Isle Youth Forum consulted with young people from across Highland to create the new policy and guidance which was launched on Thursday.

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Bold 'food first' approach provides benefits

An innovative 'food first' approach to reduce or eliminate the need to use oral nutritional supplements (ONS) for adults across the Highlands has proved successful.

It follows an NHS Highland-wide decision to take a proactive, multi-disciplined approach throughout 2017.

NHS Highland's nutrition and dietetic advisor with responsibility for ONS prescribing Evelyn Newman said since the health board decided to transform ONS prescribing, there had been a 25 per cent reduction in the total ONS spend in NHS Highland.

'That equates to a £300,000 saving in one year,' she said.

GPs, nurses, care home workers and cooks, speech therapists, nurses, dietitians and pharmacists worked together to help reduce or eliminate use of ONS.

In the care home sector, it was decided to stop ONS use for residents and service users.

Ms Newman added: 'Our care homes have great cooks and staff who are committed to providing high quality meal times, using a wide range of appetising food and drinks.'

She added the groundwork for this good nutritional support had been put in place through staff training and education programmes.

As well as the 'food first' principle, NHS Highland's pharmacy department updated the ONS primary care range of prescription products with a view to reducing the number of supplements.

Ian Rudd, NHS Highland's director of pharmacy, said: 'The local team has worked hard to ensure we meet residents' nutritional requirements through the 'food first' approach.'

Charity in bid to help families in debt crisis

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber and Argyll churchgoers are being encouraged to volunteer as debt advisers as more families face financial crisis.

The call comes from Community Money Advice Scotland (CMAS), a Christian charity supporting affiliated churches and charities to run their own advice centres tackling money problems.

Local volunteers are trained to provide free face-to-face

advice for anyone struggling with rising rents, unpaid bills or benefit sanctions.

CMAS manager Stephen Curran said one in seven adults living in the Highlands are 'over-indebted'.

'That's 27,071 adults across Highland Council area at least three months behind with important bills or feel their debts are a heavy burden.'

'We are encouraging local churches to reach out in support of those affected in the Highlands,' said Mr Curran.

Church leaders and interested volunteers are

invited to hear more about growing debt and discuss next steps at a 'Debt in the Highlands' event on Monday from 11am at Fort William's Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church in The Parade.

Mr Curran added: 'Lochaber Foodbank manager Alex McConnachie will be speaking to us on debt and other pressures now forcing increasing numbers into food poverty across the west Highlands.'

'We also have backing from the Cinnamon Network making it as easy as possible for local churches and

faith charities to transform communities.'

It supports 30 best-practice recognised projects - such as CMAS centres and Trussell Foodbanks such as Lochaber - helping churches respond to pressing local needs along with funding, advice, support and leadership training.

'This is an excellent opportunity for even a small number of trained church volunteers to develop skills to provide a crucial local service.'

'Our centres complement the work of local authorities and the voluntary sector

which face growing need but often reduced funding. We value the excellent advice already on offer locally through Citizens Advice Bureaux and others.'

'Any effort we encourage through churches in Lochaber and Argyll will complement not compete with existing services.'

'The need for additional support is clear.'

'If one in seven adults are at least three months behind with their bills that is already leading to stress and anxiety in far too many homes across the Highlands.'

MSP backs call for life-extending cancer drug for Scottish women



From left: Lawrence Cowan, Scotland Manager for Breast Cancer Now, Jen Hardy, Perjeta Now campaigner, and Donald Cameron MSP.

'Women in Scotland should be able to access the life-extending breast cancer drug Perjeta, Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron has argued.'

Donald Cameron joined breast cancer patient and Perjeta Now campaigner Jen Hardy at Holyrood to support the charity's petition calling for the manufacturer Roche, the Scottish Government and the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) to make Perjeta routinely available on the NHS in Scotland.

Perjeta, taken in combination with Herceptin (trastuzumab) and docetaxel, a chemotherapy drug, is a first-line treatment for patients with HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer. It gives patients with incurable breast cancer nearly

16 additional months of good-quality life, on average, compared to the alternative treatment of trastuzumab and docetaxel alone.

While it has been the standard of care in England for more than four years, Perjeta has been rejected three times by the SMC as it is not considered cost-effective.

The drug company intends to make a new application to the SMC for Perjeta to be used in Scotland.

Mr Cameron said: 'It is a travesty that women with incurable breast cancer living in Scotland are still missing out on a life-changing drug.'

'The precious extra time Perjeta offers could mean the world to patients.'

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There was recognition for the Isle of Harris Distillery at the recent Scotland Food and Drink Excellence Awards.

Having received the award for distilling, Isle of Harris Gin was also recognised as Product of the Year thanks to what managing director Simon Erlanger described as 'the superb work by the island team'.

With 25 awards for design, branding and product to their name, these awards are regarded by the distillery as especially significant as they focus on the quality of the spirit itself.

Attending the ceremony in Edinburgh, head distiller Kenny Maclean said: "These awards mark out the wonderful work of our home-grown team but, more importantly, help secure the future of the distillery and, in turn, jobs for islanders."

"The distillery is helping to reverse the downward trend of population decline on Harris, which was due - in part - to the need for some islanders to move away for work."



The team at the Isle of Harris Distillery celebrate their awards. ^{OT}

Invaluable lessons teach youngsters the importance of saving

Financial literacy is not a skill we are born with. Learning how to manage money effectively requires acquiring a few important life lessons that parents can pass on to their children from a relatively young age, according to Iain Cairns of Argyll Financial Services.

Junior Individual Savings Accounts (JISAs)

are a good way for children to learn about the benefits of saving money for the future.

The advantage of JISAs is that they are tax free and, once the account has been opened by the parent or guardian, anyone can make contributions, including grandparents, friends and family. The savings limit for the 2018-19

tax year is £4,260. Children gain control of their JISA at age 16, but the money cannot be withdrawn until they are 18. The account then automatically rolls over into an adult ISA.

The value of investments can go down as well as up. Past performance may not necessarily be repeated.

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LETTERS

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

There are few subjects which engage the public more than the National Health Service and its concomitant healthcare provision.

So we would anticipate widespread involvement by Lochaber residents who have been invited to have a 'once-in-a-lifetime opportunity' to help plan the replacement Belford Hospital at Blar Mhor in Fort William.

As we report this week, Highland Council is intending to host a workshop to discuss the Lochaber Health and Social Care redesign with residents and assess the balance between services provided at home, in the community, in care homes and in the replacement for the Belford Hospital.

NHS Highland's head of estates, Eric Green, was quite correct in saying that, for a new hospital costing more than £30 million, it is important to plan it right and involve local communities.

His point was reinforced by NHS Highland's north and west operational unit deputy director Tracy Ligema, who pointed out that NHS Highland has little experience of constructing a rural general hospital in recent times.

NHS Highland is to be applauded for its open and transparent approach to what is a vital service provided to the people of Lochaber.

Involving the public is the right thing to do and we welcome the decision.

And we would urge all those residents of Lochaber who are in a position to contribute to the debate to ensure they make the most of this opportunity and have their say.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve 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 phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed.

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

At the Oban Times we 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 we have published anything that is factually incorrect, please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephone on 01631 568000; or write the Editor at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial 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 by calling 0300 123 2220 or email: inquiries@ipso.co.uk. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Action is needed to address
problems at post office

I am writing this email after reading your recent article about the Oban Post Office and as a former postman I can fully agree with the 'whistleblower's' letter.

I left the post office due to a number of issues.

First and foremost, the management have no clue what they are doing.

They have no people skills and just constantly undermine the long-term hard-working postmen and women there.

They seem to be on a witch-hunt to chase the long-term staff out the door and replace with part-time staff which will save costs in wages.

This has led to extremely low staff morale and, as your article mentions, a lot of people leaving and going off sick due to stress.

I, in particular, felt victimised and also lodged a complaint with my union after consulting the anti-bullying policy.

So the post office spokesperson in the article who said they have had no complaints is telling lies, which does not surprise me in the slightest.

In general, the long-term staff are being treated like naughty school children and not being trusted to do their jobs. This includes people who have been doing the job 30-plus years.

The Royal Mail head office needs to acknowledge the staff changes and realise that there is a massive underlying problem, instead of denying everything and making out things are just fine in Oban.

The main problem is the management changes that have happened and action needs to be taken before they lose any more of their long-term staff and also before anyone else has to be referred off work by a doctor due to stress.

I would ask the public to please be patient with the current staff as they are doing their very best in a dire working situation.

Name and address supplied.

Thanks to Good Samaritans
for help after breaking ankle

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the people who helped me when I slipped near the top of Beinn Lora on Friday June 1 and badly fractured my ankle.

I had gone walking with my two boys, aged seven and 14, to admire the glorious views on a beautiful day, so when a simple slip resulted in a very obviously badly broken ankle, we were quickly in a very difficult position.

Just as quickly a local walker, Rob McCallum, responded to my shouts, staying with me and the two boys and helping keep us all calm. Kirsty and Peter from Oban police arrived and were equally caring and reassuring.

Unfortunately, it was a busy Friday so mustering the mountain rescue team proved challenging but eventually a helicopter from Stornoway search and rescue with Mark and Josh aboard arrived and, with great care, skill

GET IN TOUCH

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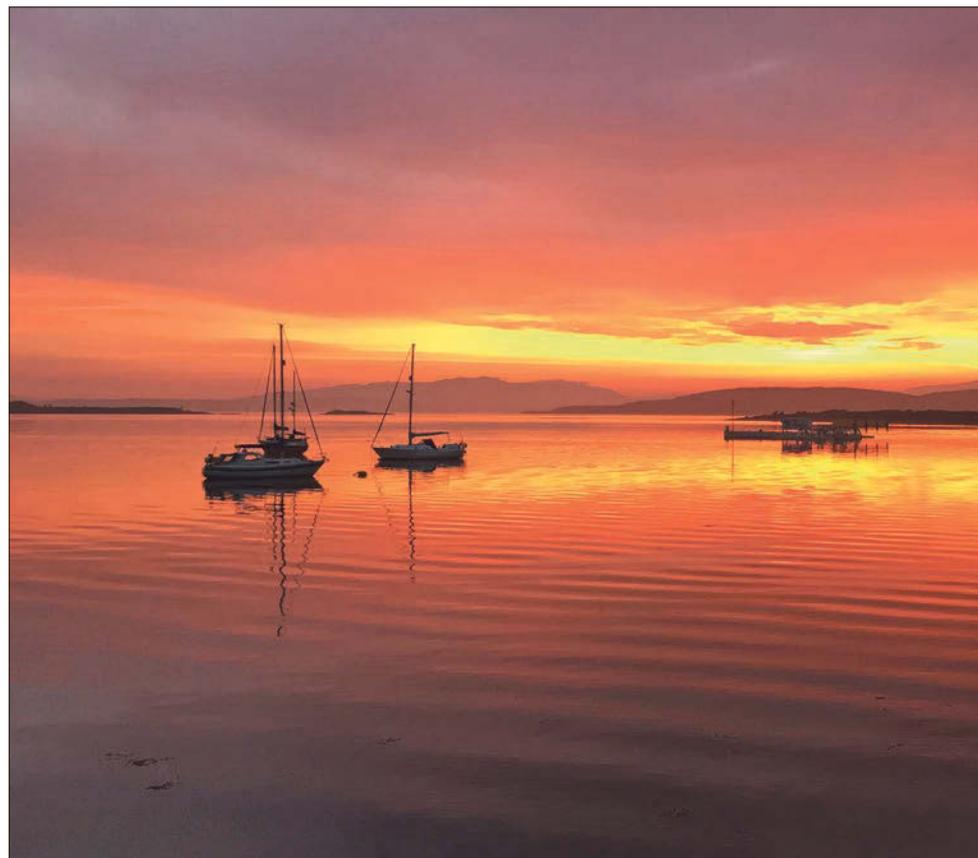
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YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase local people's images each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here,

simply send it to editor@obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street,

and humour got me and the boys safely in the helicopter and down to Glasgow.

I underwent reduction of the complete dislocation that evening and pinning and plating of the fracture the next morning and will be off work for around four months.

I cannot express how much the kindness of these strangers meant to me.

As a medical professional, I know they all considered it just part of the job, but it is so important that we don't lose sight of the value of simple human compassion, displayed in bundles by each of them.

Particular thanks to Rob and his wife Kate, whose reassuring presence got me through the first hour.

I'm looking forward to getting back to Oban and the hills later in the year and, although I'll be nervous, I'll remember the advice from Josh on the helicopter not to let this simple accident stop me getting back up there.

Jillian Connor DM MRCOG,
Consultant obstetrician,
University Hospitals Southampton.

New compact Oban Times is
great to read in the garden

Just a wee email to say congratulations on the compact edition.

I was delighted when I picked up last week's edition at my newsagent here in Edinburgh. It's great for reading in the garden during this nice weather too.

Please keep up the excellent work.

Michael Downey FCIBS,
Chartered banker, Edinburgh.

Changes were inevitable
but are disappointing

I suppose that it was inevitable that the once excellent Oban Times would go compact.

When any survey of readers was undertaken on this, I do not know, and I have read it every week for more years than I can remember. The way the new compact has been endorsed on numerous pages is obviously for those

DISTRICT NEWS

SPEAN BRIDGE, ROY BRIDGE AND ACHNACARRY

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council recently held its June meeting and annual General meeting at Kilmonivaig Church Hall.

Present: John Fotheringham, Brian Donald, Dana MacLennan, Sandy Edmond, Ross MacLennan, Ian Langley, Peter Mackintosh and eight members of the public.

Excerpt of the minutes:

There was an address by Duncan Mackison, chief executive officer of Jahama Highland Estates, and Callum Whiteford of RES. These issues were covered fully in last week's edition of the Lochaber Times.

Mr Mackison outlined the estate's plans for the community council area, while Mr Whiteford of RES, specialists in renewable energy systems, spoke about the proposed Glenshero Wind Farm.

Annual general meeting – the chairman read his annual report, already partially covered in a previous issue of The Lochaber Times.

Mr Fotheringham's report also contained the following comments: 'This winter's deteriorating road surfaces on trunk and local roads has meant constant dialogue between ourselves and Transport Scotland, BEAR Scotland and Highland Council, and although limited repair and resurfacing has been achieved, it was not before some residents had pothole damage to their vehicles.

'We have continued to contribute to a number of consultations on a variety of subjects and spent considerable time debating issues relating to planning. Planning officials and developers have briefed us on proposals and we hope to secure much-needed affordable housing provision for our community in the coming year.

'We lost Mike Tonks, a particularly energetic volunteer from Roy Bridge who moved to Wales, but Dana MacLennan and Amy Exeter joined as co-opted members.



Dogs and their owners line-up ahead of last year's show.

IF F25-2017 dog show lineup

Nevis Centre to host dog show

Preparations are well under way for Lochaber and District Canine Society's companion dog show to be held in the Nevis Centre, Fort William, on Tuesday July 3.

The event is in aid of Reach Sled Dog Rescue and is held under Kennel Club regulations.

The event will feature classes for best pedigree and best novelty dogs, with a prize for best trick.

There will also be a walk for puppies aged four to six months, starting at 7pm.

Rosettes will be awarded up to fourth place and there will be trophies for winners.

Doors open at 6.45pm with judging at 7pm.

There will be baking on sale and a raffle.

Entries taken on the night.

'This was a particularly sad year for us with the loss of Councillor Billy MacLachlan who in the short time between his election and untimely death had shown a willingness to assist and support our efforts.

'I would also like to thank councillors Henderson and Thompson for their continued advice, support and contribution to our meetings and my fellow community councillors who give of their time willingly.

'I am also most grateful to the Braes and the Lochaber Times for their support in publishing our minutes and any articles of local importance.'

Secretary's report, Dana MacLennan: 'At last year's annual general meeting I was co-opted as a community councillor and agreed to accept the post of secretary. To reduce printing and stationery

costs, a generic email address was set up which could be accessed by all community councillors.

'The change of venue has also proved beneficial providing us with a warm welcoming meeting place and for a donation to Lochaber Foodbank one of our councillors provides home baking and refreshments for everyone who attends.

'I am grateful for the support received from Highland Council staff at Carr's Corner for their assistance patching our minor roads, providing grit bins and gritting during a difficult winter.

'We continue to raise our profile by attending outside meetings to ensure our community's voice is heard. We are active members of the Lochaber Transport Forum and Bus User's Group and were pleased to see new coaches on the Inverness/

Fort William Citylink route and the introduction of smaller buses on the Roy Bridge 41 service. We have secured a minor route change, but will continue to monitor the performance of all operators.

'The condition of the A82 and A86 trunk roads has caused the most complaints this year and with the assistance of Donald Cameron MSP and the regular exchange of emails we finally got a meeting with representatives of Transport Scotland and BEAR Scotland and some action to address the deterioration of the roads. We will continue the dialogue until we achieve the improvement required.'

Approval of annual accounts: Treasurer Brian Donald circulated a copy of the annual accounts as required by Highland Council which had been examined by an independent examiner. A copy of the signed accounts once approved would be forwarded to Highland Council.

Election of office bearers: The following office bearers were proposed and elected: chairman, John Fotheringham; treasurer, Dana MacLennan. In the absence of any nominations for secretary, John Fotheringham agreed to resume the role of interim secretary.

Previous minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on May 1, 2018 were approved.

Matters arising:

Highland Council: The chairman thanked the Highland Council's roads department and Ian Bruce-Low in particular for the speedy repair to a pavement in Spean Bridge after an overweight lorry damaged the surface. He also reported on ongoing communication between himself, a resident of Upper Inverroy and Highland Council concerning excessive speed on the Upper Inverroy Road. An advisory 20s Plenty and cutting the verges was being explored, although it may require the support of local residents.

Continuing concern about the bridge at the bend at Glen Gloy would be forwarded to Highland Council.

BEAR and Transport Scotland:

Although there has been some progress on outstanding trunk road issues a number remain outstanding.

Transport Scotland is now claiming the 40mph speed limit in the National Speed Limits Review for the A86 between Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge was an error, but will consult with the Highland Council Development Team on extending Spean Bridge's speed limits.

It has confirmed a controlled crossing on the A86 and an uncontrolled crossing on the A82 will be implemented as part of proposed planning conditions.

It was agreed the community council would continue to monitor the situation.

Public Service Ombudsman:

The chairman confirmed that correspondence which had been circulated had confirmed community councils were not permitted to complain to the Ombudsman. However, following a discussion, the chairman agreed to further investigate how the community council could pursue its complaint and report back.

Fire and Rescue Service Review: In addition to the public consultation, the chairman had forwarded to Rab Middlemiss, area manager Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, a letter detailing local concerns and seeking his support to secure an upgrade for the local RTA unit. He had agreed to forward it to Fire and Rescue HQ and the local unit appreciated the community council's stance.

Bus services: The chairman reported that Shiel Buses has secured the emergency contract for the 41 service from July 1 till August 20 and the service and route will remain the same.

The permanent contract was out to tender and the new contractor should be appointed by August 21.

New name: Primary seven pupils at Spean Bridge Primary School have been asked to come up with a new name for the community council with a prize for the winner which would be decided at the next meeting on Tuesday July 3.

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Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

A retrospective look at the Roamer columns of the early 1990s.

Joe Gillies didn't know where to put himself while entertaining – in his own inimitable style – in the Alex.

Throughout the evening he had been asked to read out birthday and anniversary dedications. Then a large piece of paper was clipped to his music stand. Written on it was a request for Joe to play a tune for '15 ex-call girls'. Joe's innate sense of West Highland propriety caused his eyebrows to be raised – till he saw the large group of former Fort William telephone operators waving to him.

A burglar alarm sounded in premises in the High Street at the weekend. 'PC Mac' was detailed to call at Inverloch Court in the village to alert the keyholder – who is not on the phone. Let's say the keyholder's name is MacSporran – which it isn't. Anyhow officer Mac gets himself down to Inverloch Court and goes to number such and such. Looks at the name plate under the doorbell. It read 'Friedland'. So PC Mac mused they hadn't given him the right house for Mr MacSporran. Gets on the radio to control and advises accordingly. 'Oh, maybe we misread the number. Try number so and so.' Officer Mac meanders a bit further along the Court. Finds the number and does an action replay of looking at the name beneath the doorbell. Shines his torch on it. What's on it? 'Friedland!' 'There's a heck of a lot of Friedlands living in the village, all of a sudden,' thinks PC Mac. Gets onto the two-way to advise that the folk at both numbers appeared to be related, but not to a MacSporran. Back comes a message – amid stifled laughter – 'Friedland is the name of the firm that manufactures the doorbells!' James Macintyre's farewell to his contact lenses – part two:

To Sandy, said Cindy, 'Now, Dad, don't be windy,
But I think James'll take a dim view.'

So, upstairs, face red, to his son-in-law's bed,
'James. I'm afraid I've bad news for you'

The response, you might think, would have made Sandy blink,
As James's eyes they began to go round.

'Well, when you've been cured, I hope you're insured,
'For they cost me a hundred and ten pound!'

Nothing for it then, but to give all the gen
When insurance man they both faced.

Said Sandy's wife Lizzie, 'We're in a bit of a tizzy
About two contact lenses
Sandy's misplaced'.

'When last were they seen? –
Where might they have been?
'Have you had a really good scout?'

'Well, they're actually quite handy – very close to my Sandy.
'They're on his inside - looking out!'

Insurance man shook his head.
'I'm sorry – no bread.
'You'll just have to carry the cost.
'I appreciate your aim, but you haven't a claim,
'You see, the lenses haven't been lost'.

So now, looked at starkly, or
through two lenses darkly,
'Sandy Penny' could well, from now hence
Be known to the nation, in these days of inflation,
As 'Sandy, 11,000 Pence!'

The facial expressions of the Bank of Scotland staff were a collective picture on Monday as the Nevisport 'Barrow Boys' deposited the proceeds of their coin collection for Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team. The hoard was so huge that a wheelbarrow had to be borrowed from the 'Burgh' to convey it along the High Street. And when the counting

stopped, the tellers told me the yield was £740 for this famous, favourite cause.

During the soup and sandwich recess after the leisure and recreation committee meeting in Lochaber House, Councillor Iain Thornber was feeling a bit gallus. Off came the tweed jacket to reveal the Thornber trousers held up by a belt. Then he produced a pair of bright red braces. He attached these to his breeks, but couldn't carry out the appropriate contortions to fasten them to the rear buttons of the trouser. So he gave delegated powers to Councillor Nan Forbes. This done, the Thornber trousers were firmly held by belt – and braces. A very useful combination for decision making at Lochaber District Council meetings.

No doubt Fort William will be tidied up for the Royal Tercentenary Visit. The word is the Queen will be laying the foundation stone for the An Aird development. So, obviously, an almighty clean-up of the area is in store. Starting, hopefully, with the flotsam at the Old Fort. Someone from the reception committee should be delegated to take action on the assorted rubbish washed up on the Fort shore. That depends, of course, on there being space on the council freighters after they've been loaded up with the cigarette ends which are strewn all over town.

The story of the alleged shortage of shops selling knickers in Fort William continues to excite daily papers. Indeed one lady-about-town has just taken receipt of a commodious pair – sent by friends in Frankston, Australia! Apparently her ex-pat friends had been briefed about the 'smalls saga' courtesy of the Roamer column sent overseas from the Fort. Fortunately MacLennan's continue to come to the rescue locally.



Dr John Wallace, right, is presented with his award by Adam Palmer.

Lochaber GP commended for dedication to patients

A Lochaber GP has been recognised by NHS Highland for his 'exemplary dedication' to his patients.

Dr John Wallace, a GP partner at Craig Nevis Surgery in Fort William, recently won a Highland Quality Approach (HQA) award to commend the Lochaber doctor in continually going 'above and beyond' to deliver quality palliative care.

The nomination came from community nurses based in Lochaber who work closely with Dr Wallace and are all in agreement he should be recognised for the time, effort and support he gives the team in their care of patients.

The nursing team said Dr Wallace is very popular with patients and staff for his care and

consideration and for treating all patients equally, showing a genuine interest in their care.

He has even been known to take patients to appointments when patient transport has fallen through, wash patient's laundry and visit patients on his days off.

On winning the award, Dr Wallace said: 'I would like to thank the community nursing team for their nomination but am sure I don't deserve it alone as we have an absolutely excellent dedicated team of community nurses and other community staff in Lochaber.'

Adam Palmer, employee director, presented Dr Wallace with his award earlier this month. He added: 'It was a pleasure to present an HQA award to such a worthy winner.'

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3 PEAKS RACE



King of the Mountain winners Stu Walker and Jon Morgan make their way back down Ben Nevis after Storm Hector disrupted the last leg of the race.

Wild Lochaber weather hampers Three Peaks Yacht Race finish

The annual Barmouth to Fort William Three Peaks Yacht Race is always a great test of endurance, in both sailing and running, and this year the weather conditions for the race pushed teams to the limits to cope with the extremes of west coast offshore and mountain weather.

The third stage from Whitehaven to Fort William is the longest sail of the race, rounding the Mulls of Galloway and Kintyre and passing through the tidal gates and variable winds of the Inner Hebrides. After days of calm, those winds were about to gust to nearly 40 knots as Storm Hector shattered the stable weather pattern, and conditions turned from no wind at all to storms.

Wild Spirit and Digital Built Consultants broke away, racing to get into Fort William before the worst weather hit.

The two leading boats raced neck and neck, day and night to get an advantage for their runners on the final peak, Ben Nevis. Passing the Corran Narrows on the final approach to the finish, they were still only a couple of metres apart after four days of racing.

Wild Spirit crossed the line first by a few minutes with their runners primed to leap ashore and run up to the snow covered summit of Ben Nevis, only to be told the race had to be put on hold for safety reasons until the storm eased.

In the 40-year history of the race, it is only the second time Ben Nevis has been closed to runners. (The last time was in 1978 due to heavy snow.)

The deflated runners had to wait until the next day to complete a shortened run part way up Ben Nevis to complete the race and Wild Spirit, skippered by Paul Jackson, scooped most of the trophies as first over the line and winners on handicap in a corrected race time of four days two hours and 13 minutes, just 21 minutes ahead of Digital Built Consultants.

New first team coach for South Lochaber Thistle

Kinlochleven football club South Lochaber Thistle have announced that former Inverness Caledonian Thistle player Russell MacMorran will take up the role as first-team coach.

The club welcomed MacMorran onto the SLT coaching staff last week and will begin work over the summer before the start of the Glasgow Greater Premier AFL Division 2 season kicks off in August.

Having been a player with Inverness Caledonian Thistle under Sergei Baltacha, MacMorran went on to play in the Highland League with Forres Mechanics.

Despite cutting his playing career short, he has maintained an interest in football through coaching, having coached youth football in Mallaig.

Russell will look to double up his position as first-team coach with helping to set up the club's new primary school initiative in South Lochaber.

Manager Alan Gray had this to say on the club's new man: 'On meeting with Russell, it

FOOTBALL

was clear that he has the same vision for football in the area and community involvement.

'Alongside this he has a good reputation for his coaching ability and we can't wait to have him on the training park.'

Club stalwart Gabor Tot will be assisting MacMorran next season after being named assistant manager.

Tot is a well-known face on the Lochaber football scene and has been involved in the club on and off since the club started.

A change of circumstances has led to Gabor being able to commit to an official role within the club for the coming season.

And on the playing side, former Fort William FC regular, Barna Tot, has agreed to turn out for the Kinlochleven outfit next season.

Gray played alongside Tot for Ballachulish in the local welfare league before becoming his coach at Fort William FC and he is a well-liked figure locally.



Russell MacMorran.

According to SLT, increased work commitments meant Tot has been unable to commit to Highland League football and has found a new home with the amateur club.

Gray said: 'Barna is a young player with a huge talent. From working with him at

the Fort, he is a pleasure to coach and has a lot of potential which we feel we can help him realise.

'I am sure he will prove to be a big signing for us and we look forward to seeing him in the red and black this coming season.'

Mallaig prove too strong for Portree

Portree	1
Mallaig	3
William Wilson League	

Mallaig started the game the better side and took the lead early on with a snap shot from Gordy Jamieson with his left foot from the edge of the box finding the net despite a strong hand to it from the goalkeeper.

Shortly afterwards, Mallaig added another goal thanks to a well-driven shot 35 yards out from Rhys Macleod, leaving the goalkeeper with very little chance finding the left corner of the goal.

Mallaig played some great football and had a couple of good chances through Brett Macmillan who unfortunately for Mallaig came of injured midway through the first half. This gave the opportunity to Jordan Coull to come on and

make an impact for his first appearance of the season.

Portree grabbed a goal to take them back into the game a few minutes before half time with a scrappy goal from a corner that Mallaig failed to clear, a second ball found its way to the Portree man

who tucked it in from a few yards out.

The second half started the same way as the first half ended with Portree on the front foot but failing to create something past a very well organised Mallaig side. It wasn't until Andrew Sneddon

FOOTBALL

scored another great goal for Mallaig, cutting in on his right foot to find the top right hand corner and leaving the goalkeeper no chance.

Mallaig then began to create more chances with a couple from Ryan MacDonald, Gordy Jamieson, Jordan Coull and one from Bradley Flannigan who impressed in his first game since rejoining the club.

It was a good performance from Mallaig, who were missing a host of key players. Good performances all round from Mallaig but the man of the match was Liam McLean, playing his first game in two years with a solid performance at the back.

Next up for Mallaig is Kyle away in the league on Saturday.



Mallaig FC.



All the netball teams competing in this year's tournament.

Spean take top spot in netball tournament

Spean Bridge Primary triumphed at the Lochaber primary schools netball tournament, beating this year's league champions, Lundavra Primary, in a tense final, which was decided by just one goal.

Both teams have shown a massive improvement since last year, with pupils and coaches working really hard at their regular after-school sessions.

Although the tournament is held on

just one evening, the league runs over two terms, with each primary school arranging to play the others.

This year, second-place in the league was secured by Caol Primary, with Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar taking third.

The inter-schools netball competitions are organised as part of the Active Schools programme but would not be possible without considerable help.

NETBALL

Bridget Thomas, Active Schools coordinator, said: 'Huge thanks to the pupils from Lochaber High School who did a great job umpiring, timing and score keeping and to the teachers, senior pupils, school staff and parents who support and coach the primary school teams through the year.'

Kinlochleven High's Dent wins big in Fife bike classic

Kinlochleven High School's Alex Dent took one of the biggest scalps of his career in the recent Spokes/Limits Kingdom Junior Classic in Fife.

The S6 pupil, who rides for the Fife-based Spokes Racing Team and was one of the youngest in the event, capitalised on his local knowledge of the roads to win the first stage, timing his final attack perfectly in the climb to the finish on the summit of Falkland Hill.

It meant Dent headed into the final stage of the two-day race on Sunday June 10 – the latest round of the British Cycling | Junior Men's Road Series featuring 80 of the top junior riders – with a 1:27 mins lead over second-placed Harry Askew.

Dent was unable to maintain his dominance, finishing the second day just off the main field as Isaac Peatfield took the second stage win.

However, thanks to a strong team performance, Dent was still able to retain the leader's yellow jersey and the overall win in the best performance of his racing career to date.

Speaking about the race afterwards, Dent, who won the first 70-mile stage by an im-

pressive 90 seconds, told the Lochaber Times: 'The race had a summit finish which suited me and I had the race as one of my targets for the season so it felt incredible to accomplish my goal.'

'What made the win even more special was that the race was organised by Spokes and a rider from the team had never won the event.'

'Then on the second day of the event I was wearing the yellow leader's jersey and had

to chase those challenging my lead all day, which was exhausting.'

'However, it was a great feeling to lead the peloton in the yellow jersey.'

'I hope to become a professional cyclist in the future and this success means I am closer to my ultimate goal.'

Dent has now been road racing for around six years although he began by mountain biking at Nevis Range.

He moved to Lochaber 11

CYCLING

years ago from Lancaster where his father, a former Great Britain team cyclist himself, owned a bike shop.

'That is the main reason I started,' explained Dent. 'Until this season, I had been racing for the Nevis Cycles race team, based in Fort William, but now that I have moved into the under-18 category, I have been selected to join the Spokes Racing Team, based in Fife, which is made up of some of the best riders from Scotland and the rest of the UK.'

'My older brother Stephen also raced for this team although he is now living in Belgium to pursue cycling as a career.'

'This year is my first as an under-18 which means I can now race on open roads and over a much larger distance which suits me better, rather than the closed circuit events for the under-16s.'

'The Spokes team is a great atmosphere to be in. Living in the Highlands, there are very few road racing cyclists, particularly my age, so the team makes for great fun and helps me enjoy my racing more.'



Alex Dent leads the chasing pack home on day one.

GOLF

MacIntyre in the money

Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre made the cut after finishing in a creditable 33rd place out of a field of 156 in the Hauts de France Open played at Saint-Omer Golf Club in Lumbres last week.

Robert carded rounds of 74, 71, 73 and 70 for a total of 288.

The Glencruitten golfer makes a return to home soil this week when he takes part in the European Challenge Tour's SSE Scottish Hydro Challenge hosted by Macdonald Hotels and Resorts at the Spey Valley Golf Club in Aviemore. Play gets under way today (Thursday).



Robert MacIntyre.

LOTTERY NUMBERS

Lochaber Club Lotteries

Caol Lottery numbers were 1, 5 and 18. No winners. Jackpot for draw today (Thursday) is £300.

Ballachulish Shinty Lottery numbers were 6, 15 and 18. No winners this week so a £400 draw next week.

Caol Community Centre bingo lotto numbers were 6, 9 and 11.

No winners so jackpot next week is £1600.

SNOW SPORTS

Glencoe ski area event to feature tribute to murdered MP Jo Cox

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hopes it will go ahead, weather permitting.

'It's not going to be a vintage year for snow but should still be more than enough to have some fun,' added Meldrum.

As in previous years, the resort's Clifty lift will run for half an hour in the morning around 10am for experienced skiers.

The resort plans to organise a barbecue at the Plateau Café for hungry snow sports fans.

'The last chairlift down is at 4.15pm after that it's walking down,' added Meldrum.

Glencoe's northerly latitude means that in mid-summer it hardly gets dark at all, with daylight from around 3am to 11pm.

Meldrum went on to say that Glencoe Mountain Resort has a long history of people from different backgrounds coming together to share their love of the outdoors and resort staff believe it seems a very fitting space in which Jo's approach to life can be celebrated and shared.

And he concluded that the event will be 'a great opportunity to enjoy all that we have in common and raise a toast to the life of Jo and all that she worked hard for, recognising the value of all that unites us'.

LT

DRESSAGE



Laura MacLachlan and her horse- Capitalist

Ballachulish rider wins veteran dressage championships

Laura MacLachlan and her horse Capitalist won the Scottish Dressage Elementary Veteran Championships 2018 recently.

Qualifiers were held all over Scotland between April 2017 and March of this year.

They qualified at Netherton Equestrian Centre in Perthshire and won the championship at Inchcohoons Equestrian Centre in Errol, Perthshire.

MacLachlan owns and competes two horses, Capitalist (aka Mac) and Alfie.

She competes at elementary level with Mac and Preliminary with Alfie. MacLachlan has shown Mac both locally and at county level.

She has had numerous top placings at Blair, won Supreme Hunter Championship at Ingliston's Grand Slam and has qualified several times for the Equifest Hunter Championship.

GOLF

Isle of Skye results

Ladies' section: Sunday June 10, medal – 1, Donalda Johnston 85(20) net 65; 2, Sandra Dew 103(36) 67; 3, Jill Mackinnon 93(19) 74.

Tuesday June 12, Stableford – 1, Donalda Johnston 35pts; 2, Sandra Neill 32 pts; 3, Sandra Dew 30pts.

Gents' section: Sat/Sun, June 9/10, Stableford – 1, Daniel Macdonald 44pts; 2, Danny Steele 41pts bih; 3, Kyle Pirie 41pts.

Wednesday June 13, Strath Cup – 1, Donald Bethune 39pts; 2, John Allan Macleod 37pts; 3, Lou Gordon 36pts.

SHOOTING

Wet conditions at Glenfinnan

Glenfinnan Gun Club held a shoot on Saturday in wet conditions.

There was a disappointing turn-out of just 13 guns. First competition for the Angus The Gate Quaich was won by I Love (senior); second competition for A Mackellaig Shield won by I Love (senior)/Ewen McColl; third competition for MacCracken Cup won by David MacKenzie; high gun for the day for J MacLeod Cup won by David MacKenzie; Under-18 won by Cameron Morgan.

Inverlochy take the honours at Macaulay sixes

The Artemis-sponsored Macaulay Sixes took place on Sunday at Mossfield Stadium in Oban and attracted 29 teams.

The winners of the main competition for P7 and under were Inverlochy, who defeated Taynuilt 1-0 in the final, with Taynuilt taking the Oban Celtic Shield.

The Alastair Campbell Shield for P5 and under was won by the Braxi Boys, also from Inverlochy, who defeated Bute in a very exciting final after extra time by one penalty to nil.

The Macaulay Development

PRIMARY SCHOOL SHINTY

Trophy was won by Rockfield Rapids. The best boy of the tournament was Duncan MacEwan from Rockfield and the best girl was Anna Nicholson from Kyles.

The Macaulay Association would like to thank everyone involved on Sunday, especially the parents and coaches who took their teams to the event, the girls in the teas, raffle and tuck shop, the referees and scorers, and to Artemis, the sponsor who presented each team with a bag of sports products.



Winners of the Oban Celtic Shield were Taynuilt.



Rockfield Rapids won the Macaulay Development Trophy.



The best boy and girl of the tournament Anna Nicholson Kyle's and Duncan MacEwan Rockfield.



Bute.



Kyles.



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
'More win MacTavish Cup



Nevis Range has just announced a deal to support local rider Mikayla Parton for the new season.

Nevis Range support for Fort rider Parton

Nevis Range has announced a year-long support deal with local mountain bike rider Mikayla Parton.

Talented Parton, 21, who is also a Nevis Range ski instructor, is a winner of the Fort William Downhill National Round.

Parton, who will be a supported rider for 2018/19, is a regular face at many mountain bike races around the UK, including SDAs, British Downhill National Rounds and Scottish Enduro Series Round.

Nevis Range and Trek Bikes have been working together to bring on young local talent and assist them in the quest to realise their potential to compete on the world stage.

For season 18/19, Mikayla will

ride aboard the Trek Session 8 and Trek Remedy 7 and Nikki Stafford, marketing manager at Nevis Range, says the young up-and-coming star has huge potential.

'Mikayla's results definitely show her potential. Her passion for bikes and riding is something that is infectious and fits perfectly with the Nevis Range family,' she said.

'Mikayla will also act as a brand ambassador for Nevis Range and continue helping with the local school's bike club in order to bring on even more local talent.'

Chris O'Brien, commercial manager at Nevis Range, added: 'This is exactly what the partnership with Trek is all about.

'Our ambition is to make Nevis Range the heart of mountain biking in Scotland. The ability to support talented young local riders is at key part of that ambition.

'The whole team here is really looking forward to working with Mikayla and we look forward to seeing her future success.'

For her part, Parton is delighted with the support deal. She said: 'I'm so excited to be joining the Nevis Range family as a supported rider.

'I've grown up in Fort William and although I didn't grow up riding mountain bikes, Nevis Range was always a big part of my life through skiing.

'I've skied here all my life and

MOUNTAIN BIKING

worked as a ski instructor since I was 16 so I have real love for the place – it's home.

'I can't wait to see Nevis Range develop further as a international mountain bike destination and I am extremely happy to be part of it.'

And Parton continued her success at the weekend with a win at Innerleithen in the Scottish Downhill Association (SDA).

She took the win on the Trek Bicycle Session 8 and says it 'rode like a dream' and it sets her up for a good performance in the British Championship event at Glencoe next month.

Glencoe ski area event to feature tribute to murdered MP

SNOW SPORTS

This weekend's celebration of snow sports and the longest day at Glencoe ski area will this year feature a tribute to murdered MP Jo Cox.

The event is part of a national celebration of Mrs Cox's life taking place at the weekend, under the banner The Great Get Together to coincide with what would have been her 44th birthday.

The MP for Batley and Spen was murdered two years ago by neo-Nazi Thomas Mair in a politically-motivated attack during the EU referendum campaign.

'Glencoe mountain has a long history of people from different backgrounds coming together to share their love of the outdoors and seems a very fitting space in which Jo's approach to life can be celebrated and shared,' said Glencoe resort owner and managing director Andy Meldrum.

Saturday's event also celebrates snow sports and the longest day of the year and will be the first for two years if it goes ahead, with last year's staging cancelled due to inadequate snow cover.

Despite much better snowfall this past winter, warm weather in May and June has also impacted this year's event, but the centre

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