

The Oban Times

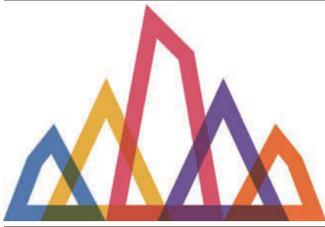
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**HISTORY
HERITAGE &
ARCHAEOLOGY**
• 2017 •



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inside



Body lies in busy A&E due to staff cuts

LOUISE GLEN
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THE BODY of a patient lay on a trolley in the accident and emergency department of Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital for 11 hours as there was no night porter to take it to the mortuary.

Staff are now demanding arrangements are put in place by hospital management to have someone on call in the evening and during the night so a similar situation does not arise again. It is understood the body was left in a room in A&E, causing distress to staff who were on duty, until the porter collected it in the morning.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) - formerly the health board - said: 'Due to patient confidentiality we would not be able to comment on the specific case mentioned, however, there can be a range of reasons why a body is not moved immediately to the mortuary.'

'This could include the need for specific arrangements having to be put in place to move the body, instructions from the police, the family wanting time to grieve or the staff on duty being extremely busy dealing with attendances at A&E.'

'In all circumstances, our staff would treat the body with privacy, dignity and respect.'

'In relation to the question about the hospital's portering service, this was reviewed last

year in consultation with the staff concerned and this led to changes in the rota to ensure porters are on duty when there is a demand for their service.'

'We will be continuing to monitor this review to ensure we have the appropriate staff in place as and when required.'

In a question to Police Scotland, an officer said he did not believe the police had asked for any body to be kept in A&E.

A member of hospital staff, who did not want to be named, said: 'We have not been consulted. There are not enough staff to deal with the higher influx of patients at night, at the weekend and during the summer.'

'It is fair to say that no-one would want any of their relatives left lying under a blanket in a room that staff have to access to get medical supplies. It is not the way we as staff want to treat patients. It is not the respectful way we were all trained to treat the bodies of people's loved ones.'

'Night porters need to be re-introduced as soon as possible. It is a cut too far. It does not work.'

Michael Russell MSP for Argyll and Bute said: 'This is very troubling and distressing, particularly for the relatives of the person involved. It should not have happened.'

'I am keen Oban Hospital continues as a responsive local facility doing all the things a community hospital does best, but, of course, ensuring safe

onward transmission of patients who need a level of care or treatment that cannot be provided by a small facility.'

'I suspect everyone could agree on that but there is no faith presently in HSCP delivering it and if it cannot even provide enough staff to undertake tasks that are demanded by common decency then the current management of HSCP are not doing their jobs.'

'I think there needs to be a long hard look at the HSCP and its track record to date. Many people wished it well when it was established, but as problems multiply, local people are losing faith in its ability to deliver the services they need and must have. Something has to change.'

At Oban Community Council, concerns continued to be raised about communication from hospital and locality management. Community councillor Duncan Martin said: 'No point in blaming the locality, these are cuts that are being made throughout the country and essentially from the government.'

Chairwoman Marri Malloy said: 'It seems to me that with all this centralisation the people of Oban don't matter. We have to change that. Something has to give.'

Councillor Jim Lynch said: 'We have to make a list of what we want and need in the hospital and then tell the hospital and the government what we are looking for.'

Dunbeg's Sine McVicar goes to the top of the class



TES editor Ann Mroz with Sine MacVicar and Justine Greening, Secretary of State for Education.

SELFLESS, exceptional and committed were three words used to describe Dunbeg Primary School's outgoing head-teacher Sine MacVicar, who won a lifetime achievement award last week, writes David McPhee.

Mrs MacVicar has devoted 44-years to the school and her hard work was recognised at the Times Educational Supplement (TES) School Awards 2017.

She was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award after being nominated by her colleagues. The judges of the category described Mrs MacVicar's entry as 'absolutely stunning,' saying: 'She has put the school at the heart of the community and the time, energy and commitment that she has dedicated is extraordinary.'

Speaking after being presented with the award, Mrs MacVicar told the crowd:

'Tonight I think I am nearly speechless. I cannot tell you how proud I am, but how proud of what a wonderful profession to be a part of, having a wonderful team of staff behind me and I am just privileged and honoured. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the judging. I will take this proudly back to Dunbeg primary on the west coast of Scotland and I think they will be very proud as well.'

**INSIDE YOUR
OBAN TIMES
THIS WEEK**

Clan gathering

AROUND 700 Macleans from as far as Mexico gathered at Castle Duart on Mull on Saturday for the Clan Maclean Association's 125th anniversary.
Full story - page two.

Fears raised

SHELTERED housing on the Isle of Mull for people who need extra support is under threat.
Full story - page three.

Hotel plans

PLANS for a new hotel on land next to The Oban Inn have been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council.
Full story - page four.

MBE honour

FORMER racing driver Susie Wolff is awarded an MBE for services to women in sport.
Full story - page five.

Bard of Lorn

THE STORY behind Oban Gaelic Choir's Storras concert on June 8, exploring the riches of Argyllshire Bardachd.
Full story - page seven.

McPhee success

MOTORCYCLE racer John McPhee was celebrating at the weekend after making a comeback from 19th on the grid at the Dutch GP to finish on the podium.
Full story - back page.



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Concern over lack of Oban firemen

A VITAL piece of equipment had to be brought from Clydebank - a round trip of 170 miles - to attend an emergency in Oban, while the same piece of kit lay a mile along the road unused, writes Louise Glen.

Concerns about the length of time it took for a high ladder platform to reach the scene of a fire in Oban were blamed on a lack of staff at Oban Community Fire Station, a spokeswoman has said.

A fire on Oban's George Street on June 6 saw a road closed while flats above Nories were made safe. Police and firefighters were on scene quickly to rescue people from more

than nine homes in the building over three floors. But an Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) took more than two hours to get to George Street.

The appliance could not be staffed from Oban and was therefore unable to be mobilised from the community fire station, and instead one was brought from Clydebank.

Three former firefighters have since raised their concerns with *The Oban Times* about the length of time it took for the ALP to arrive in town.

While not wishing to be named, they said the lack of retained staff in Oban was worrying. One said: 'I do not mean

to be alarmist when I say this, but there is a danger to safety if retained staff do not come forward.'

A spokeswoman said: 'The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service received reports at 11.20am on Tuesday June 6 of a fire at a two-storey commercial premise in Oban.'

'Two fire appliances from Oban were immediately mobilised to the scene with the first arriving within six minutes.'

'Firefighters extinguished the fire and ensured the area was made safe. There were no casualties. A height appliance was also mobilised, however due to the unavailability of retained

crew in Oban this was sent from Clydebank, in accordance with SFRS procedure. It has proven a challenge to recruit retained firefighters in some areas but we would ask local residents to continue to support us to help keep their community safe.'

The spokeswoman continued: 'The SFRS is available to support residents, most notably through our free home fire safety visits where firefighters will provide safety advice and guidance on what to do in an emergency.'

To book a free home fire safety visit call 0800 0731 999, text 'FIRE' to 80800 or visit www.fireScotland.gov.uk

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CalMac honours OAP's cruise 40 years after trip was cancelled



Marlene Gullon and Colin Macpherson on Mull. Photographs: Moira Kerr

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

CALMAC has honoured an offer of a free trip to Oban, Iona and Staffa that it made to a couple from Newcastle in 1977 after their original trip was cancelled.

Mrs Marlene Gullon of Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and her husband Laurence were due to take a day cruise on the *MV Columba* in September 1977, but the trip was cancelled when the ship had to be deployed to pick up livestock from Loch-boisdale.

Then area manager Mr John Mackenzie wrote to the couple apologising for the cancellation but inviting them to take the day



Marlene Gullon.

trip as guests of the company next time they were in the area. The Gullons kept the letter

as a memento for nearly 40 years until Mrs Gullon, who was planning a trip to Oban, contacted CalMac to see if the offer would still be honoured.

Robert Morrison, CalMac's head of service delivery north, said even though it was now a different company 'we were delighted to be able to honour this 40-year-old commitment, and have booked Mrs Gullon and a friend, as her husband sadly cannot make the trip due to ill health, onto the popular 'Three Isles Tour' which we operate jointly with West Coast Motors and Staffa Tours.

'I am sure that Mrs Gullon will find the 40-year wait was worth it and that the trip is every bit as enjoyable as it would have been

Hats and high heels at Duart Castle

MULL and Tìree Federation will be joining in the celebrations to mark the centenary of the Scottish Women's Institutes (SWI) with a garden party at Duart Castle (by kind permission of Sir Lachlan Maclean).

Throughout 2017, a range of events and gatherings are being held to mark the organisation's 100th birthday, including the SWI's own version of Tea in The Park – tea parties which will take place in each federation area on Sunday July 2.

The organisation was formed in 1917 to bring women together,

with a vision to welcome every woman in Scotland. The organisation has remained a constant in Scottish life ever since and is here to educate, to share, to campaign, to learn, to socialise, to build a community and, of course, to have fun. The centenary is a great chance to remind people what the SWI is about and what it has to offer modern women living in 21st century Scotland.

All the news about Mull and Tìree Federation is on its Facebook page www.facebook.com/Mull-Tiree-Federation-SWRI

Murray appointed SNP group leader

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar SNP group has appointed a new group leader after Councillor Donald Manford recently decided to step down. Stornoway North councillor Gordon Murray will take over from Mr Manford who will continue as the local member for Barra, Vatersay, Eriskay and South Uist.

Councillor Manford commented: 'After 10 years as the SNP group leader on CnES, the time is right for me to hand over the reins to someone else. Working closely with colleagues and guiding the group over the past decade has been a huge privilege. I will now

concentrate on ensuring the Comhairle focuses on tackling the huge issues of disparity and opportunity facing the Southern Isles in particular.'

Councillor Gordon Murray commented: 'I am honoured to have been elected to replace Donald. He has been at the heart of our growth at the Comhairle and in presenting a real vision for change as set out in our published manifesto. The group has benefited enormously from his advice, leadership and experience. I am delighted he will still be there to support me as I take on my new role as group leader.'

Chief welcomes clan to Castle Duart



Seven hundred Macleans from all over the world gathered at Duart Castle on Mull last weekend for the 125th anniversary of the Clan Maclean Association. Photograph: Ewan Baxter.

AROUND 700 Macleans from as far as Mexico gathered at Castle Duart on the Isle of Mull on Saturday for the Clan Maclean Association's 125th anniversary.

Sir Lachlan Maclean, 28th chief of Clan Maclean, said the five-day programme of events proved 'very happy and successful', when he was able to show worldwide supporters of the Castle Duart Appeal how their donations were being spent on repairs. Calum Maclean was also installed in Tobermory as the chief's new

piper. The fundraising raffle, drawn by Lady Maclean, raised nearly £10,000 alone. Among the 10 unique prizes were a signed copy of the late Sir Fitzroy Maclean's book *The Isles of the Sea*, a silver kilt belt engraved with the Maclean battleaxe, a silver Iona Maclean Galley brooch, and a specially-woven tartan.

The week also saw whisky tastings with Charles and Hector Maclean featuring rare malts from Tobermory Distillery, trips to Allan

Maclean's restored tomb in Morvern and the Bloody Bay battle site, helicopter rides, and the launch of the new distillery visitor centre at Drimmin. Friday's ceilidh concert attracted a 500-strong audience split between the marquees at Castle Duart and Tobermory.

Two hundred and forty people attended the Kirkin' o' the Tartan at Tobermory Parish Church on Sunday June 25, when the tartans of Clan Maclean, and other clans and countries, were blessed by

the Rev John Paton, Minister of the North Mull Churches, who also preached. The service was conducted by Canon Allan Maclean, formerly Provost of St John's Cathedral, Oban, assisted by Abbot, the Rt Rev Patrick Maclean OSSP, from North Carolina. Mrs Pat McClean, Oregon, called forth the tartans from the congregation. Organisers Anne and Allan Maclean also wished to thank the Scottish Clan Event Fund and Argyll and Bute Council for their financial contributions.

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Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

Ardbeg Distillery

ARDBEG DISTILLERY is one of the three similar establishments to be found in the Kildalton district and on the south east coast of Islay.

It was officially founded by local farmer and distiller John MacDougall, whose family was to play a long and vital role in the history of the island distillery.

In 1838 Ardbeg was bought for £1,800 by the Glasgow spirit merchant Thomas Buchanan but continued to be managed by the MacDougall family.

In the 1850s it was run by sisters Margaret and Flora MacDougall who were probably Scotland's first lady distillers. Also involved was Colin Hay, whose father had been coachman to Walter Frederick Campbell, the island's principal landowner.

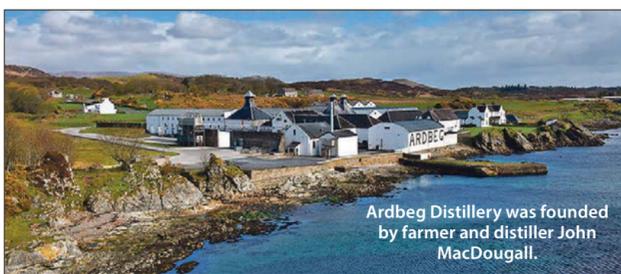
Following the sisters' deaths, the Hay family took over the reins and their names became synonymous with the distillery and the surrounding Ardbeg district – the Gaelic name refers to 'the small promontory'.

By the early 1900s the village was home to around 40 families and had its own pier and school, which had close on 100 pupils.

The whisky writer and traveller Alfred Barnard visited Ardbeg distillery in 1886 and reported that 'it was one of the most interesting on the island' with an annual whisky output of 250,000 gallons which made it the most productive of all the Islay distilleries.

Following the Hay tenure, which was not without its tribulations, it was purchased in 1922 for £19,000 by Alex MacDougall and Co., and with this acquisition a link with the founding family was re-established.

Sadly, this purchase did not fare well and in 1959 the MacDougall company went into liquidation and resulted in the formation of the Ardbeg Distillers Company.



Ardbeg Distillery was founded by farmer and distiller John MacDougall.

In 1973 it came under the joint control of the Distillers' Company Ltd, (the DCL), and the Canadian-owned Hiram Walker and Sons. Hiram Walker took over full ownership in 1877 and four years later the distillery was mothballed. This resulted in the loss of 18 jobs which had a devastating effect on the community.

A bleak period followed before it was taken over Allied Distillers which also had interests in nearby Laphroaig Distillery. Production restarted on a very limited basis with very mixed results and this brought the shutters down for a second time in 1996.

One year later Ardbeg was bought by Glenmorangie plc, now under the umbrella of the French luxury group Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy, which invested £7million in a complete refurbishment programme leading to a resumption and a notable increase in production.

The improvements and renovations saw the introduction of the Kiln Café and the visitors' centre which helped to cement the distillery as a major tourist attraction.

Awards and recommendations followed and their varied whisky selection gleaned international praise and prestige. *Whisky Magazine* was delighted to name Ardbeg as its 'distillery of the year' and the Scottish Tourist Board was happy to grade it

as a four-star visitor attraction. There were further celebrations in 2015 when the island distillery marked its bicentenary. And we can be sure that founder John MacDougall was very much there in spirit!

Top pupil

HIGH PRAISE indeed must go the Romy Mitchell who is this year's dux at the Islay High School.

The Gaelic-speaking Bowmore schoolgirl was the worthy recipient of the Lady Margadale and Gilchrist dux medals at the celebration of achievements ceremony in the school's assembly hall on June 16.

The dux medallist spent her early years in the Lagavulin district and lessons began for her at the Gaelic Medium Education unit attached to the Bowmore primary school.

All wish Romy well as she continues her studies at Edinburgh University where she plans to graduate in mathematics.

Guest speaker at the achievements ceremony was former pupil Peter MacLellan whose managerial skills are much in evidence at his family-owned Bowmore Hotel.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810658.

Two island businesses shortlisted in food awards

THE THREE Chimneys restaurant by Dunvegan, on the Isle of Skye, and Ninth Wave at Bruach Mhor, Fionnphort, Isle of Mull, have been shortlisted for the 2017 Seafood Restaurant of the Year competition.

The award, presented by Seafish and The Caterer, is designed to find the best restaurants cooking and serving delicious seafood dishes.

Launched in 2015, the competition assesses restaurants on the quality of the seafood dishes they serve, their responsible sourcing policies and their knowledge of fish and shellfish species both front and back of house.

Progressing to the next round of the competition, these top 10 restaurants will be visited during July and August by a mystery judge.

The 10 will be whittled down to a top five which will be further appraised by the judging panel in early September, with the overall national winner announced at a presentation in London later in September.

Along with a bespoke trophy for their restaurant, three members of the team from the winning restaurant will be invited on an all-expense paid study trip to Brixham, Devon, to further hone their knowledge regarding the catching, processing and supply of seafood.

'This trip will also provide an opportunity for the team to meet key industry players and experience some of the world's freshest and tastiest seafood.'

Andy Gray, trade marketing manager for Seafish, said: 'The Seafood Restaurant of the Year competition provides a fantastic opportunity to showcase the wide range of restaurants, pubs and cafés that are excelling in providing customers with top-quality fish and shellfish dining experiences.'

Alex Aitken, chef-patron of The Jetty in Christchurch, Dorset, the 2016 winner, said: 'Winning the Seafood Restaurant of the Year award in recognition of the quality of the food we serve and also for the care taken in responsibly sourcing the fish and shellfish we use, meant a lot to the whole team – especially as the competition is judged and decided by our peers and industry experts.'

Islay tidal park given go-ahead

A 30-TURBINE tidal park, to be sited off the south-west coast of Islay, has been granted planning consent.

West Islay Tidal Energy Park will have a generating capacity of up to 30 MW, enough to power around 18,000 homes.

The DP Marine Energy Limited development will be located approximately six kilometres off the south-west coast of Islay and will create up to 32 full-time jobs.

Scottish Government minister for business, innovation and energy Paul Wheelhouse said:

'Marine renewable technologies offer huge potential to the Scottish economy – and to rural communities throughout the world.'

'Scotland has a third of UK's tidal stream resources and two-thirds of its wave resources. We are also home to the world's leading wave and tidal test centre, the world's largest planned tidal stream array and the world's largest tidal turbine.'

'The West Islay Tidal Energy Park builds upon this strong foundation.'

'Its 30 turbine array will generate up to 30 MW, enough to power almost 18,000 homes, helping us to generate more clean, green electricity in Scotland and to meet our climate change obligations.'

Oban Times
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01631 568000

Barra fisherman banned from road for two years

A BARRA fisherman accused of driving like a 'lunatic' has been disqualified for two years.

Oran Joseph Boyd, 18, of 9 Bayherivagh, Isle of Barra, admitted driving a van dangerously and at excessive speed in the wrong direction on the one-way George Street, Breadalbane Street and Dunollie Road in Oban on June 3, causing oncoming vehicles to take evasive action.

Boyd also admitted an earlier charge of careless driving on February 25 on the A85 at Arrivain near Tyndrum, where he was recorded driving at 101mph, exceeding the 60mph limit.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC asked Boyd's defence agent Alastair Gray at Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday: 'What is going on with this young man? He is behaving like a lunatic.'

Mr Gray responded: 'He fails to understand a driving licence is a privilege not a right. He has spent two nights in custody as a result of his behaviour. He accepts he behaved in an unacceptable manner. He has learned a valuable lesson.'

Sheriff Anderson told Boyd he was lucky to be in Oban Sheriff Court rather than the High Court facing a charge of death by dangerous driving.

She said: 'This is exactly the kind of dangerous behaviour that can result in death. This fortunately was not the case here.'

She disqualified Boyd from driving for two years and fined him £600 for the first charge, and imposed a further £500 fine for the second, alongside a three-month disqualification to run concurrently. She also ordered him to re-sit his driving test.

Wedding dream come true

Muileachs pull out all the stops to help happy couple

LOUISE GLEN
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A COUPLE who had set their hearts on getting married on a remote beach on Mull had their dreams fulfilled after islanders pulled out all the stops to help them.

Edinburgh couple Marion Dodd and James Morris wanted to get married on 'the most beautiful beach' on the island. But as it is cut off from the road it took quite a bit of help and support from locals to make sure the day went off without a hitch.

As Marion explains: 'We recently eloped to marry on Balfour's Bay on June 17.'

'Mull means a lot to us because I have been visiting the island with my parents and siblings since I was a child.'

'James fell in love with the island almost eight years ago when I first brought him here.'

'Balfour's Bay has always been the most beautiful beach I have ever stepped foot on. We always used to venture round by boat on the rare calm summer days.'

'Mull has so many happy



Marion Dodd and James Morris were married on the beach at Balfour Bay, Mull. Photographs: Margaret Soraya Photography



memories for us, in particular with my dad.

'My dad now suffers from dementia which is worsening. Dad can no longer travel long distances so would not have been able to be with us on Mull, if we'd decided on a big wedding.'

'He would never have wanted me to give up on our dream wedding day so rather than give up on our dream day, we decided to do it our way, no fuss just love.'

'Our minister, the Reverend Liz Gibson, witnesses Arran Gibson and Becca Howard,

photographer Margaret Soraya and two skippers David and Lynne Sutherland embraced our crazy idea and went above and beyond to make our day happen.

'We all climbed into a rib at Fionnphort and battled the rough seas and rain to get to Balfour's Bay.'

'Our day was all about love, laughter, fun and adventure. After the ceremony we enjoyed a bottle of Moët Champagne and cake on the beach before heading back to the cottage to thaw out next to the log burner.'

'We have been overwhelmed by the kindness shown to us by many people, including staff at the Barriemore B&B, CalMac ferries - particularly Morag who raced to deliver my flowers when I accidentally left them - and many locals in Fionnphort, particularly Veronica MacDougall and Linda Cameron.'

'Our biggest thanks go to Lynne and David, who we hired Burnside Cottage from. We had never met them before our day but they drove all the way from Glasgow and back so they could lend us their

rib and skipper the boat, helium wedding balloons included.

'Last Saturday, June 24, we had our wedding reception with our family and friends in Cheshire just five minutes away from my parents house so my dad could be there too.'

'We got the best of both worlds. It was the full works, dinner, some bad speeches, cake, ceilidh etc. And we got to wear our wedding dress and suit all over again!'

Supported housing cut 'short-sighted'

SHELTERED housing on the Isle of Mull for people who need extra support is under threat after residents were told the property is to become a residential home, writes Louise Glen.

The change will mean the loss of much-needed support currently given to residents according to Colin McEwan, a resident and steering group member at Glen Iosal, which is in Tobermory.

He said: 'There is nowhere else on Mull for people with various conditions including mental health issues to stay.'

'This is a central government cut on the home and it is short-sighted. Trust Housing provides our tenancy in Tobermory. At the moment we have a full-time officer, Linda Noble.'

'We have been told that her hours have to reduce as part of a wider saving throughout

Argyll. There has been a £76,000 budget cut to Trust Housing - in order to make the saving staff hours are being cut.'

'They [Trust Housing] are not thinking by any manner of means. The cost of care from Linda at Glen Iosal is probably about £14.80 per resident per week. This equates to an hour-and-a-half a week of care. We get so much more than that.'

'There is no way that by

reducing costs for Linda's work would then work out as a saving.'

'There are a number of residents who want to pay the shortfall for Linda's wages. I have tried to find out the actual figures for the costs of keeping a full-time warden - but I have heard zilch from Trust Housing and the many questions I have asked of them.'

Jennifer Wallace, head of housing and support services

for Trust Housing, said: 'We have received notice from the council that housing support funding for our sheltered development on Tobermory will no longer be available from April 2018.'

'We appreciate this is a difficult time for our staff, tenants and their families. We are currently working with the council, our tenants and the board to discuss how the service will look going forward.'

Pipe band crowned Euro champs



OBAN High School Pipe Band were the Novice Juvenile B winners at this year's European Championships.

The band, who are competing in only their second season together, joined 112 other bands at the event in Forres, Moray.

Tens of thousands of spectators made the journey to watch the championships. Oban High School A Band finished fifth in their category.

Nan Johnstone, a teacher at Oban High

School, said: 'It is the first time the band has won it. They are a fairly new band and it is only their second season of competing, so it is really good. It is a lot of hard work and practice to get to that level.'

Oban High School Pipe Band will continue its hard work into the summer holidays, with solo competitions taking place throughout the summer. The band will be back in action at the Mull Highland Games on July 20.

'It is not a quiet time even though it is the school holidays,' Mrs Johnstone added. 'There is a lot of commitment from all of them.'

The band will be rehearsing at Oban Station Square every Wednesday night, weather permitting, and on the first Thursday of the month they will be practising up at McCaig's Tower, supporting the Oban and Lorn Lions Club.

Rain fails to stop play during a busy weekend in Oban

I was right about last weekend being hectic. Despite the awful weather it was really busy and I was kept on my toes, writes Kay MacDonald.

I'm really looking forward to the new transit marina being finished, it will make the reception we can offer the passengers so much better, coming off a small slip being used by others onto a busy pavement isn't ideal but we've done our best and it has been appreciated.

We have another three cruise ships calling this month - Hebridean Sky, Prisenadam and Aegean Odyssey - with one of them calling twice. Let's pray for some sunshine or at least dry days, it's easier to welcome people to Oban when the rain isn't dripping down your neck.

The Lorne Highland Games were really well attended and



good fun - the weather didn't seem to put anyone off and I know that a lot of the passengers from Star Pride were excited about being able to go to Highland Games. The bottle stall run by the SWI did really well and sold out by 3pm despite having about 200 bottles, and although I didn't see the dog show, I really enjoyed seeing all

the proud pooches and owners with their rosettes.

The event I'm looking forward to next is the quiz tonight (Thursday) in Cuan Mor for the Teenage Cancer Trust. I love a good quiz and we're lucky enough to have a few pubs in Oban who offer weekly quizzes as well as frequent charity events. It's a great way to get

your brain cells ticking over and I'm always amazed by the random facts I remember - never useful ones, just random.

If anyone is planning any events remember to add them to Oban What's On or let us know about them. The more word gets about the better the attendance will be. The Love-Oban facebook page is also there for what's going on in the town, with messages from and about local businesses and some of the random things that can catch my interest during the week.

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend and the sun splits the sky for the start of the school holidays, much needed by pupils and teachers alike.

The picture last week was the railings along the burn in Airds Crescent and this week isn't too far away.

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New hotel planned for Oban seafront

LOUISE GLEN

lglen@obantimes.co.uk

PLANS for a new hotel on land next to The Oban Inn have been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council.

The Argyll Hotel previously stood on the site but was demolished in 2011 and the site has lain derelict ever since.

Callum MacLeod, owner of Piazza and Ee-Usk restaurants on the North Pier, has now proposed a 28-bedroom hotel in its place.

The architect is Shauna Cameron who has been at the forefront of innovative design projects throughout the area, including the Luig Atlantic Islands Centre.

The hotel, which will be built

between the Regent Hotel and The Oban Inn, will have two storeys with a third floor in the roof space above an open reception, dining room and lounge.

The roof is to be finished in blue/black slate with white rendered walls.

Plans seem to suggest there will be two pends on the ground floor to allow access to disabled parking.

Various development proposals for this site have been granted permission in the past, most recently a 63-bed hotel over five floors.

On floors one and two, nine bedrooms look onto the Esplanade, while four suites are in the roof space on the top floor.

It is hoped 12 people will be employed at the hotel.



The old Argyll Hotel was demolished in 2011.

Little princess donates hair to charity



OBAN youngster Rowan MacCorquodale, eight, grew her hair for a year because she wanted to help little girls with cancer.

Rowan recently paid a visit

to hairdresser Christine MacLennan of Reflections Hair Salon, High Street, Oban, who donated her time to prepare and cut Rowan's hair.

Four 12-inch pleats have now been sent to the Little Princess Trust along with £550 which Rowan raised through donations, some at a family wedding in Stornoway,

to help pay for the making of the wigs.

Rowan says she now wants to grow her hair again for the Little Princess Trust and to help even more little girls.



Rugby club offers breakfast and lots of team spirit

OBAN Lorne Rugby Football Club is looking for players to join its successful teams.

To tempt you, they are calling on people to visit the club and enjoy a full Scottish breakfast while watching the game on the big screen, over the next two weekends.

The team that finished second from the top in the West Division 1 league are looking for senior players for its male and female teams, and boys and girls for its junior teams.

While pre-season training got under way on Tuesday there is still space for a few more players. Oban Lorne 1st XV are looking forward to their third consecutive season in West Division 1 under the guidance of head coach Corrie Louw.

Due to league expansion the team will see 22 league fixtures this season meaning the squad will need to be well prepared for the season ahead.

Oban Lorne's 2nd XV and women's fixtures are yet to be announced by their respective leagues.

Pre-season training is open to all players, and beginners are more than welcome.

Times and venues will be confirmed on the club's Facebook page and website.

Oban Lorne RFC will be hosting a British and Irish Lions Breakfast for the three upcoming test matches with the All Blacks on Saturdays July 1 and 8.

The test matches will be shown live on the club's big screen with a full breakfast being served from 8am. Cost per person is £8.50 with proceeds going to club funds.

All members and non-members are welcome to come along.

After the summer holidays mini rugby training will be back on every Wednesday evening apart from during school holidays.

Team manager Darrell Williams said: 'Rugby is all about being part of a team. Joining the team is good for getting fit, playing team games and of course we have a great social life here at Oban Lorne RFC.'

'Anyone who wants to join or wants to know about joining the teams should contact one of the team members. Visit the website obanlorne.co.uk, find them on Facebook or speak to a club member at the next home game.'

Tesco serves up 15,327 meals

TESCO'S food surplus redistribution initiative, Community Food Connection, has now served up 15,327 meals in Argyll and Bute and 10 million meals nationally, helping more than 5,000 charities and community groups across the country.

Working with FareShare, Tesco colleagues in Argyll and Bute have helped enlist local charities to join the initiative.

If you are a charity or community group that could benefit from the support of Community Food Connection, visit www.fareshare.org.uk/ or fareshare-foodcloud@tesco.com to register.

Oban Times
newsdesk
01631 568000



Depute head teacher Neil Mitchell with Lauren Stewart, Patrick Steeman and Alastair MacGregor.

High school's first business breakfast hailed a success

OBAN High School pupils were given the chance to get ahead in the working world, as dozens of business professionals attended a breakfast at the school.

People from a variety of different sectors accepted Oban High's invitation to attend the inaugural event.

Following a quick presentation from school staff to the local businesses, and a bacon roll, an assembly took place where former pupils discussed their chosen careers.

The three guest speakers were Lauren Stewart, Patrick Steeman and Alastair MacGregor. Lauren is manager of the Waterfront Fishhouse Restau-

rant, Patrick works at Oban Distillery and Alastair is chief executive of Argyll Community Housing Association.

After the assembly, there was an event in the library where businesses set up stalls and discussed career options with interested students.

Neil Mitchell, depute head teacher, who was tasked with organising the event, hailed it a success, saying: 'I am delighted so many folk have turned up but it's all about the youngsters.'

'One of the key things is to involve businesses more. We have a super set-up with the Pathways Project.'

The Pathways Project, taught

by Aisling Clark, gives pupils the chance to obtain work experience and qualifications in an industry they are interested in. At the event, Mrs Clark handed out a number of awards to businesses that have gone above and beyond to cater for pupils.

Roddy's Garage, Argyll TSI and St Columba's Primary School in Oban were all commended for their participation in the project.

'This is the next stage,' Mr Mitchell added. 'Trying to bring businesses into the school.'

Anyone who wants to get involved should email Oban High School on enquiries@obanhigh.argyll-bute.sch.uk

DIOPLÒMA ANNS NA MEADHANAN GÀIDHLIG

Tha an cùrsa seo air a dhealbh airson luchd-trèanaidh ullachadh airson saoghal craolaidh an latha an-diugh. Tha oileanaich air a' chùrsa a' faighinn sàr eòlas is brosnachadh bho na diofar òraidichean a bhios a' tadhal orra, a tha ag obair gu proifeiseanta sa gnìomhachais.

'Se cùrsa fad dà bhliadhna a tha seo leis a' chiad bhliadhna aig a cholaiste agus 10 mìosan anns a' ghnìomhachais anns an dàrna bliadhna.

“Chan eil cùrsa cho prìseil coltach ris ann an Alba, a bheir dhut am fiosrachadh agus an tuigse a' dh'fheumas thu airson dreuchd anns na meadhanan.”

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WHITE VAN Man

IT WAS with total disbelief that I heard about the actions of health board bosses who refused to attend a public meeting organised by Oban Community Council (OCC).

The reason given by them was that they did not like the way chairperson Mairi Malloy talked about them.

Fact – points raised by Mrs Malloy are points already discussed by OCC.

Fact – health board officials are public servants and, as such, it is their duty to answer questions put to them by OCC.

As we all know, public health board

officials have been avoiding answering questions about cuts at Lorn and Islands Hospital.

Cuts are causing concern to the community of Oban, especially those who require types of medical attention which are no longer available at the hospital.

Services

Why will the health board bosses not discuss the centralisation of services within the NHS which entails the removal of all but a few essential services from rural hospitals to city hospitals?

If such well-paid public servants do not

wish to answer questions or hear concerns of locals put forward by Mrs Malloy on behalf of the community, can I suggest to them that it is time they considered standing down and giving their position to somebody willing to do their job for them.

The fact of the matter is that underpaid nursing staff are doing their best under very difficult circumstances, at the cost of overpaid civil servants.

It's time for change. Mrs Malloy has put her neck on the line – and I for one support her.



Humza Yousaf

Transport minister confirms A82 to be widened

THE A82 between Tarbet and Inverarnan is set to become a 7.3m wide carriageway, the Scottish Government confirmed today.

Transport minister Humza Yousaf announced Transport Scotland will take forward this design as the preferred option at the A82 summit in Crianlarich on Friday.

The Scottish Government invested £11 million last year on the A82, and is investing a further £11 million this year.

Mr Yousaf said: 'We have looked at the evidence for the A82 and there has been a marked increase in traffic flows suggesting the need for a wider carriageway on the challenging stretch from Tarbet to Inverarnan.'

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for roads and amenity, Councillor Roddy McCuish, said: 'This work will deliver better two-way access for HGVs and a safer route due to the 7.3m width, and also mean future maintenance can be single lane closures as the additional width provides more resilience and reliability.'

At Oban Community Council on Monday evening Mr McCuish again welcomed the news and said he would be working with the government to ensure enough signs were in place to make the road to Oban attractive from Tyndrum.

Oban Times newsdesk
01631 568000

Resident gets heated over issues with Dunbeg homes

SANDY NEIL
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HOMES in Dunbeg's Marine Court are losing hot water and heating regularly due to a failing biomass system, Dunbeg Community Council heard this month.

A Marine Court resident told community councillors that households had repeatedly lost hot water and heating this year, often for several hours 'at the most inconvenient times' due in part to a biomass generator running out of fuel.

Marine Court, managed by West Highland Housing Association (WHHA), is powered by a biomass system designed to provide affordable warmth, where electric or oil-based heating systems would lead to a higher cost. WHHA says hot water should flow constantly and unlimited 30 seconds after the tap is turned.

But, the resident told the Dunbeg meeting: 'The heating cuts out once a fortnight,' and 'there is no backup system' – such as a hot water tank or an immersion switch, or an electric shower, which residents are not allowed to install.

The resident continued: 'We have to pay for it and it is quite expensive,' costing some families approximately £30 or £40 a week.

According to a community Facebook page, hot water failed in the depths of winter in January and February, and most recently just before 9am on June 7.

WHHA chief executive Lesley McInnes told *The Oban Times*: 'We had two reported incidents of the biomass system being down on February 14 and February 21 that were out of hours emergencies, but our contractor attended. We found that there was a pressure drop in the

system. As this happened twice within a short period of time we investigated, and as a solution we fitted a pressure regulating valve and our system is not showing any other reports.

'There is a back-up system which immediately kicks in when the main system fails. The back-up system is operated with LPG, so if there are any issues with fuel delivery we have an alternative fuel source. We fully understand that this can cause people inconvenience and we want to ensure that we do diagnose faults as quickly as possible.'

The resident also voiced complaints of problems with the build quality in Marine Court, such as badly fitting, leaking doors and windows, and damp in bathrooms and bedrooms, with black mould growing 'no matter how well ventilated it is'.

Ms McInnes responded: 'All of the properties meet all the

required national standards. A number of people complained about the doors, and new doors were fitted last year.

'On the issue of black mould this can be due to issues of ventilation – although it very much depends on circumstances.'

'We would want to check that it is a ventilation issue, so it is important that people let us know.'

The resident added WHHA have 'washed their hands' of repairs: 'We are fed up of going to WHHA: we just do it ourselves.'

Ms McInnes responded: 'WHHA are now responsible for carrying out the repairs and this year we have received 47 repairs calls that we have responded to – the majority within our timescales.'

'We were disturbed to hear that people feel that we are not responding to any concerns they have and I have asked our staff team to visit each tenant in order

that we can discuss issues with them and agree any follow up action.'

Marine Court's homes are rent-to-buy, and eventually will come up for sale in two years' time, but the resident told us these may prove hard to sell, saying: 'We reckon about half the houses in Marine Court have changed hands already because people have not wanted them, and the other half do not want to buy them. So I do not know what will happen in two years' time.'

Ms McInnes said: 'The properties in Marine Court were let in May 2014 and since this date 16 have become vacant.'

'Of these 16 some have moved within the development, some have left the area and some have moved within the Oban area.'

'No homes are lying empty and for every property that has been vacant we have had a number of applicants for that property.'



Calum Martin with Helen and Donald Finnie following the ceremony.

Musician told to pipe down due to court case

CALUM MARTIN went the extra mile after police ordered him to stop piping a bride into her wedding ceremony because it was disturbing an Oban Sheriff Court case across the road.

Calum, a 29-year-old joiner from Gairlochhead, was seen Helen and Donald Finnie should not lose out on their wedding day, so piped the newly-married couple down the street from Oban Registration Offices to Argyll Square last Wednesday.

He said: 'There is only one chance for the bride to have her big day and be piped in,' he said: 'She is the most important person. It is always traditional the bride and groom get piped in and piped back out.'

At the end, when the court case was finished, Calum piped the new Mr and Mrs Finnie through the streets of Oban to make up for lost tunes. 'The couple were more than happy,' he said: 'They loved it.'

Call to save Mull machair

VOLUNTEERS at Mull's Calgary Bay need help to protect its unique machair and are raising money to protect the fragile ecosystem.

A successful fundraising page set up to raise money to help visitors understand the fragile and unique nature of the land has bought fencing and worked with the landowner – but the group still has ambitions to raise more.

Jan Brown, of the Friends of Calgary Bay committee said: 'All avenues of funding have been explored and crowdfunding is the only quick way to raise the money for the fencing. Please help us bring the machair back to life by donating on the JustGiving page found on Facebook, Friends of Calgary Bay page, and Twitter.'

Susie Wolff celebrates MBE with family

FORMER racing driver Susie Wolff was awarded the MBE at an investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace last week, writes David McPhee.

Oban-born Susie, whose maiden name is Stoddart, received the MBE for services to women in sport.

Susie's family own Stoddarts of Oban – a motorcycle dealership.

She brought her mum and dad, John and Sally Stoddart, to the ceremony along with her husband Toto Wolff.

Susie, who now lives in Switzerland, has had a stunning career in motorsport, progressing from karting to formula three, before being signed by Williams' Formula One team as a development driver.

Following her retirement in 2015, she focused on a new project - Dare To Be Different, which aims to inspire and help women working in, or who want to launch a career in motorsport.

Speaking about watching his daughter pick up her MBE, John Stoddart said: 'It was a fantastic day out. We went to Buckingham Palace. It was awe-inspiring as it was in the ballroom.'

'Susie has put so much hard work in, especially since she



Susie Wolff poses with her MBE medal alongside mum Sally Stoddart, dad John Stoddart and husband Toto Wolff.

started Dare To Be Different – it is now being launched in Germany. Prince Charles chatted to her for a while,' John added. 'He did not expect her to be a racing driver.'

Sally Stoddart said: 'I must ad-

mit, I was extremely proud. She has done so well. I am really, really over the moon. She puts a lot of effort into things. I'm just dead chuffed.'

Susie told her 386,000 fans on Facebook: 'At Buckingham

Palace to receive my MBE – a special day spent with special people.'

'Very grateful to have had the opportunities to follow my passion and chase my dreams. It has been quite a journey.'

'To my brilliant parents who gave me the best start in life, to my brother who supported me each step of the way and to the man who lights me up each and every single day. I am truly thankful.'

Community council calls for Oban Times' campaign to be extended

STAY alive on the A85

OBAN Community Council says it is waiting patiently for a decision about a roundabout on the A85 which it believes will help reduce speeds and substantially improve safety on the trunk road.

Stating its support for The Oban Times Stay Alive on the A85 campaign, the community council said concerns about the road should not stop as you enter the town via the Bealach-an-rioh, but to continue into the town centre.

The issue was raised by a member of the public, Kenny McLennan. He said: 'It is about



The traffic situation at Argyll Square is causing confusion, and concerns have been raised about near misses being an almost a daily occurrence.

time that we sorted out the problems with the roundabout, or whatever it is, on Argyll Square.

'No-one knows where they are meant to be going and what we have is people getting into trouble because it is a complete and utter anomaly in driving.'

Community councillors

agreed that accidents and near misses on the roundabout are an almost daily occurrence.

The roundabout is unique in that it has a double lane and has traffic lights immediately as someone exits or enters onto it.

The Stay Alive on the A85 campaign will now extend from

the turn off from the Connel Bridge to the ferry terminal, and will add to its list of priorities the need for a rationalisation of the roundabout as it stands at the moment.

Next week – your view, what priorities do drivers on the road have for improvements.

The Oban Times petition for safety improvements on the A85.

People in North Argyll have lost far too many friends and family in accidents on the A85 between Oban and Connel.

PLEASE SIGN BELOW:

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and send to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB, or sign the petition online at www.obantimes.co.uk/stayalive85

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OT

Dalmally

An open day was held at the Lochy hydro project near Dalmally. The rather damp day did not deter people from coming along and, given that it was perfect hydro weather, it was quite appropriate that water-proofs and wellies were the order of the day.

The event gave people the chance to see all aspects of a hydro power installation and kicked off with a short introduction from hydro sales manager Mathew Crosher on the key points of the scheme.

The Lochy project is a 2MW classic medium-head, high-flow scheme incorporating a large single intake, large-bore pipeline and two dissimilar Gilkes Francis turbines installed in a new purpose-built powerhouse.

Gilkes first became involved in the project in 2010, following Gilkes Energy's intention to

develop the scheme on the national forest estate which is managed by Forestry Commission Scotland. The scheme started generating in July 2016.

The scheme is adjacent to the Eas a Ghail powerhouse which is a 1.5MW scheme utilising a twin jet pelton turbine, which was also open for viewing.

During the day both the Gilkes and Gilkes Energy teams were on hand to answer questions while guests had access to the powerhouse, along with guided tours up to both intakes.

Caterer Claire Cameron provided bacon rolls and hot soup to warm everyone up after the trips up to the intake and there was an added surprise with entertainment from the Lomond and Clyde Pipe Band.

To sign up for the 2018 open day mailing list visit www.gilkes.com/event-signup.



Lomond and Clyde Pipe Band entertain.

Western Isles

NA H-EILEANAN an Iar MP Angus Brendan MacNeil has been appointed as the SNP spokesperson at Westminster on environment and rural affairs.

SNP Westminster leader Ian Blackford last week announced the new SNP team at Westminster.

Mr MacNeil said: 'As MP for Na h-Eilean an Iar and an active crofter, I am delighted to have been appointed as the SNP spokesperson on environment and rural affairs.'

'Scottish agriculture and

rural communities are particularly reliant on the EU for investment, labour and financial support and, with the commencement of the Brexit negotiations, the UK government must deliver more transparency around this process.

'The SNP will be the strong and effective opposition to this weak Tory government - using our influence to further Scotland's interests and deliver fairer, progressive policies, to make our country the best it can be.'

Invergarry

THE Glengarry Highland Games will be held on Saturday July 1 at 1pm at the Invergarry shinty field.

This is a traditional family-friendly games with all the usual track and field events including heavy events, hill race, children's races,

Highland dancing and a mini Highland games.

The day features Lochaber Pipe Band and displays by Kintail birds of prey with many other entertainments and attractions. Adults £5, OAPs £2, children 50p and free parking.

Readers with district news should sent it to editor@obantimes.co.uk.

Dunbeg



Little Learners' Nursery took part in an inter-generational walk with a group of senior citizens from Oban walking group. The group walked from Little Learners' Nursery to Dunstaffnage Castle and around the forest, stopped for a break and then headed back to the nursery. It was good to see all age groups enjoying a walk together.

Mull

Alex honoured in London

A MULL primary school pupil last week attended the Palace of Westminster after making it through to the final of a national art competition.

Alex Geddes of Lochdonhead Primary fought off stiff competition to win the regional stages of a competition, run by Gas Distribution Network (GDN), to raise awareness of the dangers of carbon monoxide.

The primary seven pupil produced and performed a lyrical poem which saw her win £300 for the school and £150 for herself.

As a result, Alex was invited to attend the UK final in London on Friday June 23, when she met representatives from SGN and GDN, before being given a tour of the House of Commons.

Talking about her success, Alex said: 'I felt shocked when I found out that I had won and would be travelling all the way to London to receive my prize.'

Her mum Lynn added: 'I'm super proud of Alex. She has achieved so much at Lochdonhead Primary School and it's a lovely way to end her time there as she heads off to high school.'

Claire Bidwell, principal teacher at Lochdonhead, said: 'Alex is such a hard-working pupil and her literacy and art achievements this year have been outstanding. Developing engagement and critical curiosity in our pupils is essential to ensuring they have the learning skills to succeed.'

'We researched the devastating effects of carbon monoxide poisoning in the



Alex Geddes.

classroom and the ways to recognise it and prevent it.

'Alex wrote her lyrical poem in class and then extended her learning beyond the classroom using technology to film her performance at home. She has been an inspiration to other pupils and a credit to Lochdonhead Primary school and this reward is so well deserved. Congratulations to Alex.'

You can't touch it
By Alex Geddes
You can't touch it.
You can't taste it.
You can't smell it.

Carbon Monoxide makes your oxygen decrease, so hard, makes me say 'Oh, my word!'

Dizziness, blurry vision, an irregular heartbeat, That's not good, get an alarm!

Comes from cigarettes and chimneys.

CO, known as such, This is a gas, you can't touch!

I told you homeboy! You can't touch it! You can't taste it! Look in my eyes man!

Incorrectly installed

cookers, in un-ventilated places, will give you CO poisoning, it's simple.

DO NOT PANIC! Just evacuate!
Let 'em know you've breathed too much.
'Cos this is a gas you can't touch.

You can't touch it.
You can't taste it.
You can't smell it.

Gives you brain damage and hallucinations, Makes you sweat and shake, You know I'm talking about CO,

You're gonna pass out, you're gonna die. Your brain is 'gonna work hard, CO's in your blood, it's 'gonna quit.

You can't touch it.
You can't taste it.
You can't smell it.

ACCESS Mull and Iona THE Assisting Communities to Connect to Electric Sustainable Sources (ACCESS) project on Mull and Iona uses smart technology to balance local renewable generation and local electrical energy demand from homes and businesses on the islands.

While there is an abundance of renewable energy opportunities in locations such as Mull and Iona, the electrical grid in these areas is often in need of upgrades or lacking in capacity to absorb new, clean generation. ACCESS seeks to enable more locally-owned renewable generation from generators, such as the 400kw community-owned

Garmony hydro scheme used by the project, to connect to the grid at their full capacity.

The ACCESS solution essentially creates a 'virtual district heating' system for customers who are unable to connect to gas or conventional district heating networks, enabling them to also benefit from sustainable energy.

It is hoped that the ACCESS Project will prove a new model that can help make better use of Scotland's variable renewable energy generation. The ACCESS solution is hoped to enable other renewable energy projects to connect to the grid with a 'non-firm' offer across the Highlands and islands.

The local network operator, SSE Networks, has now approved the ACCESS connection solution as one of its non-firm connection offers. This allows other generators to request connection to the network.



Bailey Brown from Tobermory who won first prize for his 5-6 year old poem at the Ardnarmurchan Mod. His very proud and dedicated mum sent his photo to be included in The Oban Times.

Scalpay

HIGH-SPEED broadband has arrived on the small island of Scalpay.

A wireless link is providing access to the same mainstream fibre-based services as is available on the mainland, without the need for subsea cabling.

Wireless to the cabinet technology has been installed as part of the Digital Scotland superfast broadband project, which is a £146 million investment rolling out fibre-based services across the Highlands and Islands.

To bring superfast services to many parts of Scalpay, a radio mast with dishes has been installed by engineers from Openreach, the local network business which is part of BT Group, at North Harbour. The

dishes send and receive radio signals from a site at Sunnyhill more than 6km away at Tarbert, in Harris. These signals are then relayed to green cabinets which serve the local homes and businesses. There are two on Scalpay, one at the exchange and the other at Outend.

For people using broadband on the island, it will be exactly the same as if they were connected up to cabled fibre cabinets used in towns and villages across Scotland. The increase in speed and subsequent benefits are exactly the same. Customers' premises are connected up to the broadband cabinet using phone lines so there is no need for any special dish equipment in the home or business

Lewis

URRAS Eaglais na h-Aoidhe has received £5,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting project, Understanding Our Community's Past.

This is part of a wider project - Building a Future from the Past - based on Eaglais na h-Aoidhe (St Columba's Uì Church and graveyard) which is located at Aighish in the Isle of Lewis.

Made possible by the National Lottery, the project focuses on a geophysical survey, the results of which will lead to a better understanding of the archaeology and historical development

of the church and its environs, and its importance to the community.

Urras Eaglais na h-Aoidhe was founded in 2001 and its aims are to safeguard, consolidate and conserve St Columba's Uì Church.

The church is a medieval scheduled ancient monument and one of the most important archaeological sites in the Isle of Lewis.

It is believed that no fewer than 19 members of the clan Macleod of Lewis are buried here and one of the most significant carved grave slabs is that of Roderick Macleod, seventh chief of that clan, who died in 1498.

Aberfoyle



Councillor Evelyn Tweed meets Josh Stallard and Alison Boa in Aberfoyle.

COUNCILLOR Evelyn Tweed met local business owner Josh Stallard from the Olde Christmas Shoppe as well as Alison Boa from community action group Aberfoyle Village People to discuss concerns over a declining number of businesses operating in the village.

Mr Stallard pointed out that the state of the village had been left to decline over a number of years

and raised his concerns that this was impacting on visitor numbers, which was having an adverse effect on businesses.

The Aberfoyle Village People is a voluntary organisation that aims to find ways to make the village a better place to live and work in.

It has also raised concerns that general maintenance of the area has not been up to standard in recent years.

At Random

MARTIN LAING
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Is school uniform policy too strict?

THERE was general amusement in *The Oban Times* office last week over the story about the boys who wore skirts to their school in Exeter.

They were, of course, protesting at a rule that forbade them from wearing shorts, even as the mercury rocketed up into the 90s (or 30s for those of you of a more modern bent).

The story had me thinking about schools' uniform policies and how strict - or otherwise - they should be.

This is all by way of an introduction to the Oban High policy, which smacks loudly of sexism. A colleague forwarded on to me an email she had been sent from the school on precisely this subject.

It reads: 'Boys and girls
'Standard plain white shirt and school tie, black trousers and plain black footwear (Black trainers are fine - no white logo or trim allowed)

'A plain black v-neck jumper or v-neck cardigan is optional. The v-neck allows the school tie to be visible.

'Girls
'Skirts can be worn but must be no shorter than 'mid thigh.' A reasonable guideline would be that the skirt should be no shorter than the fingertips when your arm is fully extended down by your



Abi Evans.

side. Plain black tights must be worn with skirts.

'Not permitted
'Coloured footwear (black trainers must not have white trim or logos.)

'Leggings and "jeggings".
'Plunging neckline shirts (the tie should sit in the colour at the top button next to the neck.)

'Sleeveless tops.
'Coloured jumpers or hoodies are not permitted as an alternative to a coat. Please just wear a black jumper.

'Short skirts / shorts
'Football strips / offensive casualwear in PE.'

Now, I'm all for school uniforms and would praise the appearance of the young people I see in Oban on a daily basis.

But I have to ask why girls are singled out for stringent guidelines.

Breakfast event is just the business

WHILE I'm on the subject of Oban High, the school earlier this month a 'business breakfast' event that was a huge success.

Dozens of professionals from a variety of different sectors accepted Oban High's invitation to attend the inaugural event, which saw former pupils discussing their chosen careers with current pupils.

What an excellent idea. With a bit of luck, this will become an annual event to illuminate young minds as to the realities of the world of work.

Sporting stars are great ambassadors

IT HAS been fantastic to see three Oban rugby players involved in three different Scotland team this month.

Magnus Bradbury played for the Scottish test team, his brother Fergus represented his country at the World Rugby Under-20 Championship in Georgia, and Abi Evans has been in the Scotland women's sevens squad in the Czech Republic and Hungary.

They are all splendid ambassadors for their home town and evidence of the vibrant rugby scene in the area.

Rugby development officer

Allan Wright does a great job encouraging young people into the sport, but there are many others - too numerous to name, unfortunately - who are crucial to keeping interest levels high.

Pats on the back all round to everyone who coaches, cajoles or carries out unsung work to facilitate youth sport.

Not letting weather rain on her parade

I WAS busy imbibing in an Oban watering hole the other day when I fell into conversation with an American couple here for the Clan MacLean gathering on the isle of Mull.

Beyond the doors of our hostelry, the rain was whistling horizontally and heavily, a situation which became a topic of conversation during our bodega.

The woman surprised me by saying it wasn't bothering her in the slightest. 'I come from California,' she elucidated, 'and we get far too much sunshine.'

What was that old quote about the grass always being greener?

What do you think?

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WYVEX MEDIA



Calum and Ann MacPhail in Fingal's View, the home of his shoemaking grandfather also Calum MacPhail, the Bard of Lorn.

The Empty Sporrán revives bard of Lorn

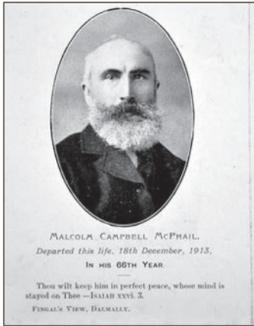
SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

THE Empty Sporrán of the Bard of Lorn, a Dalmally shoemaker called Malcolm 'Calum' Campbell MacPhail, was revived at a Gaelic concert earlier this month, to the delight of his family.

Oban Gaelic Choir explored the riches of Argyllshire Bardachd at its Storax concert on June 8 at the Corran Halls, and featured one poem by Calum MacPhail 104 years after his death titled An Sporan Falamh, *The Empty Sporrán*, with a new tune by the choir's conductress, Sileas Sinclair.

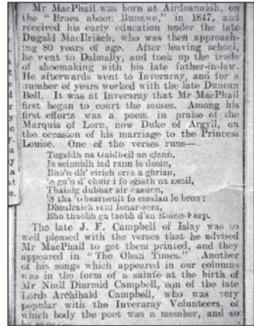
The poem imagines a humorous conversation between a man and his empty sporrán. 'It must have been a bad day that day: not enough shoes being sold,' joked Calum, the bard's grandson, a fiddler also called Calum Campbell MacPhail. 'The work that Sileas Sinclair had put into it brought it to life,' he said. 'She unearthed it and produced the melody for it.'

Calum and his wife of 50 years Ann still live at the bard's cottage in Glenorchy, which the poet named Fingal's View, overlooking Loch Awe, Kilchurn Castle and the monument to another local bard, 'the Gaelic Robert Burns', Duncan Ban MacIntyre. Sitting in the living room of



MALCOLM CAMPBELL MACPHAIL. Departed this life, 18th December, 1913, in his 66th Year.

There will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee - ISAIAS XLV. 3. FORGIVE THEM, O LORD.



Calum MacPhail's obituary appeared a year before he died, 'a regrettable blunder'.

their croft, once old Calum the shoemaker's shop and now decorated by young Calum's many fiddles, Ann said: 'This was a busy place. I am sure there was great ceilidh-ing up there. We always keep [a picture of] him hanging here. It is his home.'

'I am 74 and I have been here all my days,' young Calum said. 'I am the third to have the name Calum MacPhail. I have two daughters. I am the last of the MacPhails.'

Hearing the poem and Sileas's new tune at the concert was 'wonderful', they said, and he intends to learn and play them.

The bard Calum MacPhail was born in 1847 on the 'Braes aboon

Bonawe' at Ardeny in the parish of Muckairn, Upper Lorne, and later lived for seven years at Inveraray where 'he first began to court the muses', acting as interpreter in court, translating evidence from Gaelic into English.

Among his first efforts was a poem in praise of the Marquis of Lorne, later the Duke of Argyll, on the occasion of his marriage to the Princess Louise. At Inveraray Castle in 1871, according to one report in *The Daily Record and Mail*, MacPhail sang Gaelic songs by special command before royalty.

Celtic scholar John Francis Campbell, of Islay, encouraged

MacPhail to print his verses, and his first and only known volume of Gaelic poetry, *Am Fhìdh Lathurnach*, was published in 1878 to 'a large sale'.

Oban was 'the hub of the Gaelic movement' around 1870, Malcolm MacLeod writes in his book *Modern Gaelic Bards*: 'A project was devised and originated by the Lorne Ossianic Society, of holding Gaelic literary competitions and awarding prizes for meritorious contributions. On the first and second years the first prize for Gaelic poetry was carried off by Malcolm Campbell MacPhail, now known as Am Bàrd Lathurnach.'

In Dalmally, Calum settled down to his father-in-law's shoemaker's business, 'where he is much esteemed and held in high respect both as a tradesman and as a member of the community'. His marriage to Catherine produced four children - Calum, Donald, Jessie and Katie,

The Daily Record and Mail mistakenly printed MacPhail's obituary on February 10, 1913 - a year before he died - which it described as a 'regrettable blunder' causing the family and friends of 'the sweet singer of Lorne' groundless alarm and anxiety.

'The many friends and admirers of the popular Gaelic poet will be glad to hear that it was all a mistake and that they may yet look for many more songs and poems from him.'

Alas, there was not long for many more: MacPhail's obituary in *The Oban Times*, dated January 3, 1914, announced his death in December aged 66: 'Mr MacPhail had not been in robust health since early in 1911, when he had a narrow escape from being run down by a motor car on the road at Sron-mhiol-choin,' it said. 'The remains were conveyed to the beautiful Clachan-an-Disceart and the funeral was attended by a large gathering of Highlanders from far and near.'

Out enjoying the summer sun in the garden when it all kicks off...

Ryan, please be careful when you're kicking that football about.

Stop fussing dad, what's the worst that can happen?

Suárez, he nutmegs Ronaldo, he passes to Messi, Messi shoots and...

Don't panic I'll call Cairngorm Group's Window Doctor to come and make an emergency repair, whilst Ryan goes and apologises to the Neighbours!

SMASH!

MORVERN lines

A strange visitor to Ardnamurchan in 1801

Between 1796 and 1802, a strange figure was to be seen wandering around the Highlands and Islands mounted on a white horse wearing a leather cap trimmed with brown fur and a tartan cloak. Her name was Mrs Murray from Kensington, London, who was collecting material for a book she called, *A Companion and Useful Guide to the Beauties of Scotland*.

The summer of 1801 found her in Appin and Ballachulish, where she crossed Loch Linnhe by boat to Inversanda en route to the Strontian lead mines to collect Strontianite.

It would seem that even in those days there was an interest in holiday cottages as she was accompanied by an Englishman in search of a summer residence in Sunart. By arrangement, they were met at Inversanda by an Angus Cameron who was to convey them through Glen Tarbert by horse and cart.

The road must have been very bad because after a few miles the Englishman decided he would be more comfortable walking. Mrs Murray described Ardnamurchan at that time as a large rugged peninsula formerly covered by a thick forest which had been cut down for timber and smelting.

When she arrived at Strontian she was unable to hire a horse fit enough to carry her over the shoulder of Ben Resipole to Glen Hurich where she wanted to view Loch Shiel. Whether the local horses were too emaciated or she was no Twiggy, we are not told although her contact, a Mr Hope who had something to do with the lead mine, advised her to make her will 'because', he said, 'if you intend to ride to Glen Hurich, it is ten to one but you will break your neck'.

Through time a horse was found. She and Angus Cameron, who agreed to act as her groom, rested on the summit where she drank from, 'A well



The London House at Strontian, above, and Glen Hurich.



of exceedingly fine spring water', before descending into Glen Hurich to lodge with Mr and Mrs Hope.

The next day her hosts rowed her down Loch Shiel to visit the MacDonalds at Dalilea. During the journey she was told of a large monster which had been seen in the loch whose skin resembled that of an eel and it lay in waves. The length of each wave was described by a sailor's measure, namely that of a boat but, when it floundered, it was even bigger and thrashed the waves scaring the eye witnesses to such an extent that they didn't dare go too close so they

were unable to get a better description if it.

Sounds a typical fishy tale about the one that got away.

Later, Mrs Murray noted something of much more interest, 'At some distance we perceived a boat steering east; it contained a gentleman and his wife, who had carried an infant from the head of Loch Shiel to the foot of it, where there was a doctor inoculating with the vaccine or cow pox. I was surprised that this inoculation should have been so generally adopted as it was in 1801, in such remote regions as Ardnamurchan and Moidart.'

This was a well justified comment as Edward Jenner (1749-1823), the English physician and scientist who was the pioneer of smallpox vaccine, had made his first practical experiment only three years before.

She went on, 'When we arrived at the foot of Loch Shiel we could not gain a dry landing; but Highlanders are never at a loss upon such occasions; for they either wade to shore, or if a gentleman's dress does not permit it, he jumps upon the back of a dependent, and thus rides to dry ground. A chair formed by the united arms of two men was soon constructed for my use.'

I recall a similar arrangement when landing on the Island of Muck not that many years ago!

Making her way back to Strontian, Mrs Murray tells us that she stayed with a Mr Jeffrey, factor to Sir James Miles Riddell, the owner of the Ardnamurchan Estate, as the only house of public entertainment at Strontian was too bad to sleep in. 'This inn was constructed of wood in London where it was shipped and landed at Strontian; on its arrival it was put together, erected and called the London House [now the Strontian Hotel]. I expected great things from its name, and in fact it might be a tolerable house of reception if it were well kept.'

Her caustic remarks must have been noted for, not long afterwards, the London House was described in another guide book as 'affording excellent accommodation for the stranger except at fairs and other public occasions'.

Eventually getting round to the purpose of her visit, Mrs Murray recorded, 'The lead mine in which this new earth was found is from 115 to 120 fathom deep but when I was there it could not be worked, being quite full of water. The Strontianite was found half way down the mine. I was fortunate enough to gain a large cargo and many specimens.'

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OT

Viewpoint



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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Two remarkable women were celebrating this week after being presented with well-deserved awards.

Oban's Susie Wolff was awarded an MBE at an investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace last week for her services to women in sport.

Susie's family own the motorcycle dealership Stoddarts of Oban, and her mum and dad, John and Sally Stoddart, were with her and her husband Toto Wolff at the ceremony.

Susie has had an incredible career and continues to show young women what can be achieved if you are willing to put in a lot of hard work and believe in yourself.

Susie rose through the ranks from karting to formula

three, before being signed by Williams' Formula One team as a development driver. Following her retirement in 2015, she now focuses on her project Dare To Be Different, which aims to inspire and help women working in, or who want to launch a career in motorsport.

Another woman who has dedicated her career to inspiring young people to be all they can be is Sine McVicar, the outgoing head teacher at Dunbeg Primary School.

She was presented with a lifetime achievement award at the TES School Awards last week after being nominated by her colleagues. Congratulations to both these astounding women.



Days gone by – 1993

This week's picture shows John Cameron and Archibald Carnie, who retired from ScotRail after 40 years and 17 years respectively. They are pictured with their wives Barbara and Jean, and Mike Smith, from ScotRail.

MacPhail

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COMING up with enough material for this column is a prospect that initially was a bit daunting and was increasingly so as I was moved from monthly to fortnightly to weekly, but (with a touching of wood) something usually comes to mind.

This week I moved quickly from having nothing I felt inspired to write about, to having two strands of differing material to choose from and to fashion into 500 words of something coherent. Instead of dealing with the dilemma of which one to go with, I will give you a taste of both.

Highland Games Star of the Future

Last Sunday, the Oban and Lorne Highland Games hosted some of the top athletes of their type in the world. Competing among them was 18-year-old Murdo Masterson from Dunbeg. For someone as young to compete credibly against the likes of Lorne Colthart, Lukasz Wenta and Kyle Randalls is truly incredible and is an indicator that his future has the potential to be ground-breaking.

As far as I am aware, in the history of Highland Games no athlete as young as Murdo has achieved the distances that he is capable of and he



Murdo Masterson.

currently holds three world records in the under 20s category. They are for the 16lb hammer, the 22lb hammer and the 28lb weight for distance.

On Sunday, at Mossfield Stadium he threw the 22lb hammer over 104 feet, which is remarkable.

His achievements are testimony to the encouragement, generosity and skill of coach Shaun Bate, the support of his parents, and his own dedication and determination to make the most of his prodigious natural strength and talent.

If he continues on his current trajectory, Murdo's name in years to come will be placed firmly amongst the legends of Highland Games and he will topple many long-standing records.

Social media

News that a specialist plant engineering firm that employs eight people will close in September after being evicted from its yard in North Connel prompted an angry reaction. Kenny Pearson blasted: 'This is absolutely shocking, why would you buy a house next to a working coal yard/HGV firm that has been there for years, then complain about the noise! Shame on you!'

Fiona Bennett wrote: 'This is appalling. Young businesses should be supported and encouraged. Given the uncertainty of our country's future just now you'd think they'd be going out of their way to support this enterprising

company. The council has made a very poor decision here indeed. They should be ashamed of themselves putting people that have worked so hard out of business and out of work.'

Craig Somerville posted: 'This is ridiculous on the home owner and the council's part. Surely when you buy a house you check out what's round about it. Also what's the problem with the airport site? I can't see the airport expanding going by all the controversies that surrounded it.'

Elspeth Allan said: 'A&B council hang your heads in shame, a company that is much needed in the area You are closing down because of A complainant.

Summer Driving

As we edge past the milestone of the Summer Solstice, the magical bloom of the warm season is in the air.

Joining the long evenings, the blanket of flowers on the machair and the twitter of the swallow is the sudden increase in traffic volume and the slowing of all journeys on our roads.

This is an annually recurring double-edged sword of existing in areas popular as tourist destinations.

A recent journey from Fort William to Strathpeffer brought this to mind as I travelled up Loch Ness-side following various sight-seers at 30 miles per hour.

It is without doubt a good problem to have for our economy and the social vibrancy of the area. I believe generally, "the busier the better".

However, at the same time it is definitely the cause of some pronounced frustration if you are travelling with a time schedule to keep.

In the short term, all we can do is leave plenty time-margin for delays in our schedules.

In the long term, the answer is for better roads, and better means of education to make clear to drivers that by pulling in to let traffic past, they can help vastly in making the roads a happier and safer place to travel.



This is an absolute disgrace and I hope the nationals get hold of this story and highlight the plight of this company. Name and shame councillors and A complainant.'

Mary Morrison posted: 'Disgraceful. Hope this gets sorted quickly and everyone keeps their jobs.'

Margaret Eisler agreed: 'This is crazy. Jobs gone and for what? Surely the planning and zoning would be on the side of the HGV firm?'

Dorothee Gotz asked: 'What sort of businesses are meant to go onto the airport site if this one isn't suitable?'

Greig Macphail said simply: 'This is ridiculous.'

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

'Island proofing' may save hospital services

Sir,
Proposed new government legislation may help to protect services at Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital.

During his recent visit to Mull, covered by *The Oban Times*, Minister Humza Yousaf found the time to talk about his proposed Islands Bill which he is taking through the Scottish Parliament.

According to his proposal, all new legislation will have to be considered for its impact on island communities. This he called 'island proofing' for short. He was able to confirm that the legislation will also apply to policies developed by government agencies as well as the government itself.

The NHS is one of those agencies, so it would appear that as Oban hospital provides services to island communities, as well as to mainland residents, any proposals put forward by the NHS to reduce services at the hospital must be subjected to island proofing before being implemented.

It will be interesting to see whether island proofing can be used to protect local services at the hospital and how we can argue for improvements to the service.

David Pollard,
Salen, Isle of Mull.

Thanks for support of farming community

Sir,
The directors and staff of Caledonian Marts Ltd would like to express their thanks to all the customers in the Argyll and the Isles area who have supported the company over the past 20 years at Oban Livestock Centre.

We are obviously disappointed that the company will not be operating future sales in Oban but we are pleased to have served the farming industry in the area, where livestock is the backbone of economic activity in the local communities.

We thank all our customers and friends for their business over this period. We shall maintain contact with them and the area and wish them every success in these challenging times.

John Kyle,
Managing director,
Caledonian Marts Ltd.

Thanks to electorate from candidates

Sir,
I would like to express my thanks to everyone who voted for me in the recent general election.

It is a privilege once again to represent the people of Ross, Skye and Lochaber in Westminster and it will my pleasure to work for all in the constituency, ensuring that I am a strong voice on issues affecting this area.

In addition to maintaining offices in Dingwall and Fort William, where inquiries can be made, I will continue to hold regular surgeries where I can

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
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THA MI 'N DÒCHAS gun do chuir beachd an Dotair Waleed Khan, ann an Inbhir Nis, mun chron a tha an creideamh Muslamach a' fulang ri linn obair-ceannaire Isis smaointinn air mòran. A dh'aindeoin buaidh brùidealachd oihleth air ionnsaighean a tha a' gabhail àite air mòr-shluagh dhùthchannan feadh an t-saoghail, 's iad Muslamaich as motha a tha a' call nuair a tha sgrìos agus marbhadh ga dhèanamh an ainm an cuid creid-eimh le daoine a tha, am beachd an dotair, "tinn nan intinn". Ged a tha ceannaircigh a' leigeil orra a bhith a' strì an ainm Allah chan eil an cuid ghnìomh a rèir teagasg a' chreidimh tha Muslamaich sgìth de bhith ag iarraidh leisgeul airson eucoir dhaoine nach buin dhaibh. Dh'iarradh an Dotair Khan barrachd fiosrachaidh mun chreideamh Islamach a bhith air a' theagasg gus co-obrachadh eadar chreideamhan a leudachadh agus cuideachd gus tuilleadh cron den t-seòrsa a tha a' tachairt a bhacadh. Saoilidh mi nach eil duine ceart sam bith nach aontaicheadh ri barrachd

meet constituents in person to hear and act upon any issues or concerns raised.

Ian Blackford MP,
Ross, Skye and Lochaber.

Sir,
I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the people of the Western Isles for the way they responded to my bid to seek election – not just those who voted for me, but also to those who reacted to me in a positive manner, even though their vote lay elsewhere.

I started the campaign with little recognition and I am proud to say that by the end people were approaching me in the supermarket to discuss the issues facing our islands.

I believe I made a strong case for change in the islands and I stand by the approach I took. I believe in our islands and our potential. Over and over again, on the doorsteps, people expressed concern about the impact talk of a second independence referendum was having on our communities and our country. I agree. I respect people who have a strong belief in a cause, even though I do not share their belief. However, sometimes we must set that to one side to ensure that our communities are not jeopardised. The campaign was short and very difficult. The worst of humanity hit our islands which showed the very best of our islands. I don't think any of us will forget this.

So, five weeks after starting, I found that 5,000 of my fellow islanders had put their faith in me and crossed the box next to my name.

I promised you that if you gave me your vote then I would fight for the islands. I was not elected, but I will carry on fighting. Please continue to come and chat in the supermarket, or anywhere else, because I am going to do everything I can to ensure our islands have a viable future.

Ealasaid MacDonald,
Labour candidate for
Western Isles.

Sir,
I write to thank everyone who voted for me in the General Election, all those who worked for my campaign and all who helped run the election. I congratulate Brendan O'Hara on being re-elected as our MP and wish him all the best in his job of representing Argyll and Bute in the House of Commons.

Alan Reid,
LibDem candidate for
Argyll and Bute,
Fairhaven, Dunoon.

Disenfranchised by electoral system

Sir,
I have voted in every election in which I was eligible to vote, since the age of 18, being aware of the hard-fought battle for universal suffrage.

When the recent general election was called, I realised I would be on holiday abroad on June 8, and for the first time ever applied for a postal vote. This application was sent off well before the latest deadline to apply for such a vote.

On May 25, I began to be concerned

that the postal vote had not arrived so I telephoned the relevant office at Argyll and Bute Council, this being almost two weeks prior to the date of the election.

I was told that postal votes for people already registered had been sent out and that mine was due to be sent out on Wednesday May 31. This was only eight days before the date of the election.

I informed the council officer that this was of no use to me as I was leaving home on June 1, only a day after they were sending out my vote. I was told that there was no flexibility in the arrangements, and although sympathetic to my position the officer agreed that I was effectively being disenfranchised by the Argyll and Bute Council's procedures.

Can I urge the council to review its procedures with regard to this and to be aware that first-time postal vote applications are likely to be from people who will be away from home, and at least to include something on the application to indicate the desired time restrictions?

Alec Chasemore,
Conisby, Islay.

Farming payments remain in crisis

Sir,
A damning report by Audit Scotland has recently revealed Scotland's farmer payments crisis won't be sorted until 2018.

Audit Scotland also said: 'Issues in relation to the SNP's processing of Common Agricultural Policy payments continue to have a significant impact.' It warned: 'It is likely that the rural payments system will not be functioning as anticipated, until SAF (Single Application Form window) 2018 at the earliest.'

The Scottish Government could also face fines of more than £60 million from the EU this year if it does not process all its payments on time.

Problems with the Scottish Government's IT system first emerged as far back as 2015, with major delays starving the rural economy of hundreds of millions of pounds. Now, shockingly, auditors have published a new report on the fiasco, which it concludes 'has not delivered value for money'.

On top of the possible European fines, it said: 'The Scottish Government will need to incur additional costs to improve and stabilise the system.'

As a consequence of the system not being fixed for at least another year, Audit Scotland added: 'This means there is a higher risk of weakness in the system and administrative controls existing, if not all parts of the system, are in place until then.'

The Scottish Government's lack of a disaster recovery solution, which auditors said 'has not yet been fully developed and tested', was also criticised. This ongoing fiasco is crippling Argyll and Bute's agriculture industry and badly damaging our wider rural economy.

Rural Scotland deserves better than this institutional incompetence from the Scottish Government.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.

Ailean Caimbeul

tuigse agus co-obrachaidh am measg a' mhòr-shluagh agus gu sònraichte gluasad sam bith a tha dol a chur ri tèarainteachd, saorsa, agus sìth.

'S e cuspair beagan eadar-dhealichte a th' ann ach nach eil sinne mar Ghàidheil glè eòlach air ionnsaighean faoin, ach goirt, air ar cuid cànan is dualchais gach dàrna latha anns na meadhanan. Chan eil teagamh agam fhìn nach e gu ìre nàdar burraidheachd a th' air cùl mòran den sin is feadhainn a' feuchainn air mion-chomhairsnachd le fios nach tèid aice air cus a dhèanamh gus i fhèin a dhion. Bha dòchas ann gun cuireadh Cairt nam Mion-chànanan Eòrpach stad air lethidh sin de gheur-leamhainn ach tha e follaiseach nach tèid aig mion- bhuidheann sam bith air burraidheachd bho chuid de bhuill a' mhòr-chomhairsnachd a sheachnadh.

Bidh mi aig amannan a' cuimhneachadh air clasaichean feallsanachd beusach anns an oilthigh, agus gu sònraichte an leabhar The Social Contract aig an fheallsanaiche Eilbheiseach Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Bha Rousseau soilleir na beachd nach robh cumhachd a' buileachadh chòraichean, agus nach fheumadh

an sluagh gèilleadh ach ri laghan reusanta a-mhàin. Cha robh buaidh air sluagh a' toirt còir dha stàit tràillean a dhèanamh dhiubh. Nam aiste air a' chuspair tha cuimhn' agam gun tuirt mi nach robh e gu diofar co-dhù a bha duine a' creidsinn gun tàinig an cinne-daonna gu bith a rèir aithris a' Bhiobaill neo a rèir Darwin, bha a h-uile neach co-ionann is cha ghabhadh còir tràilleachd a bhith ann. Tha mi fhathast den aon bheachd!

INVERNESS-BASED doctor Waleed Khan deserves support for his campaign for more education about Islam in order to develop greater inter-faith co-operation and understanding.

When terrorists adopt a faith to attempt to justify their actions the genuine followers of that faith can lose massively. But terrorism must never win!

As the Swiss philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau wrote, 'One man thinks himself the master of others, but remains more of a slave than they are.'

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

Concern grows over safety and conditions at new flats

ELLIE FORBES
eforb@obantimes.co.uk

CONCERNS have been raised over safety and conditions at the new £2.9m Tweeddale flats development on Fort William High Street.

Problems were highlighted to the *Lochaber Times* following a fire at a block of the flats last Thursday.

At 5.15am on Thursday June 22, a fire broke out in the block of flats numbers one to 10.

Resident Jacquelynn Duncanson told the *Lochaber Times*: 'It's summer and when you wake up you don't really know what time it is, so I thought it was the postman. But it was a neighbour knocking at the door shouting for everyone to get out because there was a fire.'

'The hall was filled with smoke and it smelt toxic, like burning plastic. We all went out onto the Parade. The police came very quickly and evacuated everyone.'

A spokesman for Scottish Fire and Rescue said two appliances were sent to the scene.

'Crews wearing protective breathing apparatus entered the premises and used a high-powered hose to extinguish the flames. There were no casualties and firefighters left after ensuring the area was safe.'

An electrical fault with a kitchen appliance, believed to be a fridge, in one of the flats caused the fire.

'We got back in about 7.30am, but the fire alarm was still going off. The police called the council around 6.15am to ask if someone could come and switch



Jacquelynn Duncanson at the entrance to her block of flats. Photograph: Abrightside Photography. F26 tweeddale flats 01 JP

to get out because they are going in and playing on the lift. I had to chase one man out of the hall who had a sleeping bag and a ruck sack.'

Jacquelynn said she has reported the problem with the door to the council 20 times but 'nothing is being done'.

She added: 'We moved in on May 5. These are new flats and our homes. You don't want to have to come home to that everyday. It's disgraceful.'

'The doors to the other two blocks shut correctly. The council said it's because the hydraulics on our door aren't heavy enough, but it's not acceptable. Why have we been given a sub-standard door?'

She also highlighted issues with the lift: 'The council said the lift would be out of action for a week while BT fitted the fibre cables down the shaft. But it was off for four weeks. There are people living in the flats who rely on the lift because they are elderly or have health problems.'

'The council blatantly lied about how long the lift would be out of use.'

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'New door closers have been ordered and are expected to arrive and be fitted later this week. The lift is running and has been for the last week. The lift was not faulty, however, its use was not permitted until it could be commissioned by an independent third party.'

'It is Highland Council's process to have lifts, once fitted by the contractor and checked by the council, examined by a third party as an additional safety measure.'

'I keep asking the youngsters

to get out because they are going in and playing on the lift. I had to chase one man out of the hall who had a sleeping bag and a ruck sack.'

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'I keep asking the youngsters



Gala queen Ellie Cameron, centre, with her attendants Keira Conn, left, and Millie Henderson right. Photograph: Abrightside Photography. F26 caol gala queen 01

Caol gala queen Ellie enjoys royal welcome

CAOL gala queen Ellie Cameron and her two attendants enjoyed a right royal welcome at the weekend.

The first-year pupil at Lochaber High School had attendants Millie Henderson, 11, and Keira Conn, eight, by her side as she carried out her royal duties on Saturday June 24.

The girls were driven around Caol before heading to the gala, where Ellie was crowned queen. As queen, Ellie handed out the Davie

McCook Citizenship Award to joint winners Kirsty Kyle and Pamela Hendry.

Organiser Kirsty Kyle told the *Lochaber Times*: 'The girls had a great day and really enjoyed themselves. They looked lovely.'

Joyce Fraser of Caol Cuts styled the girls' hair for the event and McDonald Brothers supplied the girls with their lovely flowers.

For the full story and more pictures turn to page four.

Potential £187m gap in council budget

THE HIGHLAND Council has revealed it is facing a potential £187 million budget gap over the next five years.

At a full meeting of the Highland Council today (Thursday June 29) councillors will hear of the £130 million to £187 million gap facing the local authority.

In a report to the Highland Council, finance director Derek Yule said: 'While this is not an absolute position it does demonstrate a significant and worsening financial position.'

He will tell Highland councillors that one of the main challenges facing the council over the next five years will be a 'lack of financial resources'.

Mr Yule claims the council needs to 'consider the implications' of reducing its current annual capital spend from around £100 million to £55 million to address financial challenges.

It is not yet clear what services may be effected by potential cut backs.

Review date set

NHS Highland's annual review for 2016-17 is to be held on Thursday August 31 in the Macdonald Resort, Aviemore.

Members of the public can attend the open session to ask questions. The event starts at 2pm.

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Dr Sam Jones presents the award to Ian Stevens as coxswain David McHaffie looks on.

Tobermory says farewell to operations manager

GOODBYE Ian Stevens, Tobermory lifeboat operations manager, welcome Ian Stevens, vice chairman, writes Louise Glen.

On the evening of Saturday June 24, Tobermory RNLI's crew, fundraisers, shop volunteers and their families surprised former lifeboat operations manager Ian Stevens with a presentation of an award from the RNLI.

Under the pretence of a midsummer party, Ian was given the thoroughly deserved Excellence in Volunteering award on behalf of the RNLI.

During his time as Tobermory lifeboat operation manager, the lifeboat has launched just under 200 times, rescuing 260 people.

His passion and commitment to all aspects of the lifeboat and station can be in no doubt and he has been pivotal in the success of the station, as well as building a close knit and highly-effective team.

The citation from Leesa Harwood,

RNLI director of community life-saving, referred to Ian's enthusiasm, attitude and forward thinking as fully embodying the RNLI's values.

Ian stood down in late April but is retaining his close involvement with the station as its new vice chairman.

Dr Sam Jones, former navigator and deputy launching authority has succeeded Ian as lifeboat operations manager, one of only a handful of women in the RNLI to hold the post.

Dr Jones said: 'Ian epitomises the volunteer ethos of the RNLI. He has taken the station from strength to strength, building a station family which includes crew, fundraisers and shop volunteers.'

'His dedication and commitment over the years has been rightly recognised with this award from the RNLI. It's a huge honour as well as a little bit daunting to be following in Ian's footsteps but I am so pleased that as vice chairman he will still be at hand with his support and wise counsel.'

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For more information please contact:
North Argyll Eventide Home Association Ltd.
North Argyll House, Connel Rd, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG
01631 562168 info@northargyllhouse.org www.northargyllhouse.org

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THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS ANNUAL CANVASS

Electoral Registration Forms will be posted to every residential property in Argyll & Bute during the month of July, listing the registration details currently held by the Electoral Registration Officer. It is important that you respond to these forms, whether there are changes to be made or not.

Residents will be able to respond by using INTERNET, FREEPHONE and MOBILE PHONE TEXT MESSAGE to confirm or update their electoral roll details.

Details of how to do this will be on the Registration Forms.

These services will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, throughout the canvass period.

Alternatively the forms can be returned by POST in the pre-paid envelope provided.

Electoral Registration for Young People

Along with all adults in the household, you should also add to the form those who will be aged 15 years or older by 30 November 2017.

This is so they are on the register when they become old enough to vote.

It's important to provide the information requested; if you don't you could be fined £1,000.

David C Thomson
Electoral Registration Officer

Crackdown on violence

A THREE-MONTH national campaign to crack down on summer violence was launched by Police Scotland yesterday (Wednesday June 28).

The Scotland-wide campaign will tackle alcohol-related violence, offensive weapons, disorder and anti-social behaviour and will be delivered by local police divisions which will target hot spots specific to their local violence profile.

Police Scotland aims to reduce public space violence, disorder and anti-social behaviour through effective deployment of resources, prevention

techniques, enforcement operations and education and awareness activity. This means divisions will use enhanced intelligence-led policing and predictive analysis tools to identify root causes of disorder at a local level and direct resources to specifically tackle the people involved in those crimes in the right time and place.

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SWT chief appointed

LINDA ROSBOROUGH has been appointed as the new chairwoman of the Scottish Wildlife Trust's governing council.

She will take over the role from Robin Harper following the trust's annual general meeting in September.

Ms Rosborough, above, retired as the director of Marine Scotland in 2016. She has enjoyed a long career in the civil service, and has advised the House of Commons Environment Select Committee. She holds a PhD in environmental planning and is a keen walker, cyclist and canoeist.

Ms Rosborough said: 'I'm proud to be joining a charity with such significant achievements and committed members, volunteers and staff.'

'I intend to build on the legacy of Robin Harper, who has provided sound governance and excellent leadership since his appointment in 2014.'

'This is an uncertain time for our natural environment, but I will ensure that the trust continues to have a strong voice in helping to protect Scotland's wildlife for future generations.'

Knoydart woodland picks up top honour at annual awards

WONDERFUL woodlands and fabulous forests from all across Scotland have been recognised in an annual awards ceremony.

The 2017 Scotland's Finest Woods Awards honour the outstanding contributions made by woodland to people, the environment and the economy.

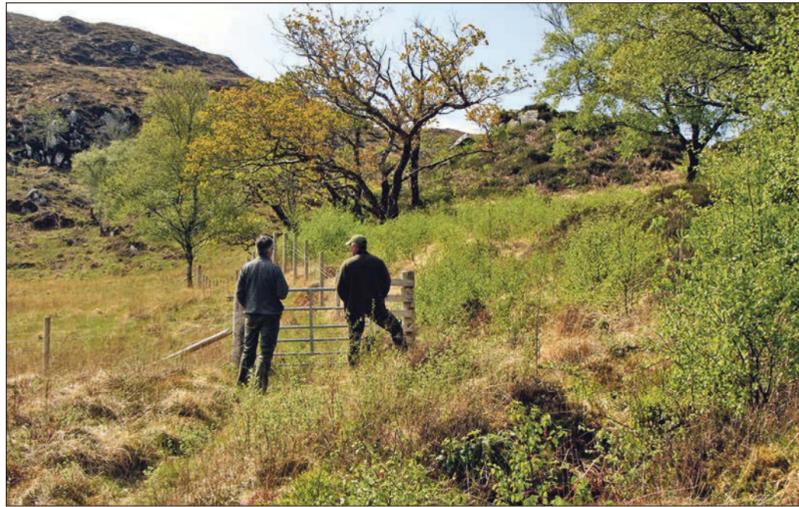
The winners come from the length and breadth of Scotland, from Airoir Common Grazings Committee in Knoydart in the north west to the Borders Forest Trust Wildwood Group in the south.

Scotland's Finest Woods, the independent charity which operates the awards programme, said the quality of 2017 winners was 'exceptional'.

The awards were presented at the Royal Highland Show by Fergus Ewing MSP, Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity.

He said: 'Forestry and timber is worth £1 billion annually to Scotland's economy and employs more than 25,000 people - but its wider social, educational and environmental value to communities and individuals is incalculable.'

'The people who win these awards are passionate and united by a desire to sustain, maintain, expand and most importantly enjoy our forests and woodland.'



Airoir Common Grazings Native Woodland, Knoydart, won the large community woodland award and the Tim Stead trophy after being named the overall category winner.

It is fantastic that Scotland's Finest Woods recognises and celebrates the contribution that people from across Scotland make in their hard work to support their local communities and the environment.'

Angela Douglas, executive director of Scotland's Finest Woods, said: 'The exceptional quality and the variety of the

entries in 2017 highlights the enormous value of forestry and woodland to Scotland's economy, environment and communities.'

'The Community Woodland Award entries, for example, were of immensely high quality, with a winner and two commended entries in both the large and small community

woodland categories. We have joint winners in the New Native Woods Award due to the extremely high calibre of both Carrifran Wildwood in the Moffat Hills and Mar Lodge Estate Pinewoods at Braemar in the Cairngorms National Park. Very hard work has taken place over many years to achieve the results now visible.'

Another notable winner was Jerah, the largest modern planting site in Scotland, where 1.3 million trees were planted in 2015. As well as providing a significant future timber crop, Jerah was designed to deliver a range of public benefits, including encouraging biodiversity, reducing flood risks and enhancing public access.

Angela Douglas added: 'The judges were very satisfied that the 2017 prizes have gone to what can justifiably be described as Scotland's finest woods.'

'The awards provide a way to recognise and reward achievement and find exemplars for others to follow. This can only be done thanks to support from many organisations in the forestry sector spanning the tree nursery, children's learning, forest management, NGO and sawmilling sectors.'

In addition to receiving trophies and prize money, all winners receive a specially-commissioned cherry wood commemorative plaque engraved with their winning details to keep, and a certificate.

The 2017 winners were:
Community Woodland Awards - Large community woodland
Winner - Airoir Common Grazings Native Woodland, Knoydart (and Overall Cate-

gory Winner of the Tim Stead Trophy)

Highly Commended - Aigas Community Forest, Inverness-shire

Commended - Falkland Estate, Fife.

Community Woodland Awards - Small community woodland

Winner - Doune Ponds, Perthshire

Commended - Butterbank Community Woodland, Coupar Angus, Perthshire

Commended - Denlethen Wood, Laurencekirk, Aberdeenshire.

New Native Woods Award

Joint winners of the Woodland Trust Scotland Trophy - National Trust for Scotland for Mar Lodge Estate Pinewoods, Braemar, Cairngorms National Park, alongside Borders Forest Trust (for Carrifran Wildwood, Moffat Hills)

Quality Timber Awards - New Commercial Woodlands Category

Winner of the James Jones Trophy - Mr John Hartz for Jerah, Sheriffmuir, Dunblane. Tilhill Forestry are the forest managers

Commended - Mr N Adames for Camis Eskan, near Helensburgh. Scottish Woodlands Ltd are the forest managers

Act Hubs launches at Achamore Gardens

ACT Hubs, an exciting new Argyll-based project led by Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (Act) has been launched.

The project aims to help communities across Argyll and the Isles to enhance visitor experiences while benefiting their community and local economy.

One of the projects already signed up to work in partnership with Act Hubs is Achamore Gardens' volunteer programme on the Isle of Gigha.

Amy Wilson of Achamore Gardens said: 'The Achamore Gardens Trust exists to lead the restoration of Achamore Gardens on the Isle of Gigha.'

'Our mandate from the Gardens' community is not only to

invite people to celebrate the wild beauty of Achamore but also to facilitate participation, engagement and regeneration.

'Providing the gardens' community with a high-quality volunteer programme is an integral part of our sustainable development approach to meeting the learning, health and wellbeing needs of our community and island visitors.'

'With the assistance of Act Hubs, we will be able to facilitate the creation of new participant-focused opportunities, built around their passions, skills and ambitions.'

Act Hubs project officer Elaine Cameron and her team will be working with groups across Argyll and the Isles to help demonstrate innovative and sustainable approaches to

improve tourism, support local economies and encourage people to explore their natural environment.

The Act Hubs team will provide support to community groups to develop their project ideas in to fully-formed plans ready for delivery.

Ms Cameron said 'Communities should be able to use the detailed plans we produce to deliver their projects in their own time.'

'This could include applying for funding to cover project costs or following a step-by-step guide to get their project started.'

Act Hubs is jointly funded by Act, the Scottish Government and the European Community Argyll and the Islands LEADER 2014-2020 programme.

The project will be delivered by the project team: a full-time project officer, part-time marketing officer and part-time finance officer.

The project team will be supported and advised by a steering group.

Act Hubs launches at Achamore Gardens

Ross Lilley is one of the Act Trustees supporting Ms Cameron to deliver Act Hubs.

He said: 'This project gives the trust an opportunity to help Argyll residents and visitors get more out of the countryside surrounding our communities.'

'I'm looking forward to supporting Elaine and her team help communities transform their ideas into ready-to-go projects.'



Act Hubs is launched at the beautiful Achamore Gardens on Gigha.

THIS WEEK'S WALKS

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and you can try before you buy. You can walk three times with the club before joining. Further information at www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk. Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk.

Today (Thursday June 29)

Ardnamurchan - a high level circuit above Camas nan Geall, a clearance village, a high viewpoint and a coastal walk.

Start from Camas nan Geall CPEX, NM562616. Walk back SE along the B8007 for ½km and head N up a grassy

track up beside the woods. Cross the stream, go through a gate and contour W around the hillside to a sheepfoldEX at the head of an escarpment, NM563622.

Follow a grassy track NW high above the B8007, to reach a burn tumbling W down the escarpment, NM559630.

Descend to the road, turn left on to a good track heading SW, then across rough grassland to reach the ruins of the old clearance village of Bourblaige.

Climb W up by the waterfalls to a small hill at 240m, NM540623. Descend SE at first to avoid a rocky escarpment, then curving SW, descend to the shore at Port a' Chamais.

Follow the coast W by a sheep track across the hillside to Ma-

clean's Nose, before returning E along the shingle bays to Camas nan Geall.

There are some archaeological sites in the area: look out for a Cross Slab at NM5604061858 and a Chambered Cairn at NM5607461949, near the end of the walk.

This is a moderate grade walk covering 11Km with a climb of 580m.

Meet at the Corran Ferry Slip NN021635 for an 8.50am sailing. The walk starts at 10am, the leader is Dave Kime, contact 01972 500272.

Sunday July 2

Sgor Gaoith and Mullach Clach a' Bhlaire - Glen Feshie. Two peaks on the Cairngorm plateau with wide-open views.

This walk is mostly easy walking on well-made tracks or tundra-covered ground. No steep ascents.

Start from the car park 1Km N of Auchlean in Glen Feshie, NN 850985. Follow the road S to Auchlean, then take the path E that climbs through a patch of forest and out on to the open hillsides.

Take the left fork at the junction to stay on the higher, N path. At a high point on the shoulder SW of Carn Bàn Mor, turn NE, heading over this hill and continue to the summit of Sgor Gaoith, 1,118m.

Follow the rim of the huge Coire Odhar for the best views in to Gleann Einich.

Retrace steps back to Carn Bàn Mor. Keeping to the highest ground, head S across the

plateau to reach the spot height 953m just E of Coire Garbhach at NN891944.

Join the track nearby and follow it SW for 1.5Km to a junction. The summit of the second Munro is 1Km S of here.

Return to the junction and descend W to the River Feshie at Carnachuin.

Unless sure that the bridge at NN850964 is usable, follow the path N on the E side of the River Feshie, back to the start. An alternative descent may be made from the spot height 953m - descend W into Coire Garbhach and follow the Allt Garbhach to reach the footpath N of Coille an Torr. Follow the path N back to the start.

This is a moderate walk of 24Km with a climb of 940m.

Meet at Fort William WM NN112742 at 8.10am, with the start of the walk at 10am.

The leader is Toril Frantzen on 07788 264007.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

Saturday July 1

Glen Lochay Beinn (S) heasgarnich (1,076m, Munro) and Creag Mhor (1,047m, Munro) Park at the end of the public road just beyond Kenknock Farm. Climb north on the rough road that goes over to Glen Lyon,

but after about one kilometre turn left on to the higher track, heading west. Follow this track for three kilometres until you cross the Allt Badour.

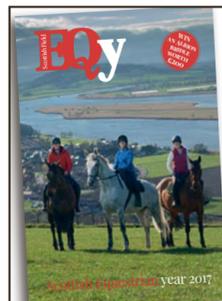
Leave the track here and go NW to the ridge between Stob an Fhir-Bhogha and Beinn (S)heasgarnich. From here it is about one km north to the summit of Beinn Sheasgarnich.

Retrace your steps and carry on to Stob an Fhir-Bhogha, turning west on to the ridge to Creag Mhor.

To descend, go SE on to Sron nan Eun and join the track back to the cars.

This walk is 20.6km, with a climb of 1,490m ascent.

Suggested by Chris Tracey; co-ordinated by Suzanne Theobald.



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St Moluag's weekend

The Isle of Lismore hosted its first St Moluag Weekend, celebrating the founder of the island's Celtic church monastery, with services on his saint's day Sunday June 25.

The festivities, organised by Rev Iain Barclay, minister of the parish of Lismore and Appin, and Lismore Historical Society, began on Saturday morning with talks from Bob Hay and Douglas Breingan about the Saint's life and work.

Mr Hay's two talks focused on 'What we know about St Moluag' and the findings of the first archaeological dig of the cathedral nave in 2016 and the plans for the second excavation on July 15-22 led by Dr Clare Ellis of Argyll Archaeology.

Mr Breingan also gave a talk on 'The Founding Of The Diocese Of Argyll' and led a guided walk of the cathedral area and recent medieval accessions in the

museum, such as the Achinduin artefacts from the castle dig, granted to Lismore under Treasure Trove.

Folk then gathered at the Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre for evening of music, talks and song, hosted by bean an taigh Katy Crossan. The day's events were finished off with a traditional h ro-gheallaigh provided by Lismore Ceilidh Band, consisting of Arthur Cross, Rachel Cross, Shona Wright and award-winning artist, Mairi Campbell.

One of the Heritage Centre's founding members, Duncan Livingstone entertained with a couple of traditional Gaelic songs, a rare sound for today, while host Katy also sang a few *puirt   beul* throughout the programme.

The audience was regaled with poems and stories by the island's Minister, Reverend Iain Barclay and a tale or two from Bob Hay about St

Moluag's claiming of Lismore.

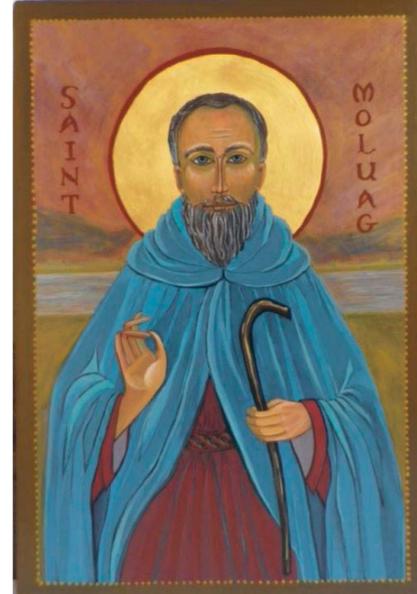
Sunday saw worship in the Reformation tradition with the choir, followed by a recital by Ayman Jarjour, a world famous classical guitarist who studied at the Julliard School of Music in New York, and finally songs of praise with the choir and Mairi Campbell and her friends.

The island will be holding a festival in September combining a number of phenomenally talented artists and authors, encompassing a variety of different genres and styles. Host Mairi Campbell will be presenting her own story Pulse among many others performing.

Just some of the lineup includes Liz Lochhead, Donald Meek and James Kelman. The aptly named 'Taproot' festival will start on September 14. For more details go to Lismore Taproot Festival's Facebook page.



Archaeologists who excavated the nave of St Moluag's Cathedral on Lismore.



St Moluag.



The nave dig.



A ceilidh dance at Lismore's first St Moluag weekend.

Guidebook for young carers

A NEW book and website giving advice and hope for young carers will be the subject of a talk tonight (Thursday June 29) at the North Argyll Carers Centre in Oban.

The author Mike Raynor, a young carer himself while growing up near Oban, published his book Guidebook for Young Carers this year, and launched a website www.youngcarer.info, to support under-18s who provide care for others.

The guidebook can be accessed for free on the website, and Mike is also giving a talk on this evening from 7-8pm at the North Argyll Carers Centre on Albany

Street, Oban. The book is based on Mike's first-hand experiences as a young carer, and describes the challenges he faced, as well as giving advice and hope for present day young carers.

Mike, who lived in the Oban area between the ages of two and 18, told *The Oban Times*: 'My father was the gardener at Achnacloich Gardens, but tragically he committed suicide when I was 12 years old.'

'My mother has chronic mental health problems and following Dad's death I received no support from family or medical and social work professionals. I had to provide considerable support

throughout the remainder of my childhood and I had some very difficult experiences.

'Despite the challenges of my situation, I was appointed Oban High School Boys Captain in 1990/91, and I played rugby for Oban High School and Oban Lorne.

'After school I studied at Dundee University, served as an army officer (including several tours in Northern Ireland), and then served as a Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ceasefire Monitor in Sudan, Georgia and South Sudan. I then returned back to the UK, worked in several roles and then started my own

business five years ago. I am now married with a young daughter.'

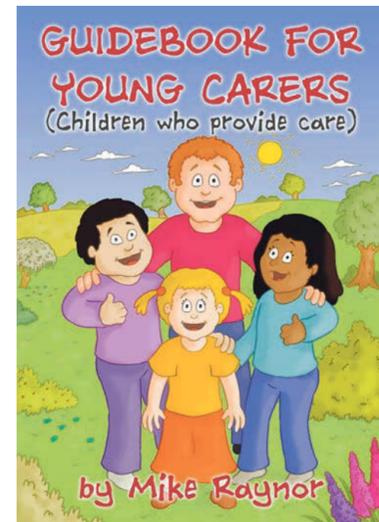
Hoping his story can help other young carers, Mike published his book and launched his website earlier this year to offer advice to young carers with the challenges they might face. The book has already achieved sales in the UK and US.

The presentation at the North Argyll Carers Centre is open to anyone who may be interested, and might particularly appeal to young carers, adults carers or people who support carers.

You can find out more on Mike's website, or via the North Argyll Carers Centre.



Mike Raynor, a young carer near Oban during his childhood, introduces his new book and website giving help and hope for children who provide care in North Argyll Carers Centre in Oban at 7pm on Thursday June 29.



Shipwrecked Mariners' Society

National maritime charity, the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society is calling on photographers to submit images celebrating Britain's proud maritime heritage, for its annual competition searching for the UK's ultimate sea view.

Launched to mark national Seafarers Awareness Week until June 30, the competition, sponsored by Inmarsat, encourages amateur and professional photographers to enter pictures which best encapsulate Britain's enduring connection with the sea - its merchant ships, fishermen, coast, harbours and ports.

The Society is on the lookout for images covering all aspects of the UK's relationship with the sea including ships and wrecks, seascapes, industry and leisure.

Photographs should be submitted through the Society's website www.shipwreckedmariners.org.uk before the deadline on Friday August 4. Photographers can also enter their pictures via email, post or the Society's social media channels.

The competition will be judged by a prestigious panel of experts, including Sunday Times Picture Editor, Ray Wells, Amateur Photographer Magazine Features Writer, Oliver Atwell, Picture Editor of the i, Sophie

Batterbury and the chief executive of the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society, Commodore Malcolm Williams.

Shipwrecked Mariners' Society chief executive, Commodore Malcolm Williams, said: 'Britain's longstanding connection with, and ongoing reliance on the sea should be celebrated. Our strong maritime industry continues to make a huge contribution to communities up and down the country and this competition allows us to recognise this enduring element of British life.'

'The competition has gone from strength-to-strength over the last four years, seeing a record number of entries in 2016, and we are excited to see that trend continue. Our competition allows us to showcase the very best of the sea and celebrate the wealth of talented photographers across the UK.'

The Shipwrecked Mariners' Society provides financial assistance to fishermen, mariners and their dependents who are suffering hardship, whether due to accident, ill health, unemployment or in retirement after a life spent working at sea.

In the last year the charity received 560 new applications for assistance and distributed  1.4 million in over 2,000 cases of need.

To enter the competition, for full terms and conditions and for more information about the work of the Society, visit www.shipwrecked-mariners.org.uk or the Society's Facebook or Twitter pages www.facebook.com/shipwreckedmariners and @ShipwreckedSoc.



Mendelssohn
ON MULL FESTIVAL

SUNDAY JULY 2ND – FRIDAY JULY 7TH

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International crowd enjoy self-styled 'people's games'

It was a dreich day – but not for the huge crowd which made its way to Mossfield Stadium to enjoy The Lorne Highland Games after a year-long break, writes Louise Glen.

On the large pitch more than 100 competitors took part in a range of games and events suited for all the family.

From bungee jumping, running and throwing the hammer there was something for everyone on and off the pitch.

Special mention must be made of the number of parents who got their children to the pitch on time for various sinter matches and junior rugby.

It was with great delight for many that the games' association with Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club continued – this time in honouring local woman Dee Bradbury as chieftain.

Ms Bradbury has been a strong advocate of the games from its inception, as the vice-president of the Scottish Rugby Union.

In her opening remarks Ms Bradbury said she understood the effort required to put on the annual event.

She continued: 'Some of our competitors today will have trained for many years and travelled some distance to compete and I sincerely hope that you will support them all and leave today with an appreciation of the fine tradi-

tions of a Scottish Highland Games.' Chairman of the games committee, Ronnie McIlquham from Ardfern called this year's games 'excellent'.

Mr McIlquham said: 'It is good to see the games up and running and we are very pleased with the size of the crowd. I would like to say a special thank-you to everyone from sponsors to volunteers for pulling together to make these games work.'

It was a record-breaking day for some events. In the open 200 metres David Allan shaved 0.8 of a second off the field record. Luke Trayner took seven seconds off the 400 metre event, 0.12 seconds from the 1600 record. Alistair McLeod set a new record for the Hill Race – completing it in 51 minutes.

Lorne Coulthart threw 132ft 6ins in the light hammer which was three inches further than the field record of 129ft 5ins. Lucas Wenta threw 54ft 5ins in the short putt 16lb open over 53ft 10ins, and in the 22lb open he threw 45ft 4ins, more than one inch farther than the field record.

Finbar Dunne, best known for his athletics ability put 16 inches on the 16lb shot put record for juniors throwing 40ft 10ins.

Eilidh Cameron shortened the run on the 90 metre by almost 0.30 seconds

In Highland dancing the novice trophy passed to Erin Jackson, the intermediate trophy and the premier under-13 trophy was won by Solana McMurchy, the premier adult trophy was won by Katie MacPherson.

In the craft and produce tent notable winners were May Tosh and Jacqueline Cullen in photography, D Crowe for a crocheted baby blanket, Fiona MacPhee for a knitted tea cosy, C Sherer for pear chutney.

Junior sections saw Kate Russell win the three homemade decorated cup cakes, Alyss MacDonald won the umbrella design and decorated flowerpot, Elaina Ramsey won the competition for the decoration of a stone and Caden Crawford drew the best picture of a rainbow.

More photos can be viewed online.



Councillor Roddy McCuish and Breege Smyth were enjoying the craic.



Mull and Iona Pipe Band played with passion and great skill and were enjoyed by all.



It is a hard job playing for the dancers, but this old hand didn't run out of puff all day.



Chieftain Dee Bradbury and chairman Ronnie McIlquham lead out Mull and Iona Pipe Band for the opening ceremony.

WIN tickets to see Funbox



The Funbox gang are back and having a hootenanny in Fort William with their brand new show for 2017, *Highland Fling*.

It has been non

-stop for Funbox since their first show in 2015, and now the former Singing Kettle trio have eight shows, six DVDs, five CDs and 24 costumes to their name as they embark on their ninth tour in two years. When it was made clear that the Singing Kettle was not for sale, Gary, Anya and Kevin took their first steps into business.

Gary said: 'We knew we could write songs, perform and make music, but none of us had any real experience of running a business. We just went into it head first. Our *Pirates and Princesses* tour was funded out of our own pockets and a Crowdfunding campaign that saw us raise more than 20k in four weeks thanks to the support of our fans.'

The gang admit they were having far too much fun working together and entertaining families of Scotland and beyond to say goodbye.

Anya remarked: 'We wanted to carry on, not just for us but for the children who loved coming to see us

and the parents and grandparents who wanted to take their children. It seemed like too important a thing to let go.'

Funbox offers the same traditional songs and silliness known and loved by many, but with their own brand of manic humour with a modern twist.

'We've been described as fresh and edgier than before. Even the big people are enjoying it! We spotted a few grown up mermaids and deep sea divers at the DVD recording of our other tour at Glasgow SEC back in February, *Underwater Adventure*. So here's hoping there's a few big people in their finest kilts and tam o'shanter for this one!' laughs Kevin.

Take the high road (or the low road) and get roamin' in the gloamin' for Funbox's brand new show, *Highland Fling*.

Join Gary, Anya and Kevin as they take a trip to around Scotland to battle midgies, become monarchs of the glen and hear the skirl of the bagpipes in their

latest singalong adventure. There's silliness galore and songs to sing in this crazy new show for 2017.

You'll need to help us get the Funbox open – which contains everything you need to sing a song or have an adventure – but which of our bonnie wee keys should we use?

You may even be lucky enough to help the gang on stage!

Packed with family favourites such as *Did you ever see a Lassie?*, *The Green Grass grew*, and *Ye cannae shove yer Granny*, as well as brand new songs, *Highland Fling* is the perfect treat for youngsters of all ages – from nought to 90! And if yer gallus enough you might even get a chance to help us on stage!

Highland Fling is at the Nevis Centre, Fort William, on Sunday July 2, at 1pm.

Tickets available from 01397 700707, www.nevis-centre.co.uk or Ticketmaster.

For more information go to www.funbox.co.uk or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Summer Show 2017 at Resipole Studios and Fine Art Gallery



To be in with a chance of winning a family pass (four tickets, one of whom must be an adult) to the fantastic Funbox show at The Nevis Centre, just go onto the Funbox Facebook page and like and share their post published on Tuesday at 5.30pm. Winner selected at random tomorrow (Friday) at noon. Enter at www.facebook.com/lochabtertimes or www.facebook.com/obantimes



A' cur 's a' Buain

Listings for Thursday 29 June – Thursday 6 July 2017

DIARDAIN 29 ÒGMHIOS
THURSDAY 29 JUNE
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
19.05 **Gach Creutair Beò**: Vets (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** – News
20.30 **UR | NEW: Cuimhneachan** – Songs and poetry about World War 1 – S2, Ep3
21.00 **UR | NEW: Air a' Chanàil** – Calum Macaulay & Niall Iain Macdonald explore the Crinan Canal
22.00 **UR | NEW: Belladrum 2016** – Skippinish
22.30 **UR | NEW: Dhan Uisge**

22.40 **UR | NEW: An Cuan a Tuath** – Secrets of the North Sea
23.25 **Eadar-chluich** (rpt)
23.35 **Ceòlraidh** (rpt)

DIHAOINE 30 ÒGMHIOS
FRIDAY 30 JUNE
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
18.35 **Macchair** (rpt)
19.00 **An Là** – News
19.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
19.30 **O Mo Dhùthaich** – From Uist with Love (rpt)
20.00 **The Self-help Society An-diugh** (rpt)
21.00 **Pròis Tartan** – The history of the first international football matches and their resonance in Scotland today (rpt)
22.00 **Opry an Iùir** (rpt)
22.50 **Dhan Uisge** (rpt)
23.00 **Corp & Anam** – Irish Drama (rpt)
23.50 **Eadar-chluich** (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 01 IUCHAR
SATURDAY 01 JULY
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
19.00 **Macchair** (rpt)
19.25 **Fraochy** (rpt)
19.30 **Craic** – Women's panel discussion (rpt)
20.00 **Ceòlraidh** (rpt)
20.30 **Puirt-adhair** – S1, Ep3 (rpt)
21.00 **Opry an Iùir** (rpt)
21.50 **Dhan Uisge** (rpt)
22.00 **Pròis Tartan** – The history of the first international football matches and their resonance in Scotland today (rpt)
23.00 **Corp & Anam** – Irish Drama (rpt)
23.55 **Eadar-chluich** (rpt)
24.00 **Gun Sgot?**

SIDOMHNAICH 02 IUCHAR
SUNDAY 02 JULY
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
18.30 **Seachd Là** – News Review
19.30 **Alleluia!** (rpt)

20.00 **Bean a' Mhinisteir** – A look behind the door of the Manse (rpt)
20.30 **Cuimhneachan** – Songs and Poetry about World War 1 – S2, Ep3 (rpt)
21.00 **Scotstar: Teasairginn Èigineach** – The ScotSTAR Transfer Service (rpt)
22.00 **Cuirm @ Celtic** – Cape Breton Connection (rpt)
23.00 **An Cuan a Tuath** – Secrets of the North Sea (rpt)
23.45 **Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber** (rpt)

DILUAIN 03 IUCHAR
MONDAY 03 JULY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
19.00 **Binnean nam Beann** (rpt)
19.25 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** – News
20.30 **O Mo Dhùthaich** – From Uist with Love (rpt)
21.00 **Trusadh** – Sgeulachd Athair

– A father and mother looking for their daughter who went missing in India
22.00 **Hòro Gheallaidh** (rpt)
22.30 **Sgeulachd Sheila Garvie** (rpt)
23.30 **Cuide ri Cathy** – David Gest (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 04 IUCHAR
TUESDAY 04 JULY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
18.55 **Gach Creutair Beò** – Vets (rpt)
19.25 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** – (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** – News
20.30 **Puirt-adhair** – Highland Airports (rpt)
21.00 **Scotstar: Teasairginn Èigineach** – The ScotSTAR Transfer Service (rpt)
22.00 **Iompaireachd nan Gàidheal** – The Highlanders who led a wilderness empire in Canada (rpt)
23.00 **Craic** – Women's panel discussion (rpt)
23.30 **Alleluia!** (rpt)

DIARDAIN 05 IUCHAR
WEDNESDAY 05 JULY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
19.05 **Binnean nam Beann** (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** – News
20.30 **Bean a' Mhinisteir** – A look at life behind the door of the Manse (rpt)
21.00 **Gruth is Uachdar** – A timeless rite-of-passage story about a young boy in Harris (rpt)
22.00 **Fonn Fonn Fonn** – Music Quiz (rpt)
22.30 **Hòro Gheallaidh** (rpt)
23.00 **Air a' Chanàil** – Calum Macaulay & Niall Iain Macdonald explore the Crinan Canal (rpt)

DIARDAIN 06 IUCHAR
THURSDAY 06 JULY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
19.05 **Gach Creutair Beò**: Vets (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** – News
20.30 **UR | NEW: Cuimhneachan** – Songs and poetry about World War 1 – S2, Ep4
21.00 **Robert Black** – Coigreach gun Chogais – Without Conscience (rpt)
22.00 **UR | NEW: Belladrum 2016** – Wilko Johnson
22.30 **UR | NEW: Dhan Uisge**
22.35 **UR | NEW: Hitler v Churchill**
23.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
23.30 **Ceòlraidh** (rpt)



Oban SWI made a great amount on its bottle stall.



Mini rugby and junior shinty saw some good local games.



Murdo Masterson competed in the heavyweight events and was placed first in local events.



In complete synergy the Highland dancers gave a superb show.



The hardworking Cancer Research group raised more than £700.



Maisey, five, and Abbie, 10 with their prize-winning dogs Cullin and Lady.

Eye to eye with John Wallace

Vision and Your Brain

You probably think of your visit to your optometrist as a time to ensure you are seeing as well as possible. You probably believe seeing the smallest line on the test chart is all you need to do to have excellent vision. What makes us humans different to most other species on the planet is our ability to see in 3D. It's still possible to function at a high level with only one eye but it is much harder than when using stereoscopic (3D) vision. When we use 3D vision we can very accurately know where we are in our visual world. That might seem a rather strange idea but, if we don't know where we are, we cannot move around safely. Driving would be like playing on the circus dodgems with everyone crashing into each other. Pouring boiling water into a cup of coffee would be extremely dangerous as it would be very difficult to accurately judge the exact position of the top of the cup. Our brains have evolved to enable us to have extremely accurate 3D vision. Sometimes things can go wrong and suddenly we can find our visual world turned upside down. Children with reading problems very frequently have undiagnosed defects in their 3D vision system. If you have suffered from concussion you might have found it hard to focus or to judge distances. Likewise patients who have had a stroke can find their vision very difficult to cope with. In previous articles I have discussed how it is possible to rewire our brains. Gone are the days when I had to day to a parent their child with the lazy eye would never see any better. Likewise it is often possible to help patients with brain injury to minimise any deficit caused by their injury.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
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 The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic
 11/12 Argyll Square, Oban
Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES)
 www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk

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community-owned and run
 Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com

Friday 30 June – Thursday 6 July

SCHOOL HOLIDAY DEAL – ALL LOCAL UNDER 18s GET STANDARD TICKETS FOR JUST £3!!

ANNIE | 90 MIN
 Fri, Sat: 19:30
 Argyll Youth Theatre presents the classic 'Annie'!

BABY DRIVER | 15 | 133 MIN
 Fri: 19:15, 21:15, Sat: 19:00, 21:15, Sun: 19:30, Mon, Tue: 18:45, 21:15, Wed: 17:45, Thu: 19:00, 20:15
 A talented, young getaway driver relies on the beat of his personal soundtrack to be the best in the game.

DESPICABLE ME 3 | U | 110 MIN
 Fri: 13:00, 17:30, Sat: 12:00, 16:30, Sun: 12:00, 17:00, Mon: 12:00, 16:30, 17:15, Tue: 12:00, 16:30, Wed: 12:00, Thu: 11:30
 3D: Fri: 15:15, Sat: 14:15, Sun: 14:30, Mon, Tue, Wed: 14:15, Thu: 13:45
 Parent and baby screening: Tue: 11:30
 Despicable Me 2 and Minions, returns to continue the adventures of Gru, Lucy, their adorable daughters—Margo, Edith and Agnes—and the Minions.

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL | U | 120 MIN
 Fri: 14:00, Sun: 17:45
 Greg convinces his family to take a road trip to attend his great grandmother's 90th birthday as a cover for what he really wants: to attend a nearby gamer convention.

KIDS CLUB - ALADDIN | U | 120 MIN
 Sat: 11:30
 Entry £2. When a street urchin vies for the love of a beautiful princess, he uses a genie's magic power to make himself off as a prince in order to marry her.

LA BOHÈME | 12A | 160 MIN
 Wed: 19:30
 Directed by Enrico Castiglione, this retelling of the timeless classic will enchant cinema audiences with its intense melodic lyrics, original and refined harmony, instrumental light feel and nuances which are all unmistakable and unique.

MY COUSIN RACHEL | 12A | 126 MIN
 Sat: 16:45, Wed, Thu: 15:30
 A young Englishman plots revenge against his mysterious, beautiful cousin, believing that she murdered his guardian.

OBAN MEET UP GROUP | 120 MIN
 Tue: 20:45
 Meet like-minded people in the local area, right here in your community cinema!

SILVER SCREEN - RESILIENCE | TBC | 180 MIN
 Sun: 14:30
 Silver Screening - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £3! THE CHILD MAY NOT REMEMBER, BUT THE BODY REMEMBERS. Researchers have recently discovered a dangerous biological syndrome caused by abuse and neglect during childhood.

SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING | 12A | 175 MIN
 Thu: 16:00
 3D: Wed: 16:30
 Thrilled by his experience with the Avengers, Peter returns home, where he lives with his Aunt May, under the watchful eye of his new mentor Tony Stark.

THE BOSS BABY | U | 120 MIN
 Mon: 12:00, Tue: 13:30
 The Boss Baby is a hilariously universal story about how a new baby's arrival impacts a family, told from the point of view of a delightfully unreliable narrator, a wildly imaginative 7 year old named Tim.

THE MUMMY | 15 | 130 MIN
 Fri, Sat: 21:30, Sun: 20:00, Mon: 19:30, Tue: 18:30, Wed: 20:15, Thu: 17:45
 Though safely entombed in a crypt deep beneath the unforgiving desert, an ancient princess whose destiny was unjustly taken from her is awakened in our current day, bringing with her malevolence grown over millennia, and terrors that defy human comprehension.

WONDER WOMAN | 12A | 161 MIN
 Fri: 16:15 Sat: 13:45, Sun: 11:30, Mon: 14:15, Tue: 15:45, Wed, Thu: 12:30
 Raised on a sheltered island paradise, when an American pilot crashes on their shores and tells of a massive conflict raging in the outside world, Diana leaves her home, convinced she can stop the threat.

July 7-August 26, 2017

Private view: Friday July 7, 6-8pm

Resipole Studios and Fine Art Gallery is launching its annual summer show on Friday July 7, which presents work by four contemporary artists, Jonathon Shearer, John Slavin, Ben Averis and Liz Green.

Lochaber, by multi-award winning artist, Jonathon Shearer, is a series of landscape paintings on show in the main gallery. This is Shearer's first solo exhibition at Resipole, which showcases a collection of paintings produced in and inspired by the local Lochaber area. Using a mixture of abstraction and representation, Shearer paints primarily en plein air, immersing himself in the remote outdoors.

He says: 'For me it is not a backdrop, or somewhere to take a quick snap and move on, it is a journey into a wilderness that is as much about

mindscape as landscape.' Since gaining a degree in painting and drawing at Gray's School of Art in Aberdeen, Jonathon Shearer has exhibited extensively across Europe. His work is featured in a number of large collections, including the Royal Scottish Academy and British Midland Airways.

Meanwhile, *The Skye Suites*, a solo exhibition by landscape painter, John Slavin is on display in the Red Gallery. Similar to Shearer, Slavin produces much of his work submersed in the outdoors. He is heavily influenced by the early 20th-century Canadian movement, the Group of Seven, both in their style and their shared belief in painting outdoors.

He said: 'It's so, so important that you absorb what's around you. You've got to be in the place and it has to be on foot.'

The Skye Suites is a series of work from 12 years of drawing and painting en plein-air on the Isle of Skye. Slavin studied at Edinburgh School of Art under the celebrated painters Sir Robin Philipson and Dame Elizabeth Blackadder, and regularly exhibits in the UK and France.

Lastly, *Oak Woods* is a joint exhibition of work by Ben Averis and Liz Green, showing in the White Gallery.

Oak Woods carries on the theme of the great outdoors and presents a series of drawings and paintings that depict the ancient Scottish woodland.

Both Averis and Green work professionally as botanists, which is an intrinsic part of their artistic practice. Averis graduated from Bath Academy of Art and has continued practicing as an artist, alongside his career in botany.

Oak Woods presents a series of drawings depicting the mossy woods of Morvern, produced during his recent residency with the Scottish Wildlife Trust in the Rahoy Hills.

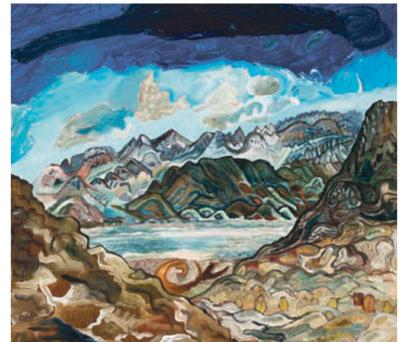
Liz Green showcases a collection of her stylised, abstract paintings that continue to explore the local oak forests and their ecosystems.

Green says: 'My woodland paintings aim to distill the essential components of pattern, colour, texture and mood that are distinctive of differing woodland types and particular places in the Highlands.'

uated from Bath Academy of Art and has continued practicing as an artist, alongside his career in botany. *Oak Woods* presents a series of drawings depicting the mossy woods of Morvern, produced during his recent residency with the Scottish Wildlife Trust in the Rahoy Hills.

Liz Green showcases a collection of her stylised, abstract paintings that continue to explore the local oak forests and their ecosystems.

Green says: 'My woodland paintings aim to distill the essential components of pattern, colour, texture and mood that are distinctive of differing woodland types and particular places in the Highlands.'



SUMMER DAY TRIPS & CRUISES ON MV BALMORAL



WELCOME ABOARD
SAILING FROM OBAN 6TH - 13TH JULY

CRUISE SOUND OF MULL & ROUND KERRERA	Fri 7th July	Depart: 14.00	Arrive back: 17.00	£22/£20
CRUISE COLL, TRESHNISH ISLES & STAFFA	Sat 8th July	Depart: 10.00	Arrive back: 20.15	£41
DAY CRUISE TO CORRYVRECKAN WHIRLPOOL	Sun 9th July	Depart: 11.00	Arrive back: 20.30	£34
DAY CRUISE TO ARDNAMURCHAN LIGHTHOUSE	Mon 10th July	Depart: 11.00	Arrive back: 20.15	£38/36
CRUISE SOUND OF SLEAT	Tues 11th July	Depart: 10.00	Arrive back: 20.45	£38/36
CRUISE TO ISLE OF IONA [time ashore]	Weds 12th July	Depart: 11.00	Arrive back: 20.00	£40/38
CRUISE MULL OF KINTYRE TO CAMPBELTOWN [coach rtn]	Thur 13th July	Depart: 09.30	Arrive back: 20.00	£35/33

Children (5-15yrs) half fare, under 5yrs free. Family fares available: 2 adults & 2 children.
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THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- Ravel classic (6)
 - Respectful greeting (6)
 - Note (4)
 - Domination of a power within a league (8)
 - Non believer (7)
 - Moral standard (5)
 - Fattened fowl (5)
 - Distress (7)
 - The making of works of art (8)
 - Cheeky facial expression (4)
 - Ornate style (6)
 - Imaginary (6)
- Down**
- Tops (1-3)
 - Use to change station (6,7)
 - Ancient Greek teacher (7)
 - Practice (5)
 - Circus acts (13)
 - Draw (8)
 - Friction between two surfaces (8)
 - Fancy drinking cup (4,3)
 - Breakfast item to bring home! (5)
 - Within view (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1	D	E	F	R	A	U	D	R	E	T	C	H
2	R	I	E	I	O	R	A	A				
3	A	N	X	I	O	U	S	L	Y	A	W	L
4	W											
5	L	A	N	A	I	N	U	L	L	I	F	Y
6	E	A	T									
7	C	H	A	I	N	R	E	A	T	I	O	N
8	O	R										
9	P	E	T	N	A	M	E	A	N	N	O	V
10	I	H	B	S	M	E	T	R	O			
11	L	E	I	O	P	T	O	M	E	T	R	Y
12	O	N	R	E	E	E	O					
13	T	I	G	H	T	D	A	R	T	E	R	S

Your local radio listings

OBAN Community Radio - your local radio station
 Tune in to 103.3 or listen live at www.obanfm.com
 For requests, competitions or questions please email: studio@obanfm.org.uk or call us on 01631 570057

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

Arena

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

Glasgow Letter

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



A Night of Gaelic Song

Last Thursday night, I attended Binneas nam

Ban – a concert in the stunning Kelvinside Hillhead Parish Church focused upon songs by female bards. The evening began

with the new trio, Sian, consisting of Eilidh Cormack, Ellen MacDonald, and Ceitlin LR Smith. Each of those three

girls have very unique voices and together they make a phenomenal sound. Their harmonies, particularly in the beautiful love song, *Cùil*

do Chinn, were breathtaking. They performed one of their faster songs as a round and this exciting form of harmony created an effect whereby each individual voice became indistinguishable as they all sang different stages of the melody. Ceitlin joked afterwards that this had taken days of rehearsal to master! After the break (during which glasses of Pimms were served – an idea which I am fully in favour of seeing more often at such ceilidhs!) the audience were treated to the top-class vocals everyone expects of Kathleen MacInnes and Margaret Stewart. The two ladies would sing a song or two each before allowing the other singer onto the stage in a lovely natural style – although, on one occasion, Margaret did have to walk on-stage and shoo Kathleen off!

One highlight was Kathleen's rendition of *Maraiche nan Cuantain* written by Flora MacPhail from Tiree. Kathleen told some humorous stories about having met Eachann MacPhail (Flora's late husband about whom the song was written), and spoke of Flora's lovely personality – something which anyone who has met Flora can attest to. Another highlight was Margaret Stewart's mastery of the epic *Gaoir nam Bàin Mullaich*. Margaret's pure voice in particular suited the acoustic of the Church and I could have listened to her in there all night. The evening finished with a beautiful lament sung together by all the singers – joined, as they had been throughout the night, by Ingrid Henderson on Clarsach, Jen Butterworth on guitar, and Shona Masson

on fiddle. It was a beautiful ending to a superb concert. **Donald Ewen MacLean: January 2, 1953-June 9, 2017** On Monday June 19, the funeral service of Donald Ewen MacLean was held in St John's Renfield Church. Donnie was originally from Iochdar, South Uist, and lived in Glasgow. It was always a great joy to bump into him as I often did in the Park Bar. He was a wonderful character who always had time for a blether, and the service reflected this perfectly. The church was packed with Donnie's numerous friends from the West Highlands and Islands as well as a remarkable at-

tendance from his colleagues at Barlinnie prison. As the coffin was carried out at the end of the service, Campbell Brown (a close friend of Donnie's) played the poignant *An Aitreachd Àrd* on the accordion, before going into the upbeat Kishorn Commandos. I am sure Donnie (who was a Kishorn Commando himself, and a great follower of traditional music) would have smiled at the choice of tune. My thoughts are with his daughters Ruth and Sarah at this time. He was a true island gentleman who will be greatly missed. **Pub Scene** Park Bar. Friday June 30: North 56 Saturday July 1: Gunna Sound Island Inn. Friday June 30: Black Velvet Saturday June 1: The Keelies

Dougie McLean tops bill at Killin Music Festival

Manran, Skerryvore and Dougie MacLean were among the fantastic acts who performed at the sell-out Killin music Festival on June 16-18. The crowd were in fine form at the McLaren Hall where they were treated to performances from Heron Valley, Tide Lines and Rura amongst many other fantastic artists. In addition to the evening concerts, there was a lively session tent with a great atmosphere

and delicious Gin Bar. The McLaren High School Pipe Band lead people through the village on Sunday finishing up at the McLaren Hall with a concert by the local choir and primary school choir with tea and cakes provided by the local Cancer Research Committee. Sunday afternoon also featured an Open Stage with five top acts performing. The winner was Calum MacKenzie Jones from

Buckie, Aberdeenshire. He received the 2017 trophy and will be performing at the 2018 festival. Tickets for the 2018 are on sale now at www.killinmusicfestival.com. Blazin' Fiddles, Peatbog Faeries and Phil Cunningham and Ali Bain have been announced as the 2018 Headline acts. Photographs: Louise Bichan.



The master of them all Dougie MacLean



A bit of Highland Hustle got the energy pumping.



Calum MacKenzie who won the Open Stage competition.

Oban High School celebrated annual prize giving ceremony

Oban High School hosted its annual prize giving ceremony last week at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls. Prizes were handed out and pupils, parents and teachers were entertained by a performance by Oban Pipe Band. Oban High said goodbye to the outgoing

head boy and girl, James MacIntyre and Selina Keppie, and welcomed Ruaridh Horne and Mila Bicanova to the role. Two girls who received prizes on the night include DUX Medallists Shannara Smith and Rhona McCracken. More photos can be viewed online.



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U3A Monthly meeting reminder. Do come for a chat. As usual there will be coffee or tea. The committee will be on hand to answer questions, if you have any.

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A warm Scottish welcome awaits you at the Townhouse Aberfeldy. Fully refurbished in 2015 and tastefully decorated throughout, relax and unwind in a luxurious bedroom with stunning views of glorious Perthshire. The winners will dine in the Upstairs Restaurant which serves delicious food using the best of Scottish ingredients, complemented by a bottle of their choice from the house wine menu. Enjoy a hearty Scottish breakfast the next morning before checking out.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question:
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Valid Sundays-Thursdays and must be redeemed by 23/12/17. Guests must be over 18 years old. Prize is non-transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash alternative.

To enter, send your name, address, telephone number and email address to Wyvex Media Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL. Closing date is August 31 2017. Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Wyvex Media rules apply. Information will be shared with promoters and sponsors.

Singer-songwriting duo set for must-see Mull gig

A special double-bill of British singer-songwriters Me For Queen (aka Mary Erskine) and Emily Maguire are touring Scotland in August.

And Mull is on the itinerary. Growing up in rural Fife in a big old house near the sea, Mary started writing songs when she was 13.

Years of classical training, together with a blues guitarist for a father, makes for an interesting mix of soul and folk.

Me For Queen's piano-based songs draw obvious comparisons to Regina Spektor and Carol King but manage to fuse hints of Kate Bush and Laura J Martin.

Mary cites Judee Sill and This is the Kit as a few of her favourites and says Me For Queen is 'a sort of sketchpad for whatever's happening in my head. I just try to write songs that talk to people'.

Me For Queen have had airplay on BBC 6 Music and on BBC Radio around the UK.

Mary's song *Slow Train* was Single of the Week on Janice Forsyth's BBC Scotland *Culture Show* and included in Tom Robinson's personal top five Fresh Faves.

A classically-trained multi-instrumentalist with five albums and two books to her name, Londoner Emily Maguire is truly 'a talent to be reckoned with' (R2 Magazine).

Her strong, thought-provoking lyrics, supremely expressive vocals and stunning

live performances winning her a legion of fans across the globe.

After living in a shack in the Australian bush where she made goats cheese to finance her first two albums, Emily returned to the UK to tour with American legend Don McLean and make her third album *Believer*, a 'masterpiece' according to *Maverick Magazine*, with two singles playlisted on BBC Radio Two.

As an advocate for mental health, Emily has been featured several times on Radio Four, including *Woman's Hour*, *Loose Ends* and *Midweek*, where she was interviewed by Libby Purves talking about her book, *Start Over Again*.

After two years out of action, Emily is now back with a new book *Notes From The North Pole*, and an acclaimed new album, *A Bit of Blue*, produced by Nigel Butler, which follows a dark time in her life and is a hauntingly beautiful testament to the human spirit.

With its release funded entirely by her fans, *A Bit of Blue* retains all the underlying trademarks of her emotive, lyric-rich songs.

Having opened for Don McLean and The Blue Nile at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, this will be Emily's first tour of Scotland.

Monday August 21, Town Hall, Crail; Tuesday August 22, An Tobar, Mull; Wednesday August 23, Glad Café, Glasgow.



Me For Queen



Emily Maguire



Heron Valley hit the road for summer of song and festivals

A young Argyll band has been tipped for the top after the release of their debut album.

Folk band, Heron Valley, recently released their debut album, *ROAM*, to great acclaim and to mark the official launch of the album, the band is embarking on a summer-long tour throughout Scotland.

The band, who formed while they were still at school, recently trekked up Beinn an Lochain, Rest and Be Thankful, at 4am to film their latest music video for their single, *Home* - complete with all instruments, including a piano.

Alex Mackechnie, fiddle player with Heron Valley, said: 'We've had a fantastic year, playing at some great venues and this summer we are really looking forward to our album launch tour which will see us play at festivals from Benbecula to Tiree and Oban to Italy.'

'The response to our music so far has been great and this summer tour is our first major tour, and with 21 dates, we are certainly being kept busy!'

'Most of the band is from Argyll so we are delighted to be playing several festivals in the region, including Markie Dans, ButeFest and Mull

of Kintyre Music Festival. We've got some exciting opportunities coming up, including tours in the US and throughout Europe and we're looking forward to bringing our sound to new audiences!'

Daniel Gillespie, managing director of Oban Live and Tiree Music Festival, and founding member of Celtic rock band Skerryvore, said: 'I can still clearly remember the first time I heard Heron Valley as they supported Skerryvore in the Three Villages Hall in Arrochar as a local group of school kids.'

'Even then, I remember being blown away by their

energy and technical ability. 'From that point, I have watched them develop into the most promising act on the scene and this album is confirmation of that.'

'They have a focus and maturity that is way beyond their years and that matched with their natural ability makes them a band with a very big future. They were a huge hit at TMF last year so we are delighted to welcome them back for TMF2017.'

For more information about gig dates and where to purchase the album, please visit: <https://www.heronvalleyband.co.uk/>

Summer dining

A feast for all the senses – Loch Melfort Hotel and restaurant



For the best of West Coast produce, fresh and wonderful flavours, served in a stunning setting, look no further than Loch Melfort Hotel and Restaurant.

Loch Melfort is situated by Arduaine Point next to Arduaine Gardens and has direct access to the beach, where you can take a digestive stroll by the sea after a lovely meal.

You can dine in the hotel's 2AA Rosette restaurant (evenings) or the more informal bistro

(open all day for refreshments and drinks, as well as lunch and dinner service). Both have direct sea views and you won't fail to be taken in by the amazing scenery, looking out over the Sound of Jura and the Inner Hebrides beyond.

Loch Melfort is passionate about good food and fine wine and this is reflected in a menu that makes the most of Argyll produce and foraged summer ingredients.

Loch Melfort Hotel
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 AA www.lochmelfort.co.uk



The bistro is a relaxed bar and restaurant with an emphasis on fresh local seafood although meat lovers also get plenty of choice. It boasts a strong wine list and some excellent local ales and draught beers.

The home-made ice-creams and baking make it an excellent choice for families with a play area next to the terrace and our friendly local residents, the hens and Highland cows.

The restaurant offers a wonderful dining experience in comfortable, more

formal surroundings. The seasonal menu delivers options that combine traditional dishes with modern techniques, showcasing a range of locally-foraged ingredients from the woods and the sea. Sure to delight food lovers from home and abroad. With a choice from the a la carte or table d'hôte menus and a beautiful wine list to select from, a meal here is a lovely experience you won't forget in a hurry.

Loch Melfort looks forward to welcoming you this summer.

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Preparing farmers and crofters for change

NFU Scotland used Scotland's premier agricultural event to put a vision for Scottish agriculture at the heart of Brexit negotiations.

Using last week's Royal Highland Show – which took place at Ingliston near Edinburgh – as a platform, the Union rolled out its discussion document 'Change – A New Agricultural Policy for Scotland Post-Brexit' to members, stakeholders and politicians.

The document will be the stimulus for discussion and debate with members at almost 30 agricultural shows this summer; a focus for the Tory Party conference and the union's autumn conference in October; a driver for debate at AgriScot in

November and the basis for a round of regional member meetings across Scotland pre-Christmas.

Recognising that exiting Europe presents the challenge of unpicking more than 40 years of operating within the Common Agricultural Policy, the union's vision for the next decade is to capitalise on new market opportunities coupled with a new domestic agricultural policy that will move our farmers and crofters to a position where market returns are the primary driver of profitability.

The discussion document maps out a delivery model from now until 2027 to unlock that potential through a fairer supply chain, a

supported transition to new policy arrangements and a positive culture to develop those who currently live and work in the Scottish countryside and the generations to come.

Speaking at the Highland Show, president Andrew McCornick said: 'A year on from the Brexit vote and our politicians have delivered little in terms of certainty or stability around the process.'

What is clear to all, though, is that change is inevitable but that change must be managed and not chaotic.

'Starting now, the opportunity exists to develop a different, refreshed system which, by 2027, can create opportunities for the people who rear and grow our food to have a

prosperous, profitable future and to contribute even more to Scotland's success.

'Engaging with our members, stakeholders and politicians, this is NFU Scotland looking to put the foundations in place that, a decade from now, will ensure Scottish agriculture is profitable, innovative and efficient with our farmers and crofters securing a fair return from supply chains, allowing them to be less reliant on direct support.'

'We believe that a fairer supply chain, a supported transition to a new agricultural policy and investment in those committed to producing the best food and drink in the world will create that platform.'

'Crucially, this is a discussion and, with input from our members, it will keep NFU Scotland on the front foot in negotiating a Brexit deal that supports our vision and ambition.'

'That process starts here and at the Highland Show, NFU Scotland will meet leading politicians from both Westminster and Holyrood with whom we will share our vision and challenge them to deliver on it.'

'We will meet with fellow Scottish stakeholders at the end of June, and from June through to September, myself and my fellow vice presidents will be at almost 30 agricultural shows the length and breadth of Scotland where we want to hear from our members.'

'NFU Scotland staff and office-holders will be in Westminster on a monthly basis for the foreseeable future and, in October, the union will be holding a fringe event at the Conservative Party conference.'

Later this year, major events like our own autumn conference and AgriScot will continue that conversation and a round of regional meetings across Scotland completes the package.

'This far reaching discussion is essential. No sector will be more directly affected by Brexit than ours and the role of the union in negotiating our industry through the next decade has never been more important.'

Royal Highland Show sheep and cattle winners

Sheep

Blackface: tup lamb

3rd Mr Andrew Prentice, Maol Farm, Isle of Iona

Bluefaced Leicester – traditional type: Reserve champion, best female and best bred by exhibitor
J & M Turner, Campbeltown

Bluefaced Leicester – traditional type: gimmer

1st J & M Turner, Campbeltown

Bluefaced Leicester – traditional type: shearing tup
2nd J & M Turner, Campbeltown

Hebridean: reserve female

Mr Donald MacLeod, South Uist, Western Isles

Hebridean: ewe, over one shear - must be in milk and shown in full fleece

1st Mr Donald MacLeod, South Uist, Western Isles

Scotch mule: ewe

2nd Mr Andrew Campbell, Lettermay Lodge, Lochgoilhead, Cairndow

Beef Cattle

Aberdeen Angus: female born on or between

1st January and 31st March 2016

1st Mr Donald Rankin, Kilmaluag House, Duntulm, Isle of Skye

Aberdeen Angus: female born on or between 1st January and 23rd June 2015

2nd Mr Donald Rankin, Kilmaluag House, Duntulm, Isle of Skye

Aberdeen Angus: reserve junior female

Mr Donald Rankin, Kilmaluag House, Duntulm, Isle of Skye

British Limousin: bull born on or after 1st June 2016

3rd Mr Ewen MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine, Oban

Dairy Cattle

Dairy Cattle Progeny Group

3rd Mr Robin Barr, Campbeltown



John Mclachlan at the Royal Highland Show with his award-winning traditional Bluefaced Leicester from Joe and Mary Turner's unit at Kildalloig Farm, Campbeltown. Photograph: Wayne Hutchinson

Argyll fish farmer honoured



AN ARGYLL fish farm worker has landed a top gong at the Royal Highland Show.

Matthew Anderson, 24, has come runner-up at this year's prestigious M&S Farming for the Future Awards in the Young Producer category. The awards took place at the Royal Highland Show on Thursday last week.

Assistant farm manager Matthew, who works for Dawnfresh's Tervine fish farm near Oban, impressed judges with his passion for the aquaculture industry and drive to improve the environmental credentials of the farm.

He joined the operation in 2014 as one of the company's first candidates on its graduate training programme after studying aquaculture at Stirling University.

In 2015, he was invited to attend the M&S Farming for the Future Agricultural Leadership Programme at the Cranfield School of Management. Since then, he has implemented a new recycling system, built bat boxes to encourage local wildlife and reduced the site's energy use.

Even at this stage in his career, he is dedicated to helping the next generation of fish farmers and attends a number of university open days to share his knowledge and passion for the fish industry with students.

Matthew said: 'The aquaculture industry provides a great opportunity for young producers and I'm delighted

to have been recognised in this way. The industry is constantly evolving, so it's important for me to be able to contribute new ideas, as well as support and encourage young people looking to make a career in the sector.'

M&S Farming for the Future is a programme of initiatives which champions sustainability and innovation. The programme is designed to help farmers identify opportunities for improvement, increase their profitability and provide a sustainable supply chain that can continue to deliver quality and innovation for the long term.

The awards celebrate suppliers working towards important M&S Plan A commitments, including becoming carbon neutral, sending no waste to landfill, extending sustainable sourcing, setting new standards in ethical trading, and helping customers and employees live a healthier lifestyle.

Steve McLean, at M&S, said: 'The Farming for the Future awards are now in their 10th year, acknowledging the dedication and commitment our farmers and growers are making towards Plan A and sharing best practice amongst the agricultural community across Ireland and the UK.'

'Matthew is a very worthy winner who has demonstrated innovative thinking, commercial success and social responsibility in the way that he manages and executes his role.'

Luing Bakery success at Highland show

LUING Bakery of Cullipool won two of five gold awards at the Royal Highland Show's first Scottish Bread Championships.

Wendy Barrie, who set up the championships this year, said there were fantastic breads among the 50 entries kneaded, knocked and baked by competitors over three hours in Edinburgh last Tuesday, but Isle of Luing baker Mary Braithwaite walked away with the most awards.

Mary picked up top prizes for her clootie loaf following 'a traditional or ancient Scottish recipe', and her toasted seed and oat sourdough in the category of 'bread excelling in nutritional quality'.

Mary, who also holds a doctorate in archaeology and anthropology, previously ran a Kent bakery with her husband Nigel, and moved to Luing for a quieter life two years ago.

Currently she just bakes from her kitchen in Cullipool House to sell at the island shop, Luing Stores, but her business will expand as soon as her new bakery is finished.

'No more getting up at 3am in the morning, or working 14 hour days,' she said.

Mary has developed breads that include grains that used to be grown on Luing, especially barley and oats. Other breads include rye, spelt and Orkney bere meal, which is an ancient form of barley.

'Luing was known for its grain,' she



said: 'In 1549 Luing was described as 'guid for corn', and rent payments by tenants included large quantities of bere (barley) and meal (oatmeal) until the 18th century. For centuries rye was grown in small quantities throughout the Hebrides.'

A popular bread now is Luining sour-

dough, which includes flakes of barley, oats and rye. Mary also makes sweet enriched loaves with fruit and spices, including the clootie loaf which uses eggs from Balvicar on Seil, Scottish butter, molasses, raisins, sultanas, currants and spices.

'Luing is a great place to establish

a small bakery as it has a long and fine tradition of home baking,' she adds. 'It has an active Isle of Luing Home Bakers group. The current 18 members produce very good cakes, biscuits, shortbread and savoury items, some of which are also on sale at Luing Stores.'

New grants package for sheep farmers

FORESTRY Commission Scotland has opened up a new funding opportunity to help hill and upland sheep farmers boost their business potential.

A special funding package under the Forestry Grant Scheme will now help farmers integrate new woodlands between 10 ha and 50 ha into their farms.

The Sheep and Trees Forestry Grants Package will enable farmers to apply for a woodland creation grant and the forest infrastructure grant for the same area at the same time. This allows farmers to build access routes whilst also getting grants to get new woodlands established.

A typical 50 ha woodland could

receive up to £200,000 for woodland creation and up to £40,000 in infrastructure grant aid. The funding will not affect an applicant's Basic Payments.

Jo O'Hara, head of Forestry Commission Scotland said: 'It is vital that farmers can continue to keep their sheep on the hills. Our new grants package can support this through helping them integrate woodlands into their business, increasing its commercial viability.'

'Carefully managed woodlands can increase farm productivity and provide many other benefits too. The funding package creates an excellent opportunity to diversify and take advantage of land previously not

considered possible due to a lack of access.'

NFU Scotland's director of policy Jonnie Hall said: 'While blanket forestry on productive land remains a hugely contentious issue with our membership, for many of those who keep sheep on hills and uplands, this presents an opportunity to plant the right trees in the right place.'

'Done well, it can provide valuable shelter belts grown on poorer areas, improve the overall health and management of the flock, be a route into upgrading fencing and access and provide a diversified income stream.'

'There is an important role for forestry within the Scottish agricul-

tural sector and this scheme shows that woodlands can be better integrated into agricultural land use, without compromising our ability to produce livestock and crops or the significance of those activities to local economies, biodiversity and communities.'

'Future land use should not be a stark choice between farming or forestry, renewables or conservation. While food production must be the priority, all can be accommodated if the policy framework that drives land use decisions can be more coherent and better integrated.'

Applications for this funding are welcome all year round and for further information visit: www.forestry.gov.uk/scotlandgrants

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Rural support features at event

THE future of agriculture and rural development support, post-2020, has been discussed as a special round-table event in Edinburgh.

Organised by Scottish Land and Estates and Scottish Environment Link, a range of stakeholders – including the Scottish Government and organisations representing farming, land management, rural economy, environmental protection, forestry and landscape interests – attended the meeting.

The event was aimed at 'having an open and honest conversation on the various perspectives with a view to identifying common themes and differences'.

Consultant agricultural economist Andrew Moxey set the scene by outlining why Brexit matters for the rural land-based economy as well as detailing other factors which would lead to changes to rural support being required anyway. Dr Moxey also set out where various major stakeholders are positioning themselves in the ongoing debate.

Anne Gray, senior policy officer (land use and environment), said: 'We were pleased, alongside Scottish Environment Link, to organise what we hope will be the first of many round-table events to discuss rural support in Scotland after Brexit.'

'Each organisation is formulating its own thoughts on what it wants to see rural Scotland deliver after Brexit and that obviously means there are different starting points for each stakeholder. The nature of the event allowed honest discussion to take place and establish where there are clear differences and where there is consensus that can be built upon moving forward.'

Pete Ritchie, from Scottish Environment Link, said: 'Everybody knows the CAP is no longer fit for purpose - or sure of its purpose - but designing something for the post-2020 world which works better than the CAP for Scotland's land, health, nature and rural economy is harder than it looks.'

'It has been very helpful to bring a wide range of stakeholders together to start that conversation. Link looks forward to continuing the conversation, building on common ground and exploring differences respectfully. Thanks to all who took part.'



Chris Cameron tends some of his cattle at Strone Farm. Picture: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Monitor farm event is set for Lochaber

THE opportunity to improve suckler herd margins on the West Coast of Scotland will be the focus of the next meeting of the Lochaber monitor farm on Thursday June 29.

Strone Farm, a 1,200-hectare hill farm located in the Great Glen, one of Scotland's most scenic locations, is run by Chris Cameron in partnership with his father Malcolm and mother Eileen.

At the meeting, which will begin at 11am and includes lunch, the profitability of West Coast suckler systems will be carefully considered.

The merits of two different systems used in the area will be discussed – high input and output compared with low input

and output. The strengths and weaknesses of the different systems, including in-wintering versus out-wintering, will be considered along with what aspects of each system work best in terms of financial return.

Another objective of the meeting will be to identify a realistic set of key performance indicators for West Coast suckler herds, which will be a useful tool for the monitor farm community group going forward.

The meeting will also involve a close look at the cattle system in place at Strone. 'The initial part of the meeting will involve attendees being out on the farm, looking at the cattle and

being given a detailed update on the current cattle policy and management system at Strone,' said Paolo Berardelli, chairman of the Monitor Farm Management Group.

'We will then return to carry out a comparison of the system with other farms in the local area. This will be done by management group members explaining their farming policies.'

Among the aspects of the Strone cattle enterprise which will be considered are calving policy, wintering policy and marketing policy.

The Lochaber monitor farm is one of nine established around Scotland in a joint initiative by Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) and AHDB Cereals

and Oilseeds. The aim of the programme, which is funded by Scottish Government, is to help improve the productivity, profitability and sustainability of Scottish farm businesses.

The meetings are open and free for all farmers to attend. Attendees will also have an input into topics covered, speakers invited to meetings and visits to other enterprises and businesses.

To book your attendance and lunch, contact Niall Campbell or Morven MacArthur on 01631 563093 or email fbso-ban@sac.co.uk.

For more information about the monitor farm programme visit www.qmscotland.co.uk or cereals.ahdb.org.uk.

Around the markets

STIRLING – Caledonian Market on Thursday June 22 sold 121 cattle comprising 81 prime bullocks, heifers and six young bulls, 34 cast cows and bulls.

Prime bullocks averaged 220ppkg, prime heifers averaged 226ppkg, young bulls averaged 198ppkg, beef wows averaged 133p and dairy cows averaged 106p

Bullocks sold to 245ppkg for a Limousin from D Dickinson, Brockwoodlees, Cononbie, to T Johnston, Butchers, Falkirk, and to a massive £1768 gross (away ahead of any deadweight centre) for a Charolais from C Smith, South Flanders, Kippen, to Malcolm Allan and Sons.

Heifers sold to 250ppkg for a Limousin from A S Hay, Mains of Cullmalundie, Tibbermore, to D Campbell, Butchers, Callander and again to 'a massive' gross price of £1716 from J Brown, Greencraig, Falkirk, to Border Meats, Lockerbie.

Young bulls to 215ppkg for a Limousin from W Brisbane and Son, South Woodlane, Blairdrummond, to Charles Kirkpatrick.

Leading prices:-

Bullocks p/kg 240p (twice) Balquharrage and Easter Ochtermuthill 238p West Woodlane and Brockwoodlees 235p (twice)

West Woodlane, Easter Ochtermuthill, Balquharrage and Brockwoodlees 232p Mains of Cullmalundie and West Woodlane 228p Old Leckie 225p Cander Mains and Dullamoir

Heifers p/kg 245p & 242p Brockwoodlees 240p Mains of Cullmalundie, Brockwoodlees and Easter Ochtermuthill 238p Faskine 235p Cander Mains and Easter Ochtermuthill 232p Annfield and Faskine 230p (twice) Blackhill and Annfield 228p Greencraig and West Woodlane

Bullocks Per Head £1746 and £1684 South Flanders £1670 Easter Ochtermuthill £1586 and £1574 Greencraig £1530 Mains of Cullmalundie

Heifers per head £1606 and £1558 Brockwoodlees £1598 Easter Ochtermuthill £1436 Greencraig £1392 Annfield Also forward were 34 cast cows and bulls

Very short on cows for the demand, lots more could have been sold to sellers advantage!

Beef cows averaged 134p selling to 162ppkg for a Charolais from R A Purdon, Easterton, Caldercraix and to £1410 from the same home.

Dairy cows sold to 116.5p and to £990 from W Hamilton and Sons, Meldrum, Stirling.

Bulls and bullocks averaged 138p selling to 171p for a Limousin Bullock from J Laird and Sons, South Quarter, Kingsbarns, and to £1530 for the same beast.

Other leading prices: Beef cows per head £950 Walton £930 South Quarter £870 7 Holding Pardovan £820 Your Local Farmer £790 Knoxfauld

Beef cows pkg 148.7p South Quarter 143.1 7 Holding Pardovan 134.4p Your Local Farmer

Dairy cows per head: £820 Meldrum Bulls and bullocks per head: £1190 Spittal £990 Roscobie

STIRLING – United Auctions on Thursday June 22 sold 3197 prime sheep including 1667 new season lambs selling to an average of 236.01ppk and 299 hogs and 1231 ewes and rams.

Spring lambs (1667) Meadows of Ballied (Tex) £138; Fisherton (Suff) £124; Wr Keadowrie (BTex) £110; Dikken (Char) £106.50; Priestfield (Chev) £103.50; Binn (Zwa) £100; Devol (Mule) £92.

Spring lambs (1667) Meadows of Ballied (Tex) 283p; Kinloch (Suff) 281p; South Ballaird (BTex) 242p; Dikken (Char) 242p; Nethermill (X) 242p; Priestfield (Chev) 240p; Beechknowe (Hamp) 218p; Binn (Zwa) 215p. Ewes (1231) Fleurs (Tex) £130.00; Fleurs (Suff) £96.50; Westerhill (Char) £94.00; Dall (BFL) £92.50; Wester Forret (Chev/Mule) £84.00; Priestfield (Chev) £81.00; Fleurs (X) £80.00; Penston (Mule) £78.00; Linfield (Zwa) £76.00; Craigbuie (BF) £67.00.

Tups – Devol (BFL) £120.00; Hilton of Aldie (Char) £106; Gathercauld (Tex) £103; Formal (Suff) £100; Auchenflower (BF) £70.00.

STIRLING – United Auctions on Wednesday June 21 sold 200 store cattle and 61 cast cows and forward cattle.

Bullocks (128) -averaged 239.6p to 280.5ppk for a 328kg CHX from High Milndovan and £1275 for a 494kg LimX from Corsewall.

B&W Bullocks (33) - averaged 165.68p to 173.9ppk for a 276kg HFX Graystale and £955 for a 555kg BFX from Gatehead.

Heifers (39) - averaged 213.1p to 255.6ppk for a 313kg ChX from Mid Craigton and £1160 for a 598kg BRBX from Crookedstonemuir.

Cast Cows (52) averaged 150.26p to 179.2ppk for a SimX from Forneth Est and £1550 for an AAX from Mosstonmuir.

Dairy Cows (9) averaged 111.73p to 130.6ppk for a HFX from Nyadd and £985 for a HFX from Nyadd.

Bullocks: 0-250kgs- Baldersbury Hill £600, 243.90p 251-300kgs- Mid Craigton £770, 256.70p 301-350kgs- High Milndovan £920, 280.50p 351-400kgs- High Milndovan £960, 258.20p 401-450kgs- Laighpark £1105, 264.40p 451-500kgs- Corsewall £1275, 261.00p 501-550kgs- Corsewall £1190, 230.60p 551-600kgs - Gatehead £955, 172.10p.

Heifers: 251-300kgs- Sauchenside £560, Baldersbury Hill 212.60p 301-350kg- Laighpark £850, Mid Craigton 255.60p; 351-400kgs- Gateside £890, High Milndovan 243.20p 401-450kgs- Mid Craigton £915, 224.30p 451-500kgs- Crookedstonemuir £850, 186.40p 501-550kgs- Laighpark £1150, 221.20p; 551-600kgs- Crookedstonemuir £1160, 194p.

OTM Cows: £ per head- Mosstonmuir (A) £1550; Traprain (Lim) £1450; Forneth Est (Sim) £1430; Glenhead (BRB) £1150; Traprain (BS) £1130; Traprain (SH) £1130. PPK- Forneth Est (Sim) 179.20p; Lower Luthrie (A) 178.00p; Traprain (Lim) 173.90p; Traprain (BRB) 164.20p; Traprain (BS) 163.80p; Traprain (SH) 161.90p.

OTM Bulls: £ per head- Hardens (CH) £1670; Riccarton (Sim) £1530; Gateside (BA) £1150; Bows (BS) £1010. PPK- Riccarton (Sim) 139.10p; Gateside (BA) 130.70p; Hardens (CH) 128.30p; Bows 114.80p.

EU ban on chemicals will hit Scots farmers

A VOTE in the European Parliament last week rejected the views of the parliament's own agricultural committee and will now see a ban for the use of plant protection products (PPPs) on ecological focus areas (EFAs) become effective for claim year 2018.

The plan to ban PPPs on EFA crops had been strongly opposed

by NFU Scotland, fellow farming unions and several member states – a position that was accepted by the agri-committee of the European Parliament two weeks ago.

In a vote at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, a majority of the MEPs who voted followed the lead of their committee.

Unfortunately, with 78 MEPs not present at the vote, the 376 who

voted in favour fell short of the required absolute majority.

While there are many other elements in the CAP simplification proposals for greening rules that could be of benefit to Scottish farmers, NFUS points out that the onus is now on Scottish Government as to whether these will be adopted.

NFUS's understanding is that

Professor Griggs' group has already made recommendations concerning greening changes announced by the rural secretary in February. The group should now also be able to consider implementation of the changes agreed in Brussels. Decisions need to be made very soon, as farmers are already planning their land use and cropping for 2018.

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Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive. Constantly adjusting the power and braking to each individual wheel, the Forester maintains the 4x4 grip you need. Negotiate slippery tracks, rocks and inclines - even faced with rain, ice or snow. Back on tarmac, the low, centrally-mounted Boxer engine makes all the difference: sweep through a corner - you'll see what we mean.

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Forester 2.0D XC as shown in the image.

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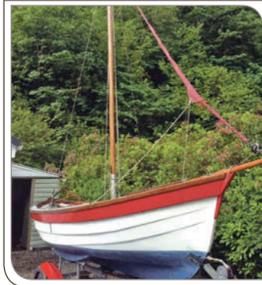


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Salary: £18,275 - £21,500

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Applicants applying for our experienced husbandry roles should have at least 2 years' practical salmon farming experience. You should be able to demonstrate competence across a wide range of farming disciplines including: fish health monitoring, stock appetite assessment, boat handling skills, feeding system and boat maintenance whilst being proactive in health and safety.

Trainee Husbandry Salary: £17,700 - £18,275 + OT Payments

Applicants are also invited by candidates looking to begin their career in the Aquaculture Industry. We are looking for ambitious individuals who are team players, proactive in health and safety and who have high expectations for themselves and of their employer. In return, we will provide you with a Mentor who will guide you through your first months of employment and a detailed training plan that will enable you to kick start your fish farming career.

Processing Operative Staff

Location: South Shian, Argyll Salary: £17,576 + OT Payments

Duties focus on the processing and preparing of our product for despatch to our customers on average five days per week. Full training is provided including, health and safety, hygiene and food safety plus all relevant training on machinery if required. Applicants should be able to work as part of a team that has high standards with a good work ethic and will be required to work shifts on a rotational basis.

In return Scottish Sea Farms will offer an attractive remuneration package, dependant on experience along with pension scheme, life cover, occupational health support, subsidised gym membership and cycle to work scheme.

To find out more please contact **Angela Hand, Recruitment & HR Coordinator** on 01786 445521 or email angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com for an application pack.

Closing Date: Friday 7th July 2017



CCAP Support Scientist

£18,940 per annum (pro rata)
Part-time position – 18.5 hours per week

The Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (www.ccap.ac.uk) is a world renowned biological resource centre maintaining and supplying around 3000 strains of microalgae, cyanobacteria, protozoa and seaweeds. SAMS seeks a support scientist to join the CCAP team in carrying out its curatorial and service roles focusing on the maintenance of protozoa, seaweeds and green microalgae and general enhancement of the Collection.

The post-holder should have good team-working skills and experience of working in a microbiological laboratory. Flexible working hours can be negotiated.

For further information and to apply for this position online, go to: www.sams.ac.uk. Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, CCAP Support Scientist (Job Ref. D05/17.CC), The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA or e-mail recruitment@sams.ac.uk

Closing date: Friday 7th July 2017

SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

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DIAGEO

Do you think outside the bottle? Are you interested in Managerial or operational roles in a world class organisation? If so visit www.diageo-careers.com and see what we have to offer.

Bus Driver

(training provided)
Based in Fort William

Fancy a change of scenery?
Do you love meeting new people?
Can you go that extra mile when it comes to customer service?

You could be a bus driver - all you need is a driving licence!

We are looking for friendly, flexible & reliable drivers, who enjoy meeting people, working on their own initiative and will enjoy being part of a friendly and dedicated team.

In return, we offer a competitive salary, full training, full pension, job security and free travel on our services.

Applicants should hold a full UK licence which should have no more than 3 endorsement points on it and have had no driving bans within the last 5 years.

Apply online at www.stagecoachbus.com/careers

Stagecoach NORTH SCOTLAND



Scottish Natural Heritage is the leading public body responsible for advising Ministers on matters relating to the natural heritage. The natural environment is a key asset that underpins Scotland's wealth, health and quality of life. Our job is to conserve this resource, to promote its sustainable management and to encourage people to access and enjoy it responsibly.

Operations Officer

37 hours a week, Fixed Term Contract until 31 March 2018
Starting salary £24,587 per annum
Uist
(Ref: 045-319 & 045-326)

The post holders will contribute to the delivery of Scottish Natural Heritage's objectives within the Argyll and Outer Hebrides Unit. One post will principally deliver within Mid-Argyll and Kintyre and the other across Cowal, West Loch Lomondside and Mull Coll and Tiree. Both will also support work in other parts of the Unit and there will be an expectation of being able to work flexibly throughout the area.

The post's main areas of work will include the provision of advice on protected areas to local authorities, competent authorities and land managers. They will also carry out monitoring of protected areas; and advise on, and assess, agri-environment applications.

Applicants should have an HND or equivalent qualification in an environmental discipline or countryside management. Alternatively they should be able to demonstrate qualification by practical experience of environmental or countryside management. Applicants should be familiar with the main land uses and habitat types within Argyll and Bute which contribute to the areas outstanding natural heritage. Agriculture and forestry knowledge will clearly be useful.

You must also be familiar with the general functions and statutory duties of SNH, with a basic knowledge and experience of species ecology, habitat types and land use in Scotland. A basic knowledge of the local area and its natural history is a must with a valid driving licence or alternative means of accessing remote countryside sites. You must have excellent organisational and time management skills to effectively prioritise a high volume of reactive and proactive workload with good interpersonal skills and the ability to work in partnership fostering good relations. Finally you must be proficient in computer skills, both written and verbal including IT.

We're as supportive, committed and proud of our people as we are of the natural world around us. Find out more, and apply, online. Alternatively, call 01463 725182.

Closing date: Sunday 16 July 2017.
Interview is scheduled for: **Wednesday 16 August 2017.**

get closer snhjobs.co.uk

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ARDFERN YACHT CENTRE LTD

MARINA CO-ORDINATOR

(Competitive salary depending on qualifications and experience)

We require a full-time Marina Co-ordinator to join our busy marina, boatyard and chandlery office near Lochgilphead in Mid Argyll.

Candidates will be able to demonstrate strong organisational and communication skills, together with being able to effectively manage customer relations, allowing them to oversee all the berthing, mooring and storage bookings, coordinate boat movements and complete the associated billing for the business.

Reporting to the general manager, ideally you will be familiar with office administration, including processing sales invoices and have experience using Microsoft Office packages such as Excel. Knowledge of Sage software would be an advantage.

The 5-day-week position does involve working one day over the weekend. An interest in or past experience of sailing or boating is advantageous.

Please apply in writing for an application form and full job description by email to **Mark Cameron, General Manager**, mark@ardfernyacht.co.uk Ardfarn Yacht Centre Ltd, Ardfarn, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8QN.
Closing Date For Applications July 14th 2017



d.CARMICHAEL & SONS
BUILDING CONTRACTORS
consult • renovate • build

D. Carmichael and Sons Ltd require 1 experienced CSCS bricklayer for immediate start in the Oban area.

The post is a full-time, permanent position. Applicants must have at least five years recent experience and hold a clean driver's licence.

Duties will include general building work, setting out new builds and material procurement.

If you are interested in joining a thriving, well-established business, which provides a reliable and high quality service, then please email CV and references from previous employers to info@dcarmichaelandsons.co.uk



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Scottish Field

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GLORIOUS GLENCOE
Marine and explorer Aldo Kane on his love for Lochaber

WIN A MEAL FOR 4 ON THE ROYAL YACHT BRITANNIA

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CARS OF THE YEAR – Motoring guru Neil Lyndon turns the rule over the best cars on the market this year

Marine & explorer Aldo Kane ON HIS LOVE FOR LOCHABER

At home with **Melanie Reid** Scotland's tea plantations
WIN a meal for 4 on the Royal Yacht Britannia

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PERLE OBAN HOTEL

Perle Oban Hotel is now recruiting for passionate and experienced staff to join our exciting new hotel in the heart of Oban with excellent pay and fantastic staff benefits.

We are seeking to fill the following roles:

- **Human Resources Manager**
The role will include supporting recruitment and selection, including pre-employment checks and contractual paperwork, maintaining staff records, preparing payroll information, general administration and assisting with HR project work.
- **Food and Beverage Manager**
This is a role that will suit an individual who is career focused with flair and ambition and looking to work within a high quality environment
- **Front of House Waiting Staff**
- **Housekeeping Staff**
- **Chef de Partie**
- **Kitchen Porter**

To apply please send your CV and Cover Letter to jchevet@perlehotels.com.

RECRUITMENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH HIJOBS



AHFA Planned Maintenance Manager Oban or Helensburgh

£27,575 - £32,441 plus excellent benefits 35 hours per week
Permanent position

For more information, please contact Phil Burn on 01546 605824

Interviews will be held in Inveraray on Monday 17th July 2017
Closing Date for above post: Friday 7th July 2017.

2 x AHFA Electricians (17th edition) 1 x Oban 1 x Argyll-wide

£13.09 - £15.40 per hour (plus overtime, on call and price work available)

Permanent positions 37.5 hours per week

For more information, please contact Lee Holness on 01546 605 815

Interviews will be held in Oban on 8th August 2017.

Closing Date for above posts: 12 noon on Friday 21st July 2017.

AHFA Painter Oban

£10.83 - £12.75 per hour (plus overtime, on call and price work available)

Permanent position 37.5 hours per week

For more information please contact Phil Burn on 01546 605815.

Interviews will be held in Oban on 8th August.

Closing Date for above post: 12 noon on Friday 21st July 2017.

ACHA Community Support Assistant Lochgair Place, Tarbert

£5,919.29 - £6,963.57 12.5 hours per week

For more information, please contact Jenna Philips on 01546 605808 or email jenna.philips@acha.co.uk

Interviews will be held in Lochgilphead on Tuesday 1st August 2017

ACHA Administrative Assistant Lochgilphead

£16,574 - £19,498 35 hours per week

Fixed term to April 2019

For more information contact Lachlan Wood on 01546 605832 or email lachlan.wood@acha.co.uk

Interviews will be held in Lochgilphead on 18 July 2017.

Closing Date for the ACHA posts: 12 noon on Friday 14th July 2017

For further details and to apply visit the recruitment section of our website www.acha.co.uk

CVs are not accepted.

If you are unable to access the website, contact the Recruitment Team:

Tel 01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk



West of Scotland Area Services – Oban Saturday Club

Autism Support Workers Permanent Part Time

Casual Opportunities also available

£8.25 per Hour plus Excellent Benefits Package
Reference: SA/490

In this role, you will be an integral member of the support team contributing to and ensuring a high quality of care and support for individuals on the Autism Spectrum and/ or with complex needs within our Oban- West of Scotland Service. Hours will include supporting in a Saturday Club for children and providing an outreach service to young adults which will include daytime, evenings and weekends.

To download an application form or for more information please visit our website www.scottishautism.org

If you think you have the skills and experience to match our demanding requirements then please forward an application form to recruitment@scottishautism.org or by post to The HR Department, Scottish Autism, Hilton House, Alloa Business Park, Whins Road, Alloa, FK10 3SA.

Closing Date - 04th July 2017

Registered charity number is SC009068

PUBLIC NOTICES

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN
THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568 000
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
17/01490/MFF	Siting of trestles for oyster farming	Fish Farm Aird Fhada Loch Scridain Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Bunnessan Isle of Mull
17/01143/PP	Alterations to store, erection of external plant area with associated fencing and formation of 3 trolley bays in car park	Vacant Lidl Store Lochavullin Drive Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4PL	Oban Area Office
17/01569/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 3 Memorial Field Kilchrenan Tainuilit Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Tainuilit
17/01614/PP	Erection of emergency services network telecommunications equipment compound with 20 metres high tower and associated works	Land South West Of Duachy Loch Seil Kilniver Oban Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Balvicar
17/01447/PP	Erection of shop (Class 1)	Land West Of 13 McKelvie Road Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
17/01595/PP	Installation of septic tank	Land East Of Nant Farm Ichrachan Tainuilit Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Tainuilit
17/01400/PP	Formation of footpath	Land East Of Dunstaffnage Mains Farm Dunbeg Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
17/01462/PP	Erection of 1.8m high deer fence and associated gates	Land North West Of Ballygown Farm Glenlonan Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4QE	Oban Area Office
17/01629/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of access.	Land South East Of Ardmore Main Street Portnahaven Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Portnahaven
17/01631/PP	Erection of single storey detached garage	4 Lochandhu Tainuilit Argyll And Bute PA35 1JL	Sub Post Office Tainuilit

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



First Registration of a Croft

Mr David James Craig has registered his croft, Croft 2 Lettershuna, Lismore & Appin on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 1st March 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4093.

First Registration of a Croft

Iain Wilson has registered his croft 1 Bohenie, Kilmornaig 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 March 23, 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4143

A82 NORTH ROAD, FORT WILLIAM NOTICE NO 2

Morbaine Limited would like to advise the public that construction work in connection with the roundabout needed to serve the new North Road Retail Park, adjacent to the Lochabar Smelter, is continuing and will be moving into new phases.

Morbaine have experienced delays since the last Notice was issued but work will continue to either side of the A82 until 24th July 2017 without disturbing the A82.

After this date the traffic will be diverted around the works and the contractor will occupy the existing carriageway until the end of August 2017 when the new carriageway will open.

Whilst two way traffic will be maintained at all times, Morbaine Limited and their contractor, I & H Brown Ltd, apologise for any inconvenience this may cause to the public.

There are further details and plans available to view on our website www.morbaine.co.uk/A82 and further Notices will be issued in due course.
Alex Brodie, Director

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

J A Dickie trading as J A Dickie Truckin Ltd of 24 Gairbraid Court, Maryhill, Glasgow G20 8HU is applying for a licence to use MacQueen Self Store Ltd, Glengallan Road, Oban PA34 4HG as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 2 trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

www.highland.gov.uk



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
17/02399/FUL	Land 25M South of Natanel House, West Tirindrish, Spean Bridge	Erection of 2 houses
17/02631/PIP	Land 1060M NE of Torr Na H'Innse, Sandaig Bay, Inverie, Knoydart	Erection of house
17/02742/FUL	Telecommunications Mast, Achnacarry, Spean Bridge	A new co-located Government-led 'blue-light' Emergency Services Network (ESN) Telecoms Mast Installation
17/02765/FUL	Taigh Nan Ord, Old Banavie Road, Banavie, Fort William	Erection of residential annex/ holiday unit
17/02783/FUL	Land 70M North of Inbhiggarbh, Inbhiggarbh, Invergarry	Proposal to create new access off private track, erection of one-and-half storey dwelling with separate garage incorporating studio above, installation of pinelodge mobile home and installation of new sewage treatment plant with outfall to burn
17/02832/FUL	Land 85M SW of Drimnatorran Farm House, Strontian	Erection of house (re-submission of planning application 17/00940/FUL)
17/02877/FUL	5 And 6 Airds Crossing, High Street, Fort William	Change of use of retail unit and hot food takeaway to form community cinema
17/02883/FUL	An Aird Shinty Pitch, Camanachd Crescent, Fort William	Creation of shinty pitch on recreational ground, erection of boundary fencing, ball catch fence and 4 no. floodlighting columns
17/02885/FUL	Parade House, The Parade, Fort William	Change of use to Class 9 (Houses) and ancillary offices for homeworking
17/02886/LBC	Parade House, The Parade, Fort William	Internal alterations to facilitate change of use to residential and ancillary office for homeworking
17/02907/PIP	Land to North West of Fasgadh, Lochailort	Erection of house (renewal of 13/00403/PIP)

Time period for comments is 14 days, 17/02886/LBC is 21 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

M McFarlane
116 Achnaha, Sanna, Ardnamurchan & Sunart 79000
0.061 ha
Reason - Existing house site
Condition - Fencing conditions.

A Byrne
1 Garvan, Ardgour 79079
0.08 ha
Reason - Site for a dwelling house
Condition - Fencing conditions.

Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

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Argyll and Bute Council

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (PART OF CORE PATH REFERENCE C175 (c) AT DALAVICH) TEMPORARY STOPPING UP AND DIVERSION ORDER 2017

Argyll and Bute Council hereby gives notice that on 26 June 2017 it confirmed as unopposed the Order made under Section 208 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to be known as "The Argyll and Bute Council (Part of Core Path C175 (c) at Dalavich) Temporary Stopping Up and Diversion Order 2017" (hereinafter referred to as "the Order") authorising the stopping up of part of Core Path reference C175(c) at Dalavich, and its diversion along the closely adjacent alternative route all as shown by the Plan forming Schedule Part I annexed and subscribed as relative to the Order. The Core Path will be stopped up and diverted along the said alternative route all as more particularly referred to in the Schedule Part 2 annexed and subscribed as relative to the Order. The stopping up and diversion of the footpath is necessary to enable to enable the development comprising generally the installation of a community hydro scheme permitted under planning permission reference 14/01882/PP granted under Part III of The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to be carried out in accordance with the said planning permission.

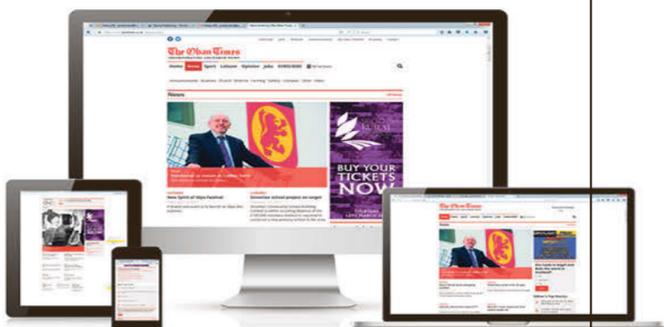
A copy of the confirmed Order and relevant Plan contained in the Schedule Part 1 showing the footpath to be stopped up and the alternative route along which it will be diverted and other information contained in the Schedule Part 2 may be inspected at the offices of Argyll and Bute Council, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW, by any person, free of charge, within normal office hours following the appearance of this advertisement.

CHARLES REPPKE
Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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FIVE TIPS FOR KEEPING TENANTS



Consider the contact you have had with the tenant. If tenants are always complaining about the same issues, have you gotten back to them promptly and responded in a professional manner?

Check your property thoroughly. Not all tenants will complain, so it's worth performing a careful property inspection and fixing any issues promptly.

Are your rules too restrictive? If you don't allow pets, children or even let the tenants redecorate, you might want to reconsider.

Offer a longer initial term at the start of the tenancy. Rather than a six month tenancy, you might consider longer options.

For advice on making your rental property attractive to quality, long term tenants and ensure you can get the best return on your investment, give our experienced Lettings Team a call today.

Landlords know that it's always better to have tenants in your property. Every time you have to source a new tenant, you will incur costs compared to having a long-term tenant - not to mention the income you will lose during void periods. If your tenants are not renewing their lease, there are some steps you can take to address the issue.

When you receive notice, ask tenants why they are leaving. You might find out there is a problem that is easily fixed, or a feature of the property that is not desirable in the long term. A standard questionnaire at the end of a tenancy is a good way to stay informed.

info@west-property.co.uk

www.west-property.co.uk

See our independent reviews on www.allagents.co.uk

PROPERTIES FOR SALE & TO LET

DUNVEGAN, ISLE OF SEIL

- Detached Bungalow with a mooring
- 3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Stunning Sea Views
- Large mature garden (Approx 0.8 acres)
- Two Garages
- EPC Rating - E

£250,000

A spacious and bright three bedroom detached bungalow in an elevated position on the Isle of Seil. With stunning sea views across the Sound of Seil and set in a large mature garden extending to approx. 0.8 acres, Dunvegan occupies an idyllic secluded position. The property comprises a bright lounge with sizable dining area. This room enjoys far reaching views through large glazed patio doors which allow access out onto a raised seating area, to take in the sea views and stunning West Coast sunsets!

CNOC-A-CHALLTUINN, OBAN

- End Terraced house
- 3 Bedrooms/1 Bathroom/1 WC
- Island location close to Oban
- Manageable garden
- Well maintained
- EPC Rating - F36

OIRO £160,000

Cnoc-A-challtuinn is in the desirable location of Clachan on the Isle of Seil. The property comprises a generous sunroom to the front which enjoys views across the Sound of Seil. A perfect spot for reading in the afternoon or entertaining guests. Through the hall is a cosy lounge/diner with windows front and back allowing plentiful natural light. The kitchen has modern fitted units and worktop with integral electric oven and hob. A back door allows access to the rear garden.

ARGYLL STREET, TOBERMORY

- End terrace house
- 3 Bedrooms/1 Bathroom
- Beautiful sea views
- Elevated situation
- Adjacent Garden
- EPC Rating - E34

OIRO £220,000

A fantastic opportunity to purchase a property with BEAUTIFUL SEA VIEWS located on a POPULAR RESIDENTIAL STREET in the centre of Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. Forest Bank is an end-terrace property with accommodation arranged over two floors. On entering, via the front door, the lounge is located to your left with the large dining room/second lounge on the right. Both rooms enjoy the stunning sea views over the town to Tobermory Bay, Calve Island and Ardnamurchan.

GLENGORM, OBAN

- Detached bungalow
- 3 bedrooms/1 bathroom
- 1 shower room
- Peaceful and pretty location
- Walk-in condition
- Established holiday let
- EPC Rating - D47

OIRO £235,000

A well-proportioned cottage with integrated holiday let and owner's accommodation, The Old Power House offers buyer a great deal of flexibility. Currently used as a self-catering holiday let with separate but adjoining owner's accommodation, this property offers buyers a property with income potential or an opportunity for a sizable and practical family home. There is a double bedroom and en-suite bathroom off the living room, and completes the current owner's accommodation.

11B LONGSDALE TERRACE, ARGYLL

- 2 Bedroom flat/1 bathroom
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating - D

PCM £525

A first floor two bedroom flat on Longsdale Terrace, Oban. Comprises of Lounge, Kitchen (inc. all white goods), 2 double bedrooms (with large amounts of storage), family bathroom, hall cupboard. Outside there is a large stairwell storage cupboard and a shared drying green to the rear. Electric storage heating & double glazing throughout. Parking is on street closely. Deposit & References Required. Landlord Reg No. 163016/130/24420 Council Tax Band B - AVAILABLE MID JULY.

FLAT 1 STEVENSON HOUSE, OBAN

- 2 Bedroom flat/1 bathroom
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating - C

PCM £500

Located in Oban town centre, in a well-maintained block, this modern flat has 2 double bedrooms both with built-in large wardrobes, bathroom (including appliances), kitchen and lounge. Double glazing throughout and electric heating. Rent excludes Utilities & Council Tax (Band D). Deposit & references required. Landlord Registration No: 91986/130/31040. AVAILABLE JULY.

1 ALBANY STREET, OBAN

- EPC Rating - F38
- AVAILABLE END JULY

PCM £480

Fully-furnished One Bedroom Flat in Oban Town centre. This property has recently been refurbished, with modern decor and a homely finish throughout and available for a long let. The electric heating system has also been upgraded. The property has furniture, basic crockery and white goods all included, as is the factoring cost which includes a beautiful marble close. Deposit & References required. Council Tax (Band B) & Utilities excluded. Landlord Registration: 424701/130/01131.

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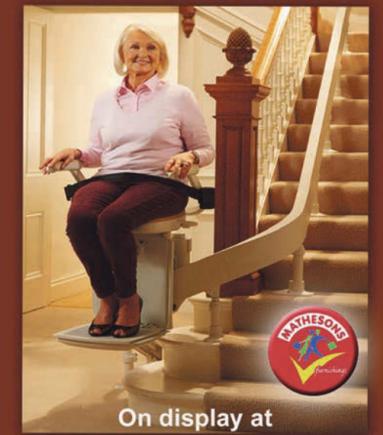
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GOLDEN WEDDING

EDGAR - WILSON - Ewen and Kathy married at Kelvinside Parish Church on June 28, 1967. Love and congratulations from the family.

DEATHS

BUTTERWORTH - Janet Helen, April 22, 1980 - June 15, 2017. A celebration of Janet's life will take place at Barnacarry, Kilniver, PA34 4QU on Wednesday July, 12 at 2.30 pm to which all friends are invited.

CAMPBELL - Suddenly at the Belford Hospital, Fort William on Monday June 12, 2017, Angus Campbell, Bohuntin, Roy Bridge, aged 80 years. Beloved father of Corin and brother of Margaret, Ronnie, Sally, Ishbel and Catriona. Sadly missed by all. RIP.

COMELY - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on June 21, 2017, in her 86th year, Margaret Comely, beloved wife of the late Clive, a loving mother, mother-in-law and grandmother.

DICKSON - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, after a short illness, on June 19, 2017, Janet Dickson of McCallum Court, Dunbeg and formerly of Strone Farm, Dalmlally, beloved wife of the late John. Funeral will take place at Cardross Crematorium on Thursday, June 29 at 11.15 a.m. Memorial service will take place at The Kingdom Hall, Dunbeg on Saturday July 1 at 2.30 p.m. Retiring collection/ donations if desired for Macmillan Nurses.

McGEOCH - At home following a short illness bravely borne, on June 24, 2017, aged 78, Captain Leonard Vincent McGeoch, beloved husband of Brenda, father to Alistair and Helen, father-in-law to Gillian and grandad to Daniel, Ronan, Matthew and Erin.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

MACCOLL - A Memorial Service and interment of ashes of Duncan Neil will be held at Pennyghael Cemetery, Isle of Mull on Wednesday July 5 at 11.30am, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FYFE - The family of the late Ian MacGowan Fyfe would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives and friends who attended the funeral on June 7, 2017. They would like to thank all those who sent cards, letters and for the many bouquets of flowers. This out-pouring of sympathy

and support has greatly helped the family to come to terms with Ian's passing. We would like to thank the staff of Glen Nevis Surgery and their NHS colleagues for the sympathetic, dignified and professional care they gave to Ian. Thank you to the office bearers of the Duncansburgh Macintosh Church and the Reverend Richard Baxter for their contribution in making Ian's service such a fitting and thoughtful one. To all those who offered their condolences and sympathy thank you so much.

McQUADE - John, Andrew and Tony would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours old and new for their sympathy, kindness and support following Ann's passing. Thank you to the Rev. Dugald Cameron for spiritual support, Ian at D&A Munns for professional funeral arrangements. Thanks to Colin, Joan and staff at the Olive Garden for excellent catering. Thank you to staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital for care and attention during Ann's short stay. The retail collection of £766.52 will be donated to Marie Curie Oban Branch and Argyll Animal Aid.

MEMORIAMS

BILLMORE - In loving memory of Bali, who was taken from us on July 1, 2005. To the world you were someone But to us you were the world - Love Sheena and family x

HAMILL - In loving memory of Frank Hamill, who passed away June 30, 2010. Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts.

- Isobel, Nicholas and Ryan.
MACGILLIVRAY - In loving memory of my dear husband Duncan, father, father-in-law and granddad, who died June 27, 1998. Always in our thoughts - Flora and family.

MACINNES - Precious memories of my loving husband Eoghan (formerly of Isle of Luing), died July 2, 2006.

It is sad to walk the road alone instead of side by side But to all there comes a moment when the ways of life divide And although you can't be here with me we are truly not apart Until the final breath I take you will be living in my heart - Mairi, Strollamus.

MACLEAN - Treasured memories of a dear father and grandfather Donald, who passed away July 5, 2007. Forever in our hearts. - John, May, Shaun and Shannon.

MACPHEE - Treasured memories of my dear mother, Marion Lawrie, passed away June 21, 1992. 25 years since you went away, loved and remembered every day. - Dugald, Janis and family.

McWHIRTER - Ricky July 1, 1997. Although it is now 20 years since we last were all together, you are still held so very tightly in our hearts

and memories. A devoted husband to Judith and loving dad to Katie and the late Duncan.

REID - In loving memory of my beloved husband Alasdair, who passed away June 27, 2009. Always in my thoughts, forever in my heart. - Ann.

Thought for the week

'Let love make you serve one another. For the whole law is summed up in one commandment; "Love you neighbour as you love yourself" Galatians 5 v13-14

THE horrific fire disaster in the Grenfell Tower has resulted in unprecedented loss of life, families, friends and homes.

Yet, in the midst of such suffering, the truth of these words has been demonstrated by the heroic actions of the emergency services and the compassionate response of local people in their spontaneous giving of time, food, shelter, clothes and support.

There has been an outpouring of neighbourly concerned action for all in need, in whatever ways people have been drawn to help.

This reaction is found when the stream of God's loving care, always present in suffering, wells up into lives; this enables the giving of selfless courage and care, often to unknown people, as we have witnessed in recent days.

According to Jesus, in his well-known story of the Good Samaritan, the term 'neighbour' refers to 'anyone in need' and also to the 'one who gives help' wherever it is needed. Central to this is the bond of partnership through working together, which provides the 'glue' that holds together a caring community.

Jesus' answer to the question-'Who is my Neighbour?' - is that anyone in need is a neighbour and that help for that person must be as wide as the love and grace of God. Compassion, to be real, must result in loving deeds.

Reverend Carol Leech

WEDDINGS



MCKECHNIE - MARSHALL
Mr and Mrs Alan McKechnie of North Connel, Oban are pleased to announce the marriage of their youngest daughter Seona McKechnie to Richard Marshall of Reading, Berkshire. The wedding took place on Saturday 29th April 2017 at St. Peter's Church, Caversham, Reading. The Reverend Marion Pyke officiated. The ceremony was followed by a reception for family and friends at the Berystede Hotel, Ascot. The happy couple would like to thank all those who joined them in celebrating the happy occasion and helped in making it a memory to treasure.

Obituary - Ian McGowan Fyfe

1920 - 2017



Hotelier and yachtsman - Ian Fyfe

THE DEATH of Ian Fyfe marked the end of an extraordinary life. From humble beginnings in Moodiesburn, Lanarkshire, he went on to become well known in Lochaber and beyond as a successful hotelier and yachtsman. He served for seven years in the RAF and Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm (1939 to 1946) as a navigator flying long-range bombers and Swordfish torpedo bombers. After the war, he owned a grocery shop and photography business. He also wrote match reports for the *Daily Record*. After holidaying in the Highlands, he became aware of the rapidly expanding tourist industry and the need for accommodation, which led him to purchase a croft near Fort William in 1963. The croft dwelling was developed into a large guest house before he then designed and built the Clan

MacDuff Hotel in 1967. He continued enlarging and improving this over the following 35 years.

He joined Lochaber Rotary Club in 1974 and, in later years, was made an honorary member, becoming their oldest member.

During the 1970s and 1980s Ian became a successful yachtsman who was best known for his ocean racing exploits. In 1976, he raced from Cape Town to Rio de Janeiro in *Gumdrop*, finishing a creditable seventh overall. In 1977, he won every race in Class 1 at the Jubilee West Highland Week and every trophy available to him - a total of 11. Three years later he took part in the Parmelia Race, an ocean marathon of well more than 10,000 nautical miles from Plymouth to Perth, Australia. He finished an improved

fourth overall in a bigger boat called *Bubblegum*.

At the age of 61, Ian took part in the 1981 Whitbread round the world race, in the smallest boat ever to compete. It was a tough race on man and boat with many incidents. The most severe of these occurred 160 miles off Cape Horn. The rudder bearings broke free from the hull and the boat began to sink. With great aptitude and leadership, he improvised and managed to stop the yacht sinking. Then Ian sailed 160 miles without a rudder to rendezvous with a Chilean naval tug which accompanied *Bubblegum* to safety. He is survived by his wife Faith, sons, Angus and Ian, who continue to operate the hotel, and five grandchildren, James, Joanna, Lewis, Iain and Philip.

Village mourns John Matheson

THE DEATH of John Matheson, of 5 Camus an Arbhair, Plockton, at the Highland Hospice, Inverness, on June 12, cast a gloom over the village and saddened his many friends. He was 79-years-old. He had been at the hospice for only three weeks after a long battle at home with cancer, which he endured with fortitude and good humour.

John was born in Plockton, the youngest son of Willie and Jessie Matheson, of 8 Harbour Street. He was a brilliant scholar at Plockton School and in 1955 he went to college in Paisley where he got his qualification in electrical engineering.

In 1960, he was appointed the first engineering assistant with the South of Scotland Electricity Board. In 1962, he went to Manchester for industrial training, before moving to Glasgow and then to Oban in 1964 as a distribution engineer. A few years later he was appointed distribution engineer in Dingwall and lived in Muir of Ord. He retired in 1992 and came back to live in Plockton.

John married June, a Plockton girl, on June 12, 1965. The day he died was their 52nd anniversary. They had three children, Jane, Douglas and Barbara.

In his younger days at Plockton, John enjoyed sailing, winning of the first Ragamuffin Cup with Angus Gillies. He also

played football and golf.

John sang solo at the Mòd and also was a member of the Dingwall and the Strath Gaelic Choir. He was a member of the original Islander Folk Group along with Bert Stirling, John Tytler and Alick Aitken. He also loved fishing and gardening and was a supporter of Hibs and Ross County.

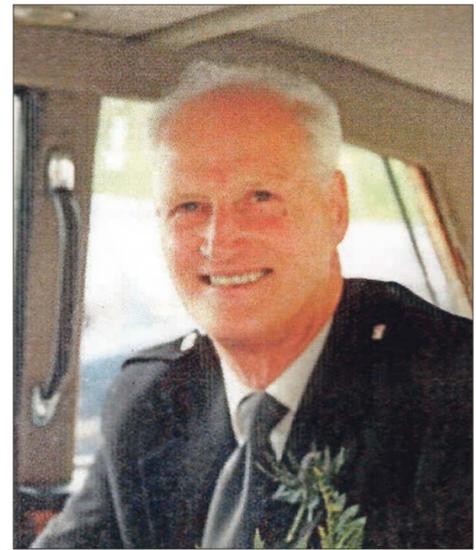
He was a member of Plockton and District Community Council for a few years and also a regular attendee at the Church of Scotland.

The church at Plockton was packed with more than 200 people at the funeral

service conducted by the Rev Roddie Rankin, with organist Catherine Will. Piper Ruari Finlayson led the cortege and also played at the graveside at Balmacara Cemetery. The collection was donated to Macmillan Nurses and the Highland Hospice.

John was loved by young and old and Plockton is a poorer place with his passing.

Sympathy is expressed to June, son Douglas in Lairg, and daughters Jane (Mrs Stirling in Chester) and Barbara (Mrs McArthur in Inverness) and also to seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



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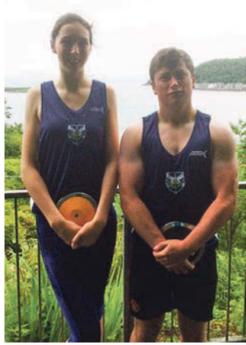
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Grace Thomson and Finbar Dunne.

Oban High pupils picked for Scotland Athletics

LAST week, the Scottish Schools Athletics Board announced the national team to compete at the schools international in Dublin in July.

For the third year in a row Oban High School pupils have been chosen to represent their country at this event.

S5 pupils Finbar Dunne and Grace Thompson have been selected to throw the discus. Their success follows on from former pupil Paddy Dunne who represented Scotland and Oban High School in 2015 and 2016 in the javelin, winning a bronze medal at the international competition last year.

Finbar and Grace have been selected due to their recent success at the Scottish Schools' athletics competition earlier this month.

Many hours of intense training in all weathers throughout the winter were put in by both athletes to reach this standard.

The youngsters are coached by Oban High School's athletics coach Duncan MacIntyre in partnership with lead throws coach Duncan Flockhart from Inverness Harriers and coaches from Victoria Park City of Glasgow Athletics Club.

Thorburn wins rally as Argyll drivers impress

THE DUNOON Presents Argyll Rally made a successful debut last weekend as drivers and rally fans from around the country descended on Cowal for the fifth round of the Scottish Rally Championships on Saturday.

Despite the strong winds and showery rain, spectators turned out in droves to see Scotland's top rally drivers hare round a selection of Argyll's trickiest roads in as quick a time as possible. The stages proved tricky and the weather made for some interesting racing, although stage five at Glenbranter had to be cancelled - the weather perhaps not helping in that case.

After five rounds of intense racing, it was Euan Thorburn and co-driver Paul Beaton, from the borders who took top spot in their Ford Fiesta R5.

This win means Euan maintains his position at the top of

the Scottish Rally Championship standings for in 2017.

Connell's Shaun Sinclair steered his way to a third place finish overall with help from his co-driver Jamie Edwards, finishing just 31 seconds behind winner Thorburn. Sinclair finished second in the first stage of the day. Stephen Freddy Lockhart of Oban also had a consistent day's racing, taking home ninth place.

Lochgilhead driver Alister MacArthur, with help from his co-driver Chris Robertson from Tarbert, finished in an impressive 23rd position in their Talbot Sunbeam, while Ali Galbraith, also from Lochgilhead, led his Ford Escort Mk2 to 38th position.

Furnace's Douglas Watt who, with the help of Donald Munro of Inveraray in the passenger seat, finished in 43rd position, while the Furnace pair, Donald



Shaun Sinclair of Connel drove his Subaru Impreza to an overall third place finish. Photos: West Coast Photos.

MacNeill and Cara MacNeill, had to retire after stage four.

Rounding up the results for the Mid Argyll drivers, Lochgilhead duo Duncan MacLean and Ian Parker finished 50th overall.

Aside from the racing, all the background workings

of the rally proved to be a spectacle in itself. Dunoon stadium made for a make-shift pit stop as all the teams set up their repair and maintenance stations around the field, while the sight of gnarled rally cars travelling between stages was enough to get people out on

Rallying

the streets, cameras in hand. Once Saturday's racing had come to a close, the top three cars were paraded around Dunoon Stadium before being presented with their prizes.

Top 3 results:

- 1 Euan Thorburn and Paul Beaton, Ford Fiesta R5, 32:38.
- 2 Jock Armstrong and Paula Swinscoe, Subaru Impreza, 32:42 (+0:04).
- 3 Shaun Sinclair and Jamie Edwards, Subaru Impreza WRC S14, 33:09 (+0:31).

Selected results:

- 9 Stephen Freddy Lockhart and Cameron Fair, Mitsubishi Evo 7, 35:06 (+2:28).
- 23 Alister MacArthur and Chris Robertson, Talbot Sunbeam, 39:42 (+6:43).
- 38 Ali Galbraith and Del Galbraith, Ford Escort Mk2, 42:39 (+10:01).
- 43 Douglas Watt and Donald Munro, Ford Escort Mk2, 43:47 (+10:59).
- 50 Duncan MacLean and Ian Parker, Peugeot 106, 47:52 (14:19).



Lochgilhead's Alister MacArthur and co-driver Chris Robertson from Tarbert finished in an impressive 23rd place.



Lochnell Football Club has seen a big surge in girls joining the club - so much so that the club is looking to run an under-13 girls' team from August. And to get the ball rolling, a dedicated girls team entered the Oban and District Primary Football League recently, giving a good account of themselves against more established teams in the league. The team also attended a special event in Tarbert aimed at encouraging girls' participation in football throughout Argyll with another similar event planned for July in Campbeltown. New members are welcome and parents of girls just about to start P6, P7 or S1 who would like to find out more should contact the club through their Facebook page or by phoning 07867 318583.

Amateur hopes dashed for MacIntyre

SCOTTISH hopes in the 2017 Amateur Championship ended last Thursday when Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre, the losing finalist last year, was beaten by Swede Fredrik Nielhen in a brilliant finish at Royal St George's Golf Club in Kent.

The 122nd Amateur Championship, one of the biggest amateur events in the world, saw 288 players competing in a mixed strokeplay and match-play format over six days.

The left-hander from Glen-cruitten, the highest ranked player in the field, booked his place in the third round last Wednesday after dispatching China's Zheng Kai Bai 3&1 in the morning and defeated Australia's Ben Ferguson 3&2 in the afternoon.

MacIntyre, who was defeated 2&1 by Scott Gregory in the 2016 final at Royal Porthcawl, hoped to go one better this year and get his hands on the historic trophy last Saturday evening, but the Scotland international's dreams were dashed when he lost on the final green to Nielhen.

Golf

Craig Howie, the former Scottish Boys' champion, was the first Scot to fall in the morning at the 20th hole of a tight tussle with Norwegian Kristoffer Ventura, while Anglo-Scot, Ryan Lumsden went down by two holes against Norway's Jarle Volden.



Robert MacIntyre.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1950

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This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

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A Livingstone
Port Ellen
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We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.
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Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



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SHINTY

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Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Five in a row as Kyles win Celtic Society Cup

KYLES Athletic won the Gregor Cameron Glasgow Celtic Society Cup for a club record fifth time in a row following the shinty action on Saturday June 24.

Gregor Cameron Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final

**Kyles Athletic 3
Oban Camanachd 1**
Kyles Athletic took the honours as they defeated Oban Camanachd 3-1 to lift the Gregor Cameron Glasgow Celtic Society Cup in their 4.05pm throw-up at Taynuilt Sports Field.

This was a first final in charge for Kyles Athletic boss James Perlich and he had keeper John Whyte back following a hand injury. Innes MacDonald was sidelined with a foot injury, whilst Grant Irvine was only fit enough to take up a place on the bench. Dunkie Kerr played with a protective cover on a hand injury.

Oban Camanachd boss Iain Hay was without defender Gary McKerracher and forward Daniel MacVicar who were on holiday. Scott MacMillan came back into the side following suspension and David Lafferty's recent return from injury earned him a place on the bench.

The first chance of the game fell to Gordon Whyte but he scooped the ball wide from close in.

With a swirling wind and a greasy surface, both teams made an uncertain start but it was Kyles who struck an early blow. Camanachd failed to clear a powerful Thomas Whyte shy from the right and Kyles full centre Donald Irvine knocked the ball left to Roddy MacDonald whose first-time pass found Gordon Whyte. He continued the one-touch passing to Dunkie Kerr who swept the ball into the net from the edge of the 'D', beating keeper Gavin Stobbart by his left post, to make it 1-0 with six minutes played.

Oban Camanachd responded straight away, Malcolm Clark picking out Lorne Dickie who got past Robbie MacLeod before taking the ball into the 'D' but Kyles' goalie John Whyte was quickly off his line to block Dickie's path.

A superb Roddy MacDonald turn and shot saw the ball come back off the base of the post and Marc MacCallum threw his body in the way to block Dunkie Kerr's shot from the rebound.

Thomas Whyte sent a drive from the right into the side-netting with 16 minutes gone.

A Scott MacMillan shy from the right was taken down by Willie Neilson but Matt Rippon couldn't reach Neilson's low cross.

With the rain becoming heavier, Kyles were on top. There were shouts for a penalty fol-

lowing a scramble in the Oban goal area. Gavin Stobbart came off his line when the ball was knocked into the 'D' but with players from both sides on the ground, referee Wood restarted the game with a throw-up after consulting with goal judge Ross Brown.

Roddy MacDonald was suffering with a shoulder injury after an earlier collision with team-mate Dunkie Kerr and he needed treatment before carrying on.

The action continued towards the Oban Camanachd goal and keeper Stobbart saved with his feet from Roddy MacDonald and Garry Lord was quickly in to push the ball away before Daniel Cameron cleared the danger.

Oban Camanachd were furious when referee Lachie Wood failed to allow advantage as Willie Neilson, although impeded, broke towards goal. To make matters worse for Camanachd, the set-piece went badly wrong and Kyles cleared easily.

Dunkie Kerr had a chance



Kyles Athletic captain Gordon Whyte with the Celtic Society Cup.

Photograph: Neil Paterson.

when Roddy MacDonald's cross from the left fell nicely for him but he topped the ball and the chance was gone.

The Kyles' pressure continued and Mark MacCallum did well to block a Gordon Whyte shot.

A rare Camanachd attack saw Willie Neilson's cross from the left and Kyles Athletic full back Callum Miller dived in to block Andrew MacCuish's shot from the right.

When Daniel Cameron brought down Roddy MacDonald, not for the first time in the half, the Oban man earned the game's first booking. Gavin Stobbart came off his line to clear from the resultant set-piece and despite Kyles Athletic's dominance, they only led 1-0 at the break.

Iain Hay made the game's first change as Daniel MacCuish came on for Mark MacCallum at the interval.

Kyles hit Oban Camanachd with a sucker-punch within a minute of the re-start. Garry Lord was penalised for a wild swing and Dunkie Kerr ran forward onto Gordon Whyte's free-hit and steered the ball low into the net from the left of the 'D' to

make it 2-0. It was a well-worked goal, executed to perfection.

Kyles Athletic full centre Donald Irvine was influential throughout the game and when he pushed forward and won the ball, he lofted an effort wide of goal.

Oban Camanachd suffered a blow on 50 minutes when Daniel Cameron had to come off after he was hit point-blank in the eye with the ball. Willie Neilson dropped back into defence and David Lafferty came off the bench.

Oban Camanachd knew they needed to score next and Ross MacRae did well clear a Matt Rippon ball across the face of the goal following Malcolm Clark's free-hit.

Oban Camanachd claimed for a penalty as goalie John Whyte blocked the ball on the ground but they had to settle for a corner from which Scott MacMillan sent the ball into 'D' and Andrew MacCuish flicked it goalwards but the Kyles' goal remained intact.

Weather conditions were now making it really difficult for both sides and when Aidan MacIntyre played a free-hit back to Scott MacMillan, his shot went wide of John Whyte's left post.

The goalmouth action continued and Gavin Stobbart made a fine stop with his caman from Thomas Whyte's deflected shot.

Sandy MacKenzie took over from Gordon Whyte in the Kyles attack and made an immediate impact. Donald Irvine and Dunkie Kerr worked the ball down the right flank and Scott MacDonald laid the ball off to Sandy MacKenzie. The substitute's shot was saved with his legs by Gavin Stobbart but Roddy MacDonald was quickly in to force the rebound home to make it 3-0 with on 65 minutes on the clock.

Moments later, Daniel Cameron returned to the field, joining the forward line in place of Aidan MacIntyre.

Oban Camanachd didn't let their heads drop and Malcolm Clark won possession after Callum Miller had knocked down a ball into the goal area but John Whyte stretched to tip Clark's shot away with his caman.

Roddy MacDonald, so instrumental to everything offensive from Kyles, had been in the wars and he needed treatment after a tussle with Scott MacMillan but was able to carry on.

Oban Camanachd made a double switch as 16-year-old Lewis Buchanan replaced Andrew MacCuish and Aidan MacIntyre came back on for Matt Rippon with 14 minutes remaining.

Daniel Cameron gave Oban Camanachd some hope when he pulled a goal back with 10 minutes remaining. The Kyles defence failed to deal with a high Scott MacMillan ball into the goal area and Daniel Cameron showed great composure to run in to touch the ball past the keeper to make it 3-1.



Kyles Athletic celebrate after winning the Gregor Cameron Celtic Society Cup. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Oban Camanachd were creating chances and Aidan MacIntyre shot narrowly wide of the keeper's left post after Malcolm Clark had chipped the ball forward and, moments later, a Lewis Buchanan shot was saved with his feet by John Whyte as the late flurry continued.

Meantime Kyles had substituted Brandon Wilson for Scott MacDonald.

Daniel Cameron almost got on the end of an Aidan MacIntyre ball from the left as Camanachd looked to set up a grandstand finish.

Gavin Stobbart batted away a high ball into the 'D' before Thomas Whyte blazed over from close in.

Andrew MacCuish put an injury time effort wide with Callum Miller having to come off with a head cut in the lead up to what was the game's last chance.

BBC Alba summariser Stewart MacKenzie, a former Oban Times editor, selected Dunkie Kerr as man of the match for 'scoring the goals that mattered at the times that mattered'. Kerr received the award, which is in memory of shinty stalwart Donald J MacNiven, from Donnie's widow Mary MacNiven.

Match referee Lachie Wood was the recipient of the Jack Asher Memorial medal.

However, the main prize was collected by Kyles Athletic captain Gordon Whyte who was presented with the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup by sponsor Gregor Cameron and the trophy goes back to Tighnabruach for a club record fifth successive time, Kyles having won it four times between 1920 and 1923.

With a Marine Harvest Camanachd Cup tie against Newtonmore on the horizon, league leaders Kyles Athletic have much to play for.

Oban Camanachd played well in patches and there's more to come from them starting with this weekend's league trip to Spean Bridge to play Lochaber.

Artemis Macaulay Cup - quarter finals

**Lochaber 0
Lovat 3**

Lovats are through to the Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-finals after they beat Lochaber 3-0 at Spean Bridge.

The Spean pitch was in excellent condition for this tie although intermittent heavy showers meant supporters had to run for cover on more than one occasion.

Lochaber were without Shaun Nicolson, Neil MacDonald, James MacRae and Ryan Johnstone although John Sweeney and Pat Toal returned to take places on the bench. Findlay MacDonald was also missing.

Scott MacKenzie was back for Lovat but Craig Mainland and Lorne MacKay were unavailable. Bailey MacKay made

his comeback from a broken collar-bone, suffered against Oban Camanachd in April, and he took a place on the bench.

Lochaber started with a strong wind in their favour and pushed Lovat back. The visiting defence, in which Daniel Grieve was excellent, held firm though.

Lovats managed three shots on target - through Calum MacAulay twice and Lewis Tawse - before Stuart Callison drew a smart save from Stuart MacDonald with his feet with around half an hour played.

The visitors took the lead on 37 minutes. Lochaber failed to clear a Calum MacAulay free-hit and Scott MacKenzie drove the ball forward where it fell for Danny Kelly who touched the ball across the goal from the left and Greg Matheson swept it into the net to make it 1-0.

Lochaber introduced Lachlan Campbell and Connor Sweeney for Brennan MacDonald and Ben Delaney late in the first half with referee John Angus Gillies playing stoppage time after Greg Matheson had been caught on the top of the head from Duncan MacKinnon's swing.

From the re-start, Lochaber were against the wind but they would go on to have their best spell in the game.

However it was Lovat who extended their lead when Lewis Tawse made it 2-0 on 57 minutes. Drew Howie cleared the ball forward from deep inside his own half and when Lochaber failed to clear their lines, Greg Matheson's shot was saved by with his chest by Lochaber keeper Callum MacDonald. The ball rebounded to the Lovat right where Lewis Tawse hit a shot from a tight angle and the ball went into the net off the unlucky Lochaber keeper.

Lovats sealed the win with 15 minutes remaining after Danny Kelly sent the ball long from inside his own half. Greg Matheson ran away from his marker and his second swing sent the ball low into the net from the left of the 'D' to make it 3-0.

Lochaber had chances in the game but good goalkeeping from Stuart MacDonald and wasteful finishing cost them dear.

Lachie Campbell's introduction made a difference for Lochaber and he went close on more than one occasion.

Lovats' deadly finishing, particularly from Greg Matheson, made the difference with Daniel Grieve and Danny Kelly their top performers.

**Newtonmore 3
Fort William 2**

Newtonmore will face Lovat in the Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-finals after they beat Fort William 3-2 at The Eilan.

Glen MacKintosh got Newtonmore off to a good start with goals on 10 and 23 minutes but Fort William showed they were up for the fight when Alexander MacMillan pulled a goal back a



Oban Camanachd's Garry Lord get his block in to stop an effort from Kyles Athletic's Dunkie Kerr. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

couple of minutes later.

That's the way it stayed until five minutes from time when Steven MacDonald made it 3-1.

Lachie Shaw cut the deficit when he scored a minute from time and whilst Newtonmore go through, there's surely more to come from this young Fort William side.

Balliemore Cup - semi final

**Beaulieu 3
Caberfeidh 4**

Caberfeidh fought off a determined Beaulieu side to reach the Balliemore Cup Final with a 4-3 victory in their noon throw-up at Braeview Park.

It looked good for Caberfeidh, who started with the wind advantage, when Jamie MacLennan's 25-yard drive on two minutes and Colin MacLennan's low shot on nine minutes had them 2-0 ahead.

Jack MacDonald pulled a goal back from close range for the home side on 21 minutes and it stayed that way until the break.

Caberfeidh made the better start to the second half and Kevin Bartlett restored their two-goal cushion with a great strike from distance on 74 minutes.

Marc MacLachlan, making his first top team appearance of the season, made it 3-2 with a turn and shot with 10 minutes remaining.

Caberfeidh's Ryan MacKay, playing against his former club, was sent off by referee John Wood for a second booking.

Beaulieu went all out for a leveller but it was Caberfeidh who countered and Craig Morrison made it 4-2 from a tight angle with a couple of minutes remaining.

Marc MacLachlan got his second on the stroke of full time but Caberfeidh progress with a 4-3 win.

Caberfeidh now await the outcome of the second semi-final between Inveraray and Fort William which takes place this Saturday at Taynuilt.

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup - quarter final

**Fort William 2
Kingussie 3**

The Kingussie colts reached the Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup semi-finals when they beat the Fort William colts 3-2 in their 1pm throw-up at An Aird. Goals from Fort William's Ewan Campbell and Mark Fraser and Kingussie's Kevin Thain meant the home side led 2-1 at the break.

Kevin Thain scored twice more in the second half to complete his hat-trick and give Kingussie a 3-2 win.

Fort William's Ewan Campbell was sent off by referee Ronnie Campbell.

The Kingussie seconds will play their Newtonmore counterparts in the semi-finals at The Dell this Saturday.

Bullough Cup - quarter final

**Inveraray 6
Kilmory 1**

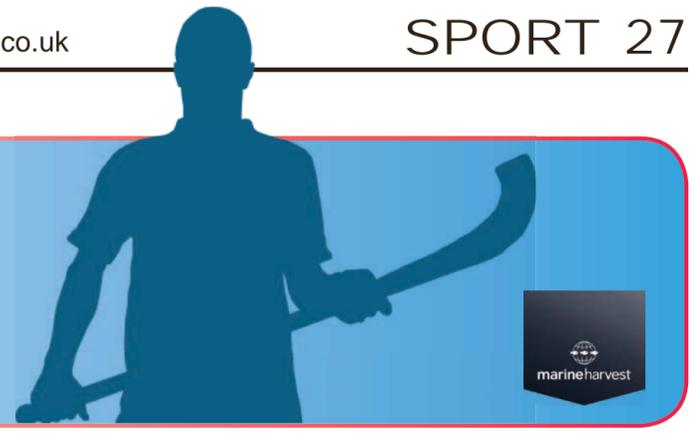
The Inveraray seconds were too strong for the Kilmory seconds winning 6-1 in their noon throw-up at The Winterton.

It was good to see both teams show faith in their young players. Inveraray were along usual lines whilst Kilmory fielded a mixture of youth and experience with the evergreen Calum McKinven in defence and 12-year-old Andrew Innis up front.

Inveraray's Andy Stewart got the opener on eight min-



Roddy MacDonald, number 10, scores the third goal for Kyles. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.



Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

utes, only for Kilmory's John MacMillan to level a couple of minutes later.

David MacPherson restored Inveraray's lead on 15 minutes and David Robertson added two more with strikes on 21 and 44 minutes to make it 4-1 at the break.

David Robertson netted for a third time three minutes into the second half. The goal was the veteran's first hat-trick in competitive shinty. There was an element of good fortune involved as Robertson stretched out a caman to deflect a Scott MacIntyre shot that was heading well wide past Kilmory keeper Colin Gilmour and into the net.

Andy Stewart got his second goal of the game on 65 minutes to round off the 6-1 win.

The Inveraray colts will now play Lochside Rovers in next month's Bullough Cup semi-finals.

Marine Harvest Premiership

**Kingussie 1
Kinlochshiel 2**
It was second play third as Kinlochshiel edged out Kingussie 2-1 at The Dell.

Kingussie's James Falconer was free from injury but played 90 minutes for the second team in their Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup tie against Fort William. Savio Genini was also missing.

Kinlochshiel had Conor Cormack and John MacRae free of suspension but Colin MacDiarmid started a five-match ban following his red card against Lochaber the previous weekend. Donald Nixon, Duncan 'DA' Macrae and Jonnie MacAskill made up a re-jigged midfield, releasing Finlay MacRae to play up front.

Lee Bain opened the scoring on 28 minutes. Kinlochshiel couldn't clear a Kingussie shy from the right and Bain thumped the ball home from 15 yards out on the Kingussie right. Finlay MacRae equalised on 65 minutes. The goal was something special as he flicked and then volleyed the ball home at the back post, giving keeper Craig Dawson no chance.

Kingussie pulled Lee Bain back into defence for the final 20 minutes, replacing Alexander Michie who had a fine game for the hosts, as did wing centre Rory MacGregor.

The match could have gone either way and the winner came with three minutes remaining. Donald Nixon sent a free-hit into the goal area and when Kingussie failed to clear Fraser MacVicar thumped the ball home from the left of the 'D'.

Both keepers made good saves. Craig Dawson was always tidy when clearing his lines with Scott Kennedy in the Kinlochshiel goal making some quality stops.

Kinlochshiel did just enough to edge it and they now leap-frog Kingussie into second place in the division.

**Glenurquhart 2
Kilmallie 3**
Kilmallie collected two priceless points by beating Glenurquhart 3-2 in their 3pm throw-up at Blairbeg.

Glenurquhart's John Barr was free of a one-match ban, however he was unavailable for

this one as were keeper Stuart MacKintosh, Andrew Corrigan, Neale Reid, James Hurwood and Connor Golabek. Glenurquhart U17 players Finlay Ralston, Oliver Black and Finlay Robertson were included in the squad. Callum Smith was back from injury.

Kilmallie were without Stephen McAlister who served the second game of a two-match suspension. Michael Rodger and Lewis Birrell were also unavailable. Daniel Stewart was given a first senior call-up following his switch from Fort William and John Stewart played the whole game at full forward.

Kilmallie took the lead after two minutes following a bizarre own goal off home stand-in keeper Garry MacKintosh who initially made a save with his hand but as he tried to swipe away the dropping ball, he inadvertently cupped it into the net.

Daniel Stewart marked his debut with a goal on 12 minutes with a shot across the keeper from a tight angle and it remained 2-0 at the break.

Indeed it stayed that way until 15 minutes from time when there were three goals in quick succession.

Glenurquhart moved Lachie Smith up front with James MacPherson going to full back in a bid to change their fortunes.

With Martin Stewart dominant at full centre, Kilmallie's Daniel Stewart got his second to make it 3-0 on 75 minutes with a strike that beat the keeper close to his post.

However Michael Fraser's goal following a goalmouth scramble on 77 minutes and a blistering Lachie Smith shot into the top corner of the net a minute later made for a tense finish.

Kilmallie are now on five points, level with bottom side Lochaber and Glasgow Mid Argyll who are a place above.

Marine Harvest National Division

**Oban Celtic 2
Strathglass 2**
Strathglass twice came from behind to draw 2-2 with Oban Celtic in their 3pm throw-up at Ganavan.

Oban Celtic manager Kenny Wotherspoon had Rory Bruce and Robert Alexander back, with the latter starting on the bench. Ally McKerracher served the final game of his three-match ban, whilst Connor Howe was still missing as was David MacInnes.

Strathglass manager David Balharry was without the influential Michael Stokes as well as Ross Balharry. The visitors travelled with only 13 players, Lawrence Jones being their only substitute.

Oban Celtic were two points behind Strathglass going into the game but with two games in hand.

Daniel Madej broke the deadlock when he went on a mazy run on 24 minutes before slipping the ball past keeper Ally MacAdams to make it 1-0.

Oban Celtic had a great chance to increase their lead when referee Willie MacDonald awarded them a penalty but Fulton Ronald failed to convert from the spot.

Scott Douglas drew Strathglass level on 41 minutes but another good run and finish from Daniel



Kilmallie's Steven Stewart does some keepy-uppy with Glenurquhart's Oliver Black in close attendance during their Marine Harvest Premiership match at Drumnadrochit. Photograph: Donald Cameron

Madej put Celtic back in front on 53 minutes.

Oban Celtic had chances to put the match out of the Strath's reach but they didn't take them and they were made to pay when Scott Douglass levelled for the second time in the contest, making it 2-2 with three minutes remaining.

Oban Celtic will consider this a point lost and they'll look for a much improved performance when they travel to play Beaulieu in the league this Saturday.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

**Kinlochshiel 0
Newtonmore 4**
The Newtonmore seconds extended their lead at the top of the table after they beat the Kinlochshiel seconds 4-0 at Kirkton.

Two goals in two minutes from Craig MacLeod on 27 minutes and Chris Sellar a minute later made it 2-0 at the break.

Chris Sellar got his second on 62 minutes with a great strike from the left and Calum Stewart made it 4-0 on 78 minutes.

The closest Kinlochshiel came was a Graham Kennedy effort which hit the post but it took some smart saves from home keeper Raymond Gillies to prevent Newtonmore winning by a bigger margin.

Newtonmore are now four points ahead of Aberdeen University, but they have played two games more.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

**Glenorchy 3
Bute 2**
Glenorchy recorded their first league victory of the season with a hard-fought 3-2 win over Bute in their 1.30pm throw-up at Mart Park.

The win was all the more impressive given Glenorchy were only able to field 11 players so played the whole game a man short.

Glenorchy's Duncan Smith was on a two-match suspension for passing through the disciplinary points threshold.

Glenorchy took the lead through Graham Morrice on 20 minutes when he knocked home a rebound off the keeper following Conor Sartain's initial shot.

Graham Morrice got his second to make it 2-0 on 31 minutes with a long-range effort that deceived the keeper.

Andrew McLaughlan halved the deficit four minutes later with a shot from distance that drifted into the net and it stayed 2-1 until the break.

Bute were playing against a strong wind in the second half and Franco Devlin restored parity a minute after the restart, forcing home a rebound.

It was to be Glenorchy's day though as Kieran MacKay netted the winner with a great strike from 25 yards out seven minutes from time.

Bute, who were previously unbeaten in the division, pushed for a late leveller and it took an outstanding save at the

death, high above his head, by Glenorchy goalie Andrew Smith to secure both points.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

**Lewis Camanachd 0
Glengarry 10**
Table toppers Glengarry maintained their 100 per cent start to the season, scoring ten times without reply against Lewis Camanachd at Shawbost.

Glengarry made a great start to the game as Daniel MacLennan on two minutes and Nick Dalgety on five minutes gave them an early two-goal cushion.

Daniel MacLennan got his second and Glengarry's third following a corner on 21 minutes.

Glengarry ran away with the game in the second half. Nick Dalgety found space to make it 4-0 a couple of minutes after the restart whilst Daniel MacLennan added a fifth to complete his hat-trick a minute later.

Raymond Robertson scored on 62 minutes before Nick Dalgety netted on 67 and 70 and Andrew Gilchrist made it 9-0 a minute later.

Nick Dalgety grabbed his fifth goal of the afternoon on 72 minutes to make it 10-0.

Glengarry are now four points ahead of the Caberfeidh seconds, who they meet in their next game at Castle Leod on Saturday July 8, although they have played a game more, whilst Lewis remain bottom of the division.

**Kilmallie 5
Lochcarron 3**
Kilmallie beat Lochcarron 5-3 in a match which swung from end to end at Canal Parks.

Kilmallie initially led 2-0 before Lochcarron went 3-2 in front.

Dean Williamson grabbed a Kilmallie hat-trick with Ross MacKenzie scoring twice.

A Liam Annott brace and a David MacCuish goal counted for Lochcarron.

Strathglass 3 Inverness 1

The Strathglass reserves climb to eighth in the table after they beat the Inverness reserves 3-1 at Cannich.

Eoghan Stewart gave Strathglass the lead on 18 minutes with a shot from just outside the centre circle which swerved into the net.

It was the only goal of the first half.

Andy Reid drew Inverness level a couple of minutes after the restart, but Ciaran Melons put the home side back in front on 53 minutes.

The outcome remained in the balance until 82 minutes when Sam Cooper scored for the second successive Saturday to make it 3-1, giving Strathglass their third league win of the season.

WCA round-up

The ladies focus was on the Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup and Marine Harvest Challenge Cup semi-finals on Sunday June 25.

Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup

**Lovat 1
Skye Camanachd 23**
Skye Camanachd reached the Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup Final with a crushing 23-1 win over Lovat in their semi-final at Craigard.

Lovat had trouble raising a team so the match was played at eight-a-side.

Skye's Sarah Corrigan and Lorna MacRae both scored six times; Jenna Beaton netted five times; Caitlin MacLean bagged a hat-trick whilst Rhianna Kirk, Helen Lamond and Leah MacLeod got the others.

Fiona Urquhart netted a consolation goal for Lovat.

Lochaber 13 Aberdour 0

Holders Lochaber defeated Aberdour 13-0 at The Eilan to set up a repeat of last year's Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup Final against Skye Camanachd.

Stephanie Walsh gave Lochaber the lead on three minutes and Kirsty Delaney went on to score four more times on 7, 19, 27 and 28 minutes to make it 5-0 at the interval.

Alison MacVicar on 45 and another from Delaney on 52 minutes made it 7-0. Alison MacVicar took her tally to four goals with strikes on 56, 67 and 70 minutes before Claire Delaney hit the target a couple of minutes later.

Kirsty Delaney scored her sixth goal of the afternoon on 74 minutes and Stephanie Walsh, who opened the scoring, finished it a couple of minutes after to make it 13-0.

The Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup Final takes place at An Aird on Saturday September 2.

Marine Harvest Challenge Cup

**Cowal & Bute 0
Glengarry 5**
Glengarry were 5-0 winners against Cowal & Bute in their Marine Harvest Challenge Cup semi-finals at Jubilee Park.

Elaine Cameron grabbed a Glengarry hat-trick and Margaret Jane Malcolm netted twice.

Glasgow Mid Argyll 3 Ardnamurchan 4

Ardnamurchan will play Glengarry in the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup Final after they beat the Glasgow Mid Argyll second team 4-3 at The Winterton.

Ardnamurchan led 2-1 at the break.

Amy Harris, Katie Mullen and Sophie Tinney scored for GMA but Rachel Ford's double and goals from Kate Bradley and Annie MacDonald gave Ardnamurchan victory.

The Marine Harvest Challenge Cup Final takes place at An Aird on Saturday September 2.

Donnie MacLean Sixes

The 2017 Donnie MacLean Sixes take place at Spean Bridge on Sunday July 9.



Kinlossie won the Strathdearn Sixes at Bught Park, Inverness, last Thursday. Photograph: Donald Cameron

The tournament is free to enter and is open to all U14 sides.

The tournament starts at noon and hot food, tea and coffee will be available on the day at the Lochaber club's kitchen

This event is a great day for all young shinty players and host club Lochaber Camanachd look forward to another successful tournament.

For more information and to enter a team contact Aileen Campbell at aeleenrecampbell@hotmail.co.uk or 07760 155313.

Wendy Chamberlain joins Camanachd Association board

THE CAMANACHD Association has confirmed Wendy Chamberlain has been co-opted to the board of the association following a meeting with president Jim Barr, vice president Keith Loades and chief executive officer Derek Keir.

The co-option takes immediate effect and Wendy Chamberlain will initially focus her efforts on supporting the development of the new strategic plan for shinty using her experience and passion for equality, diversity and inclusion.

As well as bringing shinty heritage - she is the grand-daughter of former chieftain Celly Paterson and daughter of Kyles Athletic and Scotland player Billy Paterson - Wendy also brings a modern perspective through her involvement in Aberdeen's successful set-up across primary, junior and senior shinty, led by head coach and current Women's Camanachd Association president Lisa MacColl.

A graduate of the University of



Wendy Chamberlain.

Edinburgh, Wendy was a police officer for 12 years and has experience in operational and HR roles, including a period seconded to the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland.

She has also worked as a lecturer in further education and was training manager at the Scottish Resettlement Centre, supporting military service leavers into employment.

She is currently a capability manager for Diageo. She is a member of the Chartered Management Institute and an associate member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

Wendy will be a full member of the board until the annual general meeting at the end of November 2017, at which time she will stand for election for a three-year term.

Wendy is the first voting female Camanachd Association director and is sure to be a role model for many more to follow.

Fixtures

**Saturday July 1
Balliemore Cup Semi Final**
Inveraray v Fort William
Ross Brown
at Taynuilt Sports Field

**Aberdeen Considine
Sutherland Cup Semi Final**
Glenurquhart v Lochside
Scott McNeil
at Ballachulish
Newtonmore v Kingussie
Brian MacKay
at Kingussie

Marine Harvest Premiership
Glasgow MA v Kyles Athletic
John Angus Gillies
Kinlochshiel v Lovat
Deek Cameron - noon
Lochaber v Oban Camanachd
Andy MacLean - 3pm
Newtonmore v Glenurquhart
David Mitchell

**Marine Harvest
National Division**
Beaulieu v Oban Celtic
Graham Cameron
Caberfeidh v Inverness
Martin MacLean Noon
Skye v Strathglass
Willie MacDonald

**Marine Harvest
North Division 1**
Fort William v Beaulieu
Des McNulty
Kinlochshiel v Aberdeen Uni
Ronnie Campbell - 3pm

**Marine Harvest
South Division 1**
Aberdour v Bute
Ewan MacDonald
Glenorchy v Col Glen
Lachie Wood
Kyles Athletic v Taynuilt
Robert Baxter
Tayforth v Ballachulish
David Mitchell

**Marine Harvest
North Division 2**
Caberfeidh v Inverness
John Matheson - noon
Kilmallie v Boleskine
John Wood
Lovat v Lewis
Steven MacLachlan - 1pm
Lochaber v Lochcarron
Alex MacVicar - Noon

**Marine Harvest
South Division 2**
Dunoon v Bute
Euan Pearson
Oban Lorn v Glasgow MA
Graham Fisher

Throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated.

Results

**Saturday June 24
Gregor Cameron Celtic
Society Cup Final**
Kyles Ath 3 v 1 Oban Caman

Balliemore Cup Semi Final
Beaulieu 3 v 4 Caberfeidh

**Artemis Macaulay Cup
Quarter Final (North)**
Lochaber 0 v 3 Lovat
Newtonmore 3 v 2 Fort William

**Aberdeen Considine
Sutherland Cup 3rd Round**
Fort William 2 v 3 Kingussie

Bullough Cup 2nd Round
Inveraray 6 v 1 Kilmory

Marine Harvest Premiership
Glenurquhart 2 v 3 Kilmallie
Kingussie 1 v 2 Kinlochshiel

**Marine Harvest
National Division**
Oban Celtic 2 v 2 Strathglass

**Marine Harvest
North Division 1**
Kinlochshiel 0 v 4 Newtonmore

**Marine Harvest
South Division 1**
Glenorchy 3 v 2 Bute

**Marine Harvest
North Division 2**
Kilmallie 5 v 3 Lochcarron
Lewis 0 v 10 Glengarry
Strathglass 3 v 1 Inverness



Caberfeidh's Jamie MacKintosh is congratulated by his team mates after scoring after only two minutes in the Balliemore Cup semi-final against Beaulieu. Caberfeidh won a thrilling encounter 4-3. Photograph: Donald Cameron

Podium place for John McPhee at Dutch Grand Prix in Assen



JOHN McPhee had a barnstorming Dutch GP for the British Talent Team, staging an awesome comeback from 19th on the grid to fight for the win - eventually finishing third.

Off to a slower start than the Connell rider wanted, John only made up a handful of places initially before getting in the mix in the second group. As the race began to close up and eventual winner Aron Canet led the charge to catch the front runners, McPhee stayed with the Spaniard and was soon up into podium contention.

Hitting the lead for the first time with four laps to go, John prepared a final charge after the incredible comeback - challenging for the win on the final lap before crossing the line in third. From 19th position on the grid to the podium, this was a gain of an incredible 16 places.

With the big haul of points in the bag, John is back in the top five of the championship.

The next stop is Germany and

Moto3

the Sachsenring, as the grid head out for one last showdown next weekend ahead of the summer break.

After the race John said: 'I'm absolutely delighted to be on the podium, so happy for myself and the team to pull this result out after such a tough weekend.'

'The race was great fun. Starting from 19th was quite difficult but we had the rhythm and the pace and we kept chipping away.'

'I realised I was catching the second group and the second group were catching the leaders. I kept fighting away and with about five laps to go I thought I could even win the race and that we had a real good chance.'

'I timed everything perfectly going into the last lap in turn nine and 10.'

'I tried to pass Canet and then he and Mir ran wide, but to claim the last step on the podium I'm really happy.'



A delighted John McPhee celebrates his third place finish.



John McPhee, No 17, hot on the heels of Gabriel Rodrigo during the Dutch Grand Prix in Assen. Photos: Bonnie Lane.



Euan in action during the third round of the British championship.

Taynuilt youngster could be heading for British championship glory

Trials riding

REPRESENTING Scotland earlier this year, Taynuilt youngster Euan Sim competed in the first round of the Youth D British Trials Championship in Matlock, achieving an impressive third place.

Excellent

He then competed in the second round held by Bradford Trials Club and the third round hosted by the Yeadon Guiseley District Trials Club in Yorkshire, securing an excellent second place out of 24 riders in both rounds.

With only one more round of the British championship remaining, he is currently in second position, only one point

behind the leader so it is all down to the final round in Matlock at the end of July.

Euan has also kicked off the Scottish championship in fine style, winning the first three rounds, and at the beginning of June he won the first two rounds of the Scottish Oset championship.

The Taynuilt youngster is currently leading both the Scottish Youth D Championship and the Scottish Oset Series and exciting times lie ahead for the young rider.



Euan on the podium, having clinched second place in the third round of the British Championship.

Carmichael triple win Millennium Trophy at Oban Bowls

OBAN Bowling Club members contested the Millennium Trophy last Sunday.

With 30 players playing in a round-robin competition, the team showing the most promise was Colin Carmichael's triple.

Starting at noon and not finishing until 7pm, it was a long day but the crowd liked what they saw.

Near the end it was down to Colin's triple and Anne Campbell's team who were delighted to reach another final.

Going into the last end it was three shots each with Colin eventually winning with his last bowl of the final by four shots to three in a tight game.

The trophy was presented in the clubhouse to winning team, Colin Carmichael, Richard Baldwin and Lillian Barrie. The losing team was Anne Campbell, Scott Gargan and Donnie Douglas.



Sainted manager Alex Craik.

Oban Saints get back in training Football

AFTER a well-earned break, Oban Saints players get back to pre-season training on Wednesday July 5 at Oban Lorne Rugby Club, starting at 6.30pm.

Although failing to pick up any silverware last season, it was still a great effort by the players, reaching the semi-finals of the Scottish Amateur Cup for the second time in two years, losing out in a penalty shoot-out in the final of the Jimmy Marshall Cup and finishing second in a very competitive SAFL Premier Division.

Manager Alex Craik is looking to strengthen his squad and is asking any new players to turn up to training next Wednesday.

The first outing of the season will see the Oban side take on Scottish professional teams Dundee United, Hamilton Accies, Alloa Athletic and Berwick Rangers in the D & K Cup tournament on Saturday July 8 at Mossfield.

This is followed by three friendly matches - Vale of Leven Juniors on Saturday July 22, South Lochaber Thistle on Saturday July 29; Lochgilhead Red Star on Wednesday August 2, before heading for the A & B Cup tournament in Lochgilhead on Saturday August 5.

Saints have been drawn in a tough group alongside Rothesay Brandane, Dunoon and Neilston.

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WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy with light rain at times
Winds moderate northerly
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.

Friday Cloudy with sunny intervals
Winds moderate north north westerly
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

Weekend Cloudy on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Winds moderate westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.

FRIDAY

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday June 29, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

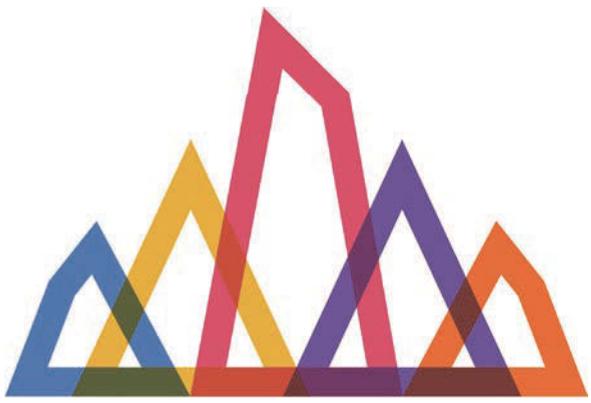
Date	am				pm			
Thur	03.42	1.0	09.28	3.3	15.41	0.9	21.34	3.4
Fri	04.35	1.3	10.22	3.1	16.31	1.1	22.26	3.2
Sat	05.33	1.5	11.32	2.9	17.24	1.4	23.27	3.0
Sun	06.39	1.6	12.50	2.9	18.22	1.5	***	**
Mon	00.47	2.9	07.53	1.7	13.55	2.9	19.25	1.6
Tues	02.04	3.0	08.58	1.6	14.47	3.0	20.32	1.6
Wed	03.00	3.1	09.47	1.5	15.32	3.2	21.33	1.5

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate



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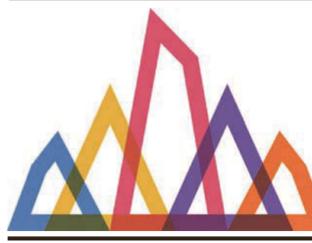
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Concern grows over safety and conditions at new flats

ELLIE FORBES
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CONCERNS have been raised over safety and conditions at the new £2.9m Tweeddale flats development on Fort William High Street.

Problems were highlighted to the *Lochaber Times* following a fire at a block of the flats last Thursday.

At 5.15am on Thursday June 22, a fire broke out in the block of flats numbers one to 10.

Resident Jacquelynn Duncanson told the *Lochaber Times*: 'It's summer and when you wake up you don't really know what time it is, so I thought it was the postman. But it was a neighbour knocking at the door shouting for everyone to get out because there was a fire.'

'The hall was filled with smoke and it smelt toxic, like burning plastic. We all went out onto the Parade. The police came very quickly and evacuated everyone.'

A spokesman for Scottish Fire and Rescue said two appliances were sent to the scene.

' Crews wearing protective breathing apparatus entered the premises and used a high-powered hose to extinguish the flames. There were no casualties and firefighters left after ensuring the area was safe.'

An electrical fault with a kitchen appliance, believed to be a fridge, in one of the flats caused the fire.

'We got back in about 7.30am, but the fire alarm was still going off. The police called the council around 6.15am to ask if someone could come and switch



Jacquelynn Duncanson at the entrance to her block of flats. Photograph: Abrightside Photography. F26 tweeddale flats 01 JP

it off, but it was still going at 8.30am,' continued Jacquelynn. 'I called the council and told them but they said they wouldn't be able to turn it off before 9am because that's when everyone started work. It was terrible.'

The Highland Council has said no damage was caused to any of the flats.

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times*, Jacquelynn raised other problems with the flats.

The 62-year-old, who has arthritis in her spine, said the secure entrance to the building does not close properly, meaning she has had to chase people loitering in the hallway.

She said: 'It's supposed to be a secure entrance, but since we have moved in the door will not shut behind people. You have to pull it closed and a lot of people don't because they forget.'

'So now we have people loitering in the halls, drinking, smoking and shouting. The carpet is covered in cigarette butts and empty cans.'

'I keep asking the youngsters

to get out because they are going in and playing on the lift. I had to chase one man out of the hall who had a sleeping bag and a ruck sack.'

Jacquelynn said she has reported the problem with the door to the council 20 times but 'nothing is being done'.

She added: 'We moved in on May 5. These are new flats and our homes. You don't want to have to come home to that everyday. It's disgraceful.'

'The doors to the other two blocks shut correctly. The council said it's because the hydraulics on our door aren't heavy enough, but it's not acceptable. Why have we been given a sub-standard door?'

She also highlighted issues with the lift: 'The council said the lift would be out of action for a week while BT fitted the fibre cables down the shaft. But it was off for four weeks. There are people living in the flats who rely on the lift because they are elderly or have health problems.'

'The council blatantly lied about how long the lift would be out of use.'

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'New door closers have been ordered and are expected to arrive and be fitted later this week. The lift is running and has been for the last week. The lift was not faulty, however, its use was not permitted until it could be commissioned by an independent third party.'

'It is Highland Council's process to have lifts, once fitted by the contractor and checked by the council, examined by a third party as an additional safety measure.'



Gala queen Ellie Cameron, centre, with her attendants Keira Conn, left, and Millie Henderson right. Photograph: Abrightside Photography. F26 caol gala queen 01

Caol gala queen Ellie enjoys royal welcome

CAOL gala queen Ellie Cameron and her two attendants enjoyed a right royal welcome at the weekend.

The first-year pupil at Lochaber High School had attendants Millie Henderson, 11, and Keira Conn, eight, by her side as she carried out her royal duties on Saturday June 24.

The girls were driven around Caol before heading to the gala, where Ellie was crowned queen. As queen, Ellie handed out the Davie

McCook Citizenship Award to joint winners Kirsty Kyle and Pamela Hendry.

Organsier Kirsty Kyle told the *Lochaber Times*: 'The girls had a great day and really enjoyed themselves. They looked lovely.'

Joyce Fraser of Caol Cuts styled the girls' hair for the event and McDonald Brothers supplied the girls with their lovely flowers.

For the full story and more pictures turn to page four.

Potential £187m gap in council budget

THE HIGHLAND Council has revealed it is facing a potential £187 million budget gap over the next five years.

At a full meeting of the Highland Council today (Thursday June 29) councillors will hear of the £130 million to £187 million gap facing the local authority.

In a report to the Highland Council, finance director Derek Yule said: 'While this is not an absolute position it does demonstrate a significant and worsening financial position.'

He will tell Highland councillors that one of the main challenges facing the council over the next five years will be a 'lack of financial resources'.

Mr Yule claims the council needs to 'consider the implications' of reducing its current annual capital spend from around £100 million to £55 million to address financial challenges.

It is not yet clear what services may be effected by potential cut backs.

Review date set

NHS Highland's annual review for 2016-17 is to be held on Thursday August 31 in the Macdonald Resort, Aviemore.

Members of the public can attend the open session to ask questions. The event starts at 2pm.



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Update sought on new Fort hospital

LOCHABER MSP Kate Forbes will today ask the Scottish Government for an update on plans to build a new Belford Hospital.

Ms Forbes will address the chamber at First Minister's questions this afternoon (Thursday June 29).

The MSP told the *Lochaber Times* she is committed to 'rural-proofing' the Fort William hospital as laid out by the then Health Secretary, and now First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon, almost 10 years ago.

She said: 'The then Health Secretary, Nicola Sturgeon, choose six hospitals in Scotland's remote and rural areas to become special, enhanced Rural General Hospitals almost 10 years ago. The Belford was one of them, and it was a pivotal

moment for healthcare in Lochaber. Concerns that plans to replace the 50-year-old hospital had fallen silent were raised by the community in January. A steering group has been set up and the NHS says 'significant background work' has taken place. However readers have contacted the *Lochaber Times* wondering why no 'visible' progress had been made.

Now Ms Forbes wants to see the government build on what Ms Sturgeon set out in 2008.

She said: 'It is about building a state-of-the-art new hospital in Fort William, minimising travel to Raigmore and attracting the best doctors, nurses and other healthcare professions. It is about the growth of Fort William, with new jobs and new homes. We have the rare opportunity

to shape our healthcare in Lochaber for decades to come and that process must be guided by a desire to see the West Highlands thrive, prosper and grow.'

A spokesperson from NHS Highland has said work was 'ongoing', with a steering group and project team established.

'This is contributing to the development of a formal initial agreement which will go to Highland Health and Social Care Partnership Committee, NHS Highland Board and then to the Scottish Government Capital Investment Group and Scottish Ministers. The current timescale is that the initial agreement will be complete and submitted by summer 2018 and that the building will be operational in 2020/21. A more robust timeline will be developed as part of the initial agreement process.'



**SURVIVORS OF BEREAVEMENT
BY SUICIDE**

New support group starting Tuesday 11th of July
one meeting per month (our next meetings will be on the 8th August and 12th September)

For more information call Joyce on 01397 700958 or 01397 703438
Email joycemathers@outlook.com

We know it happens.....So let's talk....
Those who are left behind after someone takes their own life can be helped by talking to others who have experienced the same. If you have been personally affected by a suicide and are looking for help and advice, we offer are now offering various support groups throughout Argyll and Lochaber.

Fort William's Leisure and Recreation Facility



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



TIDE LINES

22nd July 2017
The Nevis Centre
Fort William
8pm / £15

tickets available from:
The Nevis Centre
01397 700 707

www.theneviscentre.co.uk

FW

High levels of shellfish toxins

MONITORING work on behalf of Food Standards Scotland has identified raised levels of shellfish toxins in Loch Seaforth, East Loch Tarbert (Sound of Scalpay) and Loch Stockinish in Harris.

Eating shellfish such as mussels, cockles or razor fish from these areas may pose a risk to human health and notices to warn the public and casual gatherers will be posted at locations on the shore.

Commercial shellfish harvesters in these areas have been contacted by the comhairle and steps taken to postpone harvesting until algae levels subside.

It is a sensible precaution to avoid eating shellfish from these areas until further notice.

The comhairle is monitoring the situation and will remove warning notices when it improves.

Fairy Pools top picnic spot poll

THE WORLD-FAMOUS Fairy Pools on the Isle of Skye have been declared the best spot for a picnic in Scotland.

The iconic tourist destination in Glenbrittle is a series of waterfalls and pools which attract sightseers from all over the world all year round.

Its 'outstanding natural beauty as well as historical significance' made the site a winner in National Picnic Week.

The organisation said it was chosen for its 'breath-taking fantastical views'.



Fairy Pools on the Isle of Skye.

Broadford school cash approved

ELLIE FORBES
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FUNDING for a new building at Broadford Primary School has been approved.

The Highland Council's new people's committee, which includes education as part of its remit, rubber-stamped £350,000 funding for new modular classrooms to replace old, leaking cabin classrooms.

The modular classrooms are now in place and it is hoped pupils and teachers will be able to use them before the summer break. However, concerns

remain over the overall poor condition of the main building which has damp problems stemming from its flat roof, the poor fabric of the building, peeling décor and inadequate toilet facilities.

It has yet to appear on the local authority's capital funding project list, which has still to be finalised and discussed with the newly-elected members, despite a recent visit from Highland Council leader Margaret Davidson.

Councillor John Finlayson, who pressed the case for Broadford at the recent committee meeting, added: 'I feel very

strongly Broadford Primary School needs to appear on the council's capital build programme very soon.'

'Children, parents and the community of Broadford deserve to have some indication of when they can expect a new school.'

Dingwall councillor Graham MacKenzie said during the meeting: 'I know it's not deliberate, but I get a bit twitchy about this concentration on Inverness schools.'

'I think we need to remember there are problems with schools right across the Highlands. I am all for looking at improvements

but it has to be across the whole area.'

Councillor Finlayson backed Mr MacKenzie saying: 'I ask people not to forget the Isle of Skye. The council was in Skye recently and there are issues with school buildings there. Hopefully there will possibly be a new build, so don't forget about us.'

Mr Finlayson said renovation of the dilapidated school needs to be fast-tracked.

'During the last administration, a business plan was started about building a new school. This needs fast-tracking to ensure the young people of Broad-

ford are educated in a school that is both wind and watertight and also fit for purpose to meet the demands of 21st century education,' he said.

'Along with all the other councillors on Skye, we will be working hard to ensure a new school is built in Broadford. It is encouraging to get support from our local MSP.'

'Hopefully we can all work together to support the children, parents and wider community of Broadford.'

Skye MSP Kate Forbes said she was pleased to hear the new modular classrooms for Gaelic medium pupils will soon be

operational for staff and pupils but said the council cannot lose sight of the bigger picture.

'Whilst this short-term measure is welcome, I urge Highland Council not to lose sight of the bigger picture. Broadford Primary School requires multi-million-pound investment to bring the building up to the same standard as other Highland schools.'

'A review of the local authority's capital programme is under way and the outcome of this will determine the level of funding and the timescale for future refurbishment.'

Isle of Lewis leading the way with LED energy scheme

POINT and Sandwick on the Isle of Lewis is on track to become the first LED energy community in the UK after a project to cut carbon emissions beat its first-year targets.

The LED Energy Community project, being run by community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust in partnership with Tighean Innse Gall (TIG), is reaching more households faster than it had hoped and is being hailed a 'great success'.

The main element of the project is the offer of up to 14 free LED lightbulbs to every household, which has inspired other community estate trusts on the island to run similar projects.

As well as the free lightbulbs, which use a fraction of the power of traditional high energy bulbs and can cut annual bills by up to £100, residents are also being offered energy performance surveys on properties and advice on further useful

steps including insulation. They are then guided through the application process.

Dan Morrison, the main project officer, was joined by colleague Amy Kapherr-Diament and between them they have managed to carry out 168 home visits in year one, exceeding the annual target of 140 households.

Some people have benefited from multiple home improvements as a result of contacting the LED Energy Community project team, including Catherine Macaulay from Sheshader. Catherine's daughter, Joan Malloch, was full of praise for the 'caring, considerate and co-ordinated' project team.

'We were really pleased with the improvements we were able to access through TIG and the LED Energy Community Project.'

'Installation of LEDs is going to significantly reduce our lighting bill and has made the home brighter for my mum.'



Catherine Macaulay from Sheshader, with project officer Dan Morrison and her grandchildren, Alexander, left, and Archie.

Four community groups welcome cash boost

FOUR awards were made to Outer Hebrides' community groups following recent council committee meetings.

The comhairle awarded £61,950 to phase two of the Castlebay Harbour Initiative by Coimhearsnachd Bharraigh agus Bhatarsaidh Ltd, which will see a main pontoon and slipway built to meet demand for visiting yacht berths.

Creating this slipway and 18 additional spaces will support the development of marine tourism and recreation on the island.

The Isle of Lewis Heritage Programme is three interlinked regeneration projects based on heritage and culture, projected to cost £2.5 million. The programme seeks to reinvigorate and empower fragile communities in Lewis.

The projects are being driven by Comunn Eachdraidh Nis, Comann Eachdraidh an Taobh Siar and Kinloch Historical Society.

Comunn Eachdraidh Nis is the longest established local history society in the Western Isles. It hopes to develop a derelict

former schoolhouse and canteen into exhibition space to showcase the area's heritage.

The West Side of the Isle of Lewis Historical Society, Comann Eachdraidh an Taobh Siar, has collected many artefacts to be displayed within what was an old church building, recently acquired by the trust.

And KHS is looking to redevelop the old school in Balallan as a community and heritage hub.

An award of £300,000 was made to the heritage programme in Lewis and regeneration team officers are providing support to the individual community groups.

Councillor Donald Crichton, chairman of the comhairle's sustainable development committee, said: 'Four excellent community projects will be delivered through support from the comhairle's Community Capital Grant Fund.'

In Castlebay, Ness, Shawbost and Balallan, jobs will be safeguarded during the construction period and more will be created after completion.'

Two new dramas for BBC Alba

MG ALBA has been auditioning for two new dramas aimed at children and young people.

Solus Productions held auditions in Skye, Benbecula, Glasgow and Stornoway last week for two young male actors to take part in a drama-documentary series Small Hands 2, produced by LOOKSFilms. The series will feature stories based on letters and diaries from the Second World War, interlaced with documentary and archive for transmission on BBC ALBA in 2018/19.

Sorbier Productions has also been busy

auditioning for a lead young female actor and young male supporting lead actor for a children's drama which is part of an international project operated through the European Broadcasting Union.

The Gaelic film will be seen across Europe and beyond and in exchange children's films from across Europe will be available for transmission on BBC ALBA in 2018. Margaret Cameron of BBC ALBA said: 'To have two short drama productions with opportunities for young Gaelic actors is a fantastic piece of news.'

Leader stands down after 10 years

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar (CnES) SNP group has appointed a new group leader after councillor Donald Manford stepped down from the role after ten years.

Stornoway North councillor Gordon Murray will take over from councillor Manford.

Councillor Manford will continue as the local member for Barra, Vatersay, Eriskay and South Uist.

Councillor Donald Manford commented: 'After 10 years as the SNP Group Leader on CnES, the time is right for me

to hand over the reins to someone else. I will now be concentrating all my efforts on ensuring the comhairle focuses more effort on tackling disparity facing the southern isles in particular.'

Councillor Gordon Murray said he is honoured to have been elected.

'Donald is the voice of calm and intelligent commentary in the chamber. The group has benefited enormously from his advice, leadership and experience.'

'I am delighted he will still be there to support me as I take on my new role as group leader.'



Gordon Murray and Donald Manford.

Skye and Raasay chairman appointed

COUNCILLOR John Gordon has been appointed chairman of the Isle of Skye and Raasay Committee of The Highland Council which met last week in Portree.

Speaking after chairing the meeting, which gave members the opportunity to scrutinise the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's local performance report as well as the area's housing performance report from April 1 2016 to March 31 2017, Mr Gordon said: 'It is going to be a honour to serve as chairman of the committee and I am sure we will all work well as a team to ensure the voices of the communities we represent are heard.'

'The Highland Council administration has given a firm commitment to increase the role for area committees so I look forward to embracing the new opportunities and seeing the committee evolve and take on a wider remit.' He added: 'I would like to thank my ward colleagues for their support. It's a great privilege to serve the people of Skye and Raasay. We are committed to working hard and delivering the priorities of this great area. We acknowledge there is much to do but with the ambition and vision we all share, we know much can be achieved so this area continues to be a great place to live, work and visit.'

Homelessness on Skye on the rise

THE NUMBER of people homeless on the Isle of Skye has risen according to a report to the Highland Council.

The document, presented at the Isle of Skye and Raasay Committee, showed the number of families categorised as homeless has more than doubled over the last 12 months from 15 in 2016 to 32.

It also said families are having to spend longer in temporary accommodation before being offered a home. In 2015/16 they spent 20 weeks in temporary housing but that increased to more than 27 weeks in 2016/17. The report stated: 'With the numbers of homeless presentations increasing and the length of time households are homeless before we can make them a reasonable offer of secure accommodation, homelessness continues to be a significant pressure in this ward.'

There were 293 presentations across Highland at the end of the fourth quarter of 2017.



Louis the Lonesome osprey keeps vigil for his female friend in Arkaig Forest. Photograph: The Woodland Trust.

Father's Day joy for famous osprey Lonesome Louis

FAMOUS Lochaber osprey Lonesome Louis' love story continued at the weekend when his two chicks were born.

The osplets, as they are being called, hatched over the weekend of Father's Day at Loch Arkaig Forest, which was recently purchased by Woodland Trust Scotland in partnership with local group Arkaig Community Forest.

Lonesome Louis was given the nickname after his mate failed to turn up earlier this year. But after a long three-week wait to find his female partner, Aila did eventually

appear and Louis was lovesick no more.

The pair are believed to be young inexperienced birds in their first breeding attempt.

Woodland Trust spokesman George Anderson said: 'The Arkaig ospreys have been a big hit online, partly because they are such novices. Louis in particular is a bit goofy. He sometimes brings a stick when a fish would be more welcome but they are settling well into parenthood now.'

All five nests in the vicinity failed to produce chicks last year. It is believed extended rainy weather stopped the adult

ospreys from fishing. Woodland Trust Scotland has plans for the long-term regeneration of the spectacular forest at Loch Arkaig, one of the largest remaining fragments of ancient Caledonian pinewood remaining.

The forest was the site of commando training during the Second World War, and a scene in the movie Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows was filmed there.

The nest camera, supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery, is solar-powered and will beam out live footage throughout the summer.

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Anger as grass grows out of control

AREAS of Lochaber have been 'left in a mess' since grass cutting was taken in-house by the Highland Council.

Last autumn, councillors agreed to transfer council grass cutting from external contractors to an in-house service to provide better value for money and improve the service.

However, residents across Lochaber have said grass is growing out of control.

Andrew Baxter, newly-elected chairman of the Lochaber Area committee, raised the issue at the first meeting last week. Mr Baxter has demanded officers explain what has gone wrong. He said: 'From my own experience and the daily complaints received from across my ward, the council is failing local residents. Last week, I raised this issue with officers, including the service director. Since then I've seen no discernible improvement. I've received no clear answers as to why so many areas seem to be left in a mess or completely missed.'

Louise Cameron from Caol posted on Mr Baxter's Facebook page saying: 'The pensioners' common gardens in Alexander Square, Caol, have not been cut this year. It's an absolute disgrace. The grass is higher than the arms of the bench the poor folks are supposed to sit on.'

Susan Macdonald also posted: 'There doesn't seem to be much of it getting done on single track roads, making it difficult to see on-coming cars.'

At the Lochaber Area Committee, councillor Ian Ramon said: 'In Kilchoan, some of the verges are completely overgrown. It's a disgrace.'

Inchree land buy-out in public meeting spotlight

ELLIE FORBES

eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

A COMMUNITY buy-out of land at Inchree, Onich, is on the cards.

Nether Lochaber Community Council (NLCC) hosted a public meeting at the weekend to discuss the community buying two areas of land owned by Lochaber Housing Association (LHA) and Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS).

Around 50 people, including MSP Kate Forbes and councillor and chief executive of LHA Blair Allan, attended the meeting chaired by councillor

Andrew Baxter. A survey to gauge interest in the community buy-out was distributed to 240 houses; a third were handed back with only one in 12 reporting concerns.

Chairman of NLCC Iain Jenner told the *Lochaber Times*: 'While there are naturally a number of concerns over our community potentially buying out LHA and FCS land and buildings at Inchree, over traffic volumes, financial sustainability and public liability, for example, I would say the response was overwhelmingly positive.'

The meeting finished on a note of cautious enthusiasm.

'Questions about the financial stability, how much the community can be involved and how much support the government would give were addressed.'

While no plans for the land are set in stone, suggestions for the LHA area, which is around 14 hectares, include it being used for grazing, cropped silage or a 'pick your own' scheme to generate income. There was also interest for free range hens to produce eggs or a fruit farm. An allotment scheme to service South Lochaber was also discussed.

The FCS asset includes buildings, one of which is already

tenanted by business Vertical Descents, which would become a community tenant.

The other building is derelict and would need redevelped.

Mr Jenner said it could be a visitor hub and cafe with toilets and showers or a workshop for community use. An area of woodland under negotiation could potentially house a micro-hydro scheme to power the buildings. 'We are pushing against an open door. The government, LHA and FCS are supportive of a community buy-out,' said Mr Jenner. 'The next stage is to convene a steering group to form a business plan

and investigate the ideas and look at the most viable option.'

NLCC would seek funding from the Scottish Land Fund which earmarks money for communities to buy-out areas of land.

Ms Forbes said legislation has provided community groups with 'unprecedented powers to take over local assets', with a £10million budget in the Land Fund to assist with the purchase and development of these assets.

She said: 'I am delighted to see communities like Nether Lochaber taking an active interest in what they can do with the land on their door step.'

New service for the bereaved

A NEW service for bereaved families in the Highlands has been launched.

The Highland Council service, called 'Tell Us Once', will ensure that when a death is registered in the Highland area, a notification is automatically issued to most government agencies, removing the need for grieving families to notify multiple public bodies.

To make the most effective use of the service, it is important key documents are made available to the Registrar.

Drugs found in Fort man's car

MARIUSZ Lukasz Loboda, aged 39, of 15 Wallace Place, Fort William, pleaded guilty to possessing 93.3g of amphetamine when he appeared before the town's sheriff court on Friday.

He was fined £450. The court heard police had stopped a car he was driving in Fort William on July 15 last year, became suspicious and searched the vehicle and took Loboda to the police station where a search revealed the bag containing the drug. Loboda, who was not legally represented, told the court he admitted the offence but had nothing to say.

Fundraiser bags £885 for charity

VOLUNTEERS at Lochaber Sensory Care thank everyone who made their bag-packing event Morrisons a success.

The group held the event on Saturday June 24 at the Fort William supermarket and raised £885 for the charity's funds. A group spokesperson said: 'We would like to thank the helpful staff at Morrisons, our helpers and the generous customers who donated.'

Ladies who lunch raise more than £1,000 for Marie Curie



Ladies who lunch at the Marie Curie fundraising event. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography. F26 ladies who lunch 01

NINETY Lochaber ladies sat down to a fundraising lunch which raised more than £1,000 for Marie Curie.

The women got together at the Alexandra Hotel on Saturday June 17 to help raise money for the charity that helps families with end-of-life care.

The event got off to a sparkling start with a glass of bubbly from the hotel and a selection of fabulous cocktails provided free of charge by Ali Smith of The Tavern Restaurant.

Throughout the afternoon, as well as enjoying a tasty two-course meal and coffee, there were entertaining games, organised by compere Linda Campbell, and a Neal's Yard Remedies beauty demonstration by Maja Kusz-Massie.

The afternoon ended with a superb raffle, with more than

a dozen brilliant prizes. Each guest was also given a yellow-themed cupcake, donated by local artisan bakers, to represent Marie Curie.

Joan MacKintosh of the group told the *Lochaber Times*: 'We are grateful to The Alexandra Hotel, The Tavern Restaurant, Western Isles Cruises, Morrisons, Lidl, Boots, Lloyds Fort William, The Granite House, McDonald Brothers, Venus Beauty Salon, Christopher MacPherson at Nevis Range, Swell Cakes, Lynne's Bakehouse, Cuppacakes, Cakes by Catherine, Laura MacGillivray, Linda Campbell, Fleming and Fleming, Semi Chem and many other individuals who gave prizes and their time to make the event such a success.'

It is hoped the event may become an annual one.



Jamie Hepburn MSP, centre, Minister for Employability and Training, visited the Morrison Construction site at Achintore Road, Fort William, and met employees on the Developing Young Workforce programme, Peter Laing and Scott Duff, right, Alex Wilson, left, and Iona Campbell, as well as senior management Alister Maclean and Allan MacLeod. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image. F26 jamie hepburn visit 01

Employment in Lochaber focus

JAMIE Hepburn MSP, Minister for Employability and Training, has made his inaugural visit to Lochaber.

The trip was organised by Developing the Young Workforce West Highland to provide employers and stakeholders with the opportunity to meet with Mr Hepburn and hear his update from the Scottish Government on employment news.

Mr Hepburn's trip incorporated West Highland College UHI where there was an open invitation to the public to hear his talk, express

views and ask questions. As part of his talk, Mr Hepburn announced statistics have shown that the number of Modern Apprenticeships starts exceeded the 2016/17 target of 26,000.

Douglas Ormiston, Programme Manager DYW West Highland, said: 'It was fantastic to have the Minister for Employability and Skills visit Lochaber.'

'Creating opportunities for young people in the West Highlands is core to the objectives of the DYW West Highland team.'

Man's indecent offence at police station

A 20-YEAR-OLD man from Fort William has been placed on the sex offenders' register and is the subject of social reports.

Igor Sliwinski appeared before Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald on Friday at the town's sheriff court and admitted throwing salt at a police officer and biting him; repeatedly spitting on another officer and engaging in an indecent offence while in a cell at Fort William Police station.

Procurator fiscal Martina Eastwood told the court officers were called to the flat where Sliwinski's mother was living in the town on May 25 last year as he had been causing a disturbance outside.

He refused to leave the property, was agitated and when more police arrived he threw a handful of white powder from a bag - later found to be salt - which hit an officer in the face and body before running off. A 20-minute chase ensued

and Sliwinski was only stopped when two tourists, who happened to be off-duty police officers from England on holiday, saw him being pursued and helped stop him.

In the scuffle which followed, an officer was bitten on the hand so hard that it broke the skin and he had to have a Hepatitis B vaccination.

While in the cell at Fort William, Sliwinski used the buzzer to summon an officer and on her arrival he spat at her, covering her face and body armour.

'He then began to misuse the water tap and as a result had to be given a paper overall,' said the fiscal.

This was also soaked and he stripped off, used the buzzer to summon an officer again and this time committed the indecent act in front of her.

Sliwinski also admitted he had breached one of the conditions of an earlier com-

munity payback order by not showing up for unpaid work in the community on one occasion.

His defence agent Hamish Melrose said: 'He is a young man who has received latterly very little support from his family. He lives on his own and has been through a number of homeless accommodation addresses.'

At present he is living at 4 Cameron Terrace, Mary Street, Fort William. It was this reason, his agent said, that Sliwinski failed to appear for the unpaid work; the letter informing him had not reached the correct address.

Sheriff MacDonald told Sliwinski he was being placed on the sexual offences register and that she was calling for community justice and social work reports before she decided what his sentence would be. The case will call again on July 18.

Plan to widen A82 to 7.3 metres welcomed

TRANSPORT Minister Humza Yousaf has confirmed the width of the A82 carriageway between Tarbet and Inverarnan will be increased to 7.3 metres.

The announcement was made at the A82 summit in Crianlarich on Friday June 23.

Mr Yousaf said: 'Upgrading this part of the trunk road will lead to improved journey times and reliability and will benefit freight carriers.'

Transport Scotland consultants had maintained the upgrade only justified a six metre carriageway.

Brian Murphy, chairman of The A82 Partnership, said:

'This is an excellent example of the government listening to the local community and reflecting these views in their decision-making process.'

Alasdair Ferguson, of Ferguson Transport and Shipping and a member of the A82 Partnership, said: 'Making this stretch of road 7.3m wide is forward thinking to the benefit of all A82 road users. It will make the road fit for purpose for the economic development of the west coast of Scotland and is essential to improve safety and reliability.'

It is understood traffic orders will be issued and land acquisition negotiations will

start next year. Addressing the issue of congestion in and around Fort William, the minister also agreed to work with Highland Council and Transport Scotland to commission a strategic transport assessment. This will take account of the present traffic grid lock and the impact of planned economic and housing development in and around Fort William.

A spokesperson for Lochaber community councils expressed support for the A82 upgrade and said: 'Each community council has its own concerns about the road and we appreciate this summit

cannot be a forum to discuss them all.'

'Our response to this, in the spirit of the Community Empowerment Act, 2015, is to provide the minister with letters on behalf of our individual communities.'

'These submissions detail some of the concerns and potential conflicts we are aware of and offer proposed solutions we think will address the needs of all parties and interested groups.'

'It is vital proper, ongoing consultation takes place with communities along the A82 to safeguard the livelihoods and businesses of our residents.'

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WHAT'S ON

Crowds flock to Caol Gala Day

THE SCOTTISH Women's Institute extends a warm invitation to current and former members to an afternoon tea to celebrate the organisation's centenary on Saturday July 1 in Duncansburgh Church Hall from 2pm to 4pm.

KILMALLIE Community Centre needs volunteers to help at a community clean-up starting at 10am on Saturday July 29. For more information contact Sarah Kennedy on 07768 805040.

THERE will be a fashion and music taster day on Thursday June 29 at West Highland College UHI, Fort William. This will be a chance to have a look around, see the students' work and ask questions.

There will also be an opportunity to apply and have an interview the same day. At 4.30pm there will be a play-in-a-band session and a chance to find out more about the after school club for next year. Any instrument - no assessments or qualifications - just music. Call 01397 874000 or visit www.whc.uhi.ac.uk for more information.

LOCHABER Hope is holding a get together on Saturday July 1 at Dalnahaine, Belford Road, Fort William, from 11am to 3pm to show the community what they do. A barbecue, afternoon tea, cake bakes and face painting will be available.

STAFF and volunteers from Caol-based Lochbaer sensory care for sight and hearing support will visit Mallaig on Tuesday July 4. The team will be at Mallaig medical centre from 2pm to 3pm. They will help and advise anyone living locally with hearing or sight loss. They will also supply NHS hearing aid batteries and re-tube and maintain the hearing aids.



Last year's gala queen, Lauren MacDonald, left, presents Ellie Cameron with the shield. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography. F26 caol gala 10



Aiden MacPherson, three, enjoys the bouncy castle at the gala. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography. F26 caol gala 06

MORE than £4,000 has been raised at this year's Caol Gala.

The annual event saw more than 200 people flock to the Gaelic School in Caol on Saturday June 24 to take part in the community event.

A total of £4,207 was raised which will be put back into the pot for next year's event.

Among the attractions were performances from cheerleading group Ben Nevis Allstars and Highland dancers, bonnie

baby and gala granny competitions, raffles, a strong man competition and appearances by the gala queen.

Kirsty Kyle, who helps organise the event, told the *Lochaber Times* this year's event was a 'huge success'.

She said: 'The weather wasn't great this year. We had to use sandbags to hold the tents down. We thought one was going to blow away at one point.'

All of Kirsty's hard work and

dedication to the gala day paid off as she was shocked to find out she was one of two Caol ladies to receive the Davie McCook Caol Citizenship Award.

Long-time fundraiser Pamela Hendry was awarded the trophy jointly with Kirsty after a community vote - the first time two people have been given the award.

Kirsty said: 'I didn't think it made sense to give me the award. Before hand I was just thinking

it would be nice for someone else in the community to get it. But when it was announced it was really emotional and such a lovely surprise.'

'The gala day organisers would like to thank Caol Cuts for doing the gala queen and attendants' hair and McDonald Brothers for their flowers. We would also like to thank Sammy Cameron for driving the cars, Fiona Wallace for running the tea bar and all the volunteers who helped.'



Jane Young, centre, presents Kirsty Kyle, left, and Pamela Hendry with the Davie McCook Citizenship award. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography. F26 caol gala 12



Gala queen Ellie, right, giggles with her attendant Millie Henderson. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography. F26 caol gala 07



Brodie Straden, 12, has a ride on the tea cups. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography. F26 caol gala 04



Brooke Robson thought the gala day was a swinging success. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography. F26 caol gala 05



Highland dancers perform at the gala day. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography. F26 caol gala 08



Left: Asher Johnston, left, and Gregor Shearer enjoy an ice cream. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography. F26 caol gala 09



Ben Nevis All Stars. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography. F26 caol gala 01



DIOPLÒMA ANNS NA MEADHANAN GÀIDHLIG

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'Se cùrsa fad dà bhliadhna a tha seo leis a' chiad bhliadhna aig a cholaiste agus 10 mìosan anns a' ghnìomhachais anns an dàrna bliadhna.

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View from the Chamber

LOCHABER High School third year pupils recently completed a one-day emergency first-aid at work course with Emergency Action Training.

The pupils are now equipped with the skills and knowledge to provide lifesaving first aid.

Supported by Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) West Highland, 24 pupils were involved in the course aimed at developing skills for the world of work.

Commenting on the day, an Emergency Action Training spokesperson said: 'Developing the Young Workforce



is an excellent programme and it has been a pleasure to have been able to work alongside DYW West Highland to deliver first-aid training to Lochaber High School students.

'Every one of them worked hard and deserved their certificates. Lochaber High School is a wonderful learning environment and for them to look at giving students the opportunity to gain life skills before entering the workforce should be commended.'

'If every secondary school allowed their students to take a first-aid course it would create a country of lifesavers in a short time.'

For further information on the opportunities available, contact DYW West Highland on 01397 705765 info@dywesthighland.org.

Lucky escape for drivers and passengers as car and ambulance collide on bridge

AN AMBULANCE was left hanging over the side of a narrow bridge in Kilchoan after a crash while responding to a 999 call.

One witness described the scene as something out of *The Italian Job* after the emergency service vehicle was involved in a collision with a Mini Countryman on the B8007 near Glenborrodale on Tuesday June 20.

Resident Geoffrey Campbell, who witnessed the collision, said: 'The ambulance was heading to Kilchoan to attend to an emergency and met a car on the bridge. Fortunately, no-one was injured but the Mini went backwards through the bridge wall and the ambulance ended up balanced on the other wall in an *Italian Job* pose.'

'Emergency services soon attended, including two fire engines, another ambulance and the police.'

'Only the Coastguard was miss-

ing. All was put right with assistance from the Loch Shiel garage and Ardnamurchan Estate.'

With the road closed, a helicopter was sent to respond to the original emergency.

A Scottish Ambulance Service spokesperson said: 'We are aware of an incident involving one of our ambulances and another vehicle on the B8007 near Glenborrodale at 6.40pm on Tuesday June 20.'

'The ambulance was responding to an emergency call when the incident took place and another resource was immediately sent to the patient's home address in Kilchoan. Neither our crew nor the occupants of the other vehicle were reported to be injured.'

'One patient was transferred safely from Kilchoan to Raigmores Hospital by our ambulance. There was no reported adverse impact on the patient.'



Road rage costs young father-to-be £400

A MOMENT of road rage in Fort William cost a young Oban father-to-be £400 in fines.

Christopher Jordan McCuish admitted shouting, swearing and uttering threats towards a motorist and damaging her car by pulling off the near-side wing mirror.

As part of the prosecution's case, scenes from McCuish's dashboard camera were shown to Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald, sitting at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

The incident that sparked the outburst was clearly seen in the dashcam footage.

Another driver changed lanes in a badly-executed manoeuvre at the An Aird roundabout in the centre of Fort William on December 18 last year.

It was early evening and dark at the time.

Then, accompanied by a considerable amount of his swearing and his partner trying to calm him down and stop what he was doing, the moment is seen on film when McCuish, of 20 Nelson Road, follows the car into the car park at the town's Morrisons supermarket, marches across and pulls a wing mirror off.

'I can only describe this as an incident of road rage,' said McCuish's defence agent Hamish Melrose, who added the video also showed the incident when another driver cut McCuish up.

'His behaviour was clearly atrocious but it would seem completely out of character.'

Sheriff MacDonald was told that the 21-year-old, part-time delivery driver is due to become a father for the first time in the next few weeks.

'I hope you are embarrassed and ashamed of yourself, having seen this in open court,' said the sheriff as she fined him £200 for each offence.

Careless driver banned and fined

UNFORTUNATELY for a 40-year-old driver from Kirkintilloch, a police car was among the vehicles which had to brake suddenly when an overtaking manoeuvre went wrong.

Craig David Fyfe, of 5 Mitchell Gardens, admitted driving carelessly when he appeared before Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

The court heard he had misjudged an overtaking move on the long, straight stretch when heading south on the A82 by St John's Church near Ballachulish and had to cut in front sharply before the sweeping left-hand bend. This caused an on-coming HGV to take evasive action.

'The driver had to brake, causing the lorry wheels to lock up,' said procurator fiscal Martina Eastwood. 'The vehicles behind the HGV, including a marked police car, had to brake suddenly.'

His defence agent Hamish Melrose said Fyfe had been following a number of slow-moving vehicles heading south before the incident occurred.

Fyfe was fined £320 and lost his driving licence for five months under the totting-up procedure, given the number of points on his licence.

Angry retailers warn bus ban is putting jobs at risk

ELLIE FORBES
eforb@obantimes.co.uk

ANGRY Fort William retailers say more than 200 High Street jobs could be at risk if coaches are stopped from dropping passengers off near the town centre.

Members of the Fort William Retail Association called the Highland Council's decision to stop tourist buses letting passengers off at service bus stops an 'abomination' when they met last week.

An emergency motion to solve the situation was called for by one retailer at the meeting with councillors Andrew Baxter, Ben Thompson and Blair Allan. It was said the decision to stop coaches parking near the

town was made in Inverness and introduced in Fort William without consultation.

Drew Purdon, chairman of the retail association, said: 'This is an abomination. We don't know where it came from, but our elected councillors were not privy to this decision.'

'This came from non-elected officials who know what they earn week-to-week.'

'We don't know what we will earn day-to-day. We were kept in the dark.'

'The Highland Council is in breach of its own policy to strengthen the High Street because this action was taken against the High Street. We still have this anti-High Street, anti-buses feeling from the council.'

'I thought it had died away years ago. There are 200 people employed on the High Street by businesses in tourism and rates of £1 million are raised by High Street businesses so we should surely get a say on what happens.'

Mr Purdon expressed grave concern the decision will frighten off coach companies, with some already concerned about parking arrangements.

'If the coaches go to Ben Nevis Distillery or out to Spean Bridge instead of coming into town because there is nowhere for them to stop, we could end up losing half of our trade,' he said.

Eric Wallace, who has had a newsagent and gift shop on the High Street for 30 years, said: 'I'm not here just for myself.

I am here for my staff because they depend on me.'

'This is not just about businesses losing a bit of profit, this is about jobs.'

'I have never encountered any problems with buses in the 30 years I have been on the High Street and then one day they are just banned.'

'I don't want to lay off staff in the winter when it is quiet, but two jobs are at serious risk if the council take away 10 per cent of my business in the summer.'

Another retailer, who asked not to be named, said: 'It's not just Inverness, Inverness, Inverness.'

'The council needs to look at the biggest town in the Highlands and it's high time we got paid more than lip service.'

'I think an emergency motion should be taken to Margaret Davidson [leader of the council] to get this resolved immediately.'

Ben Thompson said the strength of feeling about the financial impact was evident.

He said: 'I, too, am a retailer so I sympathise with you. I don't lay off my staff in the winter so we need to reap in the summer as it makes up for the winter.'

Andrew Baxter said: 'This decision was taken in Inverness. But any decisions about parking provisions should be made by elected councillors.'

Mr Baxter said councillors would consider everyone's opinion and talk to bus companies before a final decision was made. Another meeting is to be arranged.

Woman loses licence for two years after drink-driving

A 46-YEAR-OLD woman is battling her alcohol addiction, Fort William Sheriff Court heard on Friday.

Sharon Kershaw, of Camus Fearna, Glenborrodale, has co-operated fully with police, social services and medical staff and will be under taking treatment.

Kershaw had admitted drink-driving on November 23 last year, on the B8007 near her home, and other offences at her home on January 13 this year when she damaged property and obstructed and hindered the police by struggling with them.

Procurator fiscal Martina Eastwood said Kershaw's car had been in the path of an oncoming vehicle and

they collided head-on. 'She got out of the car and walked off to her parents' home address nearby,' said the fiscal. 'An hour later the ambulance was contacted and she was taken to hospital in Fort William.'

In the meantime, the driver of the other car had contacted the police and officers traced Kershaw to hospital where she was given the standard road-side breath test, failed this and gave a sample of blood.

This showed 94 milligrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood; the limit in Scotland is 50.

The other offences occurred when Kershaw was refused drink from a locked drinks cabinet in her parents'

home, became agitated and went to leave, kicking out a glass panel in the window of a log-burning stove as she left. Police were called and the other incident occurred.

Kershaw's defence agent said she 'suffered significant alcohol addiction problems' and had been medically diagnosed 'having an issue with binge drinking'.

'She is co operating and she needs professional help.' Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald banned Kershaw from driving for two years and fined her £240 and for the other offences she was placed on a community pay back order, one of the conditions being one year's supervision by the social work department.

Celebrations mark official opening of Caol campus

CELEBRATIONS were held in Lochaber last Friday as Caol Joint Campus was officially opened.

Senior pupils gave invited guests tours of the campus comprising Caol Primary School, St Columba's Primary School and Caol Community Centre before the opening ceremony.

Bishop Brian McGee, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, and Duncan Shearer, former pupil of Caol Primary School and former professional footballer, unveiled a commemorative opening plaque.

Bishop McGee said: 'I wish to congratulate staff and pupils of St Columba's RC Primary School on their new joint school campus. This is not the first St Columba's Primary School in Lochaber. The original St Columba's primary was opened at Lochyside in 1964, so it is fitting the new school has the same name. My wish is St Columba's Primary School in Caol will continue to be a strong community of faith and learning where all children and staff can live their lives to the full and bring light to the wider community.'

Duncan said it was an honour to participate in the opening ceremony as the school played a 'big part' in his journey to become a footballer.

'I was born less than 100 yards from the school and consider it a privilege to be asked to open



Bishop McGee, left, unveils the Caol and St Columba's plaque with Duncan Shearer at the new joint campus. Photograph: Abrightside Photography. F26 caol campus 01 JP

the new Caol Primary School,' he said.

The current pupil roll at St Columba's is 100 primary and 11 nursery pupils, while at Caol 234 primary and 71 nursery pupils are enrolled.

Violet Smith, head teacher at St Columba's RC Primary

School, said the new joint campus provided 'a very bright, vibrant learning environment for pupils and staff'.

Caol Primary School head teacher Steven Hamilton said: 'We love the fact we have a shared campus with friends and colleagues who are able

to work and share together.' Donnie Corbett, chairman of Caol Regeneration Company, opened the new community centre which includes a youth centre and cafe and the Room 13 art studio. The space is open to a variety of Lochaber-based groups.



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FW



Lochaber High School sixth year students at their graduation. Photograph: Iain Ferguson The Write Image.

Posh frocks, kilts and suits at high school graduations

IT WAS posh frocks, kilts and suits all round for Lochaber High School's sixth year graduation. Seventy-four sixth years crossed the red carpet on the school stage in front of proud parents, grandparents, family and friends and were awarded a graduation certificate recognising their contribution to the school and wishing them well for the future.

Head teacher Jim Sutherland said: 'The end of the school year is always a significant time for our sixth years as they leave school and move on to pastures new. However, 2017 has added significance as this year's sixth year leavers are the last group to have been born in the 20th century. 'Since our sixth years were born in 1999 or 2000, much has changed in the world, much has changed in Scottish education and much has changed in Lochaber High School. 'We can't see what lies ahead but, looking back at photos from their time at Lochaber High, it is clear we have a cohort full of potential, active, good-humoured, hard-working and equipped with many of the

skills required to move forward with confidence. We wish you all the very best for the future.' After the graduation ceremony, organised by deputy head teacher Elizabeth Gow, sixth years and staff moved on to the Ben Nevis Hotel for a buffet followed by dancing to music from former pupil Robert Robertson of upcoming band Tide Lines. Ardnamurchan High School held its annual graduation dinner with staff and sixth year pupils at Mingarry Park restaurant. Head teacher Christopher



Ardnamurchan High School graduation.

Millar-Craig praised the achievements of the young people over their years at Ardnamurchan High School and in his speech, shared memories and stories provided by the young

people. Each S6 pupil received a commemorative Ardnamurchan High School conference folder. Mr Millar-Craig said: 'We are always very proud of the achievements of our young people, and it is particularly poignant to share with our S6 at the graduation dinner. We wish them every success in their next steps as they move on from Ardnamurchan High School.'



Islay MacRae presents the Dick MacRae Memorial Quaich to student Ali Hambrey, with Music School Director Dougie Pincock and Rona MacRae. Photograph: Sara Bain.

Plockton schools end year on a high note

PLOCKTON'S school year finished on a high note when music students from Sgoil Chiùil Na Gàidhealtachd ended a successful tour with a concert at the school. This year's concert tour took the students to Royal Deeside where they played in Braemar Village Hall; Deeside Community Theatre, Aboynae; and Finzean Hall. The students also took part in workshops at Aboynae Academy, Banchoory Academy and Braemar

Primary School. On Saturday June 17, they returned to Plockton to play out another school year and share what they have learned to a packed hall of staff, family and friends. The students demonstrated outstanding talent with a programme of traditional Scottish tunes and powerful contemporary songs and it was an emotional time for some who would be leaving school at the end of term. Music school director

Dougie Pincock said: 'The success of the music school can be put down to team work and the concert required an enormous team effort both on stage and off. 'This is exclusively an education project and can't happen without Plockton School which has provided a welcoming and supportive environment for the young people.' Receiving a special trophy on the evening was 17-year-old Ali Hambrey who was awarded the Dick MacRae Memorial Quaich, given to the student who, in the opinion of the staff, has made the longest journey through their school year. The quaich was presented by Dick's grand-daughters Islay and Rona MacRae. Dougie added: 'Ali did well. 'It took him a little time to settle at school and now he has developed into a fine young fellow. We are very proud of him.'

Dedicated Harris Tweed for care home

HARRIS Tweed Hebrides has teamed up with Bethesda Care Home and Hospice to design a unique Harris Tweed. The design is a bright sea blue window pane check. The Bethesda creative sewing team will transform the fabric into a range of ladies and gents accessories which will be sold to raise funds for the organisation, which provides care and palliative services on the island. Brand development director Margaret A MacLeod,

said: 'Harris Tweed Hebrides was delighted to assist with this project. Whether it's the care home or the hospice, all of us at the Shawbost mill recognise the importance of this facility within our local community and the amazing commitment of the Bethesda team.' Bethesda's head of fundraising D R Macdonald, said: 'We have a number of talented volunteers who have been making bags, purses, cushion covers and dog coats over the past few

years with fabric kindly donated by Harris Tweed Hebrides and we felt it was time to have our own bespoke Tweed. With the help and encouragement we have received from staff at Harris Tweed Hebrides, particularly Margaret Ann, we are delighted to launch the Bethesda Harris Tweed.' Accessories made in the new Tweed will be available from the Bethesda Shop, Bayhead, Stornoway, over the coming weeks.



Left to right: Carol Somerville, D R Macdonald and Catherine Gomez from Bethesda with HTH chairman Brian Wilson displaying the new Bethesda Harris Tweed.

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Brian MacInnes of Jewsons visited the React base in Caol to see how his donation of wood for shelving had been used. Lorraine Wheelen, centre, Sandra Smith, left, and Gay Anderson thanked him for his help and gave him some bags to pack. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Re-Act on the move to Caol

RE-ACT Refugee Action, Lochaber and Argyll has moved into new premises in Glenloy Street, Caol. The not-for-profit humanitarian aid project provides support to displaced people all over Europe. In the last three years, the group has filled three 7.5 tonne lorries with aid which has been distributed to camps in Greece, Calais, Lebanon and Syria. Lorraine Wheelen told the *Lochaber Times*: 'When we moved in we needed shelves put up so we could sort donations and make up packs.' A Lochaber businessman donated the

time of two of his joiners to make the shelves and Jewsons, Fort William, gave the charity the materials. 'Re-Act thanks Brian MacInnes at Jewsons and the local businessman who wishes to remain anonymous. We could not have done this without you,' said Lorraine. Re-Act Lochaber has grown to encompass south Lochaber and Argyll, with drop-off points in Kinlochleven, Ballachulish, Duror, Appin and Oban. The group is also looking for a storage unit. Anyone who can help should contact Lorraine 07470 219328.

RETRO Roamer

THE HIGHLAND Homespun sale attracted the crowds – visitors and locals. In the midst of it all an American decided he wanted the very kilt sported by the (inanimate) male model in the shop window. So, off it was whipped, leaving the model in his shirt tail. The rest of his regalia was intact – Prince Charlie jacket, tie, socks, sgian dhu. But from then on it was bedlam, with dozens of 'towrists' clamouring to see what the male model had been wearing under his kilt.

A LOT of folk are calling for 'signposting sanity' in Fort William. It appears that, nowadays, all the signs and notices in and around town are for the benefit of motorists. If you don't believe me, take a look up Bank Street. Meanwhile there's the sign behind the Cameron Centre which reads 'Tots'. It's supposed to say 'Towists' but the middle part - ile- is behind a telegraph pole.

MY TALE of Wee Donald's two left-footed slippers had an interesting sequel at the weekend. A Ballachulish native has been in touch to say he's interested in doing a part exchange as he, apparently, bought slippers in the same shop. When he opened the box at home, he found he had, yes, two for the right foot. So, Donald, if you'd like to get back on an even keel just contact Roamer at Box No LRLR. The game of 'Hunt the Slipper' will then be completed.

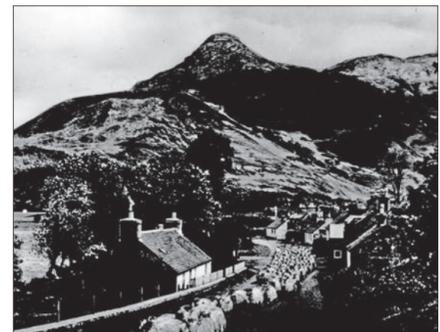
I SEE the 'AA Windsack' at the West End Car Park is flying at lower than half mast these days. In fact, after last week's gales, it almost disappeared down the loch. While a reinforced pole is awaited for the windsack to be rehoisted, Roamer has it Sea King helicopter pilots and navigators will have to take their bearings from the washing hanging on the lines at Maryburgh Court.

TWO SISTERS were out for the messages at the weekend. Laden with carrier bags, they staggered to the bus stop at the Parade, where two buses were waiting. The girls piled into the second one and one sister collapsed into a seat under the combined weight of two lots of shopping, while other sis waited to pay their fares. 'Two 45s, please,' said she. 'It's not 45p to Kennedy Road,' the driver advised. Slightly popped, the fare payer exclaimed: 'But we're not going to Kennedy Road!' The driver, all smiles now, replied: 'No, but I am.'

VANDALISM and disturbances are a sad feature of the times we live in. And I'm sure we had all hoped it would never hit Lochaber. But our hopes have been dashed. You see the effects frequently in the High Street. You hear about houses being broken into and ransacked. Our hall windows got it this week, just after being repaired. Is anyone ever caught? Can we get the bobby on the beat back, please? Are these Roamer comments? No, those of Canon MacNeil in the St Mary's newsletter.

WEST Highland hospitality? Or, put another way, 'never on a Sunday – in Mallaig'. When a mid-1980s steam train pulled in at the platform there, and the passengers filed out to savour the sights and sounds of Seagull City – and beyond – they found their progress barred. Literally. The station gates were chained and padlocked. Did I say 'filed out' earlier? Well, that's actually what happened. A file and a hacksaw later and the 'towrists' had the freedom of Mallaig. 'We'll take care it doesn't happen again,' a ScotRail spokesman was quoted as saying in a Scottish Sunday newspaper, in response to the fact Mallaig station had locked in 250 steam train passengers. So, what do you think? As most people in Mallaig were reading that Sunday paper the following weekend, the same situation arose. The station was again securely under lock and key on the third successive Steam Sunday, this time causing the passengers to form their own escape groups to gain access to the village. The final problem arose because the locks of the main gates had been changed, but the railmen had been issued with the previous set of keys! Mention of 'key workers' back there reminds me ScotRail is now employing a 75-year-old rule book procedure of having a flagman walking in front of the trains at Morar Crossing so that safety can be assured. Aye, that's one way of running a railroad.

WHAT would you do if you noticed a fiver down a drain brander? You would rake about diligently until you wheeled it out. That is exactly what a young lady of this parish did the other day. Crafty with it, too. She put glue onto the end of a stick and enticed the note out of the drain. If you are offered a £5 note wrapped in polythene, you'll know where it has been.



Sheep may safely graze in Glen Coe.

QUITE a stramash outside the Ferryboat Inn the other evening. A busload of SWRI members arrived, with most of them wishing to spend what would amount to quite a few pennies. But there was no availability outside the inn in the female section of the toilet block. But one gallant, redoubtable Lochaber man sorted things out. He posted himself as sentry outside the gents and the ladies went in there two by two.

HERE'S a fishy tale. Two newly-appointed officials of a local angling club arranged to meet outside the Royal Bank of Scotland to append their names - inside – as joint signatories for the club's financial transactions. One turned up on Monday morning and waited for an hour. Meanwhile, along at the Bank of Scotland, his colleague was keeping a lone vigil outside. It seems the latter had always been under the impression the B of S was actually the Royal! But what's an hour, when both anglers could spend a whole day along a bank and not catch a single fish?

FW

Viewpoint



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

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Only a few weeks after we ran a story on a man who had his hopes of moving into the Tweeddale flats development on Fort William High Street dashed because of potential difficulties using the lift, a resident has raised concerns with the *Lochaber Times* about the recently opened properties.

Again, the lift situation has come in for criticism, however, perhaps more worrying is the fact the secure door at one of the blocks of flats is not shutting properly, meaning tenants now have people loitering in the halls - one man had a sleeping bag and a ruck sack - with others drinking, smoking and leaving cigarette butts and empty cans on the

carpet. Youngsters are also having to be moved on because they are able to come in and play in the lift.

Also concerning is that while an early morning flat fire was dealt with promptly by the emergency services, and no-one was injured, the alarm continued to go off for more than three hours after the fire, despite a call to the council for someone to come and deal with it, only to be told that staff start work at 9am and it would not be dealt with before then.

With these flats housing vulnerable and the elderly, surely someone could have attended a lot sooner to deal with this?



Days gone by – 1993

This week's picture shows John Cameron and Archibald Carnie, who retired from ScotRail after 40 years and 17 years respectively. They are pictured with their wives Barbara and Jean, and Mike Smith, from ScotRail.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



COMING up with enough material for this column is a prospect that initially was a bit daunting and was increasingly so as I was moved from monthly to fortnightly to weekly, but (with a touching of wood) something usually comes to mind.

This week I moved quickly from having nothing I felt inspired to write about, to having two strands of differing material to choose from and to fashion into 500 words of something coherent. Instead of dealing with the dilemma of which one to go with, I will give you a taste of both.

Highland Games Star of the Future

Last Sunday, the Oban and Lorne Highland Games hosted some of the top athletes of their type in the world. Competing among them was 18-year-old Murdo Masterson from Dunbeg. For someone as young to compete credibly against the likes of Lorne Colthart, Lukasz Wenta and Kyle Randalls is truly incredible and is an indicator that his future has the potential to be ground-breaking.

As far as I am aware, in the history of Highland Games no athlete as young as Murdo has achieved the distances that he is capable of and he



Murdo Masterson.

currently holds three world records in the under 20s category. They are for the 16lb hammer, the 22lb hammer and the 28lb weight for distance.

On Sunday, at Mossfield Stadium he threw the 22lb hammer over 104 feet, which is remarkable.

His achievements are testimony to the encouragement, generosity and skill of coach Shaun Bate, the support of his parents, and his own dedication and determination to make the most of his prodigious natural strength and talent.

If he continues on his current trajectory, Murdo's name in years to come will be placed firmly amongst the legends of Highland Games and he will topple many long-standing records.

Social media

News that a specialist plant engineering firm that employs eight people will close in September after being evicted from its yard in North Connel prompted an angry reaction. Kenny Pearson blasted: 'This is absolutely shocking, why would you buy a house next to a working coal yard/HGV firm that has been there for years, then complain about the noise! Shame on you!'

Fiona Bennett wrote: 'This is appalling. Young businesses should be supported and encouraged. Given the uncertainty of our country's future just now you'd think they'd be going out of their way to support this enterprising

company. The council has made a very poor decision here indeed. They should be ashamed of themselves putting people that have worked so hard out of business and out of work.'

Craig Somerville posted: 'This is ridiculous on the home owner and the council's part. Surely when you buy a house you check out what's round about it. Also what's the problem with the airport site? I can't see the airport expanding going by all the controversies that surrounded it.'

Elspeth Allan said: 'A&B council hang your heads in shame, a company that is much needed in the area you are closing down because of A complainant.

Summer Driving

As we edge past the milestone of the Summer Solstice, the magical bloom of the warm season is in the air.

Joining the long evenings, the blanket of flowers on the machair and the twitter of the swallow is the sudden increase in traffic volume and the slowing of all journeys on our roads.

This is an annually recurring double-edged sword of existing in areas popular as tourist destinations.

A recent journey from Fort William to Strathpeffer brought this to mind as I travelled up Loch Ness-side following various sight-seers at 30 miles per hour.

It is without doubt a good problem to have for our economy and the social vibrancy of the area. I believe generally, "the busier the better".

However, at the same time it is definitely the cause of some pronounced frustration if you are travelling with a time schedule to keep.

In the short term, all we can do is leave plenty time-margin for delays in our schedules.

In the long term, the answer is for better roads, and better means of education to make clear to drivers that by pulling in to let traffic past, they can help vastly in making the roads a happier and safer place to travel.



This is an absolute disgrace and I hope the nationals get hold of this story and highlight the plight of this company. Name and shame councillors and A complainant.'

Mary Morrison posted: 'Disgraceful. Hope this gets sorted quickly and everyone keeps their jobs.'

Margaret Eisler agreed: 'This is crazy. Jobs gone and for what? Surely the planning and zoning would be on the side of the HGV firm?'

Dorothee Gotz asked: 'What sort of businesses are meant to go onto the airport site if this one isn't suitable?'

Greig Macphail said simply: 'This is ridiculous.'

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

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

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

'Island proofing' may save hospital services

Sir,
Proposed new government legislation may help to protect services at Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital.

During his recent visit to Mull, covered by *The Oban Times*, Minister Humza Yousaf found the time to talk about his proposed Islands Bill which he is taking through the Scottish Parliament.

According to his proposal, all new legislation will have to be considered for its impact on island communities. This he called 'island proofing' for short. He was able to confirm that the legislation will also apply to policies developed by government agencies as well as the government itself.

The NHS is one of those agencies, so it would appear that as Oban hospital provides services to island communities, as well as to mainland residents, any proposals put forward by the NHS to reduce services at the hospital must be subjected to island proofing before being implemented.

It will be interesting to see whether island proofing can be used to protect local services at the hospital and how we can argue for improvements to the service.

David Pollard,
Salen, Isle of Mull.

Thanks for support of farming community

Sir,
The directors and staff of Caledonian Marts Ltd would like to express their thanks to all the customers in the Argyll and the Isles area who have supported the company over the past 20 years at Oban Livestock Centre.

We are obviously disappointed that the company will not be operating future sales in Oban but we are pleased to have served the farming industry in the area, where livestock is the backbone of economic activity in the local communities.

We thank all our customers and friends for their business over this period. We shall maintain contact with them and the area and wish them every success in these challenging times.

John Kyle,
Managing director,
Caledonian Marts Ltd.

Thanks to electorate from candidates

Sir,
I would like to express my thanks to everyone who voted for me in the recent general election.

It is a privilege once again to represent the people of Ross, Skye and Lochaber in Westminster and it will my pleasure to work for all in the constituency, ensuring that I am a strong voice on issues affecting this area.

In addition to maintaining offices in Dingwall and Fort William, where inquiries can be made, I will continue to hold regular surgeries where I can

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



THA MI 'N DÒCHAS gun do chuir beachd an Dotair Waleed Khan, ann an Inbhir Nis, mun chron a tha an creideamh Muslamach a' fulang ri linn obair-ceannaire Isis smaointinn air mòran. A dh'aindeoin buaidh brùidealachd oihleth air ionnsaighean a tha a' gabhail àite air mòr-shluagh dhùthchannan feadh an t-saoghail, 's iad Muslamaich as motha a tha a' call nuair a tha sgrìos agus marbhadh ga dhèanamh an ainm an cuid creideimh le daoine a tha, am beachd an dotair, "tinn nan intinn". Ged a tha ceannaireich a' leigeil orra a bhith a' strì an ainm Allah chan eil an cuid ghnìomh a rèir teagasg a' chreidimh tha Muslamaich sgìth de bhith ag iarraidh leisgeul airson eucoir dhaoine nach buin dhaibh. Dh'iarradh an Dotair Khan barrachd fiosrachaidh mun chreideamh Islamach a bhith air a' theagasg gus co-obrachadh eadar chreideamhan a leudachadh agus cuideachd gus tuilleadh cron den t-seòrsa a tha a' tachairt a bhacadh. Saoilidh mi nach eil duine ceart sam bith nach aontaicheadh ri barrachd

meet constituents in person to hear and act upon any issues or concerns raised.

Ian Blackford MP,
Ross, Skye and Lochaber.

Sir,
I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the people of the Western Isles for the way they responded to my bid to seek election - not just those who voted for me, but also to those who reacted to me in a positive manner, even though their vote lay elsewhere.

I started the campaign with little recognition and I am proud to say that by the end people were approaching me in the supermarket to discuss the issues facing our islands.

I believe I made a strong case for change in the islands and I stand by the approach I took. I believe in our islands and our potential. Over and over again, on the doorsteps, people expressed concern about the impact talk of a second independence referendum was having on our communities and our country. I agree. I respect people who have a strong belief in a cause, even though I do not share their belief. However, sometimes we must set that to one side to ensure that our communities are not jeopardised. The campaign was short and very difficult. The worst of humanity hit our islands which showed the very best of our islands. I don't think any of us will forget this.

So, five weeks after starting, I found that 5,000 of my fellow islanders had put their faith in me and crossed the box next to my name.

I promised you that if you gave me your vote then I would fight for the islands. I was not elected, but I will carry on fighting. Please continue to come and chat in the supermarket, or anywhere else, because I am going to do everything I can to ensure our islands have a viable future.

Ealasaid MacDonald,
Labour candidate for
Western Isles.

Sir,
I write to thank everyone who voted for me in the General Election, all those who worked for my campaign and all who helped run the election. I congratulate Brendan O'Hara on being re-elected as our MP and wish him all the best in his job of representing Argyll and Bute in the House of Commons.

Alan Reid,
LibDem candidate for
Argyll and Bute,
Fairhaven, Dunoon.

Disenfranchised by electoral system

Sir,
I have voted in every election in which I was eligible to vote, since the age of 18, being aware of the hard-fought battle for universal suffrage.

When the recent general election was called, I realised I would be on holiday abroad on June 8, and for the first time ever applied for a postal vote. This application was sent off well before the latest deadline to apply for such a vote.

On May 25, I began to be concerned

that the postal vote had not arrived so I telephoned the relevant office at Argyll and Bute Council, this being almost two weeks prior to the date of the election.

I was told that postal votes for people already registered had been sent out and that mine was due to be sent out on Wednesday May 31. This was only eight days before the date of the election.

I informed the council officer that this was of no use to me as I was leaving home on June 1, only a day after they were sending out my vote. I was told that there was no flexibility in the arrangements, and although sympathetic to my position the officer agreed that I was effectively being disenfranchised by the Argyll and Bute Council's procedures.

Can I urge the council to review its procedures with regard to this and to be aware that first-time postal vote applications are likely to be from people who will be away from home, and at least to include something on the application to indicate the desired time restrictions?

Alec Chasemore,
Conisby, Islay.

Farming payments remain in crisis

Sir,
A damning report by Audit Scotland has recently revealed Scotland's farmer payments crisis won't be sorted until 2018.

Audit Scotland also said: 'Issues in relation to the SNP's processing of Common Agricultural Policy payments continue to have a significant impact.' It warned: 'It is likely that the rural payments system will not be functioning as anticipated, until SAF (Single Application Form window) 2018 at the earliest.'

The Scottish Government could also face fines of more than £60 million from the EU this year if it does not process all its payments on time.

Problems with the Scottish Government's IT system first emerged as far back as 2015, with major delays starving the rural economy of hundreds of millions of pounds. Now, shockingly, auditors have published a new report on the fiasco, which it concludes 'has not delivered value for money'.

On top of the possible European fines, it said: 'The Scottish Government will need to incur additional costs to improve and stabilise the system.'

As a consequence of the system not being fixed for at least another year, Audit Scotland added: 'This means there is a higher risk of weakness in the system and administrative controls existing, if not all parts of the system, are in place until then.'

The Scottish Government's lack of a disaster recovery solution, which auditors said 'has not yet been fully developed and tested', was also criticised. This ongoing fiasco is crippling Argyll and Bute's agriculture industry and badly damaging our wider rural economy.

Rural Scotland deserves better than this institutional incompetence from the Scottish Government.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.

Ailean Caimbeul

tuigse agus co-obrachaidh am measg a' mhòr-shluagh agus gu sònraichte gluasad sam bith a tha dol a chur ri tèarainteachd, saorsa, agus sith.

'S e cuspair beagan eadar-dhealichte a th' ann ach nach eil sinne mar Ghàidheil glè eòlach air ionnsaighean faoin, ach goirt, air ar cuid cànan is dualchais gach dàrna latha anns na meadhanan. Chan eil teagamh agam fhìn nach e gu ìre nàdar burraidheachd a th' air cùl mòran den sin is feadhainn a' feuchainn air mion-chomhairsnachd le fios nach tèid aice air cus a dhèanamh gus i fhèin a dhion. Bha dòchas ann gun cuireadh Cairt nam Mion-chànanan Eòrpach stad air lethidh sin de gheur-leamhainn ach tha e follaiseach nach tèid aig mion-bhuidheann sam bith air burraidheachd bho chuid de bhuill a' mhòr-chomhairsnachd a sheachnadh.

Bidh mi aig amannan a' cuimhneachadh air clasaichean feallsanachd beusach anns an oilthigh, agus gu sònraichte an leabhar The Social Contract aig an fheallsanaiche Eilbheiseach Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Bha Rousseau soilleir na beachd nach robh cumhachd a' buileachadh chòraichean, agus nach fheumadh

an sluagh gèilleadh ach ri laghan reusanta a-mhàin. Cha robh buaidh air sluagh a' toirt còir dha stàit tràillean a dhèanamh dhiubh. Nam aiste air a' chuspair tha cuimhn' agam gun tuirt mi nach robh e gu diofar co-dhùiu a bha duine a' creidsinn gun tàinig an cinne-daonna gu bith a rèir aithris a' Bhiobaill neo a rèir Darwin, bha a h-uile neach co-ionann is cha ghabhadh còir tràilleachd a bhith ann. Tha mi fhathast den aon bheachd!

INVERNESS-BASED doctor Waleed Khan deserves support for his campaign for more education about Islam in order to develop greater inter-faith co-operation and understanding.

When terrorists adopt a faith to attempt to justify their actions the genuine followers of that faith can lose massively. But terrorism must never win!

As the Swiss philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau wrote, 'One man thinks himself the master of others, but remains more of a slave than they are.'

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

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

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

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

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Your letters

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

must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not

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

Body lies in busy A&E due to staff cuts

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THE BODY of a patient lay on a trolley in the accident and emergency department of Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital for 11 hours as there was no night porter to take it to the mortuary.

Staff are now demanding arrangements are put in place by hospital management to have someone on call in the evening and during the night so a similar situation does not arise again. It is understood the body was left in a room in A&E, causing distress to staff who were on duty, until the porter collected it in the morning.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) - formerly the health board - said: 'Due to patient confidentiality we would not be able to comment on the specific case mentioned, however, there can be a range of reasons why a body is not moved immediately to the mortuary.'

'This could include the need for specific arrangements having to be put in place to move the body, instructions from the police, the family wanting time to grieve or the staff on duty being extremely busy dealing with attendances at A&E.'

'In all circumstances, our staff would treat the body with privacy, dignity and respect.'

'In relation to the question about the hospital's portering service, this was reviewed last

year in consultation with the staff concerned and this led to changes in the rota to ensure porters are on duty when there is a demand for their service.'

'We will be continuing to monitor this review to ensure we have the appropriate staff in place as and when required.'

In a question to Police Scotland, an officer said he did not believe the police had asked for any body to be kept in A&E.

A member of hospital staff, who did not want to be named, said: 'We have not been consulted. There are not enough staff to deal with the higher influx of patients at night, at the weekend and during the summer.'

'It is fair to say that no-one would want any of their relatives left lying under a blanket in a room that staff have to access to get medical supplies. It is not the way we as staff want to treat patients. It is not the respectful way we were all trained to treat the bodies of people's loved ones.'

'Night porters need to be re-introduced as soon as possible. It is a cut too far. It does not work.'

Michael Russell MSP for Argyll and Bute said: 'This is very troubling and distressing, particularly for the relatives of the person involved. It should not have happened.'

'I am keen Oban Hospital continues as a responsive local facility doing all the things a community hospital does best, but, of course, ensuring safe

onward transmission of patients who need a level of care or treatment that cannot be provided by a small facility.'

'I suspect everyone could agree on that but there is no faith presently in HSCP delivering it and if it cannot even provide enough staff to undertake tasks that are demanded by common decency then the current management of HSCP are not doing their jobs.'

'I think there needs to be a long hard look at the HSCP and its track record to date. Many people wished it well when it was established, but as problems multiply, local people are losing faith in its ability to deliver the services they need and must have. Something has to change.'

At Oban Community Council, concerns continued to be raised about communication from hospital and locality management. Community councillor Duncan Martin said: 'No point in blaming the locality, these are cuts that are being made throughout the country and essentially from the government.'

Chairwoman Marri Malloy said: 'It seems to me that with all this centralisation the people of Oban don't matter. We have to change that. Something has to give.'

Councillor Jim Lynch said: 'We have to make a list of what we want and need in the hospital and then tell the hospital and the government what we are looking for.'

Dunbeg's Sine McVicar goes to the top of the class



TES editor Ann Mroz with Sine MacVicar and Justine Greening, Secretary of State for Education.

SELFLESS, exceptional and committed were three words used to describe Dunbeg Primary School's outgoing head-teacher Sine MacVicar, who won a lifetime achievement award last week, writes David McPhee.

Mrs MacVicar has devoted 44-years to the school and her hard work was recognised at the Times Educational Supplement (TES) School Awards 2017.

She was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award after being nominated by her colleagues. The judges of the category described Mrs MacVicar's entry as 'absolutely stunning,' saying: 'She has put the school at the heart of the community and the time, energy and commitment that she has dedicated is extraordinary.'

Speaking after being presented with the award, Mrs MacVicar told the crowd:

'Tonight I think I am nearly speechless. I cannot tell you how proud I am, but how proud of what a wonderful profession to be a part of, having a wonderful team of staff behind me and I am just privileged and honoured. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the judging. I will take this proudly back to Dunbeg primary on the west coast of Scotland and I think they will be very proud as well.'

Argyll youngsters find its cool2talk

ARGYLL and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) launched an online information and support service in Campbeltown Grammar School on June 14.

The service, called Cool2talk, (www.cool2talk.org), is an online space for young people across Argyll and Bute to have their questions answered in the knowledge that they will be responded to promptly by a trained person who won't judge, but will offer information and guidance.

Sam Campbell, senior health improvement specialist for the HSCP, said: 'We were delighted to launch Cool2Talk.'

'Questions posted to the Cool2Talk website will be answered within 24 hours, 365 days a year so young people can get access to information which is written specifically for them.'

'The questions they ask and the answers received will then be posted anonymously on the website so everyone can benefit from the information. The website doesn't ask for personal information and doesn't identify the person asking the question.'

'Not only will the website contain a resource for parents/carers and professionals, it will also include a directory of local/national services on a range of topics that have been highlighted by young people as important.'

'Young people using the site can also access online support from a qualified counsellor one evening a week at the One2One session. This is presently only available once a week but we are currently investigating plans to extend this further.'

'This valuable service offers reassurance, encouragement, information and advice on any health related issue and, if required, signposting to appropriate local or national services.'



Dr Sam Jones presents the award to Ian Stevens as coxswain David McHaffie looks on.

Tobermory says farewell to operations manager

GOODBYE Ian Stevens, Tobermory lifeboat operations manager, welcome Ian Stevens, vice chairman, writes Louise Glen.

On the evening of Saturday June 24, Tobermory RNLI's crew, fundraisers, shop volunteers and their families surprised former lifeboat operations manager Ian Stevens with a presentation of an award from the RNLI.

Under the pretence of a midsummer party, Ian was given the thoroughly deserved Excellence in Volunteering award on behalf of the RNLI.

During his time as Tobermory lifeboat operation manager, the lifeboat has launched just under 200 times, rescuing 260 people.

His passion and commitment to all aspects of the lifeboat and station can be in no doubt and he has been pivotal in the success of the station, as well as building a close knit and highly-effective team.

The citation from Leesa Harwood,

RNLI director of community life-saving, referred to Ian's enthusiasm, attitude and forward thinking as fully embodying the RNLI's values.

Ian stood down in late April but is retaining his close involvement with the station as its new vice chairman.

Dr Sam Jones, former navigator and deputy launching authority has succeeded Ian as lifeboat operations manager, one of only a handful of women in the RNLI to hold the post.

Dr Jones said: 'Ian epitomises the volunteer ethos of the RNLI. He has taken the station from strength to strength, building a station family which includes crew, fundraisers and shop volunteers.'

'His dedication and commitment over the years has been rightly recognised with this award from the RNLI. It's a huge honour as well as a little bit daunting to be following in Ian's footsteps but I am so pleased that as vice chairman he will still be at hand with his support and wise counsel.'

Crackdown on violence

A THREE-MONTH national campaign to crack down on summer violence was launched by Police Scotland yesterday (Wednesday June 28).

The Scotland-wide campaign will tackle alcohol-related violence, offensive weapons, disorder and anti-social behaviour and will be delivered by local police divisions which will target hot spots specific to their local violence profile.

Police Scotland aims to reduce public space violence, disorder and anti-social behaviour through effective deployment of resources, prevention

techniques, enforcement operations and education and awareness activity. This means divisions will use enhanced intelligence-led policing and predictive analysis tools to identify root causes of disorder at a local level and direct resources to specifically tackle the people involved in those crimes in the right time and place.

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For more information please contact:
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THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS ANNUAL CANVASS

Electoral Registration Forms will be posted to every residential property in Argyll & Bute during the month of July, listing the registration details currently held by the Electoral Registration Officer. It is important that you respond to these forms, whether there are changes to be made or not.

Residents will be able to respond by using INTERNET, FREEPHONE and MOBILE PHONE TEXT MESSAGE to confirm or update their electoral roll details.

Details of how to do this will be on the Registration Forms.

These services will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, throughout the canvass period.

Alternatively the forms can be returned by POST in the pre-paid envelope provided.

Electoral Registration for Young People
Along with all adults in the household, you should also add to the form those who will be aged 15 years or older by 30 November 2017.

This is so they are on the register when they become old enough to vote.

It's important to provide the information requested; if you don't you could be fined £1,000.

David C Thomson
Electoral Registration Officer

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THE BENEFITS **ESTATE** **LBS**

Supporting Fort William Football Club

Athletics club hosts Eagle Crag race

Athletics

THIRTY-FIVE runners took part in Lochaber Athletics Club's Eagle Crag race at the weekend.

Runners, most representing Lochaber and the Highlands, enjoyed good conditions, with light showers to stop overheating and enough of a breeze to keep the midges at bay.

Stephen Traill was strong on the first climb and built a solid lead over the rest of the field, but a bad line of descent down to the West Highland Way cost him his lead.

Richard Macleod took full advantage of this and lead the field to the finish. A club spokesperson said he was 'looking forward to a few battles between these two this season'.

Alan Smith had another cracking race finishing first of the fifties and fifth overall.

Diana Macdonald ran her first Eagle Crag, breaking the ladies record by 55 seconds - a record which could stand for a while.

Scottish Water team takes on Highland 500

Cycling

LAST weekend saw 16 men from Scottish Water offices in Skye, Inverness and Fort William cycle more than 500 miles around the Highlands raising money for Water Aid and Highland Hospice.

Dubbed the 'Highland 500', the team set out from UHI in Inverness on Thursday June 22 and travelled through the Cairngorms, Fort William, Glencoe, Ardnachan, Mallaig and Skye before heading up the west coast to Applecross, Ullapool, Ledmore and the Black Isle before returning to Inverness - a total of 525 miles.

Heavy rain and strong winds made the going tough at times with teams of four riders cycling each leg of around 16 miles together.

Garry Noakes, from Tarskavaig on Skye, who cycled 252 miles said: 'That's the Scottish Water Highland 500 over for another year.'

'A great event with a great bunch of guys.'

Fort William Bowling Club

FORT William Bowling Club has held its first evening competition of the season.

Despite being close to the longest day, wet weather brought the darkness in early and the finalists struggled as the light faded.

Winners of the Alistair Young balloted pairs were Eddie Downs and Bill Gibbons and the presentation was made by Kevin Douglas.

South Lochaber Thistle hold awards night



SOUTH Lochaber Thistle held their first awards night in Sunny's Sports bar at the weekend.

The night was hosted by coach and player Alan Gray who presented prizes to, left to right: young player of the year: Martin Munro, who was also joint top goal scorer; player of the year: Andrew McLean; joint top goal scorer, Lewis Morrison and most improved player, Keir Kennedy.

The team also displayed the two cups they won in their first season against experienced

Football

opposition from teams in Argyll and the Central belt.

The Kinlochleven team will be playing in the Greater Glasgow AFL next season.

In preparation, they have organised a pre-season friendly match with last season's Scottish Amateur Cup semi-finalists Oban Saints.

The game will be played in Oban on Saturday July 29, kick-off 2pm.

The club will also play in the Argyll and Bute Cup tournament in Lochgilphead on Saturday August 5.

South Lochaber Thistle players at their awards night.

Lochaber High School win MacPherson Cup

HOSTED at the Dell, this year's MacPherson Cup was contested by Kingussie, Dunoon and Lochaber.

Lochaber and Kingussie opened the tournament with a hard-fought encounter. Lewis Clark gave Lochaber an early lead when he dribbled through the home defence before finishing in the corner. Clark doubled the lead with a low driven shot to make it 2-0 before Lachie Shaw ran on to a fine through ball to make it 3-0 at half time.

The second half was an even contest, but Clark completed his hat-trick to complete the scoring and give Lochaber a 4-0 win.

In the second match, Dunoon, making their first appearance for several years, took on Kingussie.

In an evenly contested match, there was nothing between the teams until Dunoon struck mid-way through the first half, with an excellent long range shot to take a 1-0 lead, which they held until half time.

Kingussie mounted a series of attacks in the second half to try to get back into the match but

School shinty

the Dunoon defence, and some outstanding goalkeeping, kept them out while the Dunoon attack looked capable of adding to their lead. In the end, it finished 1-0 to Dunoon who then faced Lochaber in the final.

In a frantic opening, Dunoon spurned a good chance to take an early lead before Ryan Andrews in the Lochaber goal produced a fine save to keep his team level.

Lochaber began to grow in confidence as Ryan Boyle, Lachie Shaw and Jamie Duncan took control of the midfield and play switched to the Dunoon end. It was Duncan who opened Lochaber's account by firing a low drive under the goalkeeper.

This was closely followed by Cameron Whyte using his boxer's reflexes to react quickest to a loose ball to put Lochaber 2-0 ahead.

Lochaber High were now playing with confidence, playing a strong passing game and it was no surprise when Lachie Shaw finished a fine run with a low



Lochaber High School, winners of the MacPherson Cup. F26 McPherson

shot just inside the post to make it 3-0.

As half time approached, Victor Smith met a long ball on the volley to put Lochaber 4-0 and on course to regain the trophy. Despite the score, Dunoon kept on playing until the final whistle with Johnny Forster, Cam Clark and Alistair MacRae having to

be at their best to keep a clean sheet and ensure victory.

At the end of the match, Ronald Ross thanked the referee Alexander Michie for his excellent role in ensuring the smooth running of the tournament.

Referee Michie presented the MacPherson Cup to Lochaber captain Ryan Boyle.

Lochaber High dedicated their win to the memory of 2002 winning captain Duncan Rodger and to Donald Lamont who played in the Banavie School team which won the cup in 1960.

Lochaber Swimming Club's latest results

LATEST results from Lochaber Leisure Centre swim team:

Inverness Graded Meet - This is a competition for swimmers who do not have a time faster than qualifying time for the North District Championship. The team had 30 new personal bests from 39 swims and two qualifying times for North District.

Hannah, 11, won Gold in the 100m Individual Medley, Silver (100m Front Crawl), Lauren (12) Gold 100m Butterfly and 6th in 100m Back Crawl.

Elizabeth, 11, had two great individual swims, finishing 5th (100m Breaststroke) and 8th (100m Back Crawl). Caitlin, 11, had three individual events and got new best times in all of the swims - 100m Front Crawl, Back Crawl and IM. Rhianna, 12, in her only individual swim, got a great new best for 100m Front Crawl time, only 0:16s short of breaking the 1:20 barrier, placing her 7th. Jude, 12, in her three individual swims (100m IM, Front Crawl and Back Crawl) got two new personal bests and three top 10 placings.

Eilidh, 11, who after taking seven seconds off her 100m Individual Medley took 39 seconds off her 100m Breaststroke, demolished all opposition in her heat.

Kai, 12, only had the 100m Breaststroke race other than relays. Kai took an amazing 22 seconds off his previous time. Alistair, 13, got Gold in the 100m Back Crawl, which again was previously always a weaker stroke for Alistair, so to win Gold and get a six second personal best in a time that would have qualified him for this year's championships is a job well done. Gabriel, 13, had good swims in the 100m IM and Front Crawl, both new personal bests, and also a particularly good swim in the first leg of the winning IM relay team.

Alloa Meet: 13/14-year-olds. Alice-Ann: New personal bests for 100 Back Crawl, 200m IM and 100m Breaststroke. Siobhan: New personal bests in 100 Back Crawl, 200 IM and 100m Breaststroke. Millie: New best time in 100m Back Crawl.

Poppy had a remarkable 10 second improvement in her 100 Butterfly.

Jenna: New best times in her 100m Breaststroke, 200m IM and 100m Back Crawl as well as great swims in all Front Crawl races.

Alistair got a new personal best in the 200 IM. This shows an improvement in all four strokes but also in stamina over the 200m distance.

Aimee got two new club records in her 200m

IM (Gold medal), 100m Butterfly (Silver) and Gold in 100 Breaststroke.

Jack: New club records in the 100m Breaststroke and 200 IM, as well as a bronze medal in the 100m Back Crawl. William: New personal bests in the 100m Front Crawl and 100m Breaststroke. Good swims and definitely better to come.

The four x 50m Front Crawl relay team of Aimee, Siobhan, Evie-Jay and Jenna won the open relay event by 0.2 of a second beating Dundee City, City of Glasgow and Perth City teams.

Alloa graded meet on Saturday and Alloa Age Group meet on Sunday, both at Stirling.

The club had three swimmers at the Graded meet. Kai, 12, had an amazing haul of one Gold, three Bronze and a fourth place medal in his five races. He also bagged three new personal bests. He then returned on Sunday to take 14 seconds off his previous best times in his 100m Front Crawl, beating his previous personal best from the Saturday, 200m IM and a new age group record in his 100m Butterfly, which would also be a new record for the club's 13-year-olds.

Shammon, 8, has great times so three new personal bests from her 50m swims were well

merited and no disqualifications were also bonus.

Sean, 10, had two swims and a new personal best in his 100m Back Crawl, and finished 7th in the 50 Breaststroke. Lochaber collected three golds and two bronze medals, 28 personal bests, eight club age group records and four new club records.

The 11/12 age group: Evie-Jay, 12, kept taking time off her already impressive personal bests in her 100m Front and Back as well as her 200 IM. This was Evie's first competition in the 12 age group. She still managed to get a 4th place in the Back crawl. She also has three other good swims including a great relay leg.

Danni, 11, also competing in the 11/12 age group, had a number of great swims, including new best times in her 100m Fly and Back as well as 200 IM. Danni has been training hard since her inclusion into the Highland Swim Team with an increased focus to her training.

Rhianna, 12, was the only swimmer to get a best time for her 50m Frontercrawl so to take almost two seconds off such a short event was a major achievement. Indigo, 12, took 12 seconds from his previous 200 IM time, 11 seconds off his 100m Back Crawl and three seconds off his 100m Front Crawl.

Fort William Golf Club results Golf

THE FORT William Open, sponsored by Bowmans Skip Hire, was played on Sunday June 25. Results: Men - Gross - 1 David MacPherson 75; 2 John MacLennan 77 BIH; 3 Eric Wallace 77. Net - 1 David Mathesonnet 66 (69 - 3); 2 David Martin net 67 (85 - 18) BIH; 3 David Sangster net 67 (88 - 21).

Ladies - Gross - 1 Rosemary Macintyre 89. Net - 1 Iona Cameron net 84 (104 - 20); 2 Hazel Cameron net 88 (105 - 17).

Nearest pin at 3rd hole - Brian Smith; nearest pin at 6th hole Ian Fyfe; nearest pin at 12th hole Dougal Rankin; nearest pin at 16th hole Brian Smith.

Longest drive for men at 4th hole - Lorne Ross; longest drive for ladies at 11th hole - Rosemary Macintyre.

On Tuesday June 20, a 12-hole stableford competition was played with the following result: 1 Ann Lovatt 21 points (BIH); 2 Iona Cameron 21 points.

On Tuesday June 20, the Campbell Homes Medal was played with the following result: 1 Gareth Lee net 68 (81 - 13); 2 David MacPherson net 70 (76 - 6); 3 Stuart Manson net 72 (91 - 19).

Glenfinnan Gun Club shoot Shooting

SIXTEEN guns took part in a Glenfinnan Gun Club competition on Saturday June 17.

Angus The Gate Quach - Billy Bartlett; A Mackellaig Shield - Willie Wilson; MacCracken Cup - Fred Lockwood; High Gun for the day, J MacLeod Cup - Willie Wilson; Under 18 - Dan Nixon.

Club lotto numbers

Lottery numbers

WINNING numbers in the Fort William Golf Club lotto draw on Thursday June 22 were 6, 13 and 20.

There were no winners so the jackpot is £700 for today's draw (Thursday June 29).

Caol Community Centre's winning lotto numbers for the draw on Sunday June 25 were 4, 5 and 19. There were no winners so the draw is £800 for this Sunday.

Shona Nichol won the £500 jackpot in the Caol Regeneration lotto. The winning numbers were 4, 7 and 8. The jackpot for today's lottery is £100.

The numbers for Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery drawn on June 25 were 2, 4, and 13.

There were no winners so the jackpot rises to £800 next week.

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Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

WEATHER

Thursday	Cloudy with light rain at times Winds moderate northerly Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.
Friday	Cloudy with sunny intervals Winds moderate north north westerly Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.
Weekend Outlook	Cloudy on Saturday Light rain on Sunday Winds moderate westerly Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday June 29, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	03.42	1.0	09.28	3.3	15.41	0.9	21.34	3.4
Fri	04.35	1.3	10.22	3.1	16.31	1.1	22.26	3.2
Sat	05.33	1.5	11.32	2.9	17.24	1.4	23.27	3.0
Sun	06.39	1.6	12.50	2.9	18.22	1.5	***	**
Mon	00.47	2.9	07.53	1.7	13.55	2.9	19.25	1.6
Tues	02.04	3.0	08.58	1.6	14.47	3.0	20.32	1.6
Wed	03.00	3.1	09.47	1.5	15.32	3.2	21.33	1.5

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate