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Oban High School prize-giving



Green Shoots opens its gates to visitors



Rally call to 'save' beach

by Kathie Griffiths
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A public meeting is to gauge support for a community buy-out of popular Tralee beach.

The meeting to discuss a possible buy-out bid that could see residents become 'custodians' of the busy beach will take place at Victory Hall at 7pm on Friday July 20.

Tralee beach, which attracts thousands of visitors every year, is no stranger to land struggles.

When Argyll and Bute Council allowed thousands of tons of sand and gravel to be extracted from it in the 1980s as infill for the £1.4 million Oban Railway Pier 32 years ago, it triggered worldwide uproar from environmentalists, who put a stop to it.

It made headlines again two years later when the

then Highland landlord Hugh MacColl and his Surrey-based sister prohibited people from trespassing on their land by carving 'a gaping chasm' across the access road to the beach.

Now there is a new move from some within the community who want to take over the care of the beach themselves.

Tralee Beach Action Group, known as T-BAG, has reformed three decades on with a view to becoming a community trust to have a say on how the beach and woodlands nearby are developed and to stop any future removal of sand and gravel.

The current landowners, who live out of the area and still have mineral rights for the beach and land owned by crofters, have been told about

Continued on page three

Celebrities have a dram fine time



It's not every day you bump into Gordon Ramsay, Gino D'Acampo, and Fred Sirieix in Oban. The trio arrived in the town last Wednesday to undertake a few days' filming, stopping off at Oban Distillery for a wee dram. Full story, page three.

Shinty success for Oban Camanachd

Oban Camanachd were celebrating this week after lifting their first senior trophy since 2005.

The win came after an Andrew MacCuish double gave them a 2-0 win over Kyles Athletic in the Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup final at the Tainuill Sports Field.

Kyles have had a grip on this trophy in recent years and were going for six successive successes, but Oban had other ideas.

It helped that a shoulder injury suffered by Kyles' talisman Roddy MacDonald meant he was ruled out, and defender Donald Irvine was also unavailable. Meanwhile, Oban Camanachd received a triple boost as Malcolm Clark, Lorne Dickie and Daniel Sloss all declared themselves fit for duty.

Oban Camanachd manager Ian Hay reflected on the game and on a piece of history. 'It's our first senior trophy since 2005 so some might say it's about time. We have been knocking on the door for a while, so it's good to finally get a trophy.'

For the full match report, turn to page 60.



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OT

Rubbish turns Ganavan beach into dump – again

by David McPhee
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Dumped bottles, a ripped dinghy, broken chairs, lilos, drink cans, take-out boxes and piles of clothing turned Oban's best beach into a tip again at the weekend.

The heatwave brought out the worst behaviour in some beach goers who left the town's beach and coastline, including towards Dunstaffnage, littered with debris.

Dougie Graham who runs Dougie Dans' snack bar in big Ganavan car park turned up to work at 6am on Sunday morning to be met by a tsunami of waste following a busy Saturday.

He filled an abandoned dinghy with rubbish and had to go back for more. Another man helped him pick up broken glass from smashed bottles.



Dougie Graham with some of the rubbish left at Ganavan.

'It's just ignorance to leave rubbish on the beach. People are too lazy to bring it up to the big bins in the car park. It's easy to blame youngsters but a lot of the stuff I picked up was left by adults and those with families. None of it was from what I sell. I have my own bins and people use them.'

'I'm from Oban and this is our most beautiful beach. I

feel responsible for it, that's why I clean it up. Argyll and Bute Council does its job but I think in the summer, especially when the weather's hot, it needs to do more. More signs might help, as would more monitoring and patrols. Some bins on posts on the beach would be a good idea too.

'Most concerning is the



amount of broken glass that's left where children run bare-foot. It's a serious problem,' he said.

Photographs Dougie posted on his Facebook page of Sunday's haul were met with outrage from others calling the culprits 'mindless idiots'.

Some reported having seen teenagers with 'booze' at Ganavan on Saturday night. Others had been spotted camping.

One woman also posted: 'It's lovely that people, local and visitors, are using the beach in

this fabulous weather but seriously I wonder what some of your homes look like! Clothes, beach chairs, bottles, plastic waste all just left behind. Would it kill you to walk a few feet to the bins and dispose of it?'

BID4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence told The Oban Times: 'I was horrified to see the amount of litter left at beautiful Ganavan on Sunday morning. Certain individuals are not doing Oban any favours by leaving litter on and around the beach.'

'This is not the sort of advertising the town needs when so much effort goes in to encouraging people to visit this beautiful area.'

'There are litter bins provided by the council and Dougie. All credit to Dougie Dan who tirelessly keeps this area clean and litter free seven days a week.'

Hilary Barker who was visiting Ganavan from Callander contacted the Oban Times on Monday to praise a group of local youngsters celebrating the end-of-term who helped her in a spontaneous clean-up at the beach on Friday night.

'It's not very nice cleaning up other people's rubbish, but better than leaving it to be blown and washed out to sea where it could bring a horrible death to sea birds, whales or turtles,' she said.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'That anyone would choose to leave litter anywhere, let alone on an award-winning beach like Ganavan, is shameful. Bins at the beach are emptied every day, but in good weather they can fill up fast. When that is the case, people should take their litter away with them. In no circumstances is it acceptable to leave rubbish behind.'



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H2SJP29368 06/18



Oban High School's new head boy and head girl with clan leaders.

Oban High School prize-giving

Oban High School held its annual prize-giving last Thursday, June 28.

Head teacher Peter Bain addressed the assembly, congratulating the pupils on their fantastic exam success last year – the school had its second best Higher results on record – and discussed the benefits of the new school in ensuring 'we can deliver the broadest curriculum in the country'. Mr Bain also thanked the 'many members of the community who contribute to our success'.

A second speech was delivered by Professor Elizabeth Cottier-Cook, a senior lecturer at the Scottish Association for Marine Science at



Last year's Diarmid clan leaders, Sophie King and Heather Fothergill, after winning the Clan Shield, the main event of the prize-giving.



School Dux Grace Thompson.

Dunstaffnage, who extolled the virtue of working hard

and of resilience, both qualities likely to lead to success. She also praised the school for its breadth of opportunity as well as the fantastic new building and facilities.

The week Gordon, Fred and Gino came to town

by David McPhee
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Three famous faces paid a visit to Oban last week to film a new television series.

Gordon Ramsay, Gino D'Acampo, and Fred Sirieix arrived last Wednesday, and the sunset that night had Mr Ramsay wanting to move to the area.

The trio were filming an ITV programme called The Ultimate Road Trip.

Staying in Oban's Royal Hotel on Wednesday night they were 'happily speaking to staff and guests and posing for photos.'

Chatting to the Royal's general manager John Horne, Gordon Ramsay said: 'Oban is a truly stunning place.'

After arriving in town, the celebrity chef and television presenter took to Instagram and said to his 4.4 million



followers: 'Welcome to the beautiful, and I mean beautiful, Oban.'

Later in the evening he posted a video, saying: 'This is a beautiful sunset at Oban, Bonnie Scotland. Seriously beautiful. I'm moving here.'

Fred Sirieix, best known for his role on the Channel 4 programme First Dates,

spotted the same sunset. He said: 'Beautiful Oban, look at that. OMG look at this sunset - amazing. How breathtaking is this?'

On Thursday morning, Gordon, Fred and Gino made their way to Easdale, where they had a coffee in the Oyster Bar and Restaurant.

Lynden Singleton, who



Left, the celebrities pose for a photo with Nories chip shop Antonio Diciacca, and above, with Lynden Singleton on Easdale.

owns the restaurant with his wife, said: 'It was a bit surreal but it was really good. They were nice, friendly folk.'

From there, they were filming with Guy Grieve, a scallop diver based on Mull. Guy owns the Ethical Shellfish Company.

It is believed they were cooking scallops in Oban

whisky aboard the boat. Filming was wrapped up at Oban Distillery, where a crowd gathered to watch Gordon, Gino and Fred walk up Stevenson Street into the premises. They then visited various businesses in Oban, including Nories chip shop.

Speaking about the experience, Royal Hotel manager John Horne said: 'It all went really well. The three of them were here from tea time on Wednesday until after 9pm on Thursday, in between filming.'

'They did rakes of selfies and took lots of photographs with the staff and customers. Nothing was too much trouble. The three of them were brand new.'

'It's a big thing for the hotel to have and they loved Oban. They could not have had better weather - it was stunning conditions.'



Ryan Phillips's job is made easier thanks to Oban's new street sweeper.

Oban has a new green machine

Oban is blitzing grime on the streets with a new green mean machine.

The machine is a replacement for the one that was destroyed in a council depot fire in 2016 and is being supported in a joint venture by BID4Oban and Argyll and Bute Council to help keep the streets clean.

'Operator Ryan Phillips is doing an amazing job,' said BID4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence.

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email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk
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Call to Tralee community to save 'abandoned' beach

Continued from page one

the potential buy-out bid and have been invited to the public meeting, but so far there has been no response.

Willie Barnett, one of the original T-BAG members who is the new campaign's interim chairman, said: 'We feel the beach should not be in the hands of one person because it belongs to the community. We are prepared to battle it out if we have to.'

'There is no place in 21st-century Scotland for feudal landlords and communities should not live under the threat of removal of more sand and gravel that would leave the beach in a very fragile state. The people who live and work in this area are the best people to determine the destiny of the beach for future generations. We will be contacting the Scottish Land Fund, spurred on by the Ulva buy-out and ask for its help.'

The Land Reform Act 2003 gave communities the right to buy land across Scotland.

Mr Barnett continued: 'We are not going to go away. We are currently putting together a committee of local farmers



Tralee beach.

and crofters, some who have grazing rights going back hundreds of years. This beautiful beach has to all intents and purposes been abandoned, and little or no money has been spent on retaining fences or roads in decades.'

Work has been done by local crofters to clear part of the grass lands from ragwort and whin bushes to create extra grazing grounds, but on the eastern side there are large pits where gravel has been removed.

At the public meeting, Mr Barnett will be outlining how the buy-out could work but only if the community wants to support it and go ahead.

'If the community is for it, then we will go ahead. I've had nothing but positive feedback

from people so far,' he told The Oban Times.

Ideas for managing the beach could include putting in roads so people with disabilities are given access, filling in hazardous pits, fitting new gates to stop cattle from wandering, and turning part of it into a nature reserve. Visitors could also be asked to make a donation to help with its upkeep.

'This would be a community buy-out. No one can own a beach. We would become the responsible custodians of it.'

'We hope the new trust would attract a full spectrum of the community - from geriatrics like me to the youngest residents. We are in the early stages at the moment and we have to take it step by step,' said Mr Barnett.

MSP Michael Russell said: 'I have been contacted by those who are taking this forward. At the end of the day, it is the community which decides on whether or not to go ahead within the framework of the community right-to-buy legislation. I am very happy to support the community in their ambitions and to provide every help I can.'

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OT

Audit reveals repairs backlog at Argyll colleges

by Kathie Griffiths
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An audit report has revealed University of the Highlands and Islands sites across Argyll are facing a backlog of repair jobs worth almost £500,000.

Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron is calling for urgent action to be taken sooner rather than later.

The Scottish Conservative's call came after an Audit Scotland report highlighted a backlog of more than £163 million of repairs facing colleges across the whole of Scotland.

Out of the repairs facing colleges and sites in Argyll,

more than £95,000 worth are classified as urgent.

Overall, the total repair bill for UHI's 10 sites tops £24 million.

The figures include £69,055 to be spent on repairs at the Oban campus at Glenshellach Business Park over the next five years, despite it generally being in good condition.

Little Learners Nursery in Dunbeg will need £55,634 spent on it. The most significant of the jobs needing to be done by 2023 are fencing maintenance at a cost of around £3,000, replacement of impact reduction play surfaces costing about £8,000, a replacement heating/cooling system, fire panels and CCTV

systems due to outdating.

Over on Islay, the UV exposure and harsh environment mean windows and cladding are failing and will need to be replaced at the island's high school. The cost of total repairs will come to £40,165.

Mr Cameron said: 'It is a fact of life that any working building will require repairs, some of which will be urgent.'

'However, the fact that the University of the Highlands and Islands has been allowed to build up a repair bill of over £24 million, with £2 million worth of urgent repairs, is of extreme concern to both staff and students.'

A spokesperson for Argyll College UHI said its priority

was to ensure students have the best possible learning experience 'within appropriate accommodation' and that all repairs detailed in the SFC College Estates Report were included in its ongoing maintenance schedule.

She added: 'We invested £43,000 in our Oban Learning Centre in 2016-17, and also in 2017 undertook a complete refurbishment of our Dunbeg property at a cost of £40,000.'

'In the forthcoming financial year, we have earmarked £250,000 for property maintenance, which includes £193,000 identified by the SFC capital estates review as urgent.'



Tobermory Bakery goes on the market

After 11 years at the helm, the owners of Tobermory Bakery have decided to put the 'thriving' business on the market.

Marjorie Nelson and her husband Tom are looking for offers in the region of £295,000 for the business, which has recently undergone a refit.

The couple are selling the business as they have 'too much on their plate now'. They also run Glengorm Estate.

Speaking to The Oban Times, Marjorie said: 'The past 11 years have been difficult. Juggling two businesses, family life and everything has been hard work. But it's been fun. I have really enjoyed being in the centre of town.'

Marjorie posted to the public group, Everything Mull, to let her customers know about the decision to sell the business.

She said: 'After 11 busy, fun, challenging and changing long years - we have decided to put the Tobermory Bakery on the market.'

'The business is thriving and is being sold as a going concern, with a strong team in place.'

'After a recent refit, the business has a strong customer base, both retail and wholesale, and provides a great business opportunity for the right person.'

'If you are interested, please contact Marjorie or Tom at Glengorm.'

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DIY Donnie and Hope Kitchen manager, Lorraine MacCormick.

DIY Donnie helps out at Oban's Hope Kitchen

A BBC Alba television presenter who is known for his DIY skills has helped Oban's Hope Kitchen.

Donnie MacLeod built the charity bespoke cupboards when he was in Oban last week.

Lorraine MacCormick, Hope Kitchen's manager, said: 'He was a famous children's TV presenter when my daughter was young and quite an icon in the Gaelic world.'

'I'm delighted to get my picture with him. He did a show called Dotaman.'

Mr MacLeod now hosts 'DIY le Donnie', which has aired for four seasons.

The programme follows Donnie as he tackles challenging building projects and helps organisations with his construction skills.

Hope Kitchen supports vulnerable people in the Oban area.

While offering support sessions and hot meals during the day, the charity doubles up as a food bank, delivering food parcels throughout the community.

Playpark could open again in two weeks

by David McPhee
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Oban's currently closed playpark could be open again in the next two weeks, Argyll and Bute Council has revealed.

A council spokesperson said it has been in touch with a local contractor to carry out a short-term repair, and it is anticipated the park will reopen within a fortnight.

The playpark, for youngsters aged five to 15, has been closed for more than three months and this week the Friends of Oban Community Playpark urged residents to complain to the council.

The park was originally closed in March after a safety inspection determined that sections of flooring had become hazardous.

It was originally thought it would be reopened in the middle of May, though



The playpark has been closed since March.

this didn't happen. This led chairwoman of Friends of Oban Community Playpark, Lyndsay Elliott, to urge residents to let the council know what the park means to them.

Before the council revealed its short-term fix, Lyndsay said: 'We have asked people

to remind the council that it's a much loved and well used resource and, with the school holidays, it's sorely missed.

'I want people to not bother making complaints on Facebook - make them to the council.

'The more they receive, the

more likely they are to get it fixed.

'I want to encourage people to make their voices heard directly to the council in the hope that will move things forward.'

Posting on social media, she added: 'Team Playpark have

been doing what we can in the background to move things along but unfortunately we haven't been successful - yet.

'Too many people have put in too much time and effort for the grass to grow any longer under this sad state of affairs.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'Potential safety issues were identified at the park, relating to water ingress, and this has led to the delay in opening the facility.

'Discussions are ongoing over a long-term solution.

'In the meantime, and with the current weather making water ingress less of an issue, we have engaged a local contractor to provide a short-term solution that we anticipate will allow us to open the park in the next two weeks.

'We apologise for the delay and thank residents for understanding that safety has to be our number one priority.'

Up to 40 jobs still up for grabs at M&S

Marks & Spencer still has 40 jobs to fill in time for opening its new foodhall this summer.

The store is staying tight-lipped about its official opening date but it is expected to be this summer.

M&S has been working with Oban Jobcentre to recruit the 60 staff needed. According to the Jobcentre, the original opening date was going to be this month.

Work at the former Lidl site in town is progressing well but both permanent and fixed-term customer assistant roles are available.

Kate Clayton, from M&S, said: 'We're working hard on developing our new M&S foodhall in Oban and we'll update on the opening day as soon as we can. To help us deliver the very best service at our new store, we need the best team in place. While retail experience is helpful we're really after colleagues who are ready to roll their sleeves up.' Go to careers.marksandspencer.com/



Pupils show off their hoodies, as well as the latest edition of the Rockfield Newspaper.
16_T27_Rockfield01

Pupils buy hoodies from newspaper profits

After creating a weekly school newspaper, Rockfield Primary pupils were able to purchase leavers' hoodies with the profits.

The pupils printed eight editions, which were sold to parents or sent out as a newsletter. The paper's main aim is to keep parents and pupils informed about what is going on in the school.

Pupils secured exclusive interviews with teachers and tackled important topics such as plastic pollution: 'I think the newspaper will be one of the things I miss the most,'

one of the pupils said. Local businesses backed the project and Oban Electrical Services (OES) was a main sponsor.

Angus MacPherson from OES said: 'I think it's a great idea and they seem quite proud of what they have done.'

Jamie Joyce, who guided the pupils and helped create the publication, said: 'I have been really fortunate to work with a group of fantastic pupils between primary four and seven.

'My thanks and best wishes go to all the pupils moving on to Oban High School.'

Speaking about the future of

the newspaper, Jamie said: 'I hope it will continue. For me, it's been a really good project. Although it started with primary sevens, it has brought in pupils from other parts of the school who wanted to get involved.'

Head teacher Caroline Fothergill said: 'We think this has been a fantastic opportunity for pupils' leadership and education. The children have contributed effectively and are raising the profile of the school in a positive way across the whole community. We are very proud of them.'

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OT

Markie Dans rocks 'n' reels

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Markie Dans entertained crowds with a weekend of wall-to-wall music at its own Markies Fest.

Rock & Reel were just one of the groups lined-up over three days. Other acts included Chunks, K9 Kev and Rory O'B and The Rolling Drones. Cracking Craic was one of the headliners.

Festival-goers filled the outside area to enjoy the music and admire the stunning view over Oban Bay.

Chloe Campbell, who was working on the bar, said: 'Everyone's loving it. It's a brilliant weekend.'

The pub, with a top reputation for live music, streamed some of the fun live online so people would not miss out.

One Facebook follower was watching it from Canada. Séamus Jim MacAoidh posted: 'Sitting in Canada, wishing I was there.'



Markie Dans entertained crowds all weekend. 16_T27markiedans07



Mary and Eilidh Campbell were in with the crowd at Markie Dans. 16_T27markiedans01



John Lambert and Lagan Campbell having a laugh at Markie Dans. 16_T27markie dans04



Bar member Chloe Campbell was kept busy as customers worked up a thirst enjoying the music. 16_T27markiedans02



Right: Drumming up support for the band.



Rock & Reel were in the festival line-up. 16_T27markiedans03

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Alison Green wiggles musical fingers with the young audience. 16_T27chamber02



Alison Green inflates a glove with her breath blowing through a second bassoon. 16_T27chamber03

Little ears listen in to top Scottish orchestra

Musicians from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO) stopped off on Seil as part of their summer tour.

Three of the orchestra's winds section put on a special performance for little ears on the island, entertaining youngsters from Easdale Primary and Nursery School, as well as younger tots who turned up with their parents and carers to enjoy an afternoon of sounds and games which included musical statues.

After the performance, children were given the chance to get a close-up look

at a flute, bassoon and clarinet. Alison Green, who plays second bassoon, inflated a rubber glove on the end of her instrument to show youngsters how she uses her breath to produce musical notes.

The orchestra last visited Seil in 2011 and is hoping to return. Next stop for this tour was Fort Augustus. Last summer they were in Shetland.

Big Ears Little Ears project assistant Elsa Morin said: 'We like visiting Seil. It's an inspiring place, especially for musicians. We hope to come again.'

Grown-ups were not left out – the full winds section returned later the same day to Seil Community Hall to perform for adults as part of its packed summer 2018 programme.

Also later this month SCO's strings section will be coming to Oban.

The date is Thursday July 19 at St John's Cathedral starting at 7.30pm, including music by Geminiani, Grieg and Mendelssohn.

To book go online at sco.org.uk, call 0131 557 6800 or call into Oban Tourist Information Office on the North Pier.

Sewage leak continues to worry residents

A leaking septic tank at Wee Ganavan has continued to worry dog walkers and residents.

Marta Mirecka, who first raised the issue in February after her dog became ill, was so aggrieved she bought a kit online last week and tested the 'slimy and sometimes green' discharge. The results showed coliform was present.

However, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) say the environmental risk is low.

The organisation added the responsibility to maintain private septic tanks lies with the owner, but it would continue to monitor the situation.

This was not good enough for one concerned resident.

Kenny MacLennan said: 'I would have thought the first thing to do would be to cordon it off. It's the most beautiful wee bay in the world. SEPA is not responding as well as it should. It should act faster and quicker. I think the least it could have done is investigate quickly. It's not

even been cordoned off.'

Ms Mirecka, who carried out the test, previously told The Oban Times: 'The discharge from the pipe is disgusting. I've seen it green, sometimes it's cloudy and slimy. It's obvious what's in it. It just runs out of the pipe and onto the beach.'

A SEPA spokesperson said: 'We have made clear that steps must be taken to avoid discharges onto Ganavan beach and it is understood the owners of the septic tank are in the process of making improvements to their treatment system.'

'Coliform bacteria is present in much of the environment and would commonly be found in any discharge from a septic tank. While the discharge remains unacceptable, the risk to the environment is considered to be low.'

'Responsibility for maintaining a private septic tank falls to the homeowner to address and officers will continue to monitor the situation until these works are complete.'



Showtime for Oban High's traditional music school

Traditional music students from Oban High School showcased their talents at an end-of-term concert in the town.

This was the sixth annual performance since the traditional music school was first

inaugurated at Oban High School.

The event was held at Skipinnish Ceildh House in George Street last week in front of an audience of family and friends.

Tutor Sileas Sinclair said:

'The students look forward to showcasing what they have learned in the past year.'

The four students who will be leaving the school this year are James Divers, Heather Fothergill, Katie Houston and Kate MacPherson.

Independent study of RBS branches is welcomed by MP

Western Isles MP Angus B MacNeil is pleased that business advice firm Johnston Carmichael is to carry out an independent

study on the Lochboisdale and Castlebay RBS bank branches. Mr MacNeil said: 'I look forward to Johnston Carmichael coming to the

islands. RBS is to be praised. Only a few months ago they were telling us that bank the closure of the Castlebay branch was irrevocable.'

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OT

Blooms of jellyfish invade pontoons

Big blooms of jellyfish have been spotted near Oban's pontoons.

The alien-looking creatures are called Moon Jellies because of their moonlike circular bells. Instead of trailing tentacles, they have short fringes that sweep in food.

The lavender-coloured jellies are found worldwide, usually in temperate and tropical waters, feeding in quiet bays and harbours.

Although they have a sting, they pose little threat to humans, according to experts.



One of the Moon jellyfish off the slipway near Oban's pontoons.

GET INVOLVED

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Broadcasting duo set sail for Oban

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



John Sergeant of Strictly fame and newsreader Michael Buerk are heading for Oban – by boat.

The pair are expected to berth at the town's North Pier pontoons some time this month in a 60ft yacht with a Channel 5 film crew in tow.

The celebrity voyagers are touring Britain's coastline as part of a new travel series they are making. Showmakers got in touch with Bid4Oban, which is organising a yellow badge tour of the town for the VIPs as well as a trip to the distillery and hopefully a performance by Oban High School Pipe band.

Bid4Oban's chief executive Andrew Spence said: 'I think it's Michael Buerk who is the



Oban's North Pier pontoons will be the arrival point for broadcasters Michael Buerk and John Sergeant.

seasoned sailor of the two. He has a boat in the Med somewhere. If John's antics on Strictly's dance floor are anything to go by, I'm sure he'll be very entertaining on deck too!

Programme makers have

also been offered the use of new drone footage taken of the pontoons for a promotional video, backed by Argyll and Bute Council.

TV viewers most recently saw newsreader Michael Buerk on BBC One present-

ing a food-show called Royal Recipes. In 2014 he was a contestant on I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!

John Sergeant has appeared on television programmes including Have I Got News for You following his stint on Strictly where, despite repeatedly finishing bottom of the judges' votes, the public consistently voted to keep him in the competition. He is currently a reporter for The One Show.

The journalist does have some boat experience though. In 2015, he made an ITV show called Barging Round Britain, exploring the history of the nation's canals and waterways.

To see the North Pier pontoons drone footage, go to <https://youtu.be/hgsP4RCQAEY>

Ardbeg Distillery wins top award

Ardbeg has been named Distillery of the Year at the prestigious International Whisky Competition (IWC).

Judges also awarded Ardbeg Uigeadail Best Single Malt (Islay) and Best Peated Whisky, reinforcing the leading reputation of the distillery which is owned by The Glenmorangie Company.

It is the second year in a row Ardbeg, one of the world's smokiest, peatiest malt whiskies, has impressed at the IWC. In 2017, it won Whisky of the Year.

NHS Highland chief to retire

Elaine Mead announced this week she is to step down as chief executive of NHS Highland at the end of December.

After a career in the NHS spanning more than 30 years, Professor Mead has decided to move on and pursue her passion for quality improvement.

Starting out her professional career as a diagnostic radiographer, Professor Mead was appointed NHS Highland's chief executive in January 2011.

Western Isles SNP membership up

Membership of the SNP in Na h-Eileanan an Iar has risen by 15 per cent in the past two weeks.

This rise in membership, which follows the national trend, has been welcomed by the constituency association together with Na h-Eileanan an Iar's MSP Alasdair Allan, MP Angus B MacNeil and the SNP group at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

Warning for hillwalkers

With the forecast remaining warm and dry, hillwalkers in Scotland are facing an unusual challenge – not enough water.

As well as meaning people should carry more water than usual to avoid dehydration, the dry conditions make it essential that extreme care is taken to avoid the risk of wildfires.

Heather Morning, safety adviser with Mountain-ering Scotland, said: 'I do not remember conditions underfoot so dry. Bogs are dry, peat is cracking, burns are very low or non-existent and small lochans are dry or disappearing at an alarming rate. Vegetation is parched and lifeless.'



Kay MacDonald from Bid4Oban with one of the town's bright and beautiful floral displays

Delight as flower baskets brighten Oban town centre

Oban is looking brighter thanks to more than 200 in bloom hanging baskets.

This year there are 40 more displays than before, bringing an extra splash of colour to the town.

New for this year are 20 planter troughs outside Oban High School and over the bridges crossing the Black Lynn, and there are additional displays at Argyll Square and around George Street.

Bid4Oban had funded and organised the floral initiative with help from Taynuilt-based Airds Bay

Horticulture who made up the displays, MacQueen Bros who delivered them into town and Duncan McKinnon who got the contract to install the baskets and to keep them watered.

Bid4Oban's chief executive Andrew Spence said: 'We're getting lots of great feedback from people. The displays have brightened up a lot of areas in the town. We've invested in new equipment for his year, like the new troughs. The idea is to get more and more every year so we can get bigger and better each time.'

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Road work gets under way across Argyll

Work on more than £8 million of road improvements across Argyll and Bute is due to start in the coming weeks.

A budget of £8,382,000 was agreed by the council earlier this year, in addition to day-to-day maintenance work including patching and filling potholes.

The work includes resurfacing, improvements to drainage systems and repairs or improve road edges.

A further £250,000 is to be spent on improving pavements.

Work scheduled in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles (OLI) region includes £430,000 of improvements to roads on Lismore and £250,000 of work on the A816 Scammadale Bridge South to Glengallen Bridge; £350,000 on the A849 from Lochdon to Glenmore on Mull and £150,000 on Coll, among others.

Councillor Ellen Morton said: 'This £8.3 million represents a significant investment in our roads network, on top of the millions we spend annually on day-to-day maintenance.'

'I'm confident motorists will be pleased with the result of this investment and any inconvenience caused during the process of the works will be outweighed by the benefits they bring.'

'We are working hard to showcase Argyll and Bute as a great place to live, work and invest and improving and maintaining our roads is a big part of that.'

A full breakdown of how the budgets are being spent is available at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/roads-capital-programme

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Author and broadcaster backs Rockfield Centre

Money raised by the sale of community shares in The Rockfield Centre (TRC) stands at nearly £50,000, with 99 investors pledging their support.

And the word is spreading far and wide, with even some celebrity interest.

While out campaigning for community shares, TRC's Eleanor MacKinnon met Gino D'Acampo, Italian celebrity chef and media personality, who was filming in Oban with Gordon Ramsay.

And Lesley Riddoch visited the community huts when she was in Oban for her book launch last week.

She had heard about the work to get the main building open and told members of Oban Communities Trust: 'It's always terrific when the community begins to rally round something like The Rockfield Centre. The main Rockfield centre building



has been sitting dying in the town centre – a terrible thing to witness when the building has had all sorts of different lives before this. It is tremendous the community has come together and put a business plan in place.

'I am so impressed with the amount of money raised. You are neither a pretty little island or in the central

belt – when you fall between two stools in Scotland you're practically nowhere!'

'Community shares is the last push to getting this building up and running and I will do everything I can to support it.'

Eleanor MacKinnon said: 'It's been brilliant to have such support from well recognised personalities. Community shares are not just for getting the building up and running but for future generations to come, just like the former primary school-educated generations of our townsfolk. Be part of that legacy and invest in your community for the future.'

Tours of the main building are available on Saturdays and if any groups wish they can book a private tour.

Gordon McNab, chairman of Oban Communities Trust, said: 'The tours give everyone a chance to see the



Trustees Mairi Ross, Eleanor Mackinnon and Gordon McNab with Lesley Riddoch, right, at the Rockfield Centre last week.

plans and what will happen in each room. See the Oban Communities Trust FB page for details. If you wish to buy shares, call in to the Rockfield

Centre charity hut between 11am and 4pm Monday to Saturday or visit our crowdfunding website www.therockfieldcentre.org/invest



Rotary Am-Am boost for Mary's Meals

The Rotary Club of Oban raised £652 from the raffle at its recent annual fundraising golf Am-Am for Mary's Meals, the well-known Dalmally-based charity which feeds thousands of children in Africa and East Europe so that they can attend school. Oban Rotary Club is proud to support this local initiative and has done so for some years now. Pictured are: Am-Am convener Dave Mudie, Mary MacInnes, Rotary president Tommy McQuade, Jennie McMaster, Alison Murray and Liz MacNeill.

Move to rebuild Iona craft shop

Plans have been lodged to build a new craft shop and house on Iona.

Michael Gordon, owner of the Iona Craft Shop, has applied to Argyll and Bute Council's planning department to demolish the existing Iona Scottish Crafts shop and residential property on the site and build new accommodation.

The application for permis-

sion to demolish states: 'The existing property is poorly constructed. The roof is likely to be covered with asbestos sheeting.'

'The attic joists haven't been installed properly, such that the attic space cannot bear sufficient load to be used as a much-needed store room.'

'The building is not fit for purpose and uninsulated, making it very difficult to

heat and function as a workplace during winter.'

'The lean-to annex currently used as a store is not weather tight, with structural damage from damp.'

The application, part of a wider development for the site, also includes feedback from council officers stating 'the proposed development would enhance the visitor experience of the island'.

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OT

Freya makes headway as helmet comes off

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Little ray of sunshine Freya Strang is all set for summer thanks to the wellwishers who raised £3,000 to reshape her skull.

The nine-month-old's family got help from The Oban Times to crowdfund enough money to pay for treatment for her flat head syndrome.

Freya, whose family have now moved from Kilmelford to Dunbeg, had to wear a special helmet for six months to encourage the soft bones in her skull to go back to a normal shape.

A gig by blues band Mudslide at a fundraising night made £899, sending Gemma and Allan Strang's appeal soaring above their £3,000 target.

After an appeal in The Oban Times, another £1,000 came from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Family Support Trust - both Gemma and Allan



Allan and Gemma Strang with baby Freya and the helmet off. 16_T27_freyastrang01

were volunteer firefighters. The Freemasons in Oban also made a donation and pupils at Kilninver Primary school had a pyjama day which raised £52.25.

Gemma said: 'The helmet has come off just in time for all this

hot weather. Freya has done so well. The result is amazing.

'She's done better than others because she was so young when she got started on the treatment. It makes a huge difference. The sooner it's started, the better. I want to get that

message out to other parents. the earlier it starts, the less time they have to wear the helmet.'

Funds raised meant the Strangs had enough to cover all of Freya's treatment and were able to give the rest to the charity Headstart4babies.

Freya had two severe types of flat head syndrome, plagiocephaly and brachycephaly. The helmet treatment she needed was not available on the NHS and the family needed £3,000 to pay for it in instalments and to fund their travel to the special private clinic run by Technology In Motion (TiM) at Bothwell Church Centre, near Hamilton.

One in 25 babies is affected by the syndrome, although nine out of 10 cases, which are not classed as severe, will go back to normal without medical intervention.

Freya's diagnosis was so severe her family were worried it could put her at risk of bullying and depression when she got older.

Her family plans to keep up lobbying the NHS to offer the TiMband helmet treatments across the UK.

To find out more about Freya's condition go to headstart4babies.org

Tenders invited

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) has published an invitation to tender to expand the existing marshalling area at Oban Ferry Terminal.

The project is the result of a two-year collaboration between Transport Scotland, Network Rail and CMAL.

The contract includes the expansion of the existing marshalling area at the terminal including the removal and installation of a new railway siding line and associated operational railway equipment.

The work also includes alterations to the existing Network Rail boundary, existing surface water drainage infrastructure, road markings, road signs and kerbs.

CMAL senior civil engineer Ruairidh Campbell said: 'This contract is part of our ongoing programme of harbour upgrades and modifications across our network to provide safe and efficient lifeline ferry services to communities around Scotland.'

The tender process is being managed through Public Contracts Scotland.

Creative writers wanted for new group

A new creative writing group is being set up in Argyll.

Add[ed.]ition will hold its inaugural meeting on Wednesday August 29.

Being organised by Sandy Wilkie, the meeting will be held in the Cuilfail Hotel in Kilmelford from 7.30pm to 9pm.

Sandy said: 'Interested in being part of a new creative writing group in Argyll? Come along at the end of August to say hello and explore how you can shape this initiative.'

'Register for your free place ... the first three names get a very limited edition badge.'

'So, come on, get your writing boots on. We're looking for flash fiction, poetry and short stories.'

'Get involved in supporting your local community.'

For more information, contact Sandy on 07568 581744 or email lizardvanilla@gmail.com

Amazing start to school holidays

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



What an amazing start to the school holidays - and it looks set to continue for a while yet.

The town is looking fantastic. The flowers are all blooming and the sea is sparkling. There really is nowhere more beautiful than Oban in weather like this.

It's definitely the weather for a boat trip as well. I had a wee jaunt out to Seil Island the other day with my godson and it was fabulous. I'd forgotten how entertaining these trips are. Everything looks so different from the water.

The fish were jumping at the fish farm we passed, there were lots of seals and birds to

see and, best of all, baby seals of all ages.

When we live here we often forget all that is available for visitors, even going across to Kerrera or the ferry to Mull can be quite an adventure.

I hadn't visited the Bonawe Iron Furnace at Taynuilt until a few years ago and was amazed at what a great day out it was. Cruachan Power Station is also a perfect example of a day out with a difference. I've not been there since a P5 school trip, so that is going to be rectified soon.

This is also perfect weather for welcoming another cruise ship to Oban. Tomorrow (Friday July 6) we have the Prisdendam with more than 1,000 people aboard, including crew, which will mean an even busier day in the town.

WHERE IS THIS?



Welcoming the passengers as they arrive is a favourite part of my job. Many of them have researched what they want to see and just need directed, while others just want to wander around and soak in the sights and sounds. Let's hope they love Oban so much they decide to come back.

Last week's photo was of our beautiful flower arrangements on Combie Street bridge, which was easy. Let's see how you get on this week.

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Mull GP job to be advertised soon

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Health bosses plan to advertise for Mull's controversial new lead GP this month.

A job description has been drawn up by Health and Social Care Partnership officers and members of patient participation groups and is making its way through the recruitment process before the advert goes official.

Feedback from community meetings in May, including one at Bunessan, called for a joint recruitment effort between the HSCP and local people. Ross of Mull and Iona communities have been resisting plans to create a new single, island-wide GP service

and a petition wanting to save the current 24/7 independent service in Bunessan has collected hundreds of signatures.

Jonathan Knight, who started the petition, contacted The Oban Times to say he had received a Scottish Government letter saying it would give the 'green light' to the continuation of small and remote practices.

Mr Knight had originally written to then health minister Shona Robison to ask for support to keep Bunessan's present GP arrangement. A response said it was 'not the policy of the Scottish Government to encourage the amalgamation of GP practices'.

Until he got the letter, Mr Knight said he believed it

was the Scottish Government which was driving the shake-up policy.

The government letter said: 'Patients should be able to conveniently access community treatment and care services. In some circumstances it may be appropriate for certain GP practices such as small and remote GP practices to locally agree to deliver services. If GP practices locally agree to deliver community treatment and care services, support will be provided by boards for them to do so. Patient safety will also be a determining factor in local implementation in that the changes will only be made when it is safe to do so.'

Mr Knight said it was a welcome clarification letter.

Bowmore Gaelic pupils visit Islay's lifeboat

Children from Bowmore Primary School's P1-P4 Gaelic classes visited Islay's RNLI lifeboat station last Thursday, June 28.

The youngsters were welcomed by David MacArthur, chief mechanic, and Mark Scott, relief coxswain, and shown videos illustrating the work lifeboat volunteer crews do - not only rescuing people from the water or their boats but dogs and even sheep stranded round the coastline.

There was a demonstration of how the sophisticated RNLI lifejacket should be worn and inflated, with Miss MacPhee acting as model.

The children were taken on board the lifeboat and given conducted tours of the vessel including the wheelhouse and the engine room.

The children asked many questions and impressed David and Mark with their knowledge of who

to telephone if they saw someone in difficulties in the water.

They were also pleased at how many of them expressed an interest in being a crew member when they were old enough.

Ben Ferrier said at the end: 'Bha mi ag ionnsachadh mun àireamh air a bhàta agus na tha e a' ciallachadh an-diugh.'

Nicola added: 'Bha mise ag ionnsachadh mun seacaid sabhalaidh agus mar a tha e ag obair.'

The RNLI is a charity that saves lives at sea and has a drowning prevention campaign running so it is heartening that even children as young as these visitors were are being made aware of how important the RNLI is to Britain and Ireland but perhaps more especially in Islay where the sea and water play such a large part in everyone's lives.

Kilmore lunch serves up kitchen funds

Supporters of Kilmore Village Hall served up a soup-and-sweets lunch at the weekend to help replace their dated kitchen, raising £170 to put in the pot.

The well-used hall was built after the Second World War and £90,000 is needed to create a new multi-purpose extension - including a new kitchen.

Efforts to raise the money started about four years ago and about

one-third has been raised so far, said hall chairwoman Fiona Dickie.

The extension will also include a bar as well as more room to host events. 'Our current kitchen really is past its sell-by date.'

'We'd like an area that's twice as big,' said Mrs Dickie.

Despite soaring temperatures, the soup event drew in a good turnout to give funds a boost.



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OT



Mesrak Mekonnen bought this beautiful bouquet of flowers from Green Shoots garden.

Green Shoots opens its garden gate to visitors



Freya and Ruby Bullock enjoyed the open day.



Lorraine McCormick and sister Donna Lafferty who was visiting from Hamilton.

Visitors of all ages headed to Green Shoots walled garden at Glencruitten, Oban, on Saturday to enjoy its open day.

A nature trail, fruit kebabs and a chance to make bird boxes were just some of the highlights.

Rhubarb, garlic, onions and flowers, home-grown at the community project-run garden, were also on sale.

Catriona Petit, who runs the garden with her husband John Petit, said: 'Usually we have to put everything under cover in case it rains on our open days but there was no

chance of that happening this time! We've had such a wonderful day. Lots of people have come along to enjoy the garden.

'There's been plenty of things to see and do.'

Volunteers are coming forward to help set up a working party to restore an old run-down greenhouse and the project is hoping to get help from BBC Alba's DIY Donnie.

For those who did not get to the open day at the weekend, the garden is open every Wednesday from 10.30am to 3.30pm until the end of July.



The Finlayson family had fun making patterns with bottle tops.



Kathleen-Molly Carr, 13, offered fruit kebabs as a refreshing treat at the Green Shoots open day.



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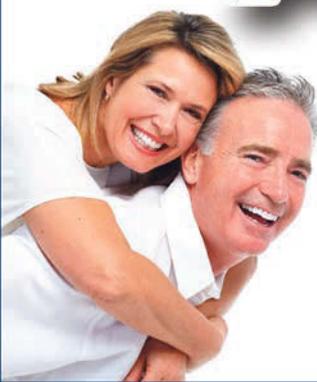
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Catriona Petit with Green Shoots produce for sale at Saturday's open day.



Jennifer Radcliffe and Alex Gregory, 10, keeping cool with a fan.



Helen Jordan and son Stuart Jordan soak up the sunshine.



Kirsty Macdonald and son Finn, two, found this snake on the nature trail.



Green Shoots volunteer Heanock Mekonnen, 18, making bird boxes.



Jean McLuckie and Louis McLuckie, three, went on the nature trail to see what they could find.

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OT

Eilidh is raising cakes and funds for charity

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Watch out Mary Berry – you've got competition!

Seven-year-old Eilidh Lawson from Oban is a rising baking star raising hundreds of pounds to help find a cure for cancer.

The Park Primary School pupil, whose favourites are cupcakes and brownies, asked her mum if she could have a homebaking stall at the Lego Club's table-top sale this Saturday, July 7, in the Corran Halls to raise funds for Cancer Research UK.

When word got round that Eilidh was going to be there, she got lots of offers of help from family, friends and even her class teacher, who is going to make tablet to sell.

With so many tasty treats to tempt people at the sale, the youngster – with grown-up help – is now running all the refreshments, including tea and coffee being supplied by Imani Oban.

The big day will mean an



Helen and Eilidh Lawson are whisking up funds to help find a cure for cancer. Eilidh also had her 10-inch plait cut off in aid of The Little Princess Trust.

early start for Eilidh, who said: 'I'm not very good at that though!'

An online money giving page set up by her mum, Helen, at <https://fundraise.cancer-researchuk.org/page/helens-giving-page-360> has already brought in almost £300 for the charity and proceeds made at the table-top sale will go to

Macmillan Nurses. In the past six months, four of Eilidh's family members, including her granny's younger brother and sister, have been diagnosed with cancer.

Earlier this year the keen baker, who has a four-year-old sister Bethany, also had 10 inches cut off her lovely long hair to donate to the Little

Princess Trust, which provides real hair wigs free of charge to children and young adults who have lost their own hair because of cancer treatment and other illnesses.

Proud mum Helen said: 'Some other children at school got their hair cut off for the charity and Eilidh thought it would be good to do it too. She

loves baking – we all do – and asked if she could make cakes for the table-top sale.

'When everyone heard what she was doing, they wanted to help. Everyone at some point is touched by cancer – we've had four of our family diagnosed in six months, which is rubbish. We hope we can help do our bit to finding a cure.'

Men's club will start in Oban

A club will be starting in Oban next week where men can go for 'a brew and a chat'.

Diarmid 'Des' Macmillan and Billy Ferguson will be running Andy's Man Club meetings every Monday from 7-8pm in the Hope Kitchen.

Diarmid said: 'I decided there was a great need for this kind of thing in Oban a long time ago, but the See Me Scotland walk a mile we held a few weeks back confirmed it.'

Hundreds of people joined Des in a two-mile walk in May to help end mental health discrimination.

He added: 'I have had great support from Alex and Adam, who run the Perth Andy's Man Club.'

'I attended a group meeting in Perth to see how it ran. After two hours, I left wondering why we do not have something like this in Argyll.'

'The impact on me was massive. I left that night with a severe headache but this was down to the wow from it all.'

Des said if people don't want to talk, they don't have to.

'No pressure to talk, come listen, see what we are about,' he said.

The club received a donation from the Cruikshanks family, following the death of Martyn Cruikshanks in May this year. Martyn's family had a collection at the funeral service which raised £1,200.

Robert Cruikshanks presented a £600 cheque to Alex and Adam from Perth, who will be climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in October. The remaining £600 will be used to help run the Oban branch.

Robert said the family is happy to help and will be supporting the club any way it can.

Third round of community council by-elections to take place

Three communities in Argyll could still have their own community council, following the decision on Thursday June 28 to hold a third round of by-elections.

Argyll and Bute Council held elections on April 26, establishing 44 community councils out of a total of 56 across the area.

Further by-elections were run on June 26 to encourage

more nominations. Another nine community councils were successfully set up.

The future of the three remaining, including Lismore, was considered at last week's meeting of Argyll and Bute Council.

Councillor Rory Colville, policy lead for corporate services, said: 'Having held two sets of elections, we had the option of leaving the

three remaining community councils in effect out of action. Another option would have been to change boundaries to include them with other areas, and so reduce the number of community councils in Argyll.

'Community councils, though, play a key role. They are a link between local communities and their council. They are another way for

people to make their opinions known. We have, therefore, taken the decision to hold a third round of elections, to provide another chance for Lismore to have their own community council.'

The date of the by-elections, and deadlines for nominations, will be announced soon.

Councillor Robin Currie, policy lead for communities, said: 'Community councils

support their local areas in different ways – anything from running events to fund-raising for projects.

'It's in the interests of local people that they have a community council to support them, so we want to do all we can to fill all 56 councils. I would encourage everyone in the three remaining areas to find out more about being a community councillor.'

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Bob Clarke with the keys to 3 Graham Court.

Oban flat helps cancer families

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



An Oban charity running a popular respite flat which allows people with cancer to have a break wants to get the word out to all of Scotland's hospices it is there to help.

Since 1991, the one-bedroom ground-floor flat in Dunollie's Graham Court, fondly known as The Hameart Flat, has been a holiday home to hundreds of families in need. Handy public transport makes it easy to get in and out of the town centre.

Last year, 38 out of the 52 weeks were booked, said Bob Clarke, a trustee with Oban Charitable Trust, which is given the use of it rent-free from West Highland Housing Association.

The majority of people who come to stay in return for a minimum donation of £30 are from the Glasgow area but they can come from anywhere, added Mr Clarke.

'Most come from round Glasgow but the flat is there

for anyone who needs it. A lot of people who come don't even know where Oban is but love it when they get here. We do get repeat bookings.'

When Graham Court was built by Oban Housing Association in the 1990s, the flat was designated to be used for charity to support people living with cancer.

'They didn't want to administer it themselves so the charitable trust was set up by Graeme Pagan to do the job instead. His daughter-in-law, Laura, takes the bookings. After housing associations amalgamated, West Highland Association took ownership of it but it's still run by us,' added Mr Clarke.

Bookings are from Saturday to Saturday, with Macmillan Cancer Support its main funder.

'We do get phone calls from Macmillan nurses on behalf of patients they are helping and we are endeavouring to make sure that all the hospices in Scotland know about us.

'We are solidly booked

every year right through summer, but we're available 52 weeks a year. Winter gets a bit quieter,' he said.

Oban Rotary Club recently gave the trust £1,000 which was 'a godsend', said Mr Clarke. Donations towards the upkeep and running costs are always welcome.

'I don't know of anywhere else quite like us in Scotland. I think we are fairly unique. I know Macmillan Cancer Support regards us as a valuable asset and wants to make sure we are funded so we continue.'

Help is also needed from people with experience of cancer to join Oban Charitable Trust's committee.

'It's not a big job but the flat does take some organising. We need more people to come and join us,' said Mr Clarke.

The organisation is also looking for donations of new or nearly new bed linen and towels.

Anyone who can help should contact Laura Pagan on 07572 464869.

MacPhail

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Partnerships in life and in business are fraught with pitfalls and problems and over time many succumb to the inevitable results of individual human differences.

There are some, however, that endure. I am lucky that so far my near 20-year partnership with Andrew Stevenson has survived many of the usual ups and downs and personality clashes that end most such joint endeavours.

As most businesses do at points, we have also had some difficult times when, with the wrong partner, keeping our heads above water would not have been possible.

The roof being blown off the Ceilidh House in December 2011 and long-running subsequent issues borne from that were the cause of a number of these instances when, by taking the wrong action or by following the wrong advice, we would not have survived as a business.

As was the subject of last week's article, that business will soon no longer be part of what we do and it feels like an appropriate time to nod my appreciation to Andrew as, without his tenacity and determination through the very complex battles we found ourselves in a few years ago, the all-round positive outcome achieved by the sale of that business - for our staff, our landlords, our customers, the new company taking over and for ourselves - would never have been reached.

The following is a short poem I wrote for Andrew a number of years ago when we were at a very low point and taking blows from many different angles. On top of the direct battles, there were many less than straight



Andrew Stevenson.

tactics that were attempted against us. In the words of the Canadian songwriter Stan Rogers: 'Smiling ***** lying to you everywhere you go.'

However, with Andrew's absolute refusal to give in on any front, we managed not to succumb to the considerable forces against us, we kept our heads down, soldiered on, and I am grateful to him that we came out the other side.

A Fighter

Any fool or bragging clown can glow when all is well,

But watch and pay attention and cracks will often tell.

When things become not quite so good, and start to fall apart

Then you'll know who you can trust and has the fighting heart.

By nature, blowhard, boastful types are heroes to themselves.

Their bank is full, they've shiny cars and trophies on their shelves;

But be wary of the boasting fish, who in lofty waters swim

Often they are only there because the tide came in.

Watch a man react and move when clouds are all he sees,

When taking blows and losing ground and falling to his knees.

Most go down and kiss the ground without the grit to try.

They pull the plug and give a shrug and crawl away to die.

Give me the man upon my side who'll fight when falling back,

Who cannot win but won't give in and blindly shows attack.

One of him when things are grim is worth a thousand men

And that's the man who'll live to stand and prosper once again.

Once you've been down in the mud with someone by your side

You know they'll never panic with a sudden turn of tide.

A fortress with foundations built on hard and rocky ground

Will stand when cities built on sand collapse with trumpet sound.



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OT

Argyll MSP takes up new cabinet secretary position

by David McPhee
dmcphee@obantimes.co.uk



Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell has been appointed as a Scottish Government cabinet secretary.

Mr Russell will be responsible for government business and constitutional relations.

Speaking to The Oban Times about his new role, he said: 'For any MSP, the first priority is always their constituency and, given the sheer size of Argyll and Bute, that priority is one that demands lots of time and attention.'

'This week I have already been in Campbeltown and on Friday will be hosting a big meeting in Dunoon.



Michael Russell MSP.

And just last Saturday I was in Taynuilt, as The Oban Times knows, celebrating

Sam Macdonald's wonderful Sheiling Project.

'My tremendous local and parliamentary office team, led by Marie Claire Docherty, play a big role in helping me to tackle local issues and assist local people with their problems and that will continue unchanged.'

Mr Russell is no stranger to being part of the government, from 2009 until 2014 he served as cabinet secretary for education and lifelong learning.

'My new cabinet secretary role adds the overall management of Scottish Government parliamentary business to my existing Brexit and constitutional tasks,' he added.

'I will continue to have charge of the Brexit negotiations with the UK.'

'Obviously, as usual, I will be particularly interested in anything that has a direct effect on Argyll and Bute, and I will continue to make representations about many issues to my cabinet and ministerial colleagues.'

'In that regard, it is good to see Jeane Freeman in charge of health. She regularly spends time in Argyll and knows a lot about the problems we have been having in Argyll and Bute with the new Integrated Joint Board. I know she will want to see what she can do to help resolve that.'

Statistics prove need for Holyrood migration powers, says Argyll MP

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara has called for the Tories to hand over migration powers to the Scottish Government in a bid to improve population growth and strengthen the economy.

A recent Sustainable Growth Commission report outlined the need for Scotland to increase its population as a way of boosting economic growth to enable it to catch up and compete with other successful small, independent countries.

It was confirmed that there were 5,000 more deaths than births in Scotland in 2017 – meaning any population growth is dependent on attracting migrants to live and work here.

Commenting, Mr O'Hara said: 'Rural communities, like Argyll and Bute, rely heavily on inward migration, particularly EU citizens, who want to come to work in our food and drink sector, in our forestry, in our farming sector and on our seas. Indeed, some sectors are



Brendan O'Hara MP.

reporting difficulty in growing their businesses as a result.

'The Tories plan to cut net migration to the tens of thousands and this could cost the Scottish economy at least £10 billion a year.'

'We need the power to develop our own migration system in order to attract more people to live and work here.'

'It's time the UK Government gave us the power to do just that.'

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Lorn and Oban charity lands cash windfall

Lorn and Oban Healthy Options has been awarded £40,000 per annum for the next three years from the Big Lottery Fund to deliver its Social Prescribing Project.

Partners from across Scotland and Northern Ireland will be brought together, in this, the largest and first cross-country project of its kind.

Social prescribing links primary medical care to community-based resources and local support services, and is backed by a social model for health.

This recognises that good health and wellbeing are influenced by a wide range of individual, interpersonal, organisational, social, environmental, political and economic factors.

Local medical and social work professionals, including

GPs and practice nurses, will be able to use social prescribing to refer patients who are isolated or experiencing loneliness or presenting with social psychological and anxiety symptoms to a link person – the social prescriber.

Established in 2011, Lorn and Oban Healthy Options (LOHO) has been using social prescriptions in working collaboratively with the Lorn Medical Centre, Taynuilt, Appin and Seil GP practices along with health professionals at Lorn and Islands Hospital to support people with chronic medical conditions.

During this period, more than 900 people with chronic medical conditions have been supported through a personalised programme of activity-based social prescriptions.

Hugh McLean, LOHO chair-

man, said: 'Healthy Options are delighted to be part of the successful consortia of 10 Scottish health social enterprises. Along with our Scottish partners, Healthy Options will use this award to develop stronger links with health professionals, develop integrated evaluation methodology that will benefit patients and allow Healthy Options and health staff to monitor progress and measure the impact of social prescribing nationally.'

'The award will allow us to further develop and widen our range of social prescriptions and increase the number of clients referred to us. The award is for developing our services but there remains the need to secure revenue funding for our existing services and that continues to be a challenge for Healthy Options.'



Little Olivia, five, is a three-time winner at Islay Mòd

A five-year-old girl from Oban has won a trio of trophies at her first provincial Mòd.

Olivia Bowman, who attends the Gaelic unit at Rockfield, won the silverware at Islay Provincial Mòd, on June 23.

She received the Rev Williams Dundas Shield after winning the five to six years conversation with an adjudicator. She also won the Mòd Ile Shield and the Mòd Ile Cup for finishing first in the five to six years poetry, as well as the five to six years solo singing.

Her mum, Clare Jordan, said: 'I was so proud of how well she did for how young she is – and for her first Mòd, first competitions and first time doing anything solo.'

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The summer holidays are here and it is time to treat yourself! Part of that fun is always a wee visit to the sweetie shop or ice cream parlour or to a café or tearoom for cakes, scones, biscuits and the home-baking heaven of a Highland games or show. So what are you waiting for?

Eat sweets and get smarter

Just because the school holidays are here it doesn't mean studying should end. Confectionary, ice cream and cakes have an educational value and help with history, geography and geology, so tuck in.

History: Did you know that ice cream dates back to the Shang dynasty in ancient China when a kind of ice-cream was created with a milk and rice mixture frozen by packing it into snow? The earliest evidence of chocolate being used goes back to the Olmecs, an ancient race who lived in what is now Mexico and the ancient Egyptians made sweets by combining fruits and nuts with honey. Cake is a word of Viking origin and is found in the Old Norse language; the word *gateau* comes from the Old French with roots in Proto-Germanic. (Drop this into conversation at teatime and you'll get a second slice for being so smart).

Geography: vanilla comes from orchids originally found in Mexico but it is now widely grown; Indonesia and Madagascar are the world's largest producers.

Geology: Good old seaside rock with the letters running through it probably evolved from 'fair rock' a treat for children at fair days, the original holidays for all, and was invented in Victorian times helped by cheaper sugar and more specialised confectionery



equipment. Edinburgh rock contains cream of tartar and is far crumblier than seaside rock; it is traditionally ginger or lemon flavoured. Star rock is from Kirriemuir in Angus and has a texture more like a hard toffee.

In Scotland it is correct to

say a 'stalk' of rock; south of the border it is a 'stick'. We get to eat our ice cream out of a pokey hat and the English have to make do with boring-sounding ice cream cones.

And there you have it... proof, if proof were needed,

that you need to go to the sweetie shop, buy an ice cream or have an extra cake ...although dentists and doctors might disagree. Run around a lot to burn off the extra sugar and remember to brush your teeth at bedtime.

Keep taking the tablet

What is the difference between tablet and fudge? They both have the same basic ingredients but tablet has more sugar and the cooking methods vary.

Fudge should be soft all the way through; tablet should have a 'bite' to it, with a harder exterior and a softer centre and is paler in colour

Top facts

■ Chocolate is the world's favourite ice cream topping.

■ Come on Scotland we need to up our game. The top ice cream consuming countries in the world are New Zealand, USA, Australia followed by our Scandinavian cousins Finland and Sweden.

■ Hey kids, during my research for this article, I found out that a wine fridge on its highest setting is the best place to store chocolate during hot weather. Tell mummy and daddy that they need to go and buy a wine fridge. They will think this is a good idea and it will cheer them up a lot.





Goal! The ball finds the back of the net!

Seal of approval for Brazil players

Scotland's most competitive seals have predicted Brazil to win the World Cup.

Flipped footballers Lora, Macey, Pippa and Boo went head to head in their own match on Saturday cheered on by spectators at Barcaldine's Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary.

Lora, representing Brazil,

won seal of the match. The sanctuary's lead aquarist, Anna Price, who was match referee on the day, helped by nine-year-old linesman Will Holland, said the rescued seals had put in plenty of pre-season training as playing ball is part of their daily activities, helping them

practice the natural chasing behaviour as they would in the wild.

Will, who wants to be a marine biologist when he is older, said working with the seals was fun. 'I like everything about them. They are very clever and are good at football too!' he added.



Referee Anna Price and linesman Will Holland, nine.

Nominations sought for Scots Rural Awards

Nominations for the 2019 Scottish Rural Awards are now open, with businesses across Scotland's countryside encouraged to get involved.

The ultimate benchmark of success in Scotland's countryside, the Scottish Rural Awards are now in their fifth year and are partnered by Scottish Field and the Scottish Countryside Alliance.

A set of 13 categories are open for nominations, including the coveted Rural Hero award, which recognises those whose contributions to their rural communities have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Last year's awards drew more than 250 nominees from across the country, with previous award winners including Glenwyvis Distillery, Wild Hearth Bakery and Xanthella.

Businesses have until Monday October 22 to put their nominations forward. Businesses can either self-nominate or be nominated by a friend, family member, customer or member of the public.

The full list of awards categories and criteria, along with nomination forms, are available from the Scottish Rural Awards website - www.scottishruralawards.org. There is no cost associated with making a nomination.

Richard Bath, editor of Scottish Field, said: 'Showing our readers the joys of the

Scottish countryside is one of the main aims of Scottish Field, so our partnership with the awards is a perfect fit.

'More than ever before, Scotland's rural communities are displaying a remarkable amount of energy, innovation and imagination as they diversify existing businesses and create new and exciting opportunities from scratch.

'As a magazine, Scottish Field is constantly writing about the rural entrepreneurs who are bringing wealth and jobs to the countryside, so it's exciting for us to be able to honour the men and women who are doing so much to make the economy of rural Scotland a true success story.'

Jamie Stewart, of the Scottish Countryside Alliance added: 'Land-based businesses contribute more than £2 billion to the Scottish economy. Despite the multiple challenges they face, they are hugely valuable brand ambassadors for Scotland, and many provide vital support to their local communities. These awards give Scotland a chance to recognise the resilience, innovation and contribution that rurally-based people and businesses make to its success.'

Finalists will be announced at the beginning of December 2018, with winners revealed at the Scottish Rural Awards ceremony and gala dinner, which will take place in March 2019.

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BUSINESS NEWS

Colonsay gin is shortlisted for award

The first gin produced on the Isle of Colonsay has won a place in the finals of the prestigious 2018 Scottish Gin Awards.

Wild Island Botanic Gin – Distillers Cut has been produced on the island since autumn last year and includes seasonal berries as part of the botanical mix.

Crofter distiller Chris Nisbet said he was delighted at the success of his spirit in its first competition but not surprised.

He said: 'The feedback from people tasting the spirit in the distillery shop has been really encouraging, and I'm just delighted the judges at the awards share that view.'

The overall winners are revealed in September.

The second in a series of seasonal releases has been produced already and is about to go on sale on the island.

This has been created using honey from the island's protected native black bee population as one of the botanicals in the distillation process.

Chris added: 'We have an exclusive arrangement with Andrew Abrahams, the island beekeeper, to use his honey in the gin process.'

The distillers cut expressions of Wild Island Botanic Gin are only available on the island. However, Chris revealed that the Black Bee Gin will soon be sold throughout the UK.

£2.1m vessel shows optimism in fishing

A £2.1 million scallop vessel is being set to work following its maiden voyage from Whitby to its new home in Oban.

The Summer Rose was commissioned by The Star Fishing Company with funding support from Royal Bank of Scotland.

Built by Parkol Marine Limited in Whitby, the boat is the eighth vessel in The Star Fishing and John MacAlister Oban fleets, which specialise in scallop fishing around the UK.

The Summer Rose will follow a seasonal pattern of fishing around Scotland, regularly landing into ports such as Campbeltown, Mallaig, Scrabster, Fraserburgh and Oban.

The vessel reflects the success story of The Star Fishing Company – a partnership formed between John MacAlister Ltd and Seafood Ecosse Ltd in late 2003, although the relationship goes back more than 40 years.

Combined, the firms employ a team of 49 staff – seven onshore and 42 working on the firm's fleet across the UK.

The boat is designed to be fully compliant with governing body Marine Scotland's initiative to encourage sustainable fishing, and represents the owners' continuing commitment to regulatory compliance and sustainable fishing.

The presence of cameras on either side of the boat allows the skipper to monitor the number of dredges in operation – meaning the vessel can operate in traditional inshore scallop grounds.

John MacAlister, managing director of The Star Fishing Company, said: 'We'd like to thank Parkol Marine Limited in the construction of the Summer Rose – a state-of-the-art



Left to right are Kim Fletcher and her husband, relief skipper Ian Fletcher, skipper Ian MacAlister, Joan MacAlister and husband John MacAlister, and Lindsay Smith from the Royal Bank of Scotland.

vessel designed for sustainable, efficient fishing around the UK.

The Royal Bank of Scotland recognises the fundamental strength of Scotland's fishing sector and has been instrumental in helping us grow the fleet over the past 30 years, supporting the construction of four new vessels and various other boat purchases.'

The launch of the Summer Rose further

underlines the current optimistic outlook for Scotland's fishing industry.

Lindsay Smith, relationship director at the Royal Bank of Scotland's commercial banking in Inverness, added: 'The Star Fishing Company's investment in the Summer Rose is reflective of a much wider optimism in the sector, with many operators looking to modernise and invest in their fleets to create a sustainable future.'

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Harris holiday pioneers pass black house on to grandchildren

Scott and Margaret Bennett are pioneers in the self-catering tourism industry in the Outer Hebrides, having extensively redeveloped the original Borvemor Farm, which sits on the machair above a magnificent beach on the south-west coast of Harris.

They started in 1993 by building an authentic black house, and subsequently developed the original buildings with new projects added to provide five characterful and unique holiday cottages.

The now retired couple are commemorating the 25th anniversary of the completion of the Borvemor black house with a community celebration at the farm on Saturday July 7, bringing together locally prepared food, traditional island live music and a dry-stone walling presentation from the original master craftsman, Neil Rippingale.

The black house or 'tigh dubh', as it is known in the Gaelic community, was a dream for Scott and Margaret, who inherited the land and steadings from Margaret's family in 1992.

This black house was built using dry-stone techniques but was the first



Scott and Margaret in front of the black house on Harris, left, and Neil Rippingale building the structure back in 1993.



of its kind in more than 100 years. Approximately 140 tons of stone was used to construct the three-foot thick walls, extending in height to eight feet. The construction was designed so that not one cup of cement was used, with even the foundations being laid on compacted crushed rock.

The layout closely followed the traditional pattern of thick walls incorporating small windows, a central door, hipped thatched roof and bell-shaped

chimney gable at one end. The thick stone walls only took Neil Rippingale from Edinburgh 32 days to complete, in which time joiner Nula Finlayson began constructing and designing the timber trusses on site.

As soon as the roofing was complete Kintail wasted no time in placing nearly three tons of rye thatch on the roof.

During the construction, Archie McVicar, who lived across the road

from the black house, helped and assisted the workers and continued to look after the building for many years.

Once the rye thatch was finished, Duncan carved everybody's name under the hearthstone, with Scott and Margaret's names inscribed on the top front edge.

In October 1993, the house-warming celebrations were held with a traditional blessing and prayers led by the

Reverend Murdo Smith. The occasion this weekend also marks the culmination of Scott and Margaret's succession plan to hand over the operation of the cottages to the four adult grandchildren of the original crofter and his wife, Lachlan and Nellie Maclellan, of 9 Scarista.

History repeats itself with the incorporation of a prayer and blessing into the summer celebration, again led by the Rev Murdo Smith.

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The youngsters from Barcaldine Primary School had a fantastic day exploring our rich heritage.

History comes alive for pupils

Barcaldine Primary School recently visited Barcaldine Castle, known as 'the black castle' as part of their history project about the local area.

The children were given the grand tour of the castle, looking down into the dungeon and climbing secret passages as well as taking in the grandeur of historical belongings inside.

The 400-year-old castle was originally built by Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy, 'Black Duncan', the first Campbell of many to inhabit the castle.

It is now owned by David Whitehead from West Yorkshire, who has invested in maintaining the building and expanding the accommodation and weddings business.

Previous owner Caroline Campbell of Barcaldine brought along an interesting array of books and memorabilia for the children to see and she shared some of her family stories.

A wonderful spread with scones, strawberries and other delicious goodies was laid on for the children.

Matters of grave

Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

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As someone who spends a lot of time wandering around Argyll's graveyards, I was interested to read the report in The Oban Times a few weeks ago about the shortage of burial lairs on Mull because many of the cemeteries on the island are, allegedly, full or nearly full.

I wonder if, in some instances, this has more to do with Argyll and Bute Council's Amenity Services Technical Department (burial squad, to you and me) only opening new lairs if they can do so with a mechanical excavator instead of by hand?

It is not so very long ago since Lochaber District Council employed someone to dig graves with a pick and shovel.

The late Alan Cameron, Kentra, Acharacle, was one such gentleman who used to work alone. What a fine job he did in no time at all and, after completing the task and before the cortege arrived, he would disappear into a quiet corner of the cemetery to replace his dungarees with a shirt and tie as a mark of respect for the deceased and his or her family and friends.

A Lochaber minister, the late Rev Somerled MacMillan, used to tell the story of a local worthy called Peter MacMillan who acted as grave-digger at Kilmallie many years ago. He was very outspoken and pretty much a law unto himself. He was given instructions by the Rev Robert Crawford, the minister at the time, to be sure to have a grave ready later in the week as the cortege from a distance was expected early in the morning.

Peter slept in and, as the minister had feared, the family and the coffin arrived before he had completed his work. The minister was furious and turning to Peter afterwards, he said sharply: 'Peter, you should have risen earlier.'

Peter, not in the least bothered, looked round at some of the gravestones nearby and replied: 'Mr Crawford, there are those here who have not risen yet!'

At Irine, near Roshven; St Finan's Isle, Loch Shiel; and Cille Choirill, in the Braes of Lochaber, lairs are still opened and closed by family and friends in the time-honoured way as there is no access for a machine. In the

older parts of Kiel, in Morvern, and in some of the Mull cemeteries, there are areas which appear empty but of course may contain very old unnamed graves which is fairly common in the Highlands and Islands and, it would seem, in Hungary, where the inscription on a memorial to a 13th-century Franciscan monk reads simply: 'Stranger, do not seek my name but when thou pass say an Ave for my soul.'

In Denmark, where land is at a premium, graves are reused and headstones removed and recycled if they are left unattended for any length of time – not helpful for future genealogists!

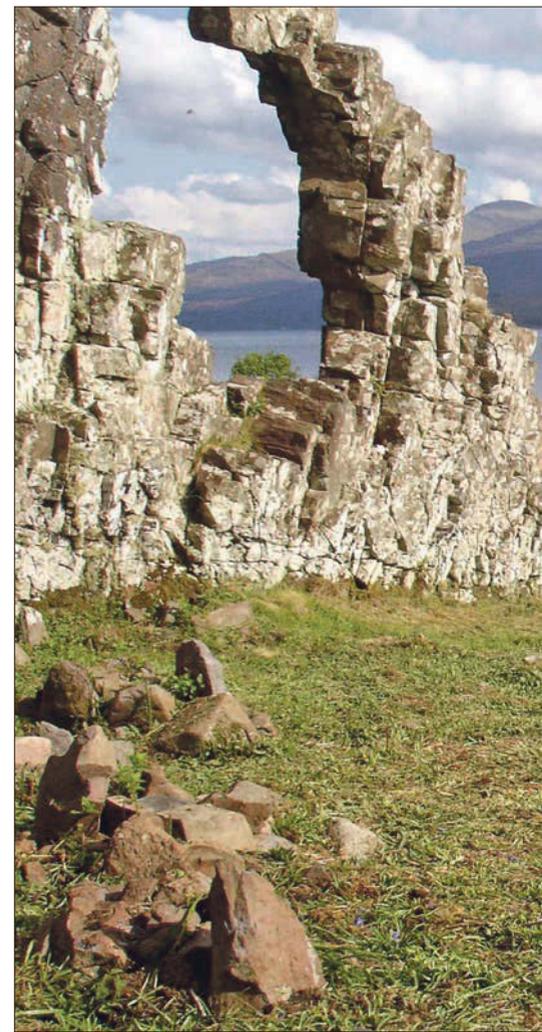
In a burial ground in West Hartlepool, the council has not only lifted the headstones and lined them up against the inside of the surrounding wall, but turfed over the graves, turning the whole area into a playing field. Let us hope it will be a long time before this happens up here, although not all that long ago an application went before the Lochaber Planning Committee to transform the small cemetery in front of St Columba's Church at Drimnin into a car park. I am glad to say it got short shrift at a site meeting.

Billy McClymont, owner of Mull Funeral Services, who is also chairman of Mull Community Council, is reported as saying: 'If you are living in a community, you want to be buried there. You don't want to be buried 30 miles down the road away from your family.' Quite right.

The longing to be buried in the place of one's birth, or home, was and still is, very strong among Gaels throughout the world. Regardless of distance, no effort or expense is spared to take a body back to the family burying ground.

Long ago this often meant carrying coffins shoulder high across the hills. Stops were frequent and, where this happened, usually beside an old well or a burn, small cairns were raised as a memorial to the deceased.

Many of these cairns can still be seen along the old 'coffin route' near Blain, Dalilea and Ardery leading to St Finan's Isle and to other ancient church sites elsewhere in Argyll. The most notable example in Morvern is at Clach na Criche (Gaelic, the boundary stone), a mile west of Fiunary, which marks the dividing line between the ancient parishes of Cille Cholum Chille and Cill Fhiontain. Even today, hearses travelling between the two parishes will occasionally stop here to allow the mourners to



go down to the shores of the Sound of Mull to gather stones for a cairn.

I recall an elderly lady at Ardtornish with relations living near Busnessan who had been trying for some time to persuade her to stay with them for a week or two. Mary, by now in her 80s, was not keen on the idea even although she was a native of Mull.

By way of putting them off she asked: 'What happens if I die when I am with you?' Not a problem, was the response, 'there are some pleasant graveyards in Mull – you can go into the one at Calgary along with your ancestors.' 'Oh, I wouldn't like to rest there,' said Mary triumphantly, 'I won't know anybody in it now!'

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 ATOM BRANDS

importance



Clach na Criche and its funeral cairns by the Sound of Mull; and below, the swastika-embossed radisseur at Kiel, Morvern. (Photographs: Iain Thornber)

Eventually she agreed to a short holiday but, sadly, while she was there she fell off a chair and broke a hip, necessitating her being flown to a hospital in Glasgow where she died, and Calgary cemetery claimed her after all.

And now for a mystery. Hanging on an old wire fence enclosing one of the extensions to the council graveyard above Lochaline, there is a standard galvanised radisseur (a butterfly strainer) with a swastika embossed on it. It does not have the appearance of dating back to the Second World War so where did it come from and why does it have the symbol of the German Nazi Party stamped on it?



DOWN MEMORY LANE

We delve into The Oban Times archives to bring you faces and places from yesteryears



James Cowan sent us this week's photograph, saying: 'Whilst tidying up old papers, I came across an old sepia photograph in my mother's collection which appears to show the departure of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders from Oban Station at the start of the 1914/18 First World War. My mother was resident in Oban from 1900 to 1996, first at Glenshellach Terrace and latterly at Drimvargie Terrace.'



Lochaber District Council's cleaning operatives of yesteryear.



THE NORTH ARGYLL EVENTIDE HOME was opened by the people of Oban, in 1955, to provide a caring environment for the elderly of the area.

North Argyll Home is run by a local, independent, not-for-profit, charity and we rely on the generosity of local people, trusts, grant-making bodies and legacies to help ensure that we are able to continue our vital work.

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LETTERS

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

Litter louts deserve serious punishment

It beggars belief in the current climate that people can act so irresponsibly as to leave a trail of waste and discarded litter behind them.

This is brought into particularly sharp relief when the detritus is abandoned at such a beauty spot as Ganavan.

Not only is Ganavan a beauty spot, it is also an environmentally sensitive area that deserves better.

We have run numerous stories recently documenting the continuing campaign by people from all walks of life – very many of them youngsters – to combat the scourge of plastics in our marine environment.

This, of course, has come on the back of Sir David Attenborough's astonishing television series Blue Planet II which chronicled so effectively details of the mind-boggling amount of plastic building up in our oceans and prompted countless well-meaning people to react positively.

As a result, it is now profoundly disappointing that so many other people – presumably visitors and local residents – continue to treat our town and its beaches with such callous disregard.

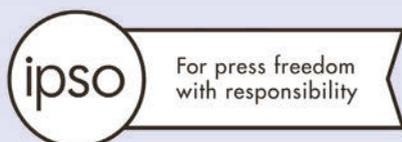
Education is certainly part of the solution, though it is difficult to imagine there are many people who remain unaware of the damage they are doing by their actions.

So it should fall to the statutory authorities to monitor this situation far more actively and to issue the most severe punishments at their disposal to drive home the message this behaviour is unacceptable.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed.

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

At the Oban Times we endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. If we have published anything that is factually incorrect, please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephone on 01631 568000; or write the Editor at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO by calling 0300 123 2220 or email: inquiries@ipso.co.uk. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.



Sewage saga in Nether Lochaber

Thank you for your recent coverage (June 14) of matters relating to Nether Lochaber Community Council's objection to Loch Leven Hotel's camping pods being connected to the mains sewerage.

Unfortunately, you have missed the point and the principle behind our arguments.

In 2009, against a backdrop of mass objection from residents, NLCC, HC Planning Committee and the Scottish Executive Reporter, Scottish Water and SEPA proceeded to build a giant, subterranean 'treatment works' at North Ballachulish, into which were redirected the sewage outflows from Glencoe and Ballachulish villages. These previously had outflowed into Loch Leven.

At the same time, the mains sewerage system was extended through Nether Lochaber, but only as far west as Onich Bay.

There are two main issues for us.

1. SEPA says it would oppose any private onsite treatment facility for Loch Leven's pods, a commercial enterprise, because there is a mains sewerage system at hand.

Fair enough.

However, in between Onich Bay and Inchree, two miles away in the same parish, we have 75 residential properties dependent on private septic systems, many of them 50 years old or more. These drain into fields, streams, areas of woodland, or are part of conjoined systems with pipes running to the low tide mark in Loch Linnhe, from where the tide can, over time, wash the detritus back into the EU-protected shellfish waters of Loch Leven, or spread coliforms along the beaches at North Ballachulish, below the treatment works.

An additional five houses are currently in the planning system, also with private systems, and yet SEPA seems consistent in offering no comment on these.

In total, Nether Lochaber is home to around 265 houses, almost a third of which are unconnected to the mains, but hosts the North Ballachulish Wastewater Treatment Works that receives the Glencoe and Ballachulish outflows pumped from up to six miles away.

Since 2009, neither Scottish Water or SEPA has made any effort to extend the mains further west through Onich, Cuilcheanna and Keppanach to meet their own modern aspirations for sewerage in the NSA.

2. The Association of South Lochaber Community Councils submitted comments to the recent Local Development Plan, detailing the contradiction of capacity figures at North Ballachulish between Scottish Water's 2009 planning application and an FOI request we submitted to it in 2016.

In effect, SW omitted any unit capacity relating to tourism from its 2016 analysis to present a picture of burgeoning spare domestic capacity that allows our villages to expand their housing stock.

We would appear not to have any hotels, guesthouses or B&Bs. And if this spare capacity does exist, why does NL still have

YOUR PICTURES



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

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

75 unconnected properties, and Ballachulish seven unconnected properties within 50m of the main, consequently emptying into Loch Leven? There is a far bigger picture here than the one being publicly discussed by Scottish Water, SEPA, and planning officers.

**Iain Jenner, Chairman,
Nether Lochaber Community Council.**

Dismay at visitors' lack of care on visit to puffin colony

On a recent sailing to Staffa, I was dismayed at the treatment of the puffin colony by a significant number of visitors.

Notwithstanding the fact that the majority of people were too close to the birds' nests that they prevented them from landing/feeding young naturally – forcing the birds to turn back to sea in mid-flight – it was with despair that I watched:

■ People sitting/standing on top of, sitting at the entrance to and poking mobile phones inside burrows. Some were actually taking 'selfies' at one particular nest while a distressed bird could clearly be heard within.

■ A loud argument broke out between

visitors, each accusing the other of 'hogging' a burrow.

■ A dog was let off the leash and went sniffing around the burrows.

■ A confrontation between two elderly American tourists (part of a large group) and three Scots teenagers and an adult (the Americans, visibly upset had called the teens' behaviour imbecilic, whereby they were sworn at by one of the males in the group. This continued on the return sailing. Several of the Americans told me all of the aforementioned behaviour had spoiled their trip.

It is quite well-known that puffin numbers are in decline due to various reasons. People behaving like this does not help.

After witnessing all of these incidents, I think trip operators should show greater responsibility for the welfare of these birds, like on the Isle of May in the Firth of Forth, for example, where a number of safeguards are in place. I am well aware tour operators are not responsible for individuals' actions but I, and others on the trip, felt that it was a free-for-all once people set foot on the island.

On approach to Staffa it was pointed out that a large, brightly-coloured buoy marked the colony's location. No advice was given on how

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Fort William. This week's photograph is a stunner, taken by Graham Kirkham from Oban, who captured the stunning sunset over the bay, taken from McCaig's Tower.

First, there are not two separate 'statutory harbour authorities' in Oban Bay. Legislation does not exist which vests any form of statutory harbour authority on CMAL or Argyll and Bute Council, merely by virtue of the ownership of the Railway Pier and North Pier respectively. On the contrary, an Oban General Harbour Authority was established through various enabling Acts between 1848 and 1878, the main 'undertakers' of which (effectively trustees in today's parlance) were the council and the Caledonian Railway.

The Caledonian Railway never owned or operated its own vessels from the Railway Pier, and the pier was owned and operated by private railway companies or British Rail until 1968, therefore its participation in the General Harbour Authority was merely as pier owner. Between 1880 and 1882 a plethora of local legislation was granted by parliament to Oban Burgh Council as the town and port expanded in importance, and in 1882 by-laws were made to formally establish a general harbour master with jurisdiction under the harbour authority within the area laid down in the 1878 legislation. Oban has had a publicly-funded harbour master ever since, there are records and accounts showing the existence of a working harbour authority, chaired by the council, and the Oban general harbour area has been shown on Admiralty charts for over 100 years – until now!

Secondly, Paul Jennings is not a harbour master, nor does CMAL have any inherited statutory authority within Oban harbour other than as undertaker on the erstwhile Oban General Harbour Authority.

Lastly, the costs of the various options should be taken with a large dose of salt. The veracity behind these figures is questionable, nor do they take into account the existing costs (and income) incurred by Argyll and Bute Council as a harbour authority anyway.

Fergus Gillanders, Craigaol, Kilmelford.

Monkey memorial insults Oban's 'father' builders

There are very few plaques or memorials to any local dignitaries or founding fathers in Oban. Almost half of Oban and most of its grand, prestigious buildings were built by the very industrious gentleman, William Menzies. However, the only mention of him is in a street name that links George Street and the Esplanade.

So to suggest that a memorial should be erected to a deceased monkey at the base of this road is, I feel, an insult to a once great employer and regarded benefactor of Oban, and, rather than lament the poor monkey's demise, albeit a tragic event, a collection should be started, or applications made to the council or common good fund, so a tribute can be built to honour the 'father' builders of Oban.

This would hopefully be crafted locally and positioned proudly in Argyll Square or Station Square.

Stephen Jones, Millpark, Oban.

Air mo shlighe air ais bhon Eilean Sgitheanach bho chionn ghoirid stad mi tacan agus mo chasan altachadh, agus gus beachd às ùr a ghabhail air maise na sgìre sam bheil sinn uile cho fortanach a bhith a' còmhnaidh.

Bha grian a' deàrsadh agus fad greiseig cha robh carbad ri fhaicinn na ri chluinntinn, cha robh nam chluasan ach ceilearadh eun agus osnaich beag gaoithe.

Ann am priobadh thug mo chuimhne mi air ais gum òige agus àm buain na mòndadh air monadh Òsdail.

Dh'fheumamaid còmhdaidh fhaotainn gus acfhainn rùsgaidh is buaine agus biadh a ghiùlan na ceithir mìle na mar sin thuice, agus dhuinne mar chloinn 's e làithean sona da-rìribh a bh' annta sin.

Tha cuimhne agam gu sònraichte a bhith ag amharc is a' cùntas nan càraichean a' siubhal an rathaid-mhòir is iad a' pronnadh nan gucagan tearra a bha ag èirigh fo theas na grèine, agus tha nuallan uèirichean an telefòn a bha an crochadh ris na pòlaichean ri taobh an rathaid fhathast na mo chuimhne cuideachd.

Cuimhneachain chianalach air làithean sona agus daoine còire nach eil ann tuilleadh, ach chuir an srann aig làraidh làn fiodha às dhan t-sàmhchair agus dhan bhruadar agam ann am



beagan mhionaidean agus bha sreang de charbadan de gach seorsa a' tighinn bho gach taobh a-rithist.

'S cinnteach gum bi sinn uile a' coimhead air ais le toileachas air làithean a dh'fhalbh agus 's ann ainneamh da-rìribh a chuimhnicheas sinn air latha fliuch na air droch aimsir. Tha ar cuimhne mar gum biodh a' dèanamh taghadh air na seallaidhean as fhèarr agus as taitniche, ach tha fios againn mar inbhich gun robh math agus dona ann am beatha dhaoine an uairsin mar a tha an-diugh cuideachd.

Theagamh gun robh pàrantan a' dìon an cuid chloinne bho dhuilgheadasan chun na h-ìre 's nach robh mothachadh aca orra, ach thigeadh cuid a thachartasan nach gabhadh cleith agus a leanadh ann an cuimhne.

Nach tric a leughas neo a chluinneas sinn beachd faoin anns na meadhanan, agus gu deimhinnte b' e sin a bh' aig an neach-naidheachd a thuir gun robh e a' còrdadh ri saighdearan a bhith a'

feuchainn ri falaisg sgriosail ann an ceann a tuath Shasainn a mhùchadh.

Chan eil duine dam b' fheudar a bhith a' sabaid fhalaig neo teine sam bith dol a dh'innse dhut gun do chòrd an obair sin ris, agus 's e dìth tuigse da-rìribh a bh' aig an neach a thuir a leithid. Pàirt chudromach den ionnsachadh òg tha fhios, spèis a thoirt dha càch a chèile agus dha uisge agus teine!

There is nothing enjoyable about fighting to extinguish heath fires and only those who have experienced it will truly understand the strength-sapping heat, the dust, and the choking smoke. When the fire penetrates into peat below the challenge is formidable, and will ultimately only be overcome by substantial rainfall. Key lessons of childhood must be to respect one another, and fire and water.

Ailean Caimbeul
(Allan Campbell)
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USEFUL CONTACTS

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to treat the birds except for 'don't go too close'. No one from the boat was ashore to monitor what was happening. I hope that in some way you may be able to highlight these concerns because after some investigating I've discovered this is an ongoing issue, with the RSPB and other agencies aware of the situation.

It would be such a shame if this situation was allowed to spoil the enjoyment of the area for the many visitors from across the globe.

John Dewar, Kilmaurs, Ayrshire.

Oban Bay – a timely reminder

The article in last week's edition headlining CMAL's cosy arrangement to wrest control of Oban harbour was a timely reminder that closer public scrutiny of the consultation plan is required, or a stitch-up will result which will not be in the best interests of the port of Oban or the wider marine economy of the area. It also highlighted the fake news generated from various sources over recent years about the jurisdiction of Oban harbour. These inaccuracies must be corrected before any form of Harbour Revision Order is envisaged.

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OT

DISTRICT NEWS

ARINAGOUR



Arinagour Primary School pupils at the launch of their card project.

Arinagour Primary School pupils celebrated the launch of their card project with an exhibition of their art work at the Island Café.

Parents and special guests enjoyed a sneak peek before the work went on display to the public.

One visitor suggested it should have been called the island 'lunch' not launch as there was enough of the buffet left for the public to enjoy in the afternoon.

The card features Coll sealife and will be available at the Post Office or school to buy.

It was produced by all the children at the school with the help of Barbara Payne, Marie-Luce-Van de Sype and Ginny Evans. More advice was given by John McCann. Mathieu Willocks, a professional photographer on the island, recorded the event.

The school thanks parents, islanders and visitors who supported the event as all money raised will go to school funds.

APPIN

A harp workshop will take place on Thursday July 26 at St Mary's Space, Fasnaclloch.

The class will be taught by Pippa Reid-Foster, a semi-finalist in the 2014 BBC Young Scottish Traditional Musician of the Year.

'Pippa's workshop in our intimate and relaxed venue is aimed at harp players of all abilities and ages,' the description reads.

'So please come along and enjoy playing with other harpists. Or just come along and listen. The more the merrier.'

Tickets cost £10. To reserve a space, email contact@pippareidfoster.com or text 07842 765220.

Skye runner raises £1,300 for Alzheimer Scotland in memory of his Oban gran

A loving grandson who tackled this year's Isle of Skye half-marathon in memory of his Oban grandmother has presented a £1,300 cheque to Alzheimer Scotland.

Hugh Campbell, 32, is a Skye running champion, who lives and runs a marketing business in Portree.

His grandmother, Joan McGill, lived in Oban's Pulpit Hill.

She suffered from vascular dementia before her death, aged 83, in February this year.

Hugh said: 'My gran was born and raised in Oban. She lived there all her life and was well-known for the huge amount of community and volunteer work she undertook. While she was ill, she received a lot of support from Alzheimer Scotland and I wanted to give something back as a thank you.'

'I would like to thank everyone who donated to the charity when I ran the Isle of Skye half-marathon in memory of my grandmother. Some of the donations came from people living in the Oban area.'

'These funds will make a huge difference to people living with the condition and their families. During my time fundraising, I



Hugh hands over his cheque to staff from the dementia charity.

have been surprised by how many people have approached me who said the condition affects a family member.

'It is a terrible disease and I truly hope

we find a cure in the near future. Until that happens, we need to give people living with Alzheimer's and dementia all the support we can.'

WESTERN ISLES

Western Isles Council has agreed to pay £25,000 for a staff member to help those suffering from cancer.

The investment will be matched by Macmillan Cancer Support.

One officer will work four days a week across the Western Isles.

Home visits are undertaken and support provided to secure additional resources and financial support.

Council leader Roddie Mackay said: 'I am delighted our partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support has been of such enormous benefit to cancer sufferers throughout the islands.'

'This service provides great benefit to people across the islands and securing financial

support means those affected can focus on what really matters at what can be a difficult and challenging time.'

Macmillan's head of services in Scotland Janice Preston said: 'Cancer can have a large and negative impact on someone's finances.'

'We know cancer patients very often experience a drop in income and increased costs as a result of their diagnosis.'

'Many of them will never have claimed benefits before and trying to navigate the system and fill in long, complex forms while dealing with the physical and emotional problems cancer brings can be very difficult.'

'That is why we are working in partnership with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to continue providing this much-needed service for people affected by cancer on the Western Isles.'

LOCH AWE

Loch Awe residents are being asked to be vigilant regarding timber lorry agreements and any breaches. The matter was raised as part of concerns about the B840 at a recent meeting of Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council. Potholes were also still a cause for complaints on the road. One driver had to have his car towed away after it was damaged, the meeting was told.

Other items on the June agenda included an update on youths responsible for littering the community orchard being tracked down by police.

The next community council meeting will be at Dalmally village hall on Wednesday September 5.





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At random

MARTIN LAING

mllaing@obantimes.co.uk



We live in such a beautiful place

I was on holiday last week and didn't I strike lucky with the weather?

I decided to spend the week as a tourist, doing some of the things visitors travel here to experience – and I had just the best time.

The week started with one of the new walking tours, hosted by the ever-engaging Kay McDonald, whose love of Oban is almost palpable. It turned out to be a great way to spend a couple of hours and I'd recommend it as something everyone should try – whether local or a tourist.

We were then blessed with a stunning day for a trip to Iona. To sit outside the abbey in the sunshine with a picnic and a view to die for made it a memorable day.

Talking of lunches, we called at Gordon MacGillivray's seafood shack on Railway Pier one day. I can highly recommend the crayfish salad but, again, the setting is brilliant, sitting right on the edge of the bay.

One of the highlights of the week, however, was a visit to Kerrera. We took the short boat ride from Gallanach over to the island and walked to the southern tip of the island to see Gylen Castle and to lunch at the lovely Tea Garden.

The menu might not have been very extensive but the food was good, the service was excellent and the setting very pretty.

Markie Dans' also hit the spot with its weekend music festival. Once again, to be able to sit outside in the sunshine while listening to live music and enjoying the great view was a bit special.

This really is a great part of the world.

Where are the cars?

All the new parking meters in Oban seem to be operational but the new regime has left me puzzled.

Where are all the cars now? Gallanach Road, Corran Esplanade and the Lochavullin Road car park used to be chock full of parked cars until charging was introduced. Now they are virtually empty. So where are they all now?

What do you think?

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



Lyden Singleton with tourists enjoying the new al fresco seating that took months getting council approval.

Cafe culture arrives on Seil

Cafe culture has arrived in the popular conservation village of Ellenabeich.

After a six-month push to get an al fresco plan for outdoor tables and chairs passed by Argyll and Bute Council, customers at The Oyster can finally enjoy their drinks and food with a view outside the bar in the seaside square. There are now six tables with chairs in the village, and bar and restaurant boss Lyden Singleton with his wife Dawn have cause for a double celebration.

In May they also got final approval for new signs, replacing the outdated weather-battered ones which until recently had still advertised a micro-brewery on the site.

The brewery shut when the previous owners sold up to move back to Yorkshire and the old sign was confusing visitors.

Despite the new signs staying the same size and in the same spot, changing them to include new artwork was not easy because of planning regulations.

But it was well worth the wait, said Mr Singleton, who can now make the most of the tourist rush and heatwave.

'It took a long time to get our outdoor seating and sign plans through but it's been well worth the wait.

'Our customers are enjoying it. We're offering tourists another good reason to visit. We've got a great view.'

Bunessan World Otter Day was totally otter-tastic

Bunessan Primary School celebrated World Otter Day on May 31, with Mull Otter Group Committee and nine volunteers creating a day packed with otter-centred learning.

Children in P5, 6 and 7, tutored by Val Leckie, made beautifully observed drawings

of Eddie the Otter. With Marie Fox, their maths lesson became a practical approach to collecting data and a discussion about wildlife groups' collection of statistics.

Mull Youth Theatre's Andi Stevens's lively drama session created acrostic poems with words and movements.

Pupil Molly said: 'The drama with Andi was my complete and otter favourite.'

How do you differentiate mink and otters?

Mull Otter Group's Nigel Burch and local ranger Emily Wilkins taught them how.

The younger ones had a busy day too. Anna Mockford, ably assisted by ranger intern Georgia Platt, transformed them into otters using facepaints.

Local artist Julie Ward helped them make clay model otters and Jane Putsey showed them how to make otter prints.

Sue Morley helped them explore and understand an otter skeleton. She said: 'We found out some interesting facts about otter bones. We looked at them through magnifying glasses and tried to work out which bones went where.'

Jan Sutch Pickard and her granddaughter Katie skilfully gathered the children's ideas to make a lively poem: A Romp of Otters. They said: 'We had to think of really interesting phrases for the poetry.'

Others enjoyed Sue Penny's telling of the travels of the Utterly Otterlys. Nigel Burch taught them how to spot otter signs in a specially created otter trail. One pupil said: 'Everyone liked it when Nigel showed us how you can tell where an otter has been.'

What do you do if you find a sick or injured otter? Jane Stevens, chairwoman of Mull Otter Group, explained, then everyone had fun working in the Otter Rescue Centre.

Jenny DesFountain said: 'Many thanks to head teacher Sue Hawkes for her support and hospitality. It was a pleasure to work with the focused and very well behaved young learners at Bunessan. Perhaps some of them will be the otter champions of the future?'



Pupils had their faces painted like otters.

BENDERLOCH

A quiz and cocktail night is being held in Benderloch's Victory Hall this Saturday.

All proceeds will go to Lucy Stewart, who is fundraising so she can volunteer with the Bhudesi Pride Foundation to teach rugby in Africa.

Tickets for the event, which starts at 7.30pm, cost £8, including a cocktail.

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For such a tiny community Fionnphort is always busy – with visitors heading for Iona and as home to a busy fishing fleet; crabs and lobsters landed here are exported to Europe.

Check out: The stunning views over to Iona; the beaches around Fidden and Erraid – the island featured in RL Stevenson’s novel Kidnapped, (he moved the location slightly). There is a general store, shop and Post Office, restaurant and café all in the village and a wide variety of accommodation in and around. The Columba Centre is home to a gallery and shop.

The journey: The A849 brings you from Craignure, through Pennyghael and Bunessan, home of the Ross of Mull Historical Centre.

Hopscotch: Tobermory for Kilchoan - explore Ardnamurchan; Fishnish to Lochaline – take the long way to Fort William or Oban.



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	0955	1005	1020
	1000	1040	1045
	1145	1155	1200
	And frequently until		
	1600	1610	1625
	1630	1640	1655
	1700	1710	1725
	1745	1755	1800
	1815 C	1825 C	1830
	0835	0845	0950
	1000	1010	1025
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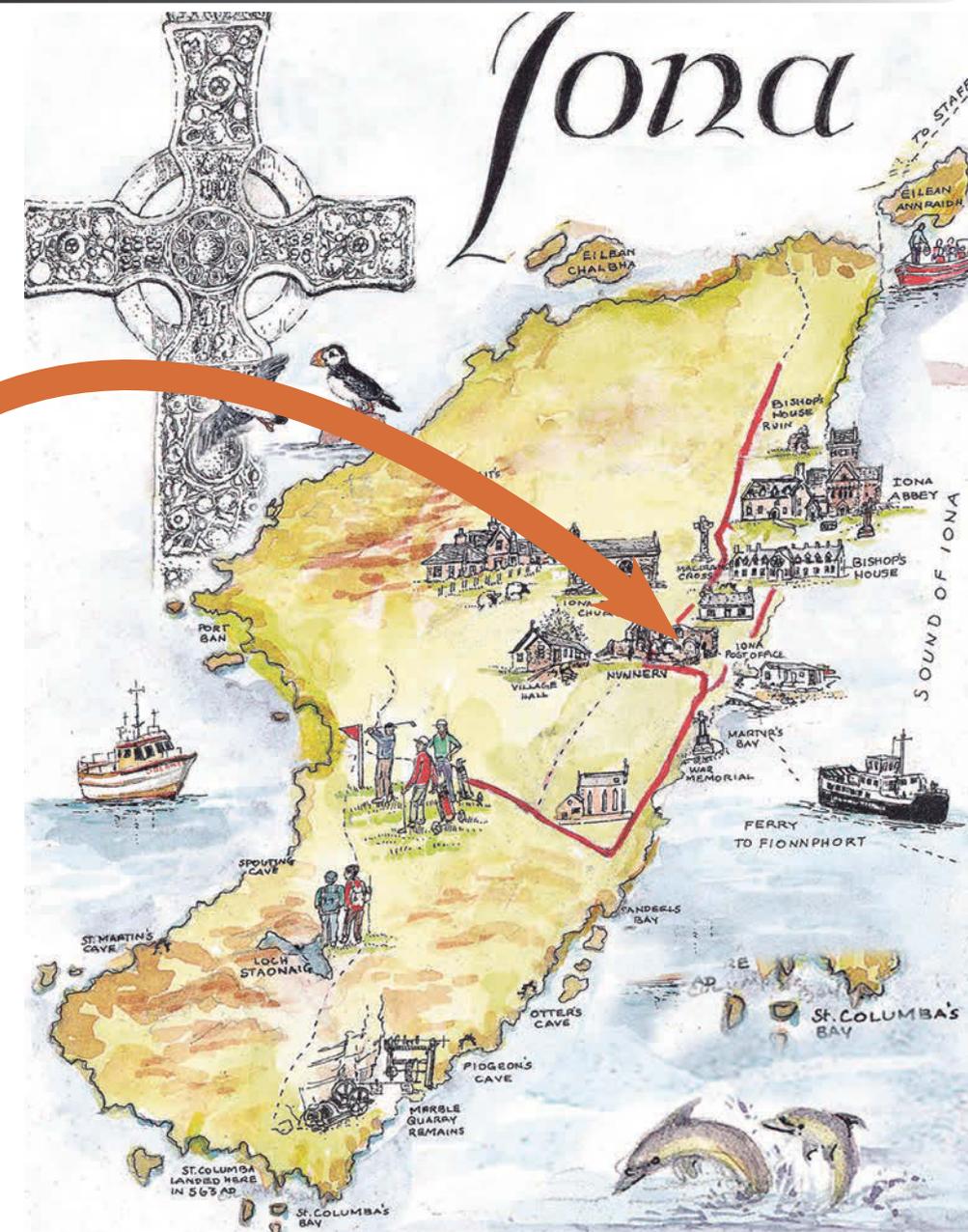


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The journey: At one-and-a-half miles wide and three miles long, visitors are not allowed to bring vehicles onto the island. Exceptions are made in cases of need and for blue badge holders; visit www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/licences/iona-vehicle-permit to find out more and apply on line. There is cycle hire and a taxi service.

Hopscotch: Check out the boat trips to Fingal's Cave.

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OUTDOORS

Garden survey reveals sightings of frogs and toads are drying up

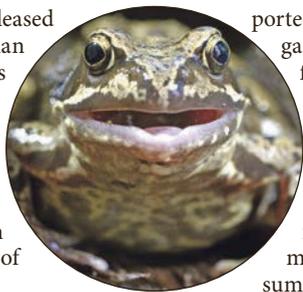
Survey results released today of more than 10,300 Scottish gardens reveal that sightings of frogs and toads have declined.

The disappearance of garden ponds and pools has long been a factor in the declining numbers of the amphibians.

RSPB Scotland is challenging families to take part in the Wild Challenge by getting outside and creating a simple pond or DIY pool in their outdoor space.

The survey, which is part of the conservation organisation's Big Garden Birdwatch, show that frogs had been seen in more than 60 per cent of gardens across Scotland. However, these regular sightings have fallen by five per cent since the last time they were surveyed in 2014.

This pattern was similar for toads. Only half of those who took part re-



ported seeing a toad in their garden in the past year, a fall of seven per cent.

With the wildlife on people's doorsteps becoming increasingly elusive, RSPB Scotland is calling for families to spend more time outside this summer, discovering the nature that surrounds them and seeing how they can give it a helping hand.

By taking part in the RSPB's Wild Challenge, families can have fun engaging in activities ranging from building a pool for amphibians to bug safaris, taking their first steps on their own wild adventure. There are 24 activities to choose from that will take you from your own back garden to exploring towns, woodlands and coastal areas.

Learn more by visiting www.rspb.org.uk/wildchallenge

New land register will improve transparency, says Cunningham

The first steps are being taken to create a public register of people who ultimately make decisions about how land is used and managed.

The Scottish Government is publishing proposals that will, if agreed, reveal for the first time the controlling interests of land owned by trusts and overseas companies.

The register will be held by Registers of Scotland and will be free to the public.

Land Reform Secretary Roseanna Cunningham said: 'The proposals in these draft regulations can greatly improve the transparency about who is making decisions about Scotland's land. This creates the potential for people and communities

to be able to directly engage with those parties, which we believe will lead to better decisions about how Scotland's land is used, ensuring that everyone can benefit from it.

'The Scottish Government is clear that it's no longer acceptable for the identity of people making decisions about land in Scotland to be obscured.

'Our proposals go further than any existing UK legislation. We're putting Scotland at the forefront of this policy in Europe.

'I am determined to ensure the register should be as easy to access as possible, so I am very pleased to announce that these proposals ensure that it will be free to use.'

Searching for sisu in Scotland

When Geordie Stewart missed Mount Everest's summit by 150m, the Finnish concept of 'sisu' helped the 21-year-old conquer his feelings of failure, and spurred him to become the youngest Briton to climb the Seven Summits – the highest mountain on every continent. Here he finds sisu in Lochaber, as he launches his crowdfunded book *In Search of Sisu: A Path to Contentment via the Highest Point on Every Continent*.

We all know the feeling. That moment when you are at the midway point of a lengthy hike in the Highlands and suddenly the weather turns 180 degrees.

It is blowing a hoolie, the clag descends, visibility reduces to a couple of metres and the whole experience becomes about persevering.

The forecast appeared mild and, despite knowing the mantra, 'prepare for the worst, hope the best', you are ill-prepared for these conditions.

You are filled with regret you did not bring the litre thermos and an extra hip flask. 'Did anyone bring the bothy bag?' you ask tentatively in the knowledge that you, as team leader, were the only one who probably considered it.

This is a time for sisu.

Sisu is a concept at the core of Finnish culture and roughly translates as grit, perseverance and resolve. It is the strength

within all of us to push beyond our comfort zones and endure when the situation dictates.

We all have sisu but do not always require it. It is that packet of Kendal Mint Cake and flask of whisky you keep at the bottom of your rucksack for those 'less than ideal' situations.

I spent years searching for sisu around the world and in the Highlands.

I decided aged 17, despite no climbing experience, to try to climb the Seven Summits – the highest mountains on every continent.

I spent a lot of my childhood

'It was in the variable Scottish winter that I built the stamina and strength to attempt bigger mountains.'

hillwalking in the Highlands with dad. I always felt invigorated being in those blustery and demanding conditions.

I went to the University of St Andrews and any free weekend I had would be spent driving to the Highlands, camping out and going up and down the hills. It was in the variable Scottish winter that I built the stamina and strength to attempt bigger mountains around the world.

Booking to go to Aconcagua on my first proper climbing

expedition to climb the highest mountain in South America aged 18 was sisu. It was battling the vicious Arctic winds when attempting Denali, the highest mountain in North America.

Sisu was turning around 150m from the summit of Everest aged 21 when I realised, as a relatively inexperienced and young climber, it wasn't safe for me to make the top and descend alone.

Sisu was the psychological battle I had in my own mind when I returned to the UK having not summited but gone so close. It was trying to battle with the decisions I had made and trying to use that failure as motivation to continue with this ambition.

After successfully reaching the summit of Vinson (Antarctica) and Carstensz Pyramid (Australasia), I returned to Everest in 2011. I reached the summit and became the youngest Brit to climb the Seven Summits and the youngest Scot to climb Everest.

It was one of those very special moments that I never thought would materialise after years of fluctuating emotions and whimsical ambition. I spent over an hour on top of the world with my wonderful Sherpa, Dorje Khatri, and had a surreal satellite phone conversation with my parents before heading back down again.

The years of looking for sponsors, of ignoring the doubters and making sacrifices thankfully

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Geordie at the top of Everest having reached it on his second attempt, and, below, Geordie on Mount Elbrus, the highest peak in Europe, in the Caucasus Mountains in southern Russia.



came to a successful conclusion. Those four years were about searching for sisu at different times for different reasons. It was as much the mental struggle away from the mountains as it was the physical hardship in the thin air of high altitude. Sisu enabled me to achieve an ambition that I never thought possible. Sisu is within all of us but it is only when we step out into the unknown, when we extend beyond our comfort zones, that we really need it.

In Search of Sisu: A Path to Contentment via the Highest Point on Every Continent is available now in paperback on Amazon. It follows Geordie's record-breaking climbs and has been endorsed by Bear Grylls and Sir Ranulph Fiennes.

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 people can try before they buy. Further information at www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk. Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk

Thursday July 5

Musdale to Loch Nant

Start on the minor public road from Kilmore to Musdale approx 0.5km north of Musdale Farm, at a bridge over a burn and a junction with a track, M931227. Head NE along the track for 2km to converge with another at track at M946235. Follow main track E for 4km, passing Sior Loch to the forest boundary, and continue through the forest a further 1km to reach the W end of Loch Nant at NM992239. Return by the same track to the junction at NM949233. Turn SW here and follow the track for about 1.5km to NM942219 just past a disused quarry. A footpath leads WNW across rough ground to a fence, beyond which is a cairn at NM938220. Continue in the same direction down to the track at Musdale Farm, joining the public road to return to the start.

Grade: M; Distance: 15km; Height to climb: 370m; Map(s): LR49, EX 360.

Meet at: Longsdale CP, Oban NM862307 at 9.30am for start of walk at 10.10am. Leader: Graham Innes 01631 562290 or 7767 714503.

Saturday July 7

Rannoch to Corroul

A linear walk in the wild area around Loch Ossian. The route from Rannoch station takes in the Munro Carn Dearg. From Rannoch station head E on the B846, across the Allt Gormag and head NW on the track. After crossing the river and passing a small plantation, head N over rough ground to ascend the S ridge of Sron Leachd a'Chaorainn and up to its summit, 737m. Continue N on the undulating ridge to the summit of Carn Dearg 941m. Descend NW around the rim of Coire Creagach, curving N down to Meall na Leitire

Duibhe. Turn W down to Peter's Rock NN393670 and pick up the path W to the Youth Hostel and Corroul station.

NOTE: the return train from Corroul is at 6.25pm.

Grade: M+; Distance: 18km; Height to climb: 700m; Map(s) LR41/42 EX385. Meet at: Bridge of Orchy Stn NN299394 at 8.10am for 8.18am dep. Leader: Sally Cameron 07810 464994.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

Sunday July 8

Sgurr na h-Ulaidh

Start from the car park on the bend of the A82 at NN119565.

Cross the stile opposite and head S across the fairly flat and usually boggy ground to a bridge hidden in the trees at NN119095791. Continue S to reach the foot of the steep N ridge of Aonach Dubh a'Ghlinne to the E of the rocky crags forming its spine, at NN1216054824.

Climb the grassy slope, trending right towards the crest of the ridge until the way is barred by rocky slab-sided rib. Pass below this and continue climbing up the steep grass on its W side to reach a prominent ledge at NN1197754733.

Follow the ledge right a short distance to reach more grassy slopes leading up to the crest of the ridge. Follow the ridge, zig-zagging as necessary to avoid rocky outcrops, to the summit of Aonach Dubh a'Ghlinne, 845m.

Still going S, descend a short drop and climb the steep slope to the summit of Stob an Fhuarain, 968m. From here the ridge leads SW to the summit of Sgurr na h-Ulaidh, 994m.

Descend W on to the spur of Corra Beinne, then turn N down rocky slopes to the bealach at NN104524. Head NE to pick up the path by the Allt na Muidhe and return to the start. (12km, 1150m ascent.)

Suggested by Gerry Gilbert; coordinated by Andrew Gilbert.

Opening doors for budding chef Iglesias

I had worked in kitchens before I came to Fort William. I wanted to improve my skills, so came to college. Studying 3 days a week really suits me because I can combine chef work at the Nevis Range and study. This has opened the door to industry for me. I would recommend the course: although you can learn while on the job, learning here in college with the class is so much better – as we all watch, learn and compare each other's work all the time.



Alfonso Iglesias Rodrigues studies NC Professional Cookery level 6

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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Skye Festival begins

The 2018 Fèis an Eilein, the Skye Festival, kicked off on Tuesday July 3 with a good old-fashioned family cèilidh dance, writes Sara Bain.

The opening event brought together an informal concert with various guests, young and old, for a family-orientated night of song, dance and music.

Taking place between July 3 and August 21, at venues around the Isle of Skye, the Skye Festival is a celebration of world-class performing

arts and unique island culture.

Scotland's trad giants, the nation's premier string orchestra, sensational world music, critically-acclaimed drama, a trio of popular crime writers, film nights, house concerts and more than a few cèilidh dances are just some of the many highlights of this year's festival.

Organised by Sleat-based performing arts promotion

Turn to page 36



SEALL creative director Duncan MacInnes. Photograph: Sara Bain



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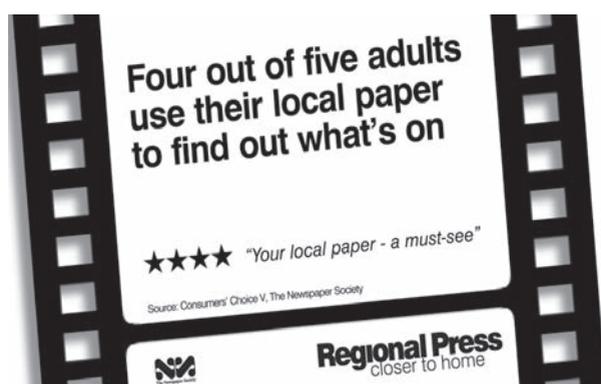


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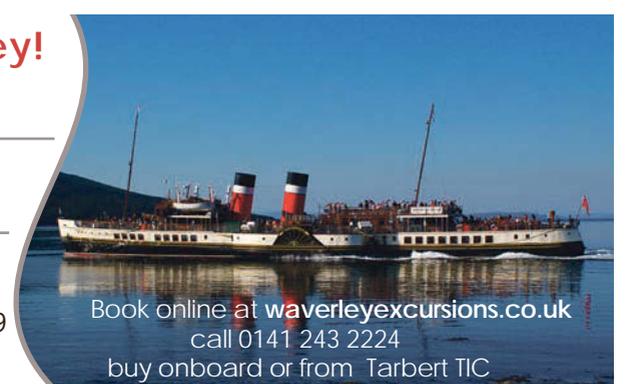
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Poet Michael Longley to give a poetry reading at Eilean Ban

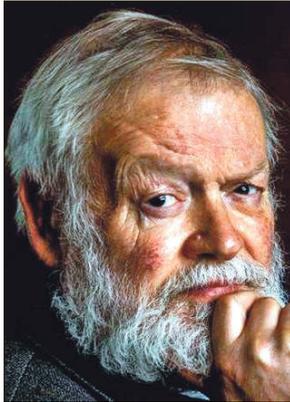
The Eilean Ban Trust will welcome the award-winning Irish poet, Michael Longley, CBE, to Eilean Ban on July 12 to give a poetry reading.

Eilean Ban, the island under the Skye Bridge, has been and is an inspiration for artists.

One of its most famous inhabitants was the wildlife and travel writer Gavin Maxwell, who spent the last two years of his life there before he died aged 55 in 1969. Gavin wrote the world-famous Ring of Bright Water, which was made into a film starring Virginia McKenna and Bill Travers.

Michael Longley is one of Ireland's foremost poets. John Banville, in The Guardian's Books of the Year, described Angel Hill as, 'at once elegiac and celebratory, and achingly beautiful. Longley has honed his poetry to the bone, but how the bone does shine'.

Longley's poetry is also marked by sharp observation of the natural world. As in his most recent work Angel



Michael Longley.

Hill, many of the poems are inspired by Lochalsh and will form a large part of the poetry reading next week.

Michael, a great admirer of Maxwell, has written a new poem, as yet unpublished, about Eilean Ban.

Angel Hill is illustrated by Michael's daughter, the artist Sarah Longley, who lives in Lochalsh. Sarah is a well-known and well-respected artist in her own right, and the strong link created ar-

tistically between the homes of Michael in Ireland and Sarah in Lochalsh can be felt through the poems and cover illustration of Angel Hill.

The poetry evening will take place in the Long Room.

The house and island is kept as a museum to Maxwell's life, but for one night only it will be an exclusive venue for the poetry evening.

Space is limited, so bookings must be made in advance at the Bright Water Visitor Centre (Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm), by calling 01599 530040 or emailing enquiries@eileanban.org

Only those with their names on the bookings list will be able to come into the Long Room.

There will be a £2 entrance fee at the door to cover the cost of moving chairs onto and off the island.

The event begins at 7pm.

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Pipe bands' success at Europeans

Inveraray and District Pipe Band were crowned European Champions at the European Pipe Band Championships in Forres on Saturday.

Alasdair Henderson, pipe sergeant with the band, said: 'It was one of the strongest performances we have ever given. We are delighted.'

The weekend also saw Oban High School Pipe Band celebrating after they took second place in the Novice Juvenile A. Mid Argyll Pipe Band were second in the Grade 4B, with Isle of Skye Pipe Band fourth. Kilchoman Distillery Pipe Band, from Islay, were fifth in the Grade 2 contest.

Nan Johnstone, of Oban High School Pipe Band, said: 'The band, including Pipe

Major Angus MacColl, are delighted to come second in the European Championships Novice Juvenile A grade. Focus is now on trying to go one better and come first at Scottish Championships in Dumbarton on Saturday July 28.'

Inveraray celebrated their second consecutive win at the championships, which are moving home after a six-year run in Forres.

Chieftain of the event Alan James revealed that the championships would be staying in the Highlands, moving to Inverness for the next three years.

Mr James said: 'We were delighted to have more than a thousand young pipers as well as a record number of young

Highland dancers. Everyone seems to have enjoyed their time at Piping At Forres today.'

'It has also been an honour to be able to announce that the championships will be moving just along the road to Inverness. This is great news for the Highlands that the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association have chosen to locate the European Pipe Band Championships in Inverness from 2019. This will continue to encourage the pipe bands from the Highlands and Islands as well as the north-east to attend.'

'We wish the new organisers all the best for the next three years and we look forward to attending and showing our support at the championships in 2019.'

A small sample of the gorgeous summer menu at the Tayvallich Inn...

STARTERS

SEAFOOD SOUP - Our own recipe served with a warm bread roll and butter

DEEP FRIED BRIE - With a Cumberland sauce & dressed leaves

MOULES MARINIÈRE - Steamed in white wine, cream, garlic and onions served with a warm bread roll

FISH

FISH & CHIPS - Fresh haddock fillet in our own beer batter with tartare sauce and mushy peas

PAN FRIED HAKE FILLET - Wild caught Hake with herb rice, seasonal steamed vegetables and a saffron and star anise sauce

SHELLFISH

SOUND OF JURA LANGOUSTINES - Served hot with garlic butter or cold with garlic mayonnaise. With rustic chips and a dressed salad

HAND DIVED TAYVALLICH LANDED KING SCALLOPS - Pan seared with a choice of garlic butter or chorizo Served with rustic chips and a dressed salad

SEAFOOD STEW - Our bouillabaisse of fresh and local shellfish and fish served with warm bread rolls

MARVELLOUS MAINS

CURRY OF THE DAY - Served with wild rice, popadom, Our own chutney & spiced onions

PAN FRIED CHICKEN FILLET - On a bed of tagliatelle with a chorizo cream sauce and garlic bread

10 OZ SCOTTISH SIRLOIN STEAK - With rustic chips, salad, balsamic roasted vine tomatoes, onion rings & peppercorn sauce or garlic butter

PORK BELLY WITH CRISPY SALT & CHILLI SQUID - With a herb, caper and cashew nut salad, chilli dressing and garlic bread

SOMETHING SWEET

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Glencruitten Road
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5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Gillian 07796 040 803

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Lochgilphead Baptist Church
Union Street/ Argyll Street
Mondays 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Rhona 07880 878 906

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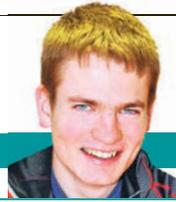
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Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Glasgow goes 'taps aff'

While the country experiences the hottest and longest heat-wave in many years, Glasgow is in the middle of that uniquely Glaswegian phenomenon known as 'taps aff' weather.

My cousin, who lives in Edinburgh, sent me a photograph last week of a man walking down Princes Street with his top off. She could hardly believe her eyes, so uncommon is the sight in Edinburgh. I was sitting in Mansfield Square, Partick, at the time and (after a cursory glance round) I realised that there was not a single man whose top had remained on!

While this Glaswegian custom is definitely increased by the hot spell, don't be fooled into thinking it is merely a consequence of a heatwave. It

happens every summer (rain, hail or shine) and has become as much a proud tradition of Glasgow as ship building and football.

Kelvingrove Bandstand

At the risk of jinxing this great weather, I walked down Kelvin Way last week and considered what a perfect summer this could be for the Kelvingrove Bandstand. The bandstand and amphiatre is the only original bandstand left in Glasgow. It closed in 1999 and fell into serious disrepair but was redeveloped and reopened in time for the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Since then, it has been a real asset in city and, over the coming months, it has some brilliant gigs in store.

It surely can't get better than

sitting outside on a warm summer night listening to great music, so (below) I list the programme of events to come at the bandstand. Tickets are available online through Ticketmaster.

Kelvingrove Bandstand summer nights

- July 30: Pretenders
- July 31: Bryan Ferry
- August 1: First Aid Kit
- August 2: John Prine
- August 3: OMD
- August 4: James Grant
- August 6: Imelda May
- August 7: Fleet Foxes
- August 8: Jimmy Cliff
- August T9: Van Morrison
- August 10: The Fratellis
- August 11: Roddy Frame

Albums to be reviewed

A couple of CDs have dropped through my letter box recently

from the good people at Birnam Records - all of which I have been enjoying immensely and intend reviewing in the coming weeks.

One is the debut of duo Jamie MacDonald from Tیره and Christian Gamauf from Austria - a musical pairing I'm really looking forward to writing about. Another CD I'm excited to hear once it is released is Trail West's forthcoming third album, From the Sea to the City. The usual Trail West four-piece line-up has been augmented for this recording by Allan Nairn on electric guitar and Jonathan Gillespie on keyboards.

Having heard the six-piece live, I'm convinced this is going to be a cracking record.

Pub scene

Islay Inn

- Friday July 6: Parting Glass
- Saturday July 7: Mookie

Summer dining in Oban: Loch Melfort Hotel

For the best of West Coast produce, fresh and wonderful flavours, served in a stunning setting, look no further than Loch Melfort Hotel & 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.

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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WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

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Thursday 5th July

Oban Health Walk

Oban Congregational Church Hall
10am - 11.30am

Oban Walking Tours

Oban, i-centre
2.00pm - 3.30pm

Taynuilt Summer Ceilidh

Taynuilt Village Hall
7.30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dams

FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

Friday 6th July

Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading

Glencruitten Church Hall
All Day

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dams

Dun Mor Ceilidh Band
Free entry
Open till 2am

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban

From 9pm
Free Entry

Saturday 7th July

Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading

Glencruitten Church Hall
All Day

Oban Walking Tours

Oban, i-centre
10am - 11.30am
2.00pm - 3.30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dams

Free entry
Open till 2am

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban

From 9pm
Free Entry

Sunday 8th July

Hill Walk

Glen Coe, Glencoe Highland
All Day

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dams

QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm
£1 per person, max of 6 per team
Win £20 bar voucher

Women's Group #3

The Rockfield Centre
2.00pm - 4.00pm

Monday 9th July

Slimming World

Union Street/Argyll Street, Lochgilphead
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel; Rhona 07880 878906

Highland Hustle

St Columba Cathedral Hall
6pm. Everyone welcome

Tuesday 10th July

Oban Walking Tours

Oban, i-centre
10am - 11.30am
2.00pm - 3.30pm

Wednesday 11th July

Slimming World

Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban
9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban

Lorne Pub Quiz
Starting at 9pm
£25 bar voucher prize and free pizza at half time

Events may charge. Please visit

www.obanwhatson.co.uk for more details.

To list your event, please call **01631 568000**

Fort William's Leisure and Recreation Facility
The Nevis Centre
What's on at The Nevis Centre

JUNE Sunday 24th West Highland Way Presentation	SEPTEMBER Saturday 1st Ben Race Tuesday 4th & Wednesday 5th Induction Week College Friday 7th College Ceilidh Saturday 8th Action Med Research Sunday 9th Dog Show Friday 14th Bruce Tait Charity Sunday 30th Electric Road Show	OCTOBER Friday 5th College Graduation Sunday 7th Irish Country Show Saturday 13th Doug Allan An Aird Fort William Tel: 01397 700707
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Skye hosts 27th festival

Continued from page 33

charity, SEALL (Skye Events for All), the festival's main venues are situated in Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college in the south of Skye, and this year takes live events to more stages across Skye and Lochalsh.

With its roots firmly planted in Scottish traditional music, the 2018 festival includes performances by the Adam Sutherland Band, the Alastair McCulloch Trio, Charlie McKerron, Mary Ann Kennedy, Fergie Macdonald, Kaela Rowan, the Routes Quartet and Saltfish Forty.

From the rest of the world, Euro-Canadian storyteller and fiddle player Anne Lederman will present her history of the Canadian prairies in Spirit of the Narrows; Margaret Bennett and Skip Gorman team up for an evening of music and song of crofters and cowboys; while master of the Galician gaita, Anxo Lorenzo, brings his stunning, high-octane per-



The Kaela Rowan Band will take to the stage in the stables of Armadale Castle on August 8.

formance to island audiences. Alasdair Fraser returns to Skye for another of his hugely popular Mammoth Fiddle Nights: a spectacle of more than 130 fiddles and cellos playing together under his masterful lead; and the Scottish Ensemble will give workshops and concerts in Sleat and Plockton at the end of August. In an unusual vocal dawn performance by Atlas

Arts, French-Norwegian poet Caroline Bergvall welcomes in the sunrise from a roof terrace overlooking the Sound of Sleat in Ragadawn (Isle of Skye, 57.5°N).

The National Youth Jazz Orchestra makes its annual appearance at the festival, this year with Manchester beatbox sensation Jason Singh, and Falkirk writer Alan Bissett introduces his

hilarious Moira Bell in The Moira Monologues.

A crime at the castle will be under investigation when a trio of award-winning Scottish crime writers – Michael J Malone, Caro Ramsay and Douglas Skelton – descend on the ancestral home of Clan Donald, Armadale Castle, to give workshops and talks on their craft.

SEALL creative director Duncan MacInnes said ahead of the festival: 'This year we celebrate 27 years since the festival was started and we are very much looking forward to welcoming guest artists and audiences to our live events taking place across two summer months.'

'Most of these performances take place in halls and spaces in and around Sleat and we tend to make good use of the venues at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig as this is where our office is situated.'

'As a family-friendly festival, we kick off on a high note with a lively ceilidh night of music,

song and dance in TDC main hall. Hector MacInnes, guitar, and Malin Lewis, pipes and fiddle, will open with some tunes and they will be supported by some of our young home-grown talent.'

'The cèilidh theme continues on the following Tuesday, July 10, when King of the Cèilidh Fergie Macdonald brings his friends to TDC main hall for a lively evening of music and good craic.'

'On Wednesday July 11, we have a chance to meet Falkirk's hilarious Moira Bell when author and performer Alan Bissett presents his award-winning Moira Monologues and, on July 13, Inner Sound return to the festival with a popular Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, The Pirates of Penzance.'

'Please have a look through our programme of more than 30 live events. There is something for everyone at this year's Fèis and we look forward to welcoming you all.'

The Skye Festival is committed to showcasing the

island's home-grown talent. To this end, young artists are encouraged to take part in the festival. Local performers feature highly within the programme and this year Skye and Lochalsh choral group Inner Sound will present The Pirates of Penzance; Maighread Stewart and Ingrid Henderson will give a concert of clarsach and Gaelic song; and Skye musicians Malin Lewis (pipes and fiddle) and Hector MacInnes (guitar) are just two of the local artists performing opening sets throughout the course of the festival.

A lively festival fringe, run by members of the Sleat community, includes charity cafés, exhibitions, art galleries, house concerts, Gaelic quizzes, Gaelic lessons for visitors, open music sessions, and more cèilidh dances.

Full-colour printed programmes are available from outlets across the island. For tickets and all online information, visit www.skye-festival.scot



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beautiful lounge and log burner in the dining room. Meals are created by professional Chef, Steve and are made from locally sourced ingredients. The guest house is perfect for exploring this stunning part of the Kintyre Peninsula popular with walkers, nature lovers,

cyclists, golfers, game shooting, water sports enthusiasts and those looking to relax and enjoy the breath-taking and tranquil scenery. Quite simply Carradales offer charm and hospitality with character, style and comfort to create a homely environment.

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Carradales was originally built as what?**

All extras to be paid on departure. Overnight stay available in September, October and November 2018. Does not include alcohol. No cash alternative available. Transport not included.

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition - your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you wish to receive news and offers from the third party running the competition, then please mark the words "OPT IN" on your postcard entry. If you enter various competitions on one card, you will be opting in for every competition running. Unless you opt in to receive further marketing information we will only contact you if you win a prize in the competition. Scottish Field (Wyvex Media) will retain your information for a maximum of 3 months after the competition closes and then it will be deleted. If you have opted in to receive third party information, the data you have supplied will be passed to the third party company running the competition. This may be used for the purposes of the third party contacting you regarding new products and services for a period of 3 months, unless you agree to an extension with the third party company at a later date.



Oban band Citizen 9 performed at last year's MOJO festival.

Deadline looms to get your music MOJO working

Argyll's festival of original music is on the hunt for bands and musicians.

If you are aged 18 or over, are from or connected to Argyll and can play a set of your own material for at least 30 minutes, get in touch.

For one night only, the volunteer-run music festival MOJO will showcase bands of all tastes and backgrounds in an event that will have Ardfern's Craignish Village Hall's rafters jumping.

Volunteer Dan Griffiths

explained what MOJO is all about. 'MOJO Argyll is a small, down-to-earth team of volunteers helping local original artists to get heard.

'We do it purely for our love of unique, raw music and keenness to see what talent we have in our own backyard. 'We had a great night of music last year and felt so welcome and supported in Ardfern.'

MOJO organisers have had a good response so far – but the deadline is looming.

A decision will be made on a final MOJO line-up to play in Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern, on Saturday October 20, but artists must express an interest by Sunday July 15.

Any bands interested should get in touch by contacting either Brian on the MOJO Argyll Facebook page or Dan on 01546 602429.

All musical styles will be considered. Any demos or tracks should be sent to either Dan or Brian.

Acair launch book in memory of Assynt trust's Allan MacRae

Some names are so closely linked with historical events that they almost become one and the same.

One such is Allan MacRae, who, along with a small group of fellow crofters, led to victory the ground-breaking Assynt Crofters' Trust land buy-out. He was chairman of the trust until his death in 2013, aged 73.

Allan MacRae's unique character was informed by the Highland Clearances, staunch Presbyterianism and, extraordinarily, the London music hall.

Judith Napier's well-researched biography explores the life of a remarkable man – stonemason, orator, athlete, campaigning writer, but above all a crofter who cared

deeply for his beloved Assynt. Published by Acair, the biography was launched yesterday (Wednesday July 4), to coincide with the 25th anniversary celebrations of the historic Assynt Crofters' Trust land buy-out.

A Celebration of a life – Allan MacRae is available now to pre-order from www.acairbooks.com

MOJO ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 05 T-IUCHAR THURSDAY 05 JULY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Na Dròbhairean (rpt)
19.30 Aithne air Ainmhidhean (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 Bailtean Fraoich (rpt)
21.00 Ever Believe Me – Sgeulachd Madeleine Smith (rpt)
22.00 Belladrum 2016 – Tiggs Da Author (rpt)
22.20 Aghaidh ri Aghaidh – Korolev vs von Braun (rpt)
23.10 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)
23.30 Air an Rathad (rpt)

22.00 Jimmy Johnstone (rpt)
23.30 Cuirme@Celtic – Julie Fowles and RANT (rpt)
24.00 Gun Sgot? (rpt)

20.00 An Là – News
20.30 Dualchas a' Chaisteil (rpt)
21.00 Gruth is Uachdar (rpt)
22.00 Trusadh – Mòine (rpt)
23.00 Air an Rathad (rpt)
23.30 Alleluia (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 08 T-IUCHAR SUNDAY 08 JULY

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
18.30 **ÜR | NEW:** Seachd La – News Review
19.30 Alleluia (rpt)
20.00 Bailtean Fraoich (rpt)
20.30 Bonn Còmhraidh (rpt)
21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaoarach (rpt)
22.00 Belladrum 2017 – Vukovi (rpt)
22.25 Hinterland (rpt)

DI CIADAIN 11 T-IUCHAR WEDNESDAY 11 JULY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Fuine (rpt)
19.30 Aithne air Ainmhidhean (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 Bonn Còmhraidh (rpt)
21.00 Air an Rathad (rpt)
22.00 **ÜR | NEW:** An Sgrùdaire
22.15 **ÜR | NEW:** Dhan Uisge (Rubislaw Quarry)
22.25 **ÜR | NEW:** Belladrum 2017: Lucy May
22.30 Port – Dun nan Gall (rpt)
22.55 Ever Believe Me – Sgeulachd Madeleine Smith (rpt)

DIHAI OINE 06 AN T-IUCHAR FRIDAY 06 JULY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
18.35 Machair (rpt)
19.00 An Là – News
19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
19.30 Prosaig (rpt)
20.00 Òrain Oir (rpt)
20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)
21.00 Third Lanark (rpt)
22.00 Hinterland (rpt)
23.30 Belladrum 2017: Vukovi (rpt)

DILUAIN 09 T-IUCHAR MONDAY 09 JULY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
18.30 De a-nis? (rpt)
19.00 Fuine (rpt)
19.30 Aithne air Ainmhidhean (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 **ÜR | NEW:** Vets: Gach Creutair Beò
21.00 Trusadh – Mòine (rpt)
22.00 Port – Dun nan Gall (rpt)
22.30 Cùm Grèim! (rpt)
23.30 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)
23.45 Dhan Uisge (Lochindorb) (rpt)
23.50 Belladrum 2017 – Tamzene (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 07 T-IUCHAR SATURDAY 07 JULY

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 De a-nis? (rpt)
19.30 Machair (rpt)
19.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
20.00 Prosaig (rpt)
20.30 Dualchas a' Chaisteil (rpt)
21.00 Opry an Iùir (rpt)
21.50 Dhan Uisge (Lochindorb) (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 10 T-IUCHAR TUESDAY 10 JULY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Na Dròbhairean (rpt)
19.30 Aithne air Ainmhidhean (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 12 T-IUCHAR THURSDAY 12 JULY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Na Dròbhairean (rpt)
19.30 Aithne air Ainmhidhean (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 Bailtean Fraoich (rpt)
21.00 The Sandyford Murder – Sgeulachd Jessie McLachlan (rpt)
21.45 Belladrum 2017: Dub Pistols (rpt)
22.20 Aghaidh ri Aghaidh – Karl Lagerfeld vs Yves Saint-Laurent (rpt)
23.10 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)
23.30 Air an Rathad (rpt)



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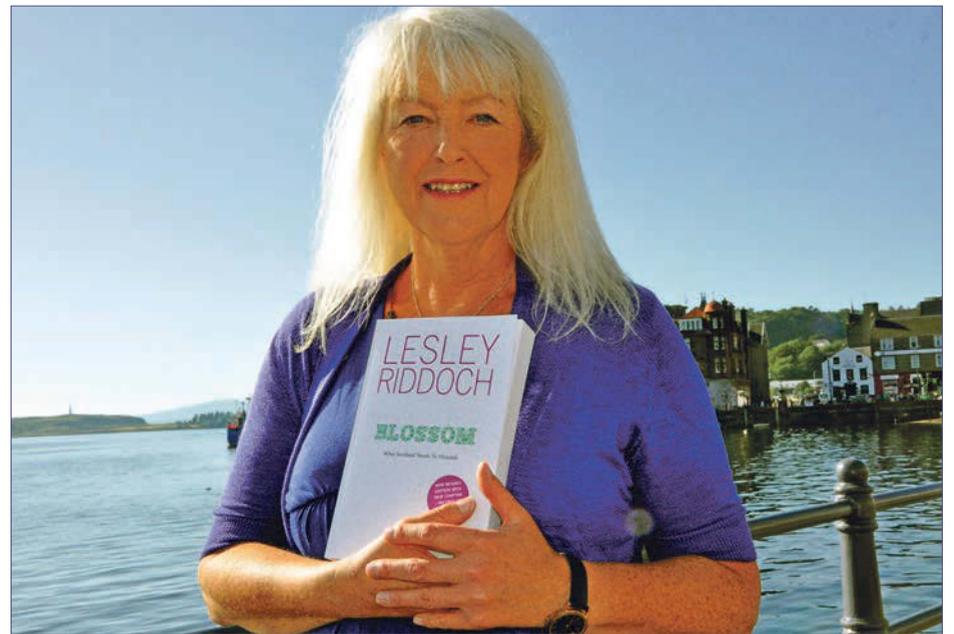
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MONDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20.00 John McLuckie's Show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Station close down
TUESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darlings's Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2
WEDNESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 17.00 Drivetime with Camp-

bell, 19.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll - Len + Ken, 20.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre
THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00 Christines Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight, 11.00 Margo Till Midnight
FRIDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny, 17.00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 17.30 Drive Show, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig,

20.00 Lewis Bingham, 21.00 Peter Rainnie
SATURDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Stephen, 10.00 Sat Morning Live, 11.00 Saturday Morning, 12.00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowsher, 12.03 Sat Morning Live, 12.05 Saturday Morning Live, 13.30 Clyde, 18.00 Sports View - Dream Team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight
SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning With Breege, 10.00 Sunday Morning, 11.00 Sunday Brunch With Archie, 12.00 Sunday Brunch, 16.30 Archie Darling, 18.00 Ken's Friends - Ken Hunter, 19.00 New Country Show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

Lesley Riddoch tells Oban what Scotland needs to flourish



Campaigning journalist and broadcaster Lesley Riddoch knows just what Scotland needs to flourish. She was at Waterstone's on Thursday to talk to a full audience about the new updated edition of her book, Blossom. 'Blossom is an account of

Scotland at the grassroots through the stories of people I've had the good fortune to know - the most stubborn, talented and resilient people on the planet. They've had to be. Some have transformed their parts of Scotland. Some have tried and failed. But all

have something in common - they know what it takes for Scotland to blossom. We should too,' she said. The outspoken author is calling for equality to be restored and control given back to local communities so Scotland can 'blossom'.

The Cellar Bar

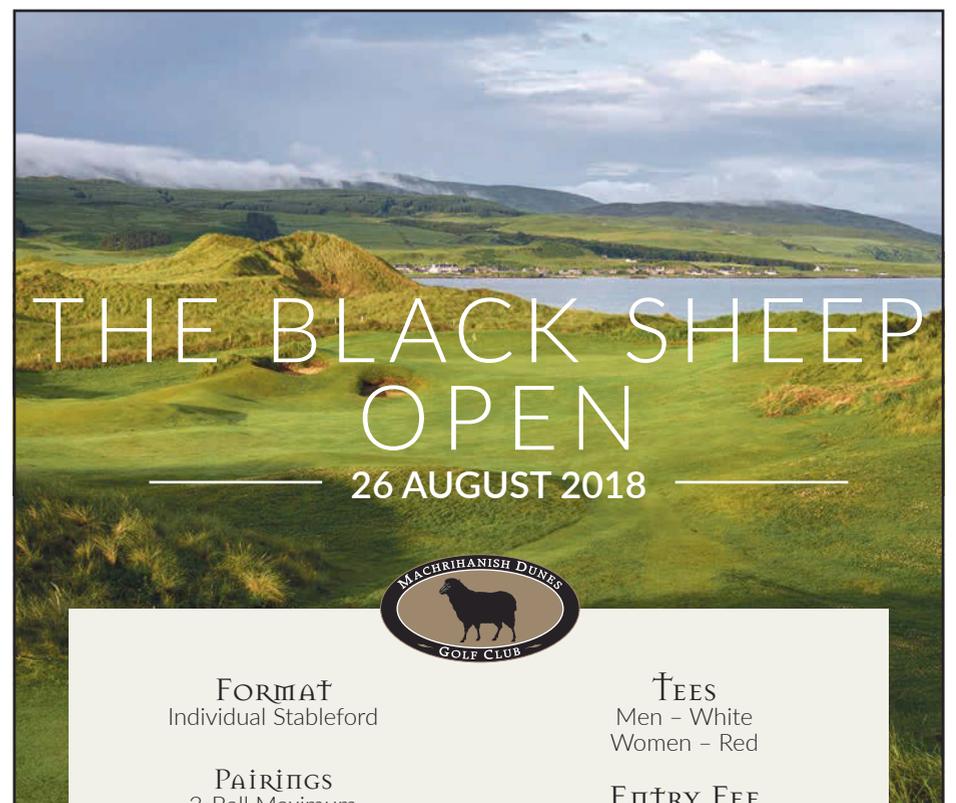
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malt OF THE month

Cask 88 bottling first of Scottish 'folklore' series

A 45-year-old bottling of Ben Nevis became the first of a Scottish folklore-themed series of single malts launched by whisky company Cask 88.

The 1972 whisky is named Cù-Sith (pronounced Coo Shee), after a 'terrifying' large hound which glowed 'an unearthly green', and stalked misty glens at night preying upon weary and lost travellers.

'The peaks of Scotland's tallest mountain loom large over the Ben Nevis distillery where many may have fallen victim to the Cù-Sith's fearful bray,' Cask 88 said. 'How many people have heard that howl and locked themselves away, reaching for a stiff drink to steady their nerves?'

'After distillation in 1972, this whisky spent 45 years maturing in a sherry hogshead before being bottled in 2017. The dark and dried fruit character develops with notes of dark chocolate journeying into a mixture of tobacco leaves, dried herbs and a subtle oakiness.' However, only 228 bottles of Cù-Sith (43.2 per cent ABV) are available at £650 each.

The Isle of Jura Distillery

has launched an 18-year-old single malt, at a cask strength of 52.5 per cent ABV. Jura One For You is the final instalment of a three-part series celebrating Jura's community, and the islanders - known as 'Diurachs' - living all over the world. The three-whisky collection began in 2016 with One For The Road, and continued last year with Jura One And All.

The malt is matured in ex-bourbon barrels and virgin American oak quarter casks, which the distillery said added 'extra character'.

'With flavours of honey, vanilla, almond and white chocolate, it is the perfect whisky to toast those who embrace the Jura spirit worldwide,' said Graham Logan, Jura Distillery manager.

Meanwhile, independent bottler Douglas Laing has un-

veiled a Jura 12-year-old single cask as the next bottling in its Coastal Collection. The single cask whisky has been matured in a refill oloroso sherry butt and bottled at a strength of 48 per cent ABV, and only 383 bottles will be available to purchase globally for a price of £44.99. The Coastal Collection also contains a Bunnahabhain 12-year-old single cask whisky, along with two as-yet-unannounced bottlings due later this year.

The Lakes distillery near Bassenhwaite Lake in the Lake District, around 35 miles from the English-Scottish border, has created the 'world's first' Scotch-English hybrid whisky. Steel Bonnets, named after the Border reivers who raided with neither, is a blend of the Cumbrian distillery's single

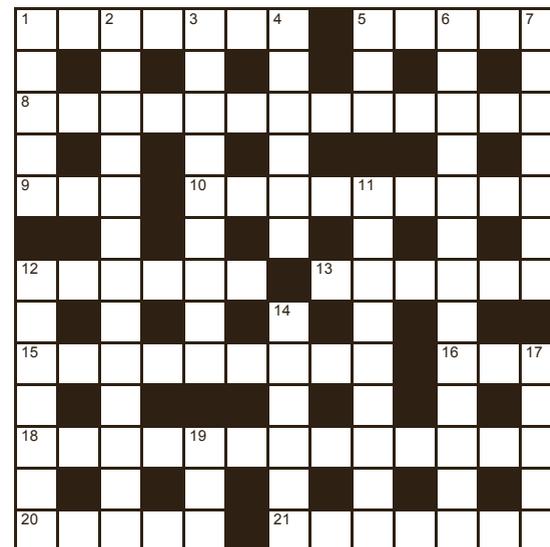
malt, along with 'some of the most respected malts from Scotland' matured in Sherry and Bourbon casks.

Bottled at 46.6 per cent ABV, the hybrid malt is said to have a 'creamy, slightly nutty and full-bodied flavour' with 'a sweet layer of woodsmoke', according to the distillery's chief whisky maker Dhavall Gandhi.

Construction of the Isle of Arran Distillers' second distillery on the south of the island is on track to be completed and open by spring 2019. Lagg Distillery is next to barley fields that provide a portion of the malt used in distillation at Lochranza. When fully operational, it will increase Isle of Arran's production capacity to two million litres, and, it is hoped, attract 200,000 visitors by 2020.



Crossword



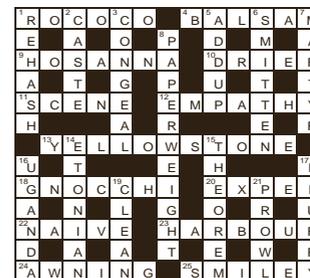
Across

- 1 Hemp fabric (7)
- 5 Profundity (5)
- 8 A period of the French revolution (5,2,6)
- 9 Spun home (3)
- 10 Steady increase in force (9)
- 12 Defeatist's word (6)
- 13 Trite expression (6)
- 15 Incapable of being melted (9)
- 16 Unruly crowd (3)
- 18 A noncommissioned officer in the US air force (5,8)
- 20 Wanting (5)
- 21 Colour by twisting (3-4)

Down

- 1 Sprinkle (5)
- 2 Child's play item (8,5)
- 3 Harmless (9)
- 4 Foreman (6)
- 5 Rightful (3)
- 6 A business that owns controlling interest in another (6,7)
- 7 Chemical substance we produce (7)
- 11 Workmate (9)
- 12 Pontoon (7)
- 14 Item (6)
- 17 Restrained (5)
- 19 Whimsical (3)

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Sherlock Gnomes (U) 86 mins
12/07 at 5.30pm, 14/07 at 2pm, 16/07 at 5.30pm

Eddie (12A) 101 mins
Sheila Hancock stars in an inspirational drama shot in the north west Highlands. 12/07 at 8.30pm, 13/07 at 8.30pm, 15/07 at 2pm, 16/07 at 8.30pm

Avengers: Infinity War (12A) 149 mins
Marvel mayhem. 13/07 at 8pm

Love, Simon (12A) 109 mins
Charming teen drama about a young man coming to terms with the fact that he is gay. "Funny, sentimental and smart" Empire 14/07 at 5.30pm

The Breadwinner (12A) 94 mins
Magical story about a brave girl whose father has been imprisoned by the Taliban. "terrific movie" Mark Kermode Observer **** 15/07 at 5.30pm

A Quiet Place (15) 90mins
Innovative thriller. "Completely unnerving" Radio Times 15/07 at 8.30pm

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Housing associations and councils key to tackling chronic shortage of affordable homes

A new Solving the Housing Crisis? programme examines the contribution social housing makes to our society and what the government can do to support people in need of a home.

Terrie Alafat CBE, chief executive of the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH), said: 'Can we really call ourselves a civilised society if we are not providing affordable homes for people who need them?'

Interviewed exclusively for Solving the Housing Crisis?, a news and current affairs-style programme created by the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) and ITN Productions, Terrie Alafat also championed the work of local authorities and

housing associations. She said: 'Housing associations play a huge role in delivering other priorities that this country has, in terms of improving health, in term of economic recovery, in terms of helping people get into jobs, there is a whole range of other things that they do.'

'It is not just housing associations, it is local authorities as well and we have been pushing government for quite a long time to enable local authorities to begin to build houses again in the way they did back in the 1960s and 1970s.'

The launch of the programme coincides with Housing 2018, CIH's annual conference in Manchester, where speakers including housing

minister Dominic Raab MP are due to address hundreds of housing professionals.

From the Grenfell tragedy to the benefits cap, from social housing shortages to Generation Rent, housing issues are affecting all of us.

In a three-part programme, Solving the Housing Crisis? meets those trying to make a positive difference, building affordable homes and cultivating and nurturing communities in their bid to house a population that is finding it increasingly hard to find somewhere they can call home.

Drawing upon ITN's 60-year heritage and expertise in storytelling, presented by national newsreader Natasha

Kaplinsky, the news-style programme combines interviews, case studies and sponsored stories from B3 Living, Bolton at Home, BPHA, Broadland Housing Association, Housing Solutions Group, Hyde Housing Association, Longhurst Group, Magenta Housing, Moat Homes, Ongo Homes, Onward Homes, Places for People, RHP Group, Rosebery Housing Association, Settle, Silva Homes, Soha Housing, Southern Housing, Stafford and Rural Housing, Stonewater, Swan Housing Group, Trent and Dove Housing, United Welsh, WHG Housing Association, WM Housing and Wythenshawe Community Housing.

It also features the work

of Crisis, the Housing Plus Academy and South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Terrie Alafat said: 'The housing crisis is affecting people all over the UK, from young people unable to get their foot on the housing ladder to families putting up with poor conditions in the private rented sector, people stuck on the waiting list for social housing and homeless people trapped in poor quality B&Bs.'

'We simply cannot go on with the system we have or the implications for future generations will be every bit as significant as the impact of Brexit.'

'We're delighted to have worked with ITN Productions on this project which explores

the challenges, highlights potential solutions and showcases the vital work that housing professionals are doing.'

Simon Shelley, head of industry news with ITN Productions, said: 'ITN Productions has been delighted to partner with the Chartered Institute of Housing to create Solving the Housing Crisis?.'

'We hope this programme will help to inform and enlighten viewers of the importance of our housing sector and what more needs to be done to support people getting a home.'

'We are extremely pleased with how this programme brings to life the initiatives and people who are devoted to driving positive change.'

CIH calls on government to suspend right to buy as new figures reveal sales continue to outstrip replacements

Figures released today by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have revealed that 11,465 homes were sold by councils under the right to buy scheme in 2017/18, while only 4,944 were started or acquired to replace them using the receipts.

Since right to buy discounts were increased in April 2012 66,647 homes have been sold, while 17,911 have been started or acquired to replace them

Chartered Institute of

Housing chief executive Terrie Alafat CBE said: 'It cannot be right that not only are we not building enough homes for social rent, we are losing them at a time when we need them more than ever. Our analysis shows that we have lost more than 150,000 social rented homes between 2012 and 2017 due to right to buy and other factors, and that figure will reach 230,000 by 2020 unless we take action now.'

'We support the principle of helping tenants move

into home ownership but it cannot be at the expense of other people in need. We need to look at fairer ways to help tenants into home ownership, because this is clearly not the way to do it.'

'We are calling on the government to suspend the right to buy to stem the loss of social rented homes, remove the barriers stopping councils from replacing homes sold under the scheme and look at more effective ways to help people access home ownership.'

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FARMING

Around the markets

Caledonian Marts Ltd on Thursday June 28 sold 151 cattle comprising 86 prime bullocks and heifers to include 6 young bulls, and 65 cast cows and bulls.

A good show for quality would meet a similar trade to last week.

Prime bullocks averaged 226p (to include 14 over 700kg)

Prime heifers averaged 232p

Beef cows averaged 147p

Dairy cows averaged 110p

Heifers were topped at 268p for a Limousin from A S Hay, Mains of Culmalundie, Tibbermore purchased by Hugh A Black and Sons, Stirling and to £1650 from the same farm.

Bullocks sold to 250p for a Limousin from A A and J Brand, Nether Myres, Auchtermuchty again to Hugh A Black and Sons and to £1710 for a Charolais from H Gordon, Clochnahill, Stonehaven.

Heifers per kilo: 260p Nether Myres 255p (Twice) Learielaw and Moorfield 252p Faskine 248p Moorfield and Nether Myres 238p and 235p Moorfield and Bankhead (Kerr)

Bullocks per kilo: 245p Faskine and Learielaw 240p Bankhead (Kerr), West Woodlane, Faskine, Learielaw and Moorfield 238p Meadowend, West Woodlane, Moorfield and Bankhead

Bullocks per head: £1710, £1684, £1668, £1640 and £1637 Clochnahill £1610 Nether Myres Heifers per head: £1650 Mains of Culmalundie £1577 Nether Myres £1575 Learielaw and Nether Myres £1500 Auchmuir

Also forward were 65 OTMs, cast cows and bulls. All classes remained a firm trade and proved short of buyers requirements.

Beef cows sold to £1450 for a Limousin from N Kerr, Bankhead, Aberdour and to 186ppkg also for a Limousin from T H Gray, Balquharrage, Lennoxtown to average 147ppkg.

Dairy cows sold to £820 from T Greer and Sons, Wharlawhill, Fossoway and to 134ppkg for the same animal to average 110p.

Cast bulls sold to £1460 for a Shorthorn from J Wood, Brewsterwells, St Andrews and 134ppkg for the same animal.

Other leading prices: Beef cows per head: £1440 Lochfield £1380 Ballater Drive £1380 Balquharrage £1350 Balquharrage and Easterton (Owen) £1130 Belltrees

Beef cows per kilo: 179p Lochfield 178p Ballater Drive 176p Lochfield 175p Bankhead 171p Easterton (Owen) 169p Gartenkeir 168p Balquharrage

Dairy cows per head: £790 High Belltrees £770 Easter Clune £710 and £690 Baillieston

Dairy cows per kilo: 120p High Belltrees 119p Easter Clune 109p High Belltrees 108p Baillieston

United Auctions on Thursday June 28 sold 1631 prime sheep comprising of 766 new season lambs selling to an average of 216.97p & 260 old season lambs with an average of 152.06p & 605 ewes and rams.

New season lambs (766) – Townhead of Arngibbon (Suff) £130; Townhead of Arngibbon (Tex) £130; Easter Ochtermuthill (Bel) £115;

Easter Craigduckie (Cha) £113; Kirkton (Berr) £108; Stacks (Mule) £90; Lathockar (Hamp) £85; Baldersbury (X) £85; Lilyburn (BFL) £80; Greystone (Zwa) £77; Baldersbury (Dor) £72; Broachrig (Che) £69.

New season lambs (766) – Easter Ochtermuthill (Bel) 264.0p; Nethermill (Tex) 258.0p; Easter Craigduckie (Suf) 238.0p; Easter Craigduckie (Cha) 235.0p; Stacks (Mule) 211.0p; Kirkton (Berr) 204.0p; Lathockar (Hamp) 202.0p; Baldersbury (X) 202.0p; Baldersbury (Dor) 171.0p; Broachrig (Che) 164.0p; Bent (Zwa) 163.0p; Lilyburn (BFL) 154.0p.

Ewes (605) Nethermill (Tex) £150; Penston (Suff) £134; Lilyburn (BFL) £110; Nisbet (Mule) £104; Kipperoch (BF) £67.

Rams – Broachrig (Tex) £122; Skelmorlie Mains (BF) £90

United Auctions on Wednesday June 27 sold 347 store cattle and young bulls, also 103 cast cows and forward cattle.

Bullocks (173) – averaged 222.74p to 282.30p per kg for a 248kg LimX from Stralochy and £1360 for a 640kg HEX from Benston.

B&W Bullocks (22) – averaged 161.03p to 199.30p per kg for a 562kg BFX from Benston and £1120 for a 562kg BFX from Benston.

Heifers (140) – averaged 214.77p to 258.60p per kg for a 263kg LimX from Gateside and £1260 for a 580kg LimX from Crookedstonemuir.

Young bulls (12) – averaged 190.58p to 221.20p per kg for a SimX from Innerwick and £1230 for a SimX from Innerwick.

Beef Cows (83) averaged 148.52p to 195.40p per kg for a LimX from Stralochy and £1450 for an LimX from Easter Greenhill.

Dairy cows (19) averaged 110.12p to 143.50p per kg for a HFX from Glenrig and £1050 for a HFX from Meikle Camoquhill.

Bullocks: 0-250kgs – Stralochy £700, 282.3p; 251-300kgs – Gateside £790, 268.2p; 301-350kgs – Stralochy £800, 259.0p; 351-400kgs – Gateside £900, 240.0p; 401-450kgs – Meikle Camoquhill £1070, Whitehill 242.5p; 451-500kgs – Deerpark £1210, 250.5p; 501-551kgs – Deerpark £1195, 232.5p; 552-601kgs – Innerwick £1300, 223.0p; 602-651kgs – Benston £1360, 212.5p.

Heifers: 0-250kgs – Upper Ettrick £510, 220.8p; 251-300kgs – Gateside £730, 258.6p; 301-350kgs – Whitehill £800, 228.6p; 351-400kgs – Croft of Cullaltonie £890, Little Pinkerton 228.5p; 401-450kgs – Garvald £1060, Little Pinkerton 239.2p; 451-500kgs – Garvald £1140, 237.0p; 501-551kgs – Crookedstonemuir £1150, 223.3p; 552-601kgs – Crookedstonemuir £1260, 217.2p.

Young bulls: 351-400kgs – Easter Greenhill £920, 197.3p; 401-450kgs – Easter Greenhill £920, 215.5p; 451-500kgs – Easter Greenhill £970, 211.8p; 501-551kgs – Innerwick £1130, 219.0p; 552-601kgs – Innerwick £1230, 221.2p.

OTM cows: £ per head – Easter Greenhill (Lim) £1450, Woodmill (AA) £1410, Easter Greenhill (BRB) £1390, Woodmill (Sim) £1330, Kirkton of Lundie (Sal) £1270, Boughtknowes (CH) £1250, Easter Greenhill (Cont) £1250, Kinraigie (SH) £1130, Kirkton of Lundie (BS) £1130, Meikle Camoquhill (HF) £1050.

NFUS gets tough on livestock attacks

With livestock worrying continuing to blight Scottish farms and crofts, NFU Scotland is pursuing legislative changes and seeking tougher sanctions.

Last month, NFUS wrote to the Scottish Government with five key asks designed to tackle ongoing livestock worrying. South Scotland SNP MSP Emma Harper has recently announced she will bring forward a proposal for a Private Member's Bill.

This spring saw repeated incidents where irresponsible dog owners allowed livestock to be killed or maimed. NFU Mutual recently revealed that the cost of claims related to livestock worrying has reached a record level of £1.6 million across the UK. The cost of dog attacks reported to NFU Mutual in Scotland has quadrupled in the past two years to more than £50,000.

Alongside its lobbying activity, NFU Scotland has been supporting The Scottish Farmer's Take a Lead campaign on livestock worrying and at the

union's stand at the Royal Highland Show, editor Ken Fletcher presented to Ms Harper a petition signed by 4,000 people calling for legislative changes in this area. In addition to the petition, 120 people completed a questionnaire which revealed that only 47 per cent reported of livestock worrying incidents were being reported to police, with 53 per cent stating there was a financial loss that was not claimed for.

NFU Scotland has mapped out five areas it believes merit inclusion in any new legislative framework or guidance:

- Livestock worrying becomes a recordable crime to allow for accurate measurement and monitoring of the issue and identification of repeat offenders.

- An update of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code is needed to provide clearer guidance on accessing the countryside with dogs. NFUS believes that guidance should state that all dogs (except for working dogs) must be on a lead around sheep. This will send a strong message

to both those taking access to the countryside and those who allow their dogs to stray.

- Police Scotland should be provided with powers to issue Dog Control Notices. Currently, only local authority dog wardens have the power to issue Dog Control Notices. This will increase the use of this as a useful interim step.

- Police Scotland should have powers to obtain evidence, seize dogs and have dogs destroyed. These powers will assist in investigations and will prevent dogs from remaining in the custody of irresponsible owners – which experience has shown often results in a repeat offence.

- Fines levied on offenders must be proportionate and full compensation should be provided for. NFUS considers that sanctions should include powers to disqualify offenders from dog ownership. This will act as a deterrent to dog owners and will also ensure that farmers can redress any resulting cost to their livelihood.

Alan leads the way

Lochgilthead High School pupil Alan Cameron from Inveraray proudly leads a three-year-old heifer in the grand parade at the Royal Highland Show. Alan, aged 15 and in fourth year, attended the show as part of the Loch Awe-based Cladich Fold team, which came away with several prize rosettes. Bron Campbell, of the Cladich Fold, said: 'Alan was instrumental in our success. He did an amazing job.'



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Farmers warned over holiday safety as schools break up for the summer

As the Scottish schools have broken up for the summer, NFU Scotland is reminding farmers and crofters of the dangers when allowing children onto and around farmland.

The warning comes ahead of Farm Safety Week, which takes place from July 16 to 20, when farmers, crofters, their families and their staff will be urged to improve the farm safety figures in Scotland.

The NFUS, working in conjunction with Farm Safety Partnership Scotland, will be issuing case studies throughout Farm Safety Week of farmers in industry as well as agricultural based organisations who specialise in specific areas of farm safety, highlighting different incidence of good and bad practice.

Farm Safety Week will focus on the strapline: Your Health. Your Safety. Your Choice.

An accident on farm can be life-changing, both for those involved and their families. It is even more devastating when it involves children, which is why the union is urging farmers and crofters this summer to be extra vigilant and take every precaution to make their farms and crofts safer for children.

With the tragic death of several children on Scotland's farms in recent years, the industry needs to take action to stop further deaths and injury.

Farm Safety Partnership Scotland – a collaboration between NFU Scotland, Health and Safety Executive, Scottish Government and NFU Mutual – is working to significantly reduce the tragic toll on Scotland's farms and crofts each year.



NFUS president Andrew McCornick.

- Top tips for working safely with children on farms and crofts:
- A farmyard is not a playground so establish rules about what young people can and cannot do on the farm.
- Keep children away from farm machinery and moving vehicles.
- Children under 13 years old must not drive or operate tractors or other farm machinery.
- Children under 13 years old must not ride as passengers on tractors, ATVs or other farm machinery.
- Ensure drivers have a clear view of corners and install mirrors to increase visibility if necessary.
- Ensure slurry pits and tanks are securely fenced and inaccessible.

During Farm Safety week, the initiative will use case studies to highlight the following dangers: livestock – Ian Pirie of Maud; quad bike/machinery – Jimmy and Carol-Anne Warnock of Lanark; overhead powerlines – Peter

Brown of Fife; children – Carole Brunton, RHET; mental health/wellbeing – Mags Granger, RSABI.

NFUS president Andrew McCornick said: 'Any death or injury on a farm is one too many, especially when it involves a child. We need to work together, as an industry, to make sure that we are constantly improving the safety on farms.'

'It is so important that farmers and crofters are constantly looking at their farms and crofts and thinking about how they improve the safety, for themselves, their families, their workforce and any possible visitors.'

'As someone who raised children on a farm, I can say from experience that I believe there is no better place to have a childhood, which is why we need to ensure that these environments are as safe as they possibly can be. During the school holidays, I urge farmers and crofters to be vigilant of children playing on their farms and to amend any safety issues which may need addressed.'

'Most people working within the agricultural industry will be able to recall a close call that could so easily have resulted in serious injury or even fatality. By adopting some simple steps as part of everyday working practices, we can reduce the number of accidents and deaths on Scotland's farms.'

'We are grateful to those who have given the time to tell their stories in the hope that others will learn from their mistakes. It's all too easy to cut corners to save time, but this can have serious, and sometimes fatal, consequences. Please take care and make your safety, and that of those around you a priority.'

SCF comments on Scottish Government strategy document

The Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) has provisionally commented on the consultation document Stability and Simplicity released by the Scottish Government.

'This document lays out the broader issues facing agricultural support,' said Russell Smith, chairman of the SCF, 'and possible routes forward. It is good to see an emerging strategy but it is, of course, only in its infancy – the consultation document makes this clear.'

'Clear principles such as maintaining environmental standards are welcomed, as are the suggested possibilities of innovation, such as simplifying the application process for those whose circumstances stay largely unchanged year on year.'

'Capping the Basic Payment Scheme in order to release funds is an innovative approach to the responsible use of public money.'

Mr Smith added: 'As the consultation states, "A more progressive capping policy could be a first step to a future agricultural policy which widens the benefits/range of recipients, and supports new entrants and small businesses", outcomes that would benefit Scotland as a whole.'

'The document publishes

modelling which shows the savings that can be made by capping, relating this to how many people it would affect. For example, capping payments at £50,000 would release £60 million for wider benefits, yet only caps payments to 10 per cent of recipients.

'Not to introduce Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC) is a missed opportunity, an opportunity to move meaningful support to where it was intended.'

'The prospect of the Less Favoured Area Support Scheme being reduced to only 20 per cent is completely unacceptable. We would therefore need to see more detail on how the Scottish Government intends to make up the shortfall and to reorganise the scheme more along the lines of ANC.'

'There are other areas in the consultation we will be commenting on, such as mapping of eligible areas, duplicating inspections and over-severe penalties, which cause problems for our members.'

'Without adequate support, we will lose the benefits that crofting brings in terms of retaining population in rural areas, providing secure, high quality food, and maintaining the landscape and bio-diversity. SCF will be putting forward proposals on behalf of crofters.'



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A practical event exploring the benefits of woodland creation and management, as well as funding opportunities. Also includes discussion on riparian and shelter belt planting, agroforestry and managing existing woodland.

Come along to discover what trees can do for your business.

Speakers include Iona Hyde, Woodland Trust Scotland, Ian Collier, Forestry Commission Scotland and Michael Foxley, Achaphubuil Croft.

Free to farmers, crofters, foresters and land managers to attend.

The Camusnagaul Ferry (£3.60 return) will take you over as required, then it's a short walk to Treslaig village hall where the event will start.

Free of charge to farmers, crofters and land managers. Lunch will be provided. Booking is required.

Call Lyn on 07899 791 748 or email lwhite@soilassociation.org
Charity registered in Scotland no SC039168



Campbeltown Soil and Nutrient Network Meeting



National Advice Hub
T: 0300 323 0161
E: advice@fas.scot
W: www.fas.scot

Date Thursday 12th July 2018
Time 11.00am to 3.00pm
Venue Dunadd Farm, Kilmichael Glassary, Argyll PA31 8QE

The first of our Soil Management and Nutrient Network Farm Meetings at Dunadd, courtesy of C R Foster.

We will be examining drainage in relation to grass growth, the importance of correct pH status in your soil, reseeded, leatherjackets and rush control.

Speakers:

- Seamus Donnelly
- Davy McCracken

Please bring boots and waterproof clothing

Booking is essential for catering purposes. To book a place please visit www.fas.scot or call 01586 552502.



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SUBARU LEVORG 1.6 GT

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excl. mirrors.....	L x W x H: 4,690 x 1,780 x 1,490 mm
incl. mirrors.....	L x W x H: 4,690 x 1,987 x 1,490 mm
ENGINE.....	
	Horizontally-opposed, 4-cylinder, turbocharged DOHC
CAPACITY.....	
	1,600 cc
MAX OUTPUT.....	
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MAX TORQUE.....	
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TRANSMISSION.....	
	Lineartonic, AWD



01 POP-UP TYPE HEADLIGHT WASHERS

Pop-up washers use a high-pressure spray to help keep the available LED headlights at their peak performance in poor weather.

04 LED REAR COMBINATION LIGHT

The SUBARU Levorg maintains both style and visibility with LED rear combination lights featuring LED tail and stop lights, rear fog lights, turn lights and reverse lights.

07 TILT-ADJUSTABLE/TELESCOPIC STEERING WHEEL

The tilt-adjustable and telescopic steering wheel can accommodate a wide range of preferences.

10 REAR SEAT ARMREST WITH CUPHOLDER

Enjoy front-row comfort in the second row with the rear seat armrest, which folds down for extra comfort.

02 18" ALLOY WHEELS

18" aluminium-alloy wheels give the SUBARU Levorg even more style and enhanced performance through excellent grip.

05 KEYLESS ENTRY WITH PUSH-BUTTON START SYSTEM

With the key fob in your possession, you can unlock the front doors or boot by just gripping the handle and starting the engine with a push of a button.

08 HEATED FRONT SEATS

For extra-cold days, the SUBARU Levorg features adjustable heated seats for both the driver and front passenger.

11 REVERSING CAMERA

When you engage reverse, the reversing camera displays a live colour image along with guidelines to assist in parking manoeuvres.

03 DUAL EXHAUST PIPES

Dual exhaust pipes located underneath the rear bumper leave the SUBARU Levorg's sporty nature in no doubt.

06 HIGH BEAM ASSIST (HBA)

High Beam Assist increases visibility and safety when driving at night by toggling the SUBARU Levorg's high beams on and off automatically, depending on driving conditions.

09 USB PORTS (FRONT AND REAR)

Keep all your electronic devices fully charged with easily accessed USB power ports for both front and rear passengers.

GEM MARKS NHS 70TH BIRTHDAY WITH A REMINDER TO BE 'BLUE LIGHT AWARE'

AS THE National Health Service marks its 70th anniversary, breakdown and road safety organisation GEM Motoring Assist is encouraging all road users to spare a few minutes to watch its Blue Light Aware video.

The video gives clear and simple advice on how to assist emergency ambulances and other blue light vehicles.

GEM road safety officer Neil Worth says: "Just about anyone who has had

experience of NHS emergency healthcare will want to salute the amazing levels of service provided by front-line ambulance staff, often in the most challenging conditions. As the NHS turns 70 this week, we urge all road users to watch our video and refresh their understanding of how to stay safe and legal if they need to make way for an emergency ambulance.

"We all acknowledge the want to help emergency service drivers, and most of the time it's just a simple case of pulling

over to let them past. But we sometimes experience difficulties because we don't know what's expected of us. There is the risk that we could be putting ourselves or others in danger – or on the wrong side of the law."

Blue Light Aware includes details of how drivers can help at junctions, on motorways and on stretches of road where overtaking is not permitted. It was produced in partnership with ambulance services across the UK, as well as other

emergency service organisations. It is regularly reviewed by experts to ensure it still represents good practice.

Since its launch in 2011, the Blue Light Aware video has attracted more than 430,000 views on YouTube. In addition, most emergency service organisations have downloaded the video to use as part of their driver training programmes and at public events.

GEM aims to boost safety with its five simple tips for drivers:



- Stay safe and legal. No one expects you to put yourself at risk or break the law in an attempt to help an emergency vehicle.
- Remain calm and observant. The earlier you spot an emergency vehicle, the more time you have to plan.
- Don't make judgements on which emergency vehicles deserve your help and which ones don't.
- Aim for a consistently thoughtful and courteous attitude that puts safety first in every situation.
- If you slow down or stop, don't move off or accelerate until the emergency vehicle has passed completely.
- There may be more than one emergency vehicle coming, so listen for different sirens, and look all round before moving off.

TO WATCH THE VIDEO, OR TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT

WWW.BLUELIGHTAWARE.ORG.UK





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15	Isuzu D-MAX Utah 2.5TD	Black	36,682	£16,995+VAT
15	Isuzu D-MAX Utah 2.5TD	Grey	62,700	£14,995+VAT
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**AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES
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Electrical Shift Electrician - Glensanda Quarry

This is an exciting opportunity to join the leading global construction materials and solutions company - LafargeHolcim. You will work at Glensanda quarry on the west coast of Scotland. Not only is Glensanda a dynamic fast-paced environment that is operational 24 hours a day, it is also the largest granite quarry in Europe. You will join an enthusiastic team of Engineers who maintain and develop the electrical systems on site.

As a shift Electrician, you will be expected and encouraged to work to the very highest of safety standards. Performing planned and reactive maintenance will form a large part of your day-to-day duties. You will also be involved in small installation projects and carry out various other electrical duties as required. You will join the attractive shift rota that involves dayshift and nightshift working.

The ideal candidate will be a time served Electrician with BS7671 to the 17th Edition who is IT literate. It would be desirable if you have had previous experience of an industrial environment and equipment. Knowledge of control and automation would be beneficial; however, this is not essential, as first class training will be provided as part of your ongoing development program. A full UK driving licence is necessary for this position.

If successful in your application, you will enjoy a competitive salary and stakeholders pension package with employer's contribution. You will also enjoy the attractive shift rota and 33 days holiday per annum. A high standard of accommodation is available free of charge should you meet the criteria. Other benefits include an extensive employees UK wide discount scheme and childcare voucher scheme.

To apply for this position please email a copy of your CV and a covering letter to Alastair Anderson, Electrical Support Manager - quoting Ref: 008633

email: alastair.anderson@aggregate.com

Closing date 20/07/18



**AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES
UK LTD**

Fixed Plant Fitter - Glensanda Quarry

Permanent, Full Time

Use your maintenance skills to operate our Glensanda super quarry safely and efficiently.

Glensanda is the largest granite-producing quarry in Europe. It runs 24 hours a day, year-round, employs nearly 200 people and is unique in its physical characteristics.

Reporting through the management structure, as a Fixed Plant Fitter, you will assist with the inspection and maintenance of all fixed plant at Glensanda, carrying out preventative, corrective and breakdown maintenance work. Working safely at all times, you will ensure efficient production in support of customer demands.

Duties of the Fixed Plant Fitter will include/ requires knowledge of:

- Routine and preventative maintenance
- Maintenance inspections
- Experience of working at height & in confined spaces
- Time served as Mechanical craftsperson
- Possess and "ONC" qualification or equivalent
- Competent with fabrication/welding and hydraulics

We are looking for individuals with a positive and flexible attitude, open to new initiatives and business improvement activities, with the ability to work on their own or as part of a team. In addition, the ideal Fixed Plant Fitter will be:

- A reliable individual prepared to work flexible hours
- A person with maintenance experience of quarrying/mining background
- A positive attitude to Health and Safety

Aggregate Industries is a member of the LafargeHolcim Group and a leading supplier of traditional and sustainable construction materials to major building and construction customers. With over 4,000 employees and operations across the UK and Northern Europe, we're committed to helping create a better built environment.

This fixed plant fitter role is a superb career opportunity with a leading player in the construction sector. We believe in Equal Opportunities for all employees.

To apply for this position please email a copy of your CV and a covering letter to: Paul Kersley, Maintenance Manager, email: paul.kersley@aggregate.com

Closing date 20/07/18



AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES UK LTD

Relief Bargemaster & Marine Operative

This is an opportunity to join the marine department at Glensanda quarry which is the largest granite quarry in Europe. Glensanda is a part of Aggregate Industries UK LTD who are a leading player in the manufacture and supply of construction and building materials in the UK.

Both roles are on a casual as and when required basis and attract a competitive basic hourly rate plus holiday pay, with enhanced rates being paid depending on qualifications and role performed. They also give an opportunity to become part of our ship berthing team, this pays a very competitive fixed rate per ship berthing.

Relief Bargemaster: To provide relief cover on the company's 34 metre supply barge and assist with crewing or skippering our passenger vessels. Ideally candidates will possess a Master 500t CoC but consideration will be given to candidates with Boatmaster Tier1 Level 2 certificates.

Marine Operatives: To provide relief cover to the crew on our passenger vessels and supply barge. Ideally candidates will have previous marine experience and will have STCW basic safety training.

All positions will require candidates to possess an ENG1 medical or be able to pass one.

To apply for either position please email a copy of your CV with a covering letter to Gregor Hutchison Marine Operations Manager email: gregor.hutchison@aggregate.com



Oban Centre Manager – Full Time

Salary £25,422

Are you self-motivated, highly-organised, and a team leader?

We are seeking an experienced, reliable and flexible person to manage our largest learning centre, and oversee the activity in our Tobermory Facility.

You will be responsible for managing administrative staff, assisting students in pastoral and academic matters, marketing centre activity and creating community links. You will also be responsible for the management of the buildings.

This is a permanent post which requires a flexible approach to working hours. You will receive excellent benefits including access to company pension, credit union and 44 days annual leave.

CLOSING DATE: Friday 13th July

Part-time Tutors in the following disciplines, all based in Oban.

See our website for details on the following vacancies. www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk/staff/vacancies/

£30.21 per hour.

HNC Applied Sciences (Chemistry and Physics)

Sound Production and Music Tutor

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Closing date 13th July 2018

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Lorn & Oban Healthy Options Ltd

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Location: Oban, with an element of travelling
Hours: Full Time (37.5 hours/week)
Duration: Initial 3-year contract with an expectation to extending
Salary: £28,000 - £33,000 depending on experience

Closing date 27th July 2018

We are an innovative and dynamic community health social enterprise. We are creating a new post and wish to appoint a talented and experienced Development Manager to lead, direct and manage service and business operations across the organisation.

The post holder will

- develop and grow existing services
- lead, direct and manage service and business operations
- be an advocate for creating health in our communities
- will support innovation and enterprise to address health and wellbeing needs
- work closely with health professionals, third and public sector organisations
- have business and financial acumen

Established in 2011, this is an exciting, and humbling, time for Healthy Options as we reflect on how our clients have changed their lives through engaging with Healthy Options. The future offers many opportunities to develop this work. We are looking for the correct person with a passion for community health to lead us in this journey.

If you would like to join us and have the right attitude and approach we are looking for, we would like to hear from you. A full job description is available at www.lornhealthyoptions.co.uk

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lochgilhead.surgery@nhs.net
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01546 462002

Closing Date for Applications: 31st July 2018

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Closing date for applications: 16 July 2018.

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A little time to spare for cats?

Ardnamurchan & Mull and Fort William branches are recruiting volunteers now

Cats Protection branches in your local area are currently looking for new volunteers to help out in a variety of roles.

If you are patient, well-organised and decisive, maybe you might like to join one of our committees and help to manage the day-to-day running of the branch.

Perhaps a more "hands on" cat role might be preferable, in which case you may be interested in becoming a fosterer, looking after cats until they find a new home.

Are you IT literate and well-organised? Then you may enjoy volunteering as an administrative volunteer to assist with data management.

If you are enthusiastic, organised and good with people, then you could join us as a fundraiser to raise money which will help local cats.

For further information please contact:

T: 080 800 19 19 19

E: BSUSNE@CATS.ORG.UK

W: www.cats.org.uk

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The Mellex Group Limited

Are looking for candidates who have a strong commitment to deliver good customer service, and to be able to work as a part of a team and also on own initiative at our West Coast Tool & Plant Hire Depots in Oban and Ardrishaig. Both positions are full time.

Small Plant and Ground Care Equipment Mechanic

Based at our Oban Depot, the main responsibilities and duties will involve:

- Applicant must be able to demonstrate relevant qualifications
- Looking after dumpers, rollers, excavators, ride-on mowers, generators and small plant including a wide range of garden equipment
- Maintenance, servicing and carrying out repairs to all of the above
- Electrical experience preferable, but not essential
- Full driving licence required as will also be required to deliver plant and machinery to sites (must be able to tow a trailer)
- Computer literate to enable parts etc. to be sourced and ordered
- Must be organised with the ability to multi-task
- Hours - 7:30 to 17:30 hours, Monday to Friday, with additional hours optional to satisfy the needs of the business
- Salary dependent on experience

Retail and Plant Hire Assistant

Based at our Ardrishaig Depot on the Hire Desk, the main responsibilities and duties will involve:

- Knowledge of tool and plant preferable
- Computer literate, but training will be given on bespoke 'IT Hire System'
- Counter sales and service - chainsaws, strimmers, safety equipment for same and garden tools etc.
- Good telephone manner and the ability to deal with customers on the phone or face to face in a polite and professional manner
- Ability to build lasting relationships with repeat customers and to successfully convert hire enquiries in to hire contracts
- Good communication skills with fellow colleagues in our various work disciplines, including drivers, machine operators and our other depots with regards to hires and sales
- Organising on and off hires, including co-ordinating delivery and collections
- Keeping track of stock and ordering when necessary
- Ensure the highest level of 'good housekeeping', with accurate record keeping and other administration duties in connection with the Hire Desk
- Full driving licence preferable
- Hours - 7:30 to 17:30 hours, Monday to Friday, with additional hours optional to satisfy the needs of the business
- Salary dependent on experience

Please apply in writing to - Fay Harris, The Mellex Group Ltd., Glenburn Road, Ardrishaig, Argyll, PA30 8EU. Or by e-mail to - fay@mellex.co.uk. Please provide information on previous experience and supply a CV. Closing date for both positions is Monday 16th July 2018.



SHELTERED HOUSING MANAGER (REF NO 051)

Walter Cameron Way, Corpach
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Hanover Scotland Housing Association is now recruiting for the right person to manage its sheltered housing development at Walter Cameron Way, Corpach.

You will be a calm and highly efficient multitasker, but excellent customer service will be your top priority. The postholder will have a range of responsibilities – including engaging with our customers, giving them advice and information around their tenancy and making sure they receive the right help from external agencies.

Naturally, empathy with the needs of older people and excellent communication and organisation skills are a must. You will be dealing with a wide range of people; from residents and their families to contractors, local community groups and other agencies - and for many, you will be the face of Hanover.

You will be a capable administrator with good IT skills and will ideally hold an SVQ level 2 in Health and Social Care, or equivalent qualification, or be prepared to achieve this through training. This will enable you to meet the requirements of the SSSC. Registration opened on 2 October 2017.

This post requires PVG Scheme membership (adults).

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Please visit www.hanover.scot/work-with-us/ or call 0131 557 7406 to find out more. Remember to quote reference number 051 in all correspondence. CVs will not be considered.

Closing date: Noon on Thursday, 26th July 2018.
Interview date: Monday, 13th and Tuesday, 14th August 2018.

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PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
18/01369/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 15/02333/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse)	Land North Of Lynwood Longdale Road, Oban Argyll And Bute
18/01345/CONAC	Complete demolition of shop and residential unit	Iona Scottish Crafts Isle Of Iona Argyll And Bute PA76 6SJ
18/01387/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land South Of The Coalree Kenovay, Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute
18/01284/PP	Formation of footpath and ancillary works	Land Between Port Bhan War Memorial And Port Charlotte, Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



Proposed Division of a Croft by Owner-occupier Crofters

Mr Ewen & Mrs Lorraine MacPherson are applying to divide their owner-occupied croft at Glenegedale Moor, Kildalton, Islay, Argyll into two new crofts.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to:

Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@croftingscotland.gov.uk by 2nd August 2018.

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The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

**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 Council Service Point.

You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
18/02661/FUL	Quality Cottage West Arisaig		Siting of 3 shepherd huts for holiday letting purposes
18/02120/FUL	SW Site Near Ballachulish Tourist Information Centre	Land Off Park Road Ballachulish	Erection of 12m high streetworks pole, antenna and associated works
18/02906/PIP	Land 245M SW Of West Lodge, Roshven, Glenuig		Erection of house

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017**

The Council has received the following applications from Dickins Hydro Resources Ltd. The applications are developments falling within the Regulations as Environmental Impact Assessment development and accordingly are supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Reference	Description	Location
18/02738/FUL	Installation of run-of-river hydropower system, associated plant, buildings and access roads	Glen Etive Estate, Glen Etive Ballachulish
18/02739/FUL	Installation of a 810kW run of river hydro power scheme and ancillary works	Land 155M South Of Glen Ceitlein Glenetive, Ballachulish
18/02740/FUL	Installation of run-of-river hydropower scheme, abstract water from the Allt Fhaolain burn and pipe to a turbine, estimated turbine will be sized up to 586kW generating an average of 1.64GWhr of energy each year	Glen Etive Estate, Glen Etive Ballachulish
18/02741/FUL	Installation of 1,540 kw hydro-electric scheme, including two intake structures, buried pipeline, powerhouse building, outfall, bridges, formation of borrow pits and access tracks	Allt Mheuran, Glen Etive Estate, Glen Etive Ballachulish
18/02742/FUL	Construction of run-of-river hydropower scheme including intake structure, penstock pipe and associated buildings, plant and access	Dalness Estate, Glen Etive, Ballachulish

The applications and the accompanying Environmental Impact Assessment Reports are available for public inspection between the hours of 9.30 am to 12.30pm and 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday at the following location:

Service Point, Charles Kennedy Building, Achintore Road, Fort William, PH33 6RQ

They can also be accessed online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> (search using the application numbers above).

Printed copies of the complete individual Environmental Impact Assessment Reports can be purchased from Dickins Hydro Resources Ltd, per Mr William Dickins, Chester House, 81-83 Fulham High Street, London, SW6 3JA; e-mail william@dickinshydro.com: tel: 0203 286 2203; at a cost of £500.00 each for paper copies and £50 each for electronic.

Any person who wishes to make a representation on the applications and Environmental Impact Assessment Reports can make them online by visiting <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> or by writing to The Head of Planning and Building Standards, ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. The deadline for receipt of comments is 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The Council will acknowledge receipt of comments but is unable to respond individually to points or questions raised. Please note that your comments will be published online. Please quote the application reference numbers in your correspondence.

Stuart Black
Director of Development and Infrastructure

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (as amended)
THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (LAND 250M NORTH-EAST OF OLD PINES, GAIRLOCHY,
SPEAN BRIDGE) (REVOCATION) ORDER 2018**

TAKE NOTICE that the Highland Council as Planning Authority for the area of Highland have made an Order under Section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to revoke planning permission for the erection of a house, annexe and access road at Land 250m North-East of Old Pines, Gairloch, Spean Bridge (reference (08/00093/FULLO).

The Council has been notified in writing by the owner of the land that they do not object to the Order.

If you wish an opportunity of appearing before, and being heard by, a person appointed by the Scottish Ministers you should give notice in writing to that effect to the Scottish Government, Development Department, Planning Division, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ, not later than the 2nd day of August, Two thousand and eighteen.

If no such notice has been given by that date, the Council shall seek confirmation of the Order by the Scottish Ministers and upon the date of confirmation, the Order shall take effect.

Dated 21st June, 2018
Head of Corporate Governance, The Highland Council, Council Headquarters , Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS, IV3 5NX

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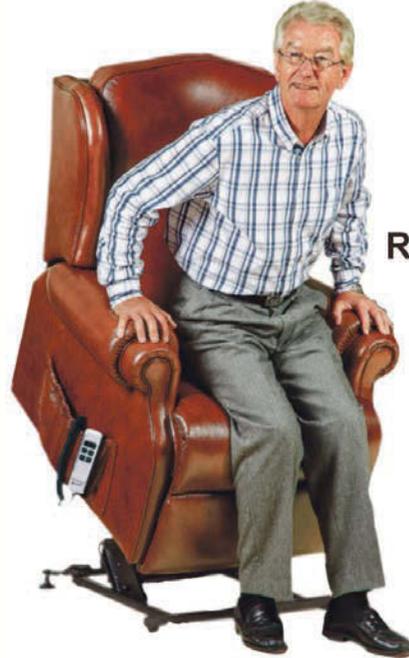



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ROAD BIKE Reluctant sale. 23 inch frame (fits 6 foot). Shimano gears, brakes and cranks. 12 Speed. 700x23 tyres. Phone for pics, £180 Telephone 01546 886680.

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THE WEST WING SERIES 12 DVDs Series 3+4, £6 Telephone 01397 712619.

Clothes, Shoes and Accessories

DRESS KILT JACKET & WAISTCOAT Bought in Chalmers in Oban. Worn only twice. Size 40R, £95 Telephone 01546 602563.

Domestic Appliances

KARCHER WV EASY WINDOW VAC never used, still in box, was £49, sell for £20 Telephone 01631 358968.

TUMBLE DRYER Small White Knight tumble dryer, Sensory Compact, well used but in working order, £15 Telephone 01631 358968.

Domestic Pets

CAIRN TERRIER PUPS one girl and three boys, both parents are KC registered, will be micro-chipped and vet checked, ready from 12th July, Telephone 01583 431235².

JACK RUSSELL PUPS black and tan, 3 dogs 1 bitch, mother can be seen, Telephone 01301 703587 / 07703 183105².

Firearms

GUNS FOR SALE Bettinsoli Universal 12B M-C, new £895 FAC required, Telephone 07990 886646.

Bettinsoli Universal 20B M-C, new £895 FAC required, Telephone 07990 886646.

Furniture

ANTIQUA PINE BUREAU - writing desk, with storage and one shelf unit, £40 Telephone 01631 565192.

ANTIQUA PINE TV UNIT with two shelves and glass doors, £25 Telephone 01631 565192.

FOLD OVER TEA TABLE Edwardian Mahogany half fold side tea table with drawer. Phone for pics, £80 Telephone 01546 886680.

RETRO BOOKCASE Beautiful Condition, £95 Telephone 07919 106318.

SOFA DOUBLE BED Light green, in excellent condition. Approx. 190 cm wide. Free to uplift, Telephone 01852 300332.

TWO SEATER SOFA cream leather, £45 Telephone 01631 565192.

Garden

FLYMO - Turbo 330 lawnmower along with Flymo cordless trimmer with charger, both in good working order, £70 Telephone 0793 449 1712.

KNAPSACK SPRAYER Allman Manual X-15 including instruction manual, £55 Telephone 01880 730326.

VINTAGE CART WHEELS and smaller implement wheels. Colourful garden display items. Prices from £30, Telephone 01631 564578².

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WHEELBARROW builders/gardeners, 85L, refurbished. In Oban, £25 Telephone 07765 503085.

Garden Machinery

HEDGE TRIMMER Stihl HS45 18" Petrol, used 4 times, including instruction manual, £150 Telephone 01880 730326.

STANLEY STRIMMER Good working condition Petrol + Oil Mix, used for only one year £49.99 Telephone 01880 820442.

Health and Fitness

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DEATHS

APPLETON - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on June 28, 2018, surrounded by his close friends and family, in his 89th year, Derek (formerly of Lonan House, Taynuilt), loving father to Sarah, granddad to Emily and Fiona and a great friend to many. Derek is now reunited with his beloved Cathie. Funeral will take place at Cardross Crematorium on Tuesday, July 10 at 1.15 p.m. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Marie Cure Cancer Care.

MACNICOL - Suddenly on the hill at Turnalt. Iain, 76, much loved husband to Anne and dad to Iain, June and Neil. Loving grandpa and father-in-law also. Good neighbour and dear friend to many.

MATTHEWS - Margaret Lamont MacDonald Kennedy, suddenly at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, beloved wife of Barrie, caring and loving mum of Janice, Patricia and Alan and dear sister of John (Ian) Duncan Kennedy, and formerly of Burnside, Isle of Coll. Funeral to be held at Daldowie Crematorium on Thursday July 5, at 3.00pm. Thereafter to the Garfield House Hotel in Stepps. All family and friends welcome. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu to Cats Protection League. Deeply missed.

READING - Patricia, peacefully on Sunday, June 24, 2018. Much loved wife of the late Donald, mother of Kathryn and Alexander and grandmother of Annabel, Emily, Molly, Bella and Will. Funeral service to be held at Torosay and Kinlochspelve Parish Church at Craignure, Isle of Mull on Thursday, July 5 at 11.30 a.m. Family flowers only. Donations to Macmillan Cancer Support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - Phemia and family would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kindness following her sad loss of Alex. Grateful thanks to doctors and staff at Connel surgery, also doctors and nursing staff of Ward B for their care and attention given to Alex. Also his carers for all their kindness and help; to Fr James MacNeil for all his help and such a comforting service. Also special thanks to Ian, Scott, Tommy and Archie, Alex would have been so proud, all who sent cards and flowers, to Petals for the beautiful floral tributes. Thanks to Ian of D&A Munn who carried out arrangements so professionally. Thanks to our little piper Erin who played so well,

all who attended church and graveside, also to the Royal Hotel for a splendid buffet. Sum raised for Heart and Dementia was £250.

CHRISTIE - The family and sister of the late Helen MacFarlane would like to thank all those who attended her funeral at Bishopton Parish Church and Clydebank Crematorium, travelling from Connel, Taynuilt, Newcastle and Chichester. They would also like to thank all those who telephoned and sent flowers and cards of condolence, which were much appreciated.

JAMIESON - The family of the late Caroline Jamieson, would like to thank most sincerely all relatives and friends regarding their recent sad loss. Special thanks to the Rev. Tom Telfer and Rev Margaret Millar, for a comforting service and to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside. To the ladies of the village for the lovely catering in the hall and to Ian MacInnes of D & A Munn for his respectable funeral arrangements. Finally, heartfelt thanks to medical personnel, family doctors, nurses and carers for their compassionate support at Taynuilt, Oban Hospital and Lynn of Lorne. Donations kindly donated for Muckairn Parish Church Funds.

KING - Victor, David and family would like to thank all family and friends for their support and condolences at the sad loss of Margaret. Special thanks to the doctors and nurses at Glen Mhor Surgery, Belford Hospital and

Ward 7A Raigmore. Father McAuley for his words of comfort and support, to the staff at John McLellan for their help during this difficult time. To the staff at Caol Community Centre for the catering. The sum of £ 624.93 was collected at the funeral and this will be split between Belford Hospital and Ward 7A Raigmore Hospital.

MACDONALD - Jackie, Kate, Ronnie and family would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their kind words, cards and flowers on the sudden passing of Donna. Special thanks to all those who attended the church and graveside. Thanks also to the Rev Richard Baxter for his comforting service. Thank you to Scott, Linnie and Billy at John McLellan's for all their help and support with the funeral arrangements and to the Bridge Café for the catering.

McGLYNN - Kevin, Fraser and Ryan would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their support and kindness following the loss of their dad, Fraser. Our heartfelt thanks go to all at Glenaray Ward for their kindness and care shown to Fraser in the last few months, to Rev John MacGregor and Rev Catriona Hood for the uplifting service, to Roddy, Fiona and team of Donald MacDonald for their caring and professional service and to Tarbert Hotel for their hospitality. Finally, sincere thanks to all who attended the service and graveside. The retiring collection and other funds raised £1,600 for Glenaray Ward.

MEMORIALS

BROWN - Cherished memories of my father Lachlan Brown, died July 2, 1972, my mother Annie Brown, died July 4, 2002, both at The Bungalow, Crossapol, Tiree. Always on my mind Forever in my heart.

- Their daughter Christina, Dunoon, grandchildren Alison, Devon and Ewan, USA.

BROWN - Remembering with love a very dear mum, gran and great-gran Annie, who passed away on July 4, 2002, also my dear father Lachlan passed away on July 2, 1972. Your life is a beautiful memory Your absence a silent grief.

- Inserted by their loving son Lachie, daughter-in-law Sandra and family.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of my dear mum, May, who passed on July 6 1998.

I think of you in silence I often speak your name But all I have are memories And a picture in a frame My heart still aches with sadness My secret tears still flow For what it meant to lose you Mum No one will ever know - Your loving daughter Kay.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of a dearly missed Gran Memories of you are fondly kept Someone too special to ever forget

- Your loving grandchildren Duncan and Caroline.

EDWARDS - In loving memory of my dear husband George Edwards, who died July 6, 2003. A dear dad and granddad. Forever in our thoughts.

- Mary Anne and family, Kinlochleven and Ireland.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of a dear father and grandfather Willie, who passed away July 5, 2015.

Remembering you is easy We do it every day It's just the pain of losing you That never goes away.

- William, Mary and families. **MACKAY** - In loving memory of our dear mother and grandmother Annie, died July 6, 1998.

Always in our thoughts. - Family in Inveraray and Canada.

MACLEAN - July 5, 2007. Treasured memories of Donald, a loving father and grandfather, sadly missed. Deep in our hearts you'll always stay

Loved and remembered every day.

- Alastair, Cathanne, Jamie, Stuart and Ruairaidh xx

POTTER - In memory of Iain, died July 6, 2015, a dear husband, dad and grandpa. Sorely missed.

- Katrina, Coogie and family.

POTTER - Treasured memories of a dear brother and son, Iain, who died on July 6, 2015. - Inserted by his mother Catherine and sisters Irene and Kareen and their families

TURNER - Treasured memories of Dennis, a beloved husband and dad, who died on July 3, 1993.

Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts. - Elizabeth, Julie and Steven.



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100 things to do with the kids... Stalking with dogs... 150 years of Mackintosh... Wildlife on Isle of May... Armando Iannucci in focus...

GRADUATION



KIRSTY MACTAVISH

From Benderloch recently graduated from Glasgow University with a degree MA (Social Sciences) in Politics with 1st class Honours. Kirsty is the daughter of Sarah and John MacTavish from Benderloch and granddaughter of Ona MacTavish from Appin. She is a past pupil of Oban High School and Lochnell Primary School.

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Argyll botanic garden creates Silent Spaces

Long appreciated as a place to unwind and feel closer to the natural world, Benmore Botanic Garden in Argyll has received extra recognition since registering as Scotland's first Silent Space.

However, with 120 acres, there is more than enough room for a vibrant line-up of activities this summer.

Benmore created two quiet areas in response to a call from the not-for-profit project Silent Space, which had already signed up a number of gardens south of the border to reserve an area where people could be quiet.

For a couple of hours each week, visitors to these areas were invited to switch off their phones and to stop talking.

Garden curator Peter Baxter explained: 'With the other three gardens of Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), we are committed to providing experiences that are beneficial to well-being, so when we heard about the project, we created two Silent Spaces at Benmore.'

'One is situated in a secluded spot on the hillside, amid a collection of rhododendrons, and has

magnificent views across the garden and Strath Eachaig to the mountains in the east.

The other is in the tranquil Golden Gates Arboretum among statuesque conifers and majestic giant redwoods.

'We have received incredibly positive feedback from visitors.'

Quiet observation is also recommended to catch the antics of the garden's red squirrels. Much to the delight of visitors, the past couple of months have witnessed unsurpassed activity around the squirrel hide.

Bullfinches

Look out too for birds such as bullfinches, woodpecker and nuthatch.

Calling in to the Courtyard Gallery, from July 5 to August 26, reveals the delights of Flora Scotia.

In this exhibition, botanical artists showcase Scottish native plants in a major new international initiative involving more than 25 countries. Entry is included with garden admission.

Tickets are also selling for a one-night-only performance in the courtyard by leading jazz trumpeter

Lorne Cowieson. A member of the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra, Lorne also plays with other top artists such as Emeli Sande, Konrad Wiszniewski, Brian Kellock and Stefan Maus.

Originally from Dunoon, Lorne heads back to home territory on Saturday September 1 to perform with guest musicians in the courtyard.

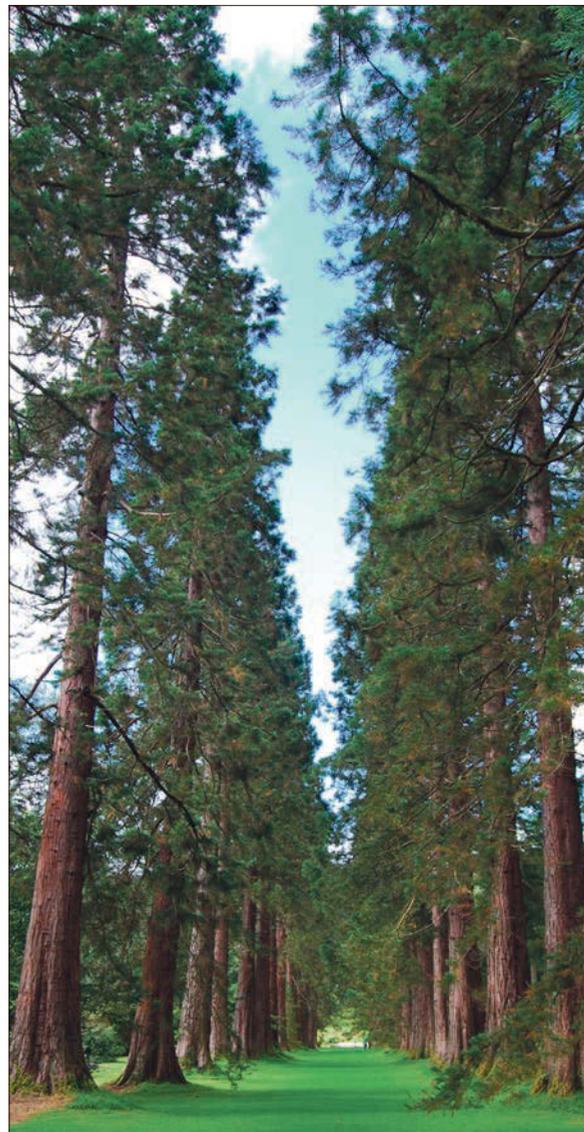
Jazz at the Courtyard is a fundraising event organised by Friends of Benmore in support of the garden's research and conservation work.

Booking is essential and tickets at £10 are available from Sybil Gray on 01369 706261 or email s.gray@rbge.ac.uk. <http://sbac.org.uk/>.

On Saturday September 22, join RBGE research associate mycologist Dr Stephan Helfer for a fungal foray.

Benmore is a haven for interesting fungi. Meet at the covered notice board near the café at 2pm.

And from now until the end of October, take your camera out and about - wherever you are - and send the results for entry in a prestigious new pho-



Benmore Botanic Garden.

tography competition.

Entries are being sought for the Friends of RBGE photography competition 2018.

With a top prize of £1,000 and category wins of £250, the competition is being supported by Brewin Dolphin, Bonaccord and Jessops.

Its aim is to attract amateur and professional photographers whether

or not they already know RBGE and its work.

All shortlisted entries will appear in an exhibition at RBGE's Edinburgh site in early 2019 and there will be opportunities for winning entries to be part of RBGE's 350th anniversary year calendar in 2020 as well as images being transferred into canvasses by Jessops. Go to <http://www.rbge.org.uk/whats-on/photocomp>

THOUGHT for the week

This last week I've been handling the topic 'prayer', just for myself. What is prayer actually? How do we pray, how did God intend it to be?

I've watched videos of an online prayer course, which helped me a bit. They gave me good principles as well as practical and inspiring tools.

What I discovered is this. The heart of prayer is to relate to God. It's the two-way, intimate communication between Him and us to get to know Him better. That's inspiring in itself already.

Why and what do I pray? Is it to get my things done, or do I want God to do things for others? Yes, of course we can ask Him these things. But it starts with...being with Him. A relationship forms through getting to know each other and that's the same with God.

I find that challenging. For me it's easier to ask Him to change something, to bless a person, to draw people closer to Him...than to just 'be with Him', listen to what He says and enjoy His presence.

I don't know how you relate to God and what your prayers are like.

But be inspired that He wants to relate to you, He wants to communicate with you, both ways.

Our God is a good Father who wants to listen, to speak, to receive from us and to give us. Thank you, Father, that you are. Be blessed.

Arno Bremer
Youth with a Mission (YWAM)
- Ignite/Oban

Online treatment programme for depression now available in Argyll

Beating the Blues (BTB), an online cognitive behavioural therapy course for the treatment of low to moderate anxiety and depression, can now be accessed by people in Argyll and Bute.

BTB uses interactive tools to help people learn how to overcome negative thoughts about themselves.

On the BTB website, there are case study video clips of other patients engaging with the therapy who have experienced both anxiety and depression due to problems such as stress at work, road accident, financial difficulties and loneliness.

The online programme has a series of CBT exercises to

complete which are designed to teach patients to practice new thinking techniques.

Patients are in control of when and where they want to complete the CBT therapy. Sessions are designed to be completed in the comfort of people's own homes or environment. Patients can quickly access the programme within seven days of being referred. It is completed over eight weekly sessions.

Case studies have shown that CBT is just as effective as antidepressants for treating anxiety and depression and more effective at preventing the symptoms returning.

Nikki Gillespie, Argyll and Bute Health and Social

Care Partnership's area manager for mental health, said: 'We are very excited to be able to offer this service to the people of Argyll and Bute. Studies have shown 70 per cent of patients with mild to moderate depression who complete the online CBT programme require no further treatment.'

Accessing the course is easy and primary care patients are referred through their GP. Once patients have been referred to the service, they receive an activation code to their email address which authorises access to join the programme.

People who feel the service would be beneficial are advised to speak to their GP.

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OT

FOOTBALL



Executive committee members of No 1 Oban Celtic Supporters Club Roddy MacIsaac, John Neil MacInnes and Alistair Gillies with former Celtic keeper Evan Williams and Lisbon Lion Jim Craig.

Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Oban No 1 Celtic Supporters Club celebrates 70 years

Oban's branch of Glasgow Celtic Supporters Clubs held a dinner dance in the town's Royal Hotel to celebrate 70 years of the Oban club.

Former Celtic keeper Evan Williams and Lisbon Lion Jim Craig represented the Glasgow club. On show at the event were the Premier League Trophy, the European Cup and the Scottish Cup.

During the evening, the Oban club raised £1,000 for the Celtic Foundation's 67 Kitchens charity which supports the building of 67 school kitchens in the developing world. The Oban club has raised £3,000 for the charity over the past 12 months.

SHINTY



Oban Camanachd with their new tracksuit tops.

New tops for Camanachd

Oban Camanachd thanks Alan MacGregor and Ruari MacLennan from the Elite Window and Door Company and D & K Lafferty Contractors for kindly sponsoring new tracksuit tops for Oban Camanachd and Lochside Rovers' players and coaches.

GOLF

Results from Taynuilt

Taynuilt Club Championship scratch and handicap second round: 1 Alan Wilson 70-9=61; 2 Jimmy Harris 85-23=62; 3 Andy Ronald 68-6-62.

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Champagne sailing Round Mull' yacht race

THREE days of excellent sailing in 'tropical' sunshine made this year's Ardferrin Yacht Centre and Owen Sails sponsored Round Mull Race the best to date.

Although the wind took time to fill in on each leg, conditions proved world class when the breeze came good with everyone enjoying a 'Costa del Round Mull yacht race'.

Run by Oban Sailing Club (OSC), the circumnavigation saw 32 boats competing over the weekend, racing 100 miles over the three stages - Oban to Tobermory, Tobermory to Bunessan and Bunessan to Oban.

With no wind for the start in Oban Bay on Friday, race officers David Preston and Jim Tolmie took the four-class fleet north to near Ardnornish in the Sound of Mull to start the first leg. A kite run soon became a beat and the faster boats made good progress to the finish off Tobermory.

Ian and David Hay's First 33.7 Bragar of Plockton Boat Club kept to the fore in the breeze and lifted not only the Class 2 win but the prized Mishnish Bucket for best performance overall in the fleet. The Forteith's Shadowfax finished second in class with Eric and Irena Chapman's Amber Haze third.

Class 1 winner was Rod Stuart's Corby 37 Aurora from the Chalmers family on their Sigma 400 Sunrise.

Ross Fullerton's Archambault Warrior was third.

In Class 3, Murray Caldwell's Trapper 500 Oystercatcher took the win from Marian Austin's Scintilla of the Sea with Hamish Whyte's Elizabethan 30 Rosie Keeping in third place.

Saturday's leg to Bunessan saw a kite run out of Tobermory Bay for all but the restricted sail class, with most of the fleet changing to white sail by Glengorm. But the wind switched off at Caliach Point with a big fleet 'park-up', with zephyrs of wind and tide pushing boats round. Effectively the race started again and those further out found the breeze earlier. The wind steadily increased and made for a great sail in brilliant sunshine to Bunessan.

White sail

The Corby 37 Aurora won Class 1 with Brian Wiseman and team taking Class 2 with Sorr of Appin. Class 3 was won by Scintilla and Brian Robertson stormed through with Celtic Spirit to win the white sail class from Anne Campbell's Ajax.

Mystic Sun, the Oceanis 440 of Williams and Johnson, was third.

Members of Bunessan Hall committee provided an excellent meal and ceilidh enjoyed by all competitors.

Sunday dawned overcast with very light airs and a kite run down Loch na Lathaich which changed to white sail

and a beat through the Sound of Iona. The light airs made for tricky sailing through the Torran Rocks before spinnakers could be hoisted for the run to the finish off Frank Lockwoods Island. The sun came out, the breeze came back and the fastest in the fleet had a blazing run home with the tail end experiencing lighter winds but still ensuring the fleet all finished.

Class 1 was again taken by Aurora, with Warrior second and Sunrise third.

It was to be a different winner in Class 2 with Gumdrop taking the honours. The Contessa 35, now raced by Hugh Wallace, was formerly a familiar racing name under the late Ian Fyfe from Fort William who had a series of yachts including Bubblegum and the Contessa 25 Popcorn now successfully raced by his son Angus.

Gumdrop famously competed in the Capetown to Rio race in 1976.

Sorr of Appin came back strongly to take a second in Class 2, with Bragar in third place.

Class 3 was won by a large margin by Oyster Catcher from Colin Currie's Contessa 28 Elise in second place and Scintilla of the Sea third.

Brian Robertson's Celtic Spirit again won the restricted sail class from Mystic Sun, with Ajax in third place.

Amalgamating the points, Aurora won overall on



Nimrod, Sorr of Appin and Celerity

correct time and lifted the Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy for most points of all classes. Aurora also lifted the Bunessan Hall Trophy, The Glencoe Trophy and the Mull Plaque. Shadowfax won Class 2 and Oystercatcher Class 3. The restricted sail class was won by Celtic Spirit with Rosie Keeping lifting the double handed trophy - The Bilgewater Shield,

Billy Forteith, main race organiser, said: 'This was an excellent Round Mull event with tremendous sailing. A few competitors said it was the best ever. The weather conditions certainly made it fantastic.'

Billy thanked the main

West Highland Tennis Week



Gregor Brydon getting ready to serve.

Tennis players from Texas are heading to Oban this week to take part in the West Highland Open Tournament.

The tournament at Atlantis is one of six Tennis Scotland 1000 Series events taking place this year and is part of the Tennis Scotland Open Tour. The championship event, starting tomorrow Friday July 6, attracts top ranked players including the party from Texas and a team from Liverpool. Games will be played over the weekend.

This year's contest has seen 30 entrants sign up for the men's tournament.

'We have had a very full entry. It's quite unheard of in Scotland.

'We have eight Americans playing and, of course, people just love coming to Oban to enjoy the tournament,' said Mary McLean, one of the organisers.

Ranking points players receive from the men's and women singles will count towards the TS Open Tour Leader Board, with the top players qualifying for the Tennis Scotland Open Tour Masters Event in December.

Sunday served up the first event of the tournament with

TENNIS

singles and doubles competitions on Argyll Day. There were also evening events for club members, local players and visitors from Monday to Wednesday when players were encouraged to bring out their Wimbledon whites. Schools have also joined in.

The West Highland Open Tournament was revived in 1971 but there are trophies that show it was being held over the years between the end of the First World War and the beginning of the Second World War.

for 'Costa del



enjoying the kite run on the leg from Tobermory to Bunessan in Mediterranean conditions.

sponsors Owen Sails and Ardfern Yacht Centre as well as Forteith Refrigeration and Heat Pump Solutions, T Barbour Fuels, Dimension Polyant for tee-shirts and David Sturrock for providing the committee vessel Unity for the event.

A special thanks was given to race officer David Preston and assistant race officer Jim Tolmie for running the event. The main trophies will be awarded at the OSC prizegiving on November 10.

Results: Oban to Tobermory Class 1: 1 Aurora; 2 Sunrise; 3 Warrior.

Class 2: 1 Bragar; 2 Shadowfax; 3 Amber Haze.

Class 3: 1 Oyster Catcher;

2 Scintilla of the Sea; 3 Rosie Keeping.

Restricted sail: 1 Celtic Spirit; 2 Ajax; 3 Mystic Sun.

Tobermory to Bunessan Class 1: 1 Aurora; 2 Moonstruck Too; 3 Big Jessie.

Class 2: 1 Sorr of Appin; 2 Tidechaser; 3 Sarah. Class 3: 1 Scintilla of the Sea; 2 Oyster Catcher; 3 Elise.

Restricted sail: 1 Celtic Spirit; 2 Ajax; 3 Mystic Sun.

Bunessan to Oban Class 1: 1 Aurora; 2 Warrior; 3 Sunrise.

Class 2: 1 Gumdrop; 2 Sorr of Appin; 3 Bragar.

Class 3: 1 Oystercatcher; 2 Elise; 3 Scintilla of the Sea.

Overall trophies: The Mishnish Bucket – Bragar.

SAILING

The Bunessan Hall Committee Trophy - Aurora. Glencoe Trophy - Aurora.

Mull Plaque – fastest circumnavigation on elapsed time - Aurora.

Class 1 overall Antique Schwepes Trophy - Aurora.

Class 2 overall Royal Bank of Scotland Cup - Shadowfax.

Class 3 overall The Jolanta Trophy - Oystercatcher.

Best overall points of all classes, the Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy –Aurora.

Fastest circumnavigation corrected time Double Handed – The Bilgewater Shield – Rosie Keeping.



Sunday was the first day of the West Highland Open Tournament at Atlantis, Oban.

Martial arts

IAIN RODGER

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Members of Oban Kyokushinkai Karate who took part in the latest grading, front left to right: Darryl McLaughlin, Florence Hill, Franek Kupczak, Tobiasz Fituch and Jamie Docherty. Front: Stanislaw Kupczak.

Kyokushinkai Karate

The Oban club held its latest grading test on Saturday June 16.

The annual beach training session was held on Saturday June 30 at Kilmory Knap as usual. This was a free session open to anyone that didn't mind getting wet.

Classes continue throughout the school summer holidays with new members welcome. If you think this is for you contact Iain Rodger (6th dan) on 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk. Alternatively send a message to Caledonia Kyokushin on Facebook.

Kickboxing

Beginners are always welcome at Senshi Do Kick Boxing, if you are after cardio and strength training without the fighting then Monday's Kick Fit session at 6pm would be perfect for you, Wednesdays have the junior (5-14 years) session at 4.30pm then the seniors (15 and over) at 6pm. These sessions cover the technical and tactical sides of K1 style kick boxing as well as the cardio and strength training required to get you fighting fit. Fridays have another junior session at 4.30pm until 6pm. Sundays have the women only session at 10am and junior fight club at 11am.

Find the club on Facebook (Senshi Do Kickboxing) or contact Wullie Rodger (6th dan) on shihanwill@gmail.com or 07480 273190.

Shukokai Karate

Anyone looking for more details on these clubs should contact Kenny Gray (5th dan) on kenni.gray@btinternet.com or 07884 183905.



Oban BJJ in their new rashguard kindly sponsored by Scottish Sea Farms' Heart of the Community Trust.

BJJ

Oban BJJ received their new competition rashguard with sponsor 'Scottish Sea Farms Heart of the Community' emblazoned on the back of the top and shorts. The new kit will hopefully be displayed on podiums at competitions soon.

The class timetable has changed slightly with beginners BJJ now at 6.30pm until 7.30pm after which there is an open mat for people to practice anything they want.

MMA on Thursdays at 7.30pm is open to all and is growing each week. This covers movement, striking and wrestling. We hope to have some news in the next few weeks of an MMA seminar with one of the countries top fighters.

Coach Coogie said: 'Anyone interested in starting BJJ or MMA are more than welcome to come and just watch to see what it is we do or contact me via Oban Bjj Facebook or email @coogiepots@gmail.com.'

Wado Kai Karate

The Park Primary School class, part of Kaishin Wado Kai, is now closed for the summer break but will resume on August 27. If you have a child aged 7 to 10 years and want to know more about this class contact Mike on 07709 229284 or email m.faulkner6@btinternet.com.

Kaishin Wado Kai at Dunbeg Primary School is on a Tuesday from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. All ages are welcome at the training sessions. Mike Faulkner said: 'We are a small and friendly club with four Black Belt trainers available to help students.' For more details contact Sensei Chris Bruce (7th Dan) at crb999@btinternet.com.



The Heart of the Community Trust logo is on the back of the new kit.

OT

All systems go for D & K Cu



Donald Campbell in action against Alloa Athletic during last year's tournament.



Oban Saints Football Club secretary David Buchanan reports that arrangements are in order for its 25th annual football tournament, again kindly sponsored by D & K Lafferty Contractors, which takes place this Saturday, July 7.

David said: 'This is a milestone in the club's history. I doubt if there is another tournament organised by an amateur team and featuring professional clubs that can say it has been running

for 25 years. So thanks go to Angus MacEachan whose idea this was way back in 1993.'

St Johnstone make a welcome return to the tournament after missing the last two years, along with top junior side St Anthony's making their debut at the event.

The competing clubs are Hamilton Accies, holders, St Johnstone, Dundee United, St Anthony's and, of course, amateur host club Oban Saints.

The competition, held at Mossfield Stadium and Glencruitten



Park, starts at 11am and is played on a round robin basis with the teams taking on each other in 40-minute games.

Hamilton Accies manager Martin Canning said: 'This is a great tournament, ideal for pre-season match fitness. It allows the coaches to give all their 22-man squad plenty of game time. They could field four different teams on the day if they wanted to.'

Former Scotland internation-

alist and Dundee United coach Dave Bowman added: 'I've been coming to this tournament for years and the format is excellent.'

'It's always a great day out and our fans love coming to Oban.'

Tournament fixtures:

Dundee United v Hamilton Accies, Mossfield; St Johnstone v Oban Saints, Glencruitten. Both games kick-off at 11am.

Oban Saints v St Anthony's, Mossfield; Hamilton Accies v St Johnstone, Glencruitten. These games kick off at noon.



MOTO3



John McPhee in action. Photograph: Bonnie Lane.

John McPhee crashes out fighting for the win in Assen

Connel's John McPhee, who achieved excellent results the whole weekend at Assen in the Dutch TT, fought for victory before falling off his bike two laps from the end.

John found the right pace from the start. It allowed him to get the third best time in each of Friday's free practices, 0.155 seconds from the best time in FP2.

John took sixth position on the starting grid in an amazing all action race. Each lap, he fought tenaciously, either fighting in the top five, or leading the race, but a fall two laps from the end, prevented him from winning.

Alain Bronec, CIP Gren Power team owner, said: 'John was fantastic. He fought for the podium during the whole race and took the lead several times. He remained in the top five and his lap times were great. Although he fell two laps before the finish line, he really worked hard and we're satisfied with his weekend. We put all our trust in him for the next races since he showed he could be one of the leaders in the championship.'

John said: 'I try to stay positive as it's the only thing I can do. It really was a very good weekend, a great race in which I remained in the top five. I fought for victory and I'm glad of the progress I made regarding performances.'

'I feel bad for the team since I fell and wasn't able to bring victory or, at least, stand on the podium. We need to keep working.'

'The level improves every weekend and I'm sure results will come soon.'

Oban Lorne start pre-season training

Oban Lorne Rugby Club's pre-season training started on Tuesday July 3 at the Rugby Club, Glencruitten Drive.

Training will be running every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from July 3 until the first fixtures of the 2018/2019 season. Saturday sessions will start at 10am sharp.

In order for players to play to their potential, fitness is extremely important so commitment to training over this period will be key to a successful season ahead.

The club is always on the look for new or experienced rugby players for its senior teams, as well as welcoming U18 players into the senior setup.

This season, the 1st XV will be under the guidance of a new coaching team with Andrew Johnston as head coach along with Allan Wright, David McLaughlin and Murray Hamilton as assistant coaches.

The squad had a very positive and informative meeting last week with the new coaching team where more than 20 players turned up.

Anyone interested in coming along should contact Andrew Johnston on 07568 310763.

Tennents West Division 2 and West Regional Shield fixtures announced

Scottish Rugby has announced the 2018/2019 season fixtures for national and regional leagues that will be

sponsored by Tennents Lager.

Oban Lorne, who are taking part in West Division 2, start their league season with a home game against Cumbernauld on Saturday September 1.

The Green Machine then face three consecutive away matches to Paisley, Argyll rivals Helensburgh and Strathaven before welcoming Millbrae to Glencruitten on Saturday September 29.

With 22 league games to be played over the season, it will be key for the club to make a good start to the season and also hope that weather and pitch conditions are kinder than last year when a large number of games were postponed.

Along with league games, Oban will also be taking part in the Tennents West Regional Shield fixtures and have been drawn at home to Strathaven RFC in the preliminary round on Saturday August 18. The winner of

this tie will face the winner of Annan or Cambuslang at home the following Saturday.

Tower 10's

Oban Lorne RFC will be launching the 2018/2019 season with the now annual Tower 10's Festival on Saturday August 11 at Glencruitten.

After a successful inaugural event last season, the club hopes to build on the event which will help players prepare for the new season.

Teams attending this year's festival are, Tri Trust Rugby International, LFEA, Isle of Mull, Inverness Craig Dunain, Lochaber, Moray, Queensferry, along with hosts Oban Lorne and an Oban High School FPs side led by Fergus Bradbury.

Lorne Ladies

Oban Lorne Ladies have just started pre-season training and are currently running rugby style fitness sessions on

a Tuesday night 7-8pm at various places around the town.

These sessions encourage everyone to come along as no rugby experience is needed. All fitness levels are welcome.

Last week's session had an amazing turnout.

After a hugely successful last season, the ladies are also training on Mondays and Thursdays at the rugby club 7-8.30pm and again everyone is welcome to come and give rugby a try.

Vice captain Ailsa MacLachlan said: 'We want to build on last season's amazing success and would love to welcome new players to our rugby family. Even if you have never touched a rugby ball before, just come along and give it a go - you won't regret it.'

Information on the ladies team can be found on the Oban Lorne Ladies Facebook page, Instagram or Twitter. You can also contact Ailsa MacLachlan on 07741 284330.



Oban Lorne Ladies get ready for one of their fitness sessions.

p tournament



Winners of last year's D & K Lafferty Cup Tournament were Hamilton Accies who have won the trophy four times.

FOOTBALL

St Anthony's v St Johnstone, Mossfield; Dundee United v Oban Saints, Glencruitten. Games kick off at 1pm.

St Johnstone v Dundee United, Mossfield; St Anthony's v Hamilton Accies, Glencruitten. Games kick-off at 2pm.

Hamilton Accies v Oban Saints, Mossfield; Dundee United v St Anthony's, Glencruitten. Games kick off at 3pm.

Oban are runners-up in Helensburgh

During the summer break from league hockey, Oban mixed 7s travelled to Helensburgh to take part in a hockey 7s tournament.

Lots of teams were in attendance with one even travelling from Dublin.

Oban played five games in the initial group stage, winning three, drawing one and losing one leaving the team top of the table heading into the final against the Irish.

Under the unusual Argyll sun and heat, the final was fought tooth and nail with both teams pressing hard and launching relentless counter attacks against each other.

HOCKEY

Eventually the final whistle blew with the score 0-0 so a penalty shootout ensued. It all came down to the wire until finally the Dublin team sealed the win, leaving Oban second in the tournament overall.

Player of the tournament went to Oban's Heather Smith who scored a superb goal in the first match and played superbly as keeper to help Oban progress as far as they did.

The club will be back training at the high school in September. New members always welcome.



Player of the tournament Heather Smith saving a flick penalty.



Oban Mixed 7s at the Helensburgh tournament. Back row, left to right: Charmaine Love, Karen MacKinnon, Ali Burton, Dannie Onn, Simon Hutton and George Gauley. Front row, left to right: David Love, Heather Smith and Claire Treasurer.



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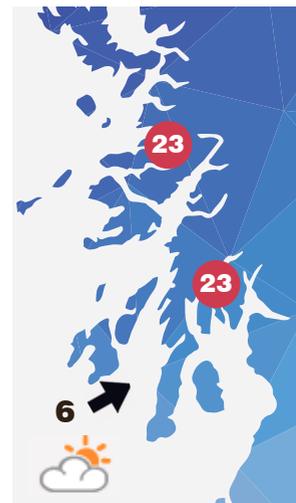


WEATHER

Thursday
Sunny
Breezy from the west
Temperatures 10°C to 17°C.

Friday
Sunny
Light winds from the west south west
Temperatures 12°C to 18°C.

Weekend Outlook
Sunny on Saturday
Cloudy on Sunday
Breezy from the south west
Temperatures 13°C to 20°C.



FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday June 28, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	04.12	1.7	09.47	3.1
	16.15	1.6	22.21	3.3
Fri	05.05	1.7	10.38	3.0
	17.09	1.7	23.21	3.2
Sat	06.08	1.7	11.44	2.9
	18.31	1.7	** ** *	**
Sun	00.41	3.2	07.13	1.6
	13.10	3.0	19.22	1.6
Mon	02.09	3.3	08.17	1.5
	14.31	3.2	20.33	1.4
Tues	03.14	3.5	09.16	1.2
	15.30	3.4	10.09	0.9
Wed	04.08	3.7	09.06	3.2
	16.20	3.6	22.40	0.9

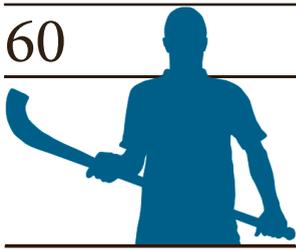
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd



SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

First senior trophy win for red and blacks since 2005

Oban Camanachd won the Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup for the first time since 2005 and Kinlochshiel and Lovat will meet in the Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-finals following the shinty action on Saturday June 30.

Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final

Kyles Athletic 0
Oban Camanachd 2

Oban Camanachd lifted their first senior trophy since 2005 when Andrew MacCuish's double gave them a 2-0 win over Kyles Athletic in the Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final at the Taynuilt Sports Field.

A sizable crowd gathered in great anticipation as the south's top two sides contested one of shinty's most famous trophies.

The players were piped onto the field on a beautiful afternoon and the pitch looked in excellent condition, if a little scorched in places following the recent hot weather, but the ball mostly sat up nicely on a neat cushion of grass.

The sides had already met once this season when Scott MacMillan cancelled out Robbie MacLeod's opener in a 1-1 league draw.

Kyles have had a grip on this trophy in recent years and were going for six successive successes.

The match was broadcast live on BBC ALBA and was a repeat of last year's final which Kyles won 3-1.

The big team news was that the shoulder injury suffered by Kyles Athletic talisman Roddy MacDonald in the league draw with

Lovat the previous weekend ruled him out. Manager James Perlich was also minus defender Donald Irvine who had work commitments. Grant Irvine started at full centre.

Oban Camanachd manager Ian Hay received a triple boost as Malcolm Clark (eye), Lorne Dickie (nose) and Daniel Sloss (ankle) all declared themselves fit after suffering knocks in the previous weekend's league draw with Glenurquhart.

Referee Ross Brown got his first major final under way and Oban Camanachd started with a breeze in their favour.

Oban Camanachd felt they didn't turn up in last year's final so Ian Hay's side were determined to make a good start to this one and they did just that.

John Whyte had to come off his line to get to a Malcolm Clark corner from the left ahead of Andrew MacCuish at the expense of another corner. Indeed Oban Camanachd forced four corners in quick succession after keeper Whyte had saved Scott MacMillan's low shot with his feet and the Mossfield men already looked a better bet than last year.

Kyles Athletic defender Andrew King was spoken to for an enthusiastic swing of the caman. At the other end, when Kyles attacker Sandy MacKenzie stopped Scott McKillop clearing, the ball broke to Gordon Whyte but his shot went wide of target.

A dangerous ball in from Malcolm Clark came off Callum Miller's caman and sliced back across the face of goal and the ball could have ended up anywhere.

It was probably important for Oban Camanachd that they scored first in this match and they did so from the resultant corner, taken by David Lafferty on their right. Andrew MacCuish darted forward to take the ball down at the front post, inside the 'D', and he volleyed past John Whyte to open the scoring. Kyles claimed for offside but referee Ross Brown waved away their claims.

Five minutes later, when Dunkie Kerr was first to a Malcolm Clark hit-in from the left, the ball fell for Daniel MacVicar but John Whyte got a foot to MacVicar's low shot to turn the ball past his right post.

Grant Irvine shot high and wide and a low cross from Scott MacDonald from wide on the left was just too far in front of Irvine as Kyles tried to get back in the game.

Oban Camanachd went back on the attack and Daniel MacVicar knocked down a corner but the ball



The Oban Camanachd squad celebrate after winning the Scottish Sea Farms Celtic Society Cup at Taynuilt.

Photograph: Neil Paterson.

dropped just the wrong side of the post.

There was a 60 second water break just before the 28 minute mark.

Scott MacDonald struck a 25 yard shot wide but play was mainly towards the Kyles goal and Oban Camanachd doubled their lead on 33 minutes. As Daniel MacVicar and Cammy Keith battled for the ball, Andrew MacCuish nipped in to play a pass along the ground to Aidan MacIntyre on the left. MacCuish hovered at the edge of the 'D' and timed his run into the box perfectly to turn MacIntyre's low cross into the net to notch his second goal of the game, making it 2-0 to Camanachd. Kyles again claimed offside but again their claims were in vain.

As the first half moved into stoppage time, Oban keeper Cameron Sutherland did well to palm down a lofted Robbie MacLeod ball from wide on the left of midfield. The keeper played the ball out for a corner and although Kyles finished the half with a flurry, it was Oban Camanachd who took a 2-0 lead into the break.

A couple of minutes after the restart, Sandy MacKenzie cut into the 'D' but his shot lacked power and Cameron Sutherland saved with his feet before playing the ball out for a corner despite being knocked over by Grant Irvine in his attempt to get to the re-bound.

Kyles were more in the game now and they forced a series of corners but the Oban Camanachd defence showed great determination to clear their lines.

Kyles had by now pushed Grant Irvine forward and this gave them

more threat. Oban Camanachd made the first substitution of the final just after the hour with Daniel MacCuish taking over from David Lafferty at wing centre.

It wasn't just the temperatures that reached boiling point on 65 minutes. Andrew King and Andrew MacCuish clashed as they battled for possession and the Kyles man kicked out in frustration and was shown a straight red card by referee Ross Brown.

Andrew MacCuish almost went clean through on goal moments after but was penalised for his challenge on Callum Miller.

Cameron Sutherland saved well with his feet from Robbie MacLeod after good initial play from Sandy MacKenzie.

Neil MacVicar then pushed forward from the Kyles defence and drove a shot from distance just wide of target and the players then broke for another water break.

Kyles were enjoying their best period of the game and Oban Camanachd took the chance to bring on Willie Neilson for Aidan MacIntyre.

There was another flare-up straight from the restart as Robbie MacLeod was accidentally hit on the top of the head by Malcolm Clark's trailing caman. Malcolm Clark was booked for his part in the aftermath.

Kyles made their first substitution with just under 15 minutes remaining as Innes MacDonald took over from Dunkie Kerr.

Cameron Sutherland again saved well with his feet, this time from Grant Irvine before Ross MacRae replaced Robbie MacLeod.

Kyles continued to press and when

Grant Irvine made enough space to turn, keeper Sutherland made another good stop with his feet.

The Oban goalie then used a foot to deny Innes MacDonald before foiling Irvine once more with his feet.

Malcolm Clark came off and Chrissy MacMillan came on and immediately launched a high ball goalwards which was volleyed away in spectacular fashion by keeper John Whyte as it dropped into the 'D'.

Daniel MacCuish was booked for a swing which caught Grant Irvine on the knee. It was a sore one but the Kyles man was able to continue.

Willie Neilson sent a shot from wide on the right across goal giving the Oban defence a welcome break in the process.

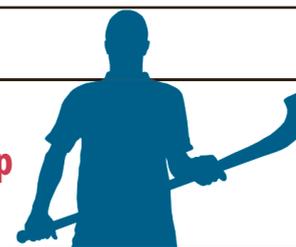
With four minutes remaining, Cameron Sutherland again stood between Kyles and a goal when he used his caman to keep out a lofted Innes MacDonald ball from the middle of the park and Grant Irvine just couldn't direct the ball goalwards from the rebound.

Over the piece, Oban Camanachd started well, won more of the 50-50 balls, defended as if their lives depended on it and had a match winner in Andrew MacCuish. They saw out the remainder of the final, including two minutes stoppage time during which Aidan MacIntyre came back on for Lorne Dickie.

Speaking just after the final whistle, Andrew MacCuish said 'We are so used to being runners-up when we get to finals but this is just unbelievable to get a result like this and take the cup back to Oban. Everyone played their part and it just shows what we can do with a full



Oban Camanachd's two-goal hero Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish with the Celtic Society Cup.



Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup

MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup

Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

team available.' Keeper Cameron Sutherland added: 'This gives us great momentum for the upcoming Macaulay semi-final against Kyles.'

The Donald J MacNiven medal for man of the match went to young Oban Camanachd defender Daniel Sloss who said: 'We've not won anything for a long time and to come into the side and win in my first final is great.'

Oban captian Daniel Cameron stepped forward to receive the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup from sponsors Scottish Sea Farms.

The sides meet again in just over a fortnight in the Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-finals with Kyles also still to host a league encounter.

Oban Camanachd manger Ian Hay reflected on the game and on a piece of history. 'It's our first senior trophy since 2005 so some might say it's about time. We have been knocking on the door for a while so it's good to finally get a trophy.'

'After all our injuries you could see just what our full squad can do. We were caught out last year when Kyles were quicker out of the blocks and our plan this year was to stay tight on them. Everyone had to work hard all over the park and when Papa scored two good goals, it gave us a cushion. I know there were calls for offside. I've not seen the goals again but sometimes these things go for you and sometimes they go against you.'

'We knew Kyles would come back at us in the second half. After the sending off, we used Garry Lord as the spare man at the back to protect our lead. If we had been behind then we would have handling it differently but it worked for us. We introduced Willie Neilson to try and hold the ball up front and we saw the game out well.'

Artemis Macaulay Cup — quarter finals

Kinlochshiel 1 Kingussie 0

Kinlochshiel edged out Kingussie 1-0 in their 3pm throw-up at Mossfield.

The first chance of the game came early in the match with Scott Kennedy diving to his right to make a football style save, palming a James



Oban Camanachd teenager Daniel Sloss with his delighted grandfathers, Peter Sloss, left, and Peter MacArthur after being awarded the Donald J MacNiven medal for his man of the match performance in the final. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

Falconer strike round the post. Rory MacGregor hit the side netting following the resultant corner.

The remaining 39 minutes of the first half was devoid of goalmouth action during which Kingussie took off Rory MacGregor in favour of Ryan Borthwick and Kinlochshiel replaced Duncan 'WD' MacRae with Fraser MacVicar.

Kingussie brought on Ruaridh Anderson for James Falconer at half-time and Anderson certainly livened up their attack. Kinlochshiel played up the slope in the second half and Scott Kennedy had to palm away a Lee Bain ball from the middle of the park at the expense of a corner.

A Ruaridh Anderson shot from the right seemed to come off the base of the post five minutes into the second period.

Anderson then ran from right to left but his shot across the keeper went marginally wide.

Robert Shiells did well to deal with an Ally Nixon shot and Jordan Fraser sent the re-bounce over the top.

Kingussie went back on the attack and Lee Bain sent a strike from distance across the face of the goal.

John MacRae's persistence paid off as got a shot at goal but his effort went just by the keeper's left post.

Robert Shiells stretched to keep out a Jordan Fraser effort after a swift passing move with no-one able to get to the re-bounce.

Kinlochshiel thought they had taken the lead when Donald Nixon

thumped a terrific shy towards the Kingussie goal and the ball dropped into the roof of the net. However referee Archie Ritchie blew with the ball in-flight, ruling that Duncan Matheson was offside.

You got the sense a Kinlochshiel goal was coming and it duly arrived seconds later. John MacRae hit an initial 25-yard shot which Robert Shiells saved. The ball broke to the keeper's right and he came off his line to try and get the ball away. However Kinlochshiel full centre Finlay MacRae had pushed forward and he gathered the ball and held off a couple of challenges before playing it across goal and into the net, off the far post from the tightest of angles, to make it 1-0 with 69 minutes played.

Ryan Borthwick sent a 27-yard effort past the junction between post and bar to the goalie's left as Kingussie tried to get level.

Ruaridh Anderson then just failed to steer a Lee Bain cross from the left goalwards as Kingussie pressed.

There were late claims for a Kingussie penalty but referee Archie Ritchie awarded a corner after consulting with goal judge Ally MacLeod.

Kinlochshiel saw out the closing stages. They have their 'free Saturday' this week which gives them the chance to shorten their injury list.

Mark MacDonald was very solid in the Kinlochshiel defence and Finlay MacRae again proved he can make the difference when his side are struggling to make the break-through.

Kingussie's Robert Mabon did well against John MacRae, whilst Alexander Michie turned in another classy performance, especially considering he played the second half with a thigh strain.

Lovat 5 Glenurquhart 0

Lovat will play Kinlochshiel in the Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-finals after they beat Glenurquhart 5-0 at Balgate.

Glenurquhart looked the more dangerous side from the start and dominated the opening 20 minutes. Connor Golabek came deep to get

possession on three minutes and ran forward to the right before shooting. Stuart MacDonald was forced to palm the ball away for a corner as it looked as if it might go inside his post.

At the other end, Marc MacLachlan used hardly any back-lift as he shot goalwards but the ball came off the post and, shortly after, he sent another effort just wide of the keeper's left post.

Lorne MacKay started to take control of the centre line and the tide began to turn Lovat's way and they went in front on 24 minutes. Stuart MacKintosh used his stick to save a Lewis Tawse shot from distance but Duncan Davidson ran in and he shyed the ball down and it bounced on the surface, over the keeper's leg and into the net.

Graeme MacMillan added a second on 30 minutes when he turned

his man on the Lovat right and his shot on his left side evaded the keeper to double Lovat's lead.

Marc MacLachlan was proving a real handful for Glenurquhart full back Ally MacKintosh and he got in front of his marker on 43 minutes and knocked on a high ball over his head for Duncan Davidson to run on to and he notched his second goal of the tie to make it 3-0.

A minute later, Michael Fraser made a good run and Fraser Heath slipped in a terrific pass but although Fraser showed great composure as he guided the ball past the on-rushing keeper from just inside the 'D', the ball went just the wrong side of the post.

Lovat substitute Thomas Fraser played a ball over Ally MacKintosh on 72 minutes. Stuart MacKintosh sprinted off his line to get to the

Continued on page 62

Fixtures

Wednesday July 4
Marine Harvest
North Division 2
Beaully v Inverness

Saturday July 7
Tulloch Homes
Camanachd Cup 3rd Round
Bute v Lovat
Fort William v Kingussie
Kilmallie v Kyles Athletic

Aberdein Considine Sutherland
Cup semi final
Newtonmore v Fort William
Kingussie v Skye

Marine Harvest Premiership
Glenurquhart v Caberfeidh
Newtonmore v Lochaber
Skye v Oban Camanachd

Marine Harvest
National Division
Inveraray v Oban Celtic - 3pm
Strathglass v Beaully - 3pm

Marine Harvest
North Division 1
Aberdeen Uni v Kinlochshiel

Marine Harvest
South Division 1
Inveraray v Tayforth
Kyles Athletic v Ballachulish
Lochside Rovers v Col Glen
Taynuilt v Kilmory

Marine Harvest
North Division 2
Lovat v Boleskine
Inverness v Strathspey
Lewis v Kilmallie
Lochcarron vCaberfeidh
Strathglass v Beaully - noon

Marine Harvest
South Division 2
Glenorchy v Aberdour
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Bute
Strachur v Oban Celtic

All throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated.



Results

Saturday June 30
Scottish Sea Farms
Glasgow Celtic Society
Cup Final
Kyles Athletic 0 v 2 Oban Caman

Artemis Macaulay Cup
second round (North)
Kinlochshiel 1 v 0 Kingussie
Lovat 5 v 0 Glenurquhart

Strathdearn Cup
second round
Glenurquhart 1 v 2 Fort William
Lochcarron 1 v 3 Skye

Marine Harvest
National Division
Fort William 6 v 0 Beaully
Glasgow MA P v P Kilmallie
Due to a bereavement

Marine Harvest
North Division 1
Aberdeen Uni 2 v 4 Glengarry
Kinlochshiel 1 v 1 Kingussie

Marine Harvest
South Division 1
Aberdour 9 v 0 Ballachulish
Lochside Rovers 3 v 0 Inveraray

Marine Harvest
North Division 2
Beaully P v P Inverness
To be rescheduled
Lewis 1 v 2 Lovat
Boleskine P v P Strathspey
To be rescheduled
Kilmallie P v P Lochaber
Due to a bereavement



Lorne Dickie and Thomas Whyte take a tumble during the Glasgow Celtic Society cup final at Taynuilt on Saturday. Photograph: Neil Paterson.



SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Continued from page 61

dropping ball but Marc MacLachlan got their first, taking the ball in the air to make it 4-0.

The final 15 minutes was bad tempered at times and Marc MacLachlan got his second goal a minute from time. Greg Matheson touched the ball in the air and MacLachlan stretched highest to knock the ball down into the ground with enough pace on the ball to send it into the net.

There were good performances from Lovat's Daniel Grieve against Fraser Heath, whilst Lachie Smith stood up to the challenge against Greg Matheson. Connor Golabek and Calum Smith showed up well as did Lorne MacKay who dominated in midfield for most of the game. Marc MacLachlan was brave up front and deserved his two goals for his efforts.

Lovat now face Kinlochshiel in the Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-finals with Kyles Athletic and Oban Camanachd meeting in the other last four tie.

Marine Harvest National Division

Fort William 6 Beaulieu 0

A devastating first half performance earned Fort William an emphatic 6-0 win over Beaulieu at a baking hot An Aird.

This was the second league meeting between the sides this season as goals from Elliot Moir and Daniel Lamont gave Beaulieu a 2-0 win at Braeview Park three weeks ago.

The An Aird pitch was in tip-top condition and the hosts made the stronger start, taking the lead after three minutes. A long pass from Lachie Shaw found Arran MacPhee on the left who sent an inch-perfect pass to Victor Smith who hit the ball on the volley from 20 yards out, sending it inside the post.

Fort William could have extended their lead a couple of minutes later when a long ball from Sean Cameron found Jack Fraser on the left of the 'D' with only the keeper to beat but he hit the side-netting.

Beaulieu struggled to get the ball into the Fort William half and they went two goals behind on nine minutes. Arran MacPhee played the ball to Jack Fraser who turned his marker before sending the ball back to MacPhee who slammed a shot past keeper Josh Grant from 15 yards out.

Young Victor Smith almost got his second when he spun away from his marker, but he shot wide from 18 yards.

Arran MacPhee scored his second on 34 minutes. MacPhee gathered a good ball from Sean Cameron and turned his marker before sending a 20-yard shot screaming past the keeper, high on his right side.

Fort William continued to press and substitute Greig Kelly, who came on with JD MacMaster following a water break, got to the ball 15

yards out and struck the ball low to the goalie's left.

JD MacMaster scored the goal of the game on 43 minutes. MacMaster ran onto a clearance from the Beaulieu defence and hit a 30-yard piledriver which would have reached his home village of Ardnamurchan had the net not stopped it.

Beaulieu were pleased to hear the half-time whistle which allowed the chance to re-group.

The second half didn't hit the same heights, which is understandable given the heat, and chances were few and far between.

Connor Ross shot wide of the keeper's right post on 65 minutes.

Lachie Shaw, who worked tirelessly in midfield and up front, rounded off the scoring with a deserved goal 15 minutes from time. Lewis Clark picked out Shaw's run towards the Beaulieu defence and the youngster took the ball around keeper Grant before scoring.

There was much to be pleased about for the Fort William support, especially in the first half. Ryan Boyle and Sean Cruickshank were solid at the back and were particularly good at clearing their lines. Sean Cameron turned in a man of the match performance in midfield where he linked up well with Lachie Shaw, winning many tackles and supplying the forwards. Arran MacPhee was excellent in attack where he was a constant threat.

Angus Renwick was best for Beaulieu, doing well on the wing and then at buckshee back.

There were no bookings and both teams were thankful for a water break in each half.

Glasgow Mid Argyll P Kilmallie P

The match between Glasgow Mid Argyll and Kilmallie at Yoker, a repeat of the 2018 Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup Final, will be rearranged following the passing of Kilmallie stalwart Hamish Graham.

Hamish Graham's sons Mark and Martin play and coach at Kilmallie, whilst Hamish was a sponsor and great supporter of the club.

Strathdearn Cup – quarter finals

Lochcarron 1 Skye Camanachd 3

The Skye Camanachd seconds reached the Strathdearn Cup semi-finals with a 3-1 win over Lochcarron at Battery Park.

The heat made it difficult for both sides but Skye had the best of the first half and created a handful of chances with Angie MacDonald and Ross Gordon narrowly missing the target.

Skye took the lead on 35 minutes following a nice flowing move involving Connor Gilpin, Sam MacPhee and Ross Gordon who all combined to set up Martin Pringle and he finished well.

It was a goal Skye deserved and



Beaulieu's Daniel Lamont takes to the air avoiding a Lachie Shaw volley during Fort William's 6-0 win over Beaulieu in the National Division. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography.

needed with half time approaching.

Skye started the second half well and killed off the tie in the opening five minutes of the second period.

Ross Gordon made it 2-0 just a minute after the restart with a good low drive to the keeper's right.

This was a pivotal moment in the tie and substitute Sam MacPhee added a third with a neat finish from outside the 'D' on 50 minutes.

Liam Arnott bagged a consolation goal for Lochcarron on the hour but Skye kept running right to the end in difficult conditions.

Some of the Skye players hadn't played for a few weeks and that showed at times during the first half but the overall work-rate was fantastic in the heat.

Glenurquhart 1 Fort William 2

A Scott Knox goal five minutes from time gave the Fort William reserves a 2-1 win over the Glenurquhart reserves at Blairbeg.

Fort William's Lewis Morrison scored the only goal of the first half just five minutes before the interval.

Charlie MacLeod, son of first team manager Iain MacLeod, levelled on 57 minutes, scoring under pressure to make it 1-1.

That's the way it stayed until Knox's late winner.

The Fort William and Skye Camanachd second teams will meet in the Strathdearn Cup semi-finals.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Kinlochshiel 1 Kingussie 1

A late Iain Borthwick goal gave the Kingussie seconds a 1-1 draw with the Kinlochshiel seconds in their noon throw-up at a sweltering Kirkton.

Kinlochshiel, playing down the slope in the first half, took the lead

after five minutes. The Kingussie defence failed to properly clear a corner from the left by young Finlay MacRae and when the ball came to Duncan 'DA' MacRae in a central position, he scored with a bouncing shot from 20 yards. Duncan 'DA' MacRae also went close with another first half shot.

Kinlochshiel were playing a lot of ball to Scott MacLean and they suffered a blow a couple of minutes before the break when MacLean was forced off with a knee problem after falling awkwardly.

Kingussie had the chance to level when referee John Matheson awarded them a second half penalty after Struan Robertson was tripped after running into the 'D' from the Kingussie left. With Dylan Borthwick off the field at the time, Russell Menzies took the spot-hit but his low effort was saved with his feet by Graham Kennedy who also turned a shot from the re-bound away for a corner.

Kingussie introduced veteran Iain Borthwick for the final 15 minutes and he got the leveller five minutes from time. The ball came to Borthwick with his back to goal on the Kingussie right and he turned and hit the ball early and although keeper Kennedy got his hand to the ball, the force of the shot took it high into the net to give Kingussie a deserved point.

Aberdeen University 2 Glengarry 4

Glengarry overcame Aberdeen University 4-2 at Baggownie.

This was Aberdeen University's first game since the middle of May and they fell behind to a Raymond Robertson goal in the opening minute.

Kenny Cushnie drew the students level 60 seconds later though.

Another former Lochcarron player, Nick Dalgety put Glengarry back in front on nine minutes and

the same player got his second on 27 minutes to make it 3-1 at the break.

A second from Raymond Robertson on 67 minutes gave the visitors a 4-1 advantage although Aberdeen's Donnie MacRae pulled a goal back on 72 minutes.

Glengarry now only trail league leaders Newtonmore reserves by two points and they have a game in hand with the sides still to meet at The Eilan.

Marine Harvest South Division 1 Lochside Rovers 3 Inveraray 0

Lochside Rovers climb to fourth place in South 1 after they beat Inveraray's second team 1-0 in their noon throw-up at Mossfield.

Lochside's Callum Kirsop began a two-match suspension following his red card in last week's draw with Bute and with six subs listed in the Oban Camanachd squad for the Celtic Society final, Lochside's resources were tested and manager Gareth Evans and his assistant Brian MacCallum were their only substitutes.

Inveraray listed a strong, young squad and with their first team having their 'free Saturday', it allowed some of the younger players to make up the 16 man squad. It also meant 46-year-old manager Graham MacPherson could manage from the sidelines rather than from the defence.

The only goal of the first period came on 37 minutes, shortly after a water break. Referee David Mitchell awarded Lochside a free-hit after the ball bounced up off the hard Mossfield ground and struck Andrew Fraser on the head. MacQueen played a short one-two with wing man Iain MacMillan before firing a waist-high shot into the back of the net from 25 yards.

Full centre's Michael MacQueen and David MacPherson were having a great battle in the middle of the park. However, MacQueen made it 2-0 with a similar long-distance strike to the opener after been allowed too much space by MacPherson.

This goal sparked life into Inveraray and Gavin Stobbart saved well on more than one occasion, particularly from a John MacKenzie drive.

The game was finally put out of Inveraray's reach when Lochside scored a third goal 10 minutes from time. Euan Logan shot goalwards and the ball took a cruel deflection off the Inveraray full back's caman, sending young keeper Gregor Mather the wrong way.

It was a deserved 3-0 win for the Oban side who are now four points behind third-placed Bute but with a game in hand.

Aberdour 9 Ballachulish 0

Aberdour go second in the division after they beat Ballachulish 9-0 in

their 1pm throw-up at Silversands. It was a day when many things clicked for Aberdour and there was an early sign for what was to come on six minutes when Angus Thorburn put the hosts ahead. Aberdour full forward Ruairidh Reid went on to score a hat-trick as he netted on 26, 33 and 36 minutes. The Aberdour midfield, with John Martin Philips back, provided plenty ball for the forwards and Angus Thorburn got his second a couple of minutes before the break to make it 5-0.

Ruairidh Reid got his fourth goal of the game on 58 minutes.

One concern for Lisa MacColl's side is that David McDougall had to come off after being caught by a late challenge. He was replaced by Tom Aitchison and showed great composure to make it 7-0 on 66 minutes.

David MacKenzie added an eighth on 80 minutes and Angus Thorburn completed his hat-trick a couple of minutes from time.

Aberdour are now just a point behind the Kyles Athletic second team who have a game in hand.

Marine Harvest North Division 2 Lewis Camanachd 1 Lovat 2

The Lovat second team go a point clear at the top of the table after they recorded a hard-fought 2-1 win over Lewis Camanachd at Shawbost.

Lewis started well, but it was Lovat who went in front on 25 minutes with Dylan MacCulloch blasting the ball home.

Ally Lamont equalised with 15 minutes remaining and, as the clock ticked down, Lewis looked good for a point.

However Cameron MacMillan had other ideas and, with three minutes remaining, he scored the winner to take the Balgait men to the top of the table and make for a more enjoyable journey home.

The Lovat colts are now a point clear of second-placed Lochcarron with both sides having played 12 matches.

The Caberfeidh colts in third place are only four points off the top with two games in hand.

Kilmallie P Lochaber P

The game between the Kilmallie and Lochaber reserve sides at The Canal Parks will be re-scheduled following the passing of Kilmallie stalwart Hamish Graham.

Boleskine P Strathspey P

The clash between Boleskine and Strathspey Camanachd has been re-scheduled for Saturday July 21.

Beaully P Inverness P

The match between the Beaully and Inverness reserves was re-scheduled for Wednesday July 4.

WCA round-up

Champions Skye Camanachd return to the top of Marine Harvest National Division 1 following the Women's Camanachd Association shinty action on Sunday June 30.

Strathspey 1 Skye Camanachd 6

Champions Skye Camanachd returned to the top of the table following their 6-1 win over Strathspey in their 1pm throw-up at Grantown Grammar School.

Beth Rodgers scored for Strathspey but doubles from Lorna MacRae, Helen Lamond and Caitlin MacLean gave Skye the win.

Skye are only ahead of Badenoch on goal difference but they have a game in hand with the sides still due to meet in Portree.

Aberdour W/O v Fort William

Aberdour were awarded the points when Fort William were unable to raise a team for their game at Silversands.

Badenoch P Ardnamurchan P

The game between Badenoch and Aberdour will be re-scheduled.

Marine Harvest National Division 1

Glenurquhart 4 Glengarry 0

Glenurquhart defeated Glengarry 4-0 in their 2.30pm throw-up at Blairbeg on Saturday June 30.

Abi Stoddart grabbed a hat-trick, whilst Hazel Hunter got the other.

Inverness 10 Skye Camanachd 0

Inverness were 10-0 winners against the Skye Camanachd second team at The Bught Park.

Katie MacMillan was the star of the show scoring seven times. Amber MacKay, Joni Kate Reid and Melissa MacKay got the others.

Strathglass 2 Kinlochshiel 5

Kinlochshiel recorded a solid 5-2 win against Strathglass at Cannich.

Cassie Dorrian scored both home goals but an Isabelle MacKenzie hat-trick and strikes from Alaina MacLennan and Kirsty Gordon gave Kinlochshiel both points.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Cowal & Bute 4 Glasgow Mid Argyll 2

Cowal & Bute beat the Glasgow Mid Argyll second team 4-2.

Nuala Neary scored twice with Charmaine Love and Ciardha Baxter also on target, cancelling out counters from Joan Nicolson and Katie Mullen.

125th anniversary senior shinty sixes

The Camanachd Association will hold a special senior shinty sixes competition at Glasgow Green on Sunday August 5.

Shinty will play its part as a new era in world sport gets under way this summer as Glasgow and Berlin host the inaugural European Championships. Contact Paul MacArthur on paul.macarthur@shinty.com or 07851 808643.

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Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

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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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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Oban are runners-up in Helensburgh

Cup final
report on the
shinty pages



Red and blacks win Celtic Cup



Oban Camanachd
captain Daniel Cameron
proudly holds aloft the
Celtic Society Cup.
Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

Oban Saints announce pre-season fixtures

FOOTBALL

Oban Saints have announced an attractive schedule of pre-season games and tournaments starting with the D & K Lafferty Cup at Mossfield Stadium and Glencruitten rugby pitch this Saturday.

Taking part are SPL clubs St Johnstone and Hamilton Accies, Championship side Dundee United, junior outfit St Anthony's and SAFL Premier Division hosts Oban Saints.

Saturday July 21 sees the Oban side take on Vale of Leven Juniors with Kincardine providing the opposition on July 28.

Both games are at Glencruitten.

This is followed by the annual Argyll and Bute Tournament in Lochgilphead on August 5.

Saints have been drawn in Group 2 along with hosts Lochgilphead Red Star, Port Glasgow and Neilston.

Saints end their pre-season with a home game against South Lochaber Thistle at Glencruitten on Wednesday August 8.

Pre-season training started on Monday night with an excellent turnout of 26 players in attendance who were put through their paces by fitness instructor Jemma Campbell.



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Emotional day at Caol dedication



New car park rules slammed

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A large sign listing 20 rules which has been installed in one of Fort William's smallest car parks has been slammed as a ludicrous waste of taxpayers' money.

The car park in the town's Grange Road is used by local residents and shoppers at the nearby Spar store.

But now the sign has appeared, sited part way up a steep banking, making it difficult to read properly without standing on a busy road.

Highland Council told the Lochaber Times the installation of the sign was not a precursor to charging meters being introduced and was simply a way to ensure the car park is not abused.

But Fort William Retailers' Association chairman Drew Purdon is highly critical, dismissing the sign as the latest example of money being wasted by bureaucrats at Highland Council headquarters in Inverness.

'This sign just appeared out of nowhere, without any consultation, four weeks after six of the bays were lined off for permit holders only.

'How come a council which is constantly pleading it has



Fort William Retailers' Association chairman Drew Purdon.

no money can find the finances for this sort of thing?' said an angry Mr Purdon.

'Rules about not holding political rallies in the car park? Ridiculous. And why is it that Inverness is taking all these decisions?

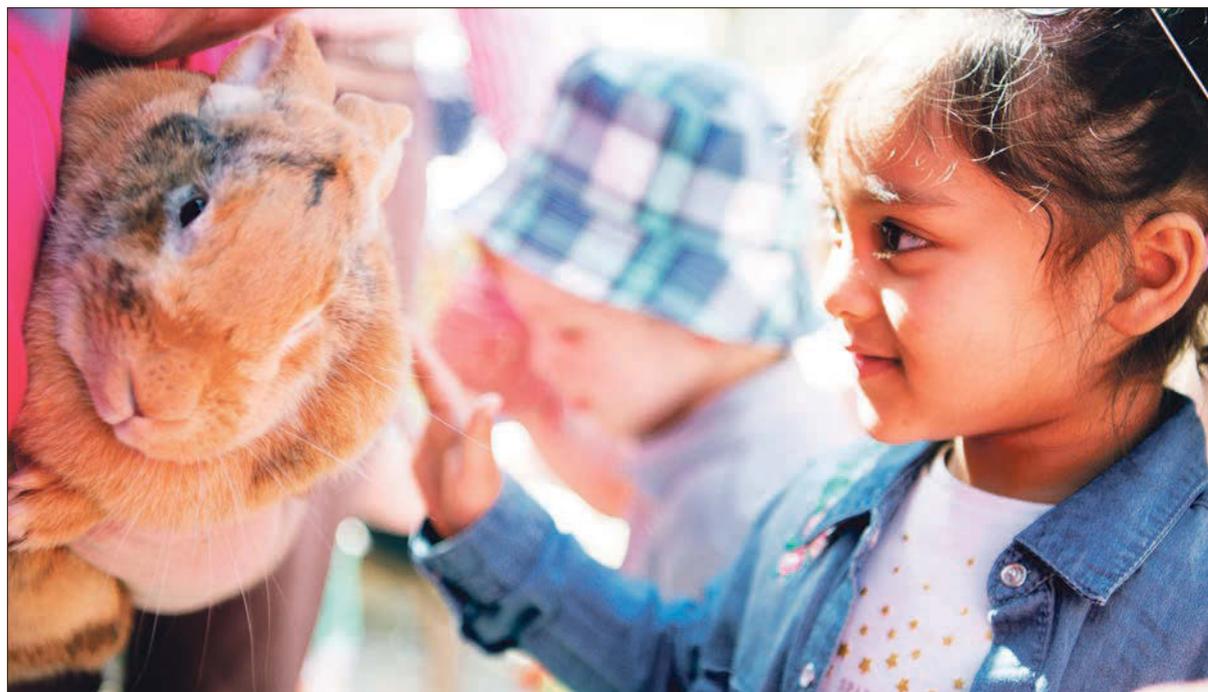
'It is just symptomatic of the ignorance of this area stemming from Inverness-based officials. They have no idea what's happening in Fort William and seem to care even less.'

Mr Purdon believes the new sign could be a precursor to parking meters being installed in the town.

'I think that's a distinct possibility and it will come about with the usual level of consultation by Inverness - absolutely nil.'

However, local Highland

Croileagan Grianach youngsters enjoy furry encounters!



Lochaber Rural Education Trust hosted children from Croileagan Grianach (Gaelic Playgroup) from Fort William last week. The youngsters enjoyed a fantastic morning of baking, meeting the animals, digging potatoes, playing games, singing and colouring in. Our photographer captured some of the fun and smiles - and furry encounters!

Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

councillor Andrew Baxter, who confirmed the new sign had nothing to do with controversial parking charges, said it was aimed at resolving

a long-running problem for local residents.

'We have a long-running issue of parking problems in this area, which causes prob-

lems for the residents along Grange Road.

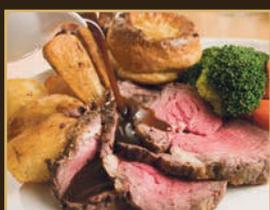
'It will be an attempt to regulate this area so we can take enforcement action against

those who park inappropriately,' he said.

'Local residents have campaigned for many years to get improvements.'

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Strontian care home hosts first open house event

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

NHS Highland staff and a combined Community Councils Working Group came together last week to jointly host their first open doors event at Dail Mhor House in Strontian.

The working group, formed by the five community councils local to the immediate Dail Mhor catchment area, have achieved success in persuading NHS Highland to re-open the facility to serve the community.

Other open house events are planned for July 18, August 1 and August 15 (10am-2pm), and a full public meeting is scheduled for the evening of Thursday July 19.

The group was pleased to welcome a number of residents from both near

and far, interested in hearing more about immediate and long-term plans for Dail Mhor House, and to provide suggestions about what other services could usefully be based there.

The facility will be providing desperately needed residential respite care to start off with, while other services are in the pipeline. The team is particularly keen to encourage anyone currently looking after an elderly relative to come in and discuss whether they may be eligible to receive respite care.

Dail Mhor House was closed by NHS Highland in August last year to deal with an emergency plumbing issue, but the house remained closed after the work was completed and former residents were forced to remain to where they had been relocated.

The joint work team at Dail Mhor House in Strontian, held their first open event.



The Community Councils Working Group and NHS

Highland senior management engaged in discussions earlier this year and, by working pragmatically, and being open to change, an acceptable compromise was reached for the facility to reopen.

Local GPs had highlighted the fact that the most critical need locally was for respite places, which enable full-time carers to have a break from their caring responsibilities, and it was agreed that Dail Mhor could usefully start providing this service for the benefit of all Highland residents.

A weekly physiotherapy

service is due to commence at Dail Mhor imminently, and other visiting services are being planned.

The local community is also invited to inquire about making use of the facilities for other activities, including meetings and other get-togethers.

Dail Mhor House has recently undergone a major refurbishment and the site offers light and airy spaces suitable for a variety of activities.

The first group of respite clients are due to stay in late July, with other weeks of respite care already scheduled.

James Hilder, of Sunart Community Council and chairman of the working group, said: 'We are extremely pleased to have achieved open and honest dialogue with NHS Highland about how best this facility can serve the community.'

'We are acutely aware of changes in best practice, which, combined with budgetary pressures, have led to the NHS having to review how care of all sorts is provided.'

'We look forward to continuing that conversation, and a pragmatic partnership moving forward.'

The open house on August 15 will be specifically geared towards encouraging people who may be interested in a job in the care sector to come along and discuss options.

The public meeting on July 19 will provide all the local residents who have helped and supported the effort to get Dail Mhor re-opened to hear more detail about how and why the current strategy has been developed, and to contribute ideas and sign-up as a Friend of Dail Mhor.

Work has already begun on assessing how the adjacent primary school building could be utilised to expand Dail Mhor services, once the space is vacated and the school moves to its new building adjacent to Ardnamurchan High.



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H2SJP29368 06/18

Huddersfield athlete is first to do the 'Double Ramsay' of Lochaber summits

A renowned British athlete has run herself into the history books after completing a unique challenge in Lochaber's mountains.

West Yorkshire farmer and breast cancer survivor Nicky Spinks's Double Ramsay Round involved completing a circuit of 24 summits in Lochaber, including Ben Nevis, twice.

The first person to complete a single round was Lochaber Athletic Club member Charlie Ramsay, from Edinburgh, in 1978 - hence the name 'Ramsay Round'. Ms Spinks's Double Ramsay saw her cover 116 miles (187km) in soaring temperatures.



The 51-year-old, pictured left, completed her attempt early on Monday morning in a time of 55 hours and 56 minutes.

As a single Ramsay Round is normally attempted in a day, Ms Spinks, who runs a farm near Huddersfield, wanted to complete the double in 48 hours.

Ms Spinks began running competitively in 2001 in a four-mile fell race.

In 2011, she set a new women's record of 64 for the number of Lakeland peaks climbed in 24 hours.

Two years ago, she completed a 132-mile (212km) fell run across the Lake District's

highest peaks in less than 48 hours.

For the Double Ramsay attempt, Lochaber Athletic Club members Sarah MacDonald, Helen Rennard, Pawel Cymbalista and Jon Gay helped with logistics and pacing.

A spokesperson for Lochaber AC said: 'Not many people have completed a Ramsay Round, let alone considered doing 116 miles plus twice the ascent of Everest on this rough, remote terrain - especially in the recent heat.'

'No wonder Nicky has recently been awarded a British Empire Medal to recognise her achievements and contributions within the sport. Many congratulations from Lochaber AC.'

Court hears school Dunblane-style massacre fears

Parents feared a Dunblane or American school massacre when they saw a man with an assault rifle walking near a Highland primary school.

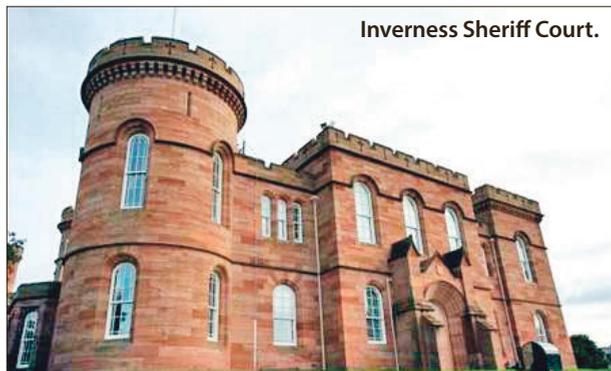
The police were called and armed officers were dispatched to the scene near Inverloch Primary School where the headmaster instructed an immediate 'lock-down' to protect the children.

After a tense half an hour, 32-year-old Malcolm Hilson was arrested and disarmed just after lunchtime on March 16 this year, with police discovering his rifle was, in fact, a toy.

But Inverness Sheriff Court heard last week that Hilson, of no fixed abode, also had three knives hanging from his belt and rucksack.

He appeared from custody before Sheriff Eilidh Macdonald and had sentence deferred until July 24 for a background and psychiatric report.

Hilson admitted theft by housebreaking, possession of a firearm or imitation



Inverness Sheriff Court.

firearm with intent to cause fear of unlawful violence, and possession of knives.

Fiscal depute Roderick Urquhart told the court that the day before the gun drama, Hilson had broken into a mountain sports shop in Fort William, stealing £522 worth of clothing and equipment.

The following day, Hilson was seen by a woman walking towards Inverloch in the direction of a play park, carrying what appeared to be an assault rifle.

Mr Urquhart said: 'The witness told police, "He was

just walking calmly carrying the gun like a soldier would".'

A few minutes later, concerned parents phoned the primary school about the man with the rifle.

Mr Urquhart added: 'All pupils were locked inside the building, entrances and exits were secured, windows were blacked out and lights put out.'

'The nursery pupils were moved into a cupboard and secured. Teachers were worried and pupils were upset, understandably so given events both in America and, previously, in Dunblane. The

threat to safety of those inside the school appeared genuine.'

Mr Urquhart said police 'boxed in' Hilson and when he walked towards four nursery children and their parents, an officer quickly moved into their path.

The court was told that Hilson was seen to have his finger on the trigger and when the officer told him to put the gun down, Hilson said: 'It's a toy.'

He was then taken into custody.

CONTACTUS
email us at fort@obantimes.co.uk
telephone 01397 703003

Searchers find body of climber missing on Ben Nevis since January

A mountain rescue team searching for a climber who fell near the summit of Ben Nevis in January have found a body.

Marcin Bialas, who was 36, reportedly fell through an overhanging ledge of snow on the mountain into a gully on January 21.

Police Scotland said a man's body was recovered from Observatory Gully on Ben Nevis on Saturday and that, while formal identification had still to take place, Mr Bialas's family had been informed.

The search for Mr Bialas began after two members of his climbing party were rescued near the mountain's summit in January.

The pair told rescuers that their friend had fallen through a cornice into Observatory Gully.

Numerous searches of the gully since then by Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team had been hampered by deep snow.

In a statement, Lochaber MRT said: 'The team recovered the body from high in Observatory Gully with considerable difficulty.'

'The location lower down involved large snow fields and very large loose boulder fields. This was a fantastic effort from the team members and the equipment.'

'While the recovery was ongoing we had another incident on Tower Ridge when two climbers became crag fast. Team members started to climb up to the casualties who were stuck at Tower Gap.'

The statement explained that a helicopter, R951, was then tasked to assist with the Tower Ridge incident and managed to evacuate the two climbers.

'We are grateful for the helicopter support on one of the hottest days ever recorded in Lochaber,' the statement concluded.



Kinlochleven High hosts prom

Senior pupils at Kinlochleven High School enjoyed their annual prom event recently.



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Fort homes cut off due to burst water mains

Around 100 properties in Fort William were affected on Saturday by a burst water main.

The burst was in Achintore Road in Fort William and occurred in the early afternoon on Saturday.

Scottish Water deployed a team of engineers to repair this throughout the rest of that day and water was restored approximately 12 hours later.

A Scottish Water spokesperson told us: 'We would like to apologise to customers who experienced disruption as a result of this burst and thank them for their patience while we worked to complete repairs on the pipe.'

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Rebekah Carroll, left, and Elaine Cameron with youngsters following the leaving assembly. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography

Popular teachers leave St Columba's Primary

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

This year's leavers' assembly at St Columba's RC Primary School in Caol last week had a more poignant air than usual as it doubled up with a farewell to one of the school's most popular members of staff.

Elaine Cameron was retiring from St Columba's after a teaching career spanning 44 years. She has taught at Lochside/St Columba's RC Primary for 29 years and also taught in the special class at Lochaber High School.

Mrs Cameron has been a

much valued member of the teaching staff and she will be very much missed by all staff, pupils and parents.

The school said it wished her every happiness in her retirement.

Also leaving is Rebekah Carroll, who has completed her probationer year at St Columba's RC Primary, where she taught P4.

She is leaving the area to take up a teaching post in Aberdeen and the school also wished Miss Carroll every success and happiness in her new post.

The Primary 7 leavers' assembly was held in the

school last week, when pupils were presented with awards in recognition of their many achievements throughout the year.

They entertained their families and friends by singing special songs and reminiscing on their learning experiences over the past seven years.

The Citizenship Award was presented to Callum MacLean, while the Eco Prize went to Ryan Petrie.

Lily Irving, Orla Love and Noah Johnston were given special awards for being outstanding school ambassadors.

Tenders invited for Lochaline ferry terminal improvements

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) has published an invitation to tender to remove and upgrade the aligning structure at Lochaline Ferry Terminal.

The aligning structure is reaching the end of its serviceable life and needs replaced. The contract will include the removal of the old aligning structure as well as the construction of a new one.

CMAL senior civil engineer John Quinn explained:

'This contract is part of our ongoing programme of harbour upgrades and modifications across our network to provide safe and efficient lifeline ferry services to communities around Scotland.'

'Lochaline Ferry Terminal's electricity supply was recently upgraded to incorporate a hybrid vessel charging point to help reduce overnight noise and pollution from overnight berthing.'

'The upgrades will continue, and we will continue to work closely with the local community so people can understand the scope and nature of the work that will be carried out.'

The ferry service may be subject to amendment for limited periods during construction and operator CalMac will inform passengers when details are known.

The tender process is being managed through Public Contracts Scotland.

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Summit cookin' on ben for Gary

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Ben Nevis will be the unlikely venue for a fundraising dinner on July 28 as a group of hardy chefs hope to serve food on the summit of Britain's highest mountain for one day.

Fort William chef Stewart MacLachlan is assembling a hardy team of volunteers to take on the epic challenge which will see them carry and then assemble cooking equipment on the top of Ben Nevis to feed hungry hillwalkers – all in the name of charity.

With the help of some local strongmen, Stewart is hoping to create a makeshift snack bar on the summit and serve hot food and snacks to people 4,411ft above sea level.

The aim is to raise funds for Gary Campbell, who is trying to fundraise £50,000 for specialist Multiple Sclerosis treatment.

The team will be taking donations from walkers and climbers keen to stop for a bite on the summit in return for freshly made burgers or even pizzas.

As well as this, team mem-

bers will be on the hunt for signatures and sponsorship money in the days leading up to the walk.

Stewart, who works at Crannog Seafood Restaurant, has been wanting to do something to raise funds for his friend Gary's stem cell treatment and finally came up with an idea that might inspire people to get involved.

'I just thought it was a bit mad and so it would be a good idea to raise awareness.

'I had been thinking for a while of doing a fundraising dinner for Gary, but one day it just came to me – why don't we do it at the top of the Ben?'

'I phoned Gary's sister Maria and she said it was a mad idea and that just made me want to do it more. The idea has actually made everyone take notice and jump on board.'

Gary, 29, was diagnosed with primary progressive Multiple Sclerosis last year and his friends and family launched a fundraising campaign so he can receive hematopoietic stem cell treatment (HSCT) in Mexico.

Stewart, whose wife is Gary's cousin, is urging as

Summit Cookin' event organisers, from left, Gary's sister Maria Campbell, local strongman Jeremy Vickers and Crannog chef Stewart MacLachlan put in a little practice. Photograph: Abrightside Photography



many people to get involved with the event and to carry, cook or just support the cause. 'The more the merrier,' he added.

'It's a fun day out, so if people want to come along then they are more than welcome. It's about people getting involved and raising money and awareness.'

Lochaber strongman Jeremy Vickers aims to carry – perhaps with the help of an assistant – most of the cooking equipment, including gas cylinders, a pizza oven and furniture to the top and back within a day.

Jeremy and his team of helpers aim to leave from Achintee as early 4am on July 28 to make sure they get to the top in plenty of time to set up in preparation for the second group of cooks and servers.

Once everything is set up and ready to go on the summit, Stewart will spend the late morning and after-

noon cooking and preparing snacks for those who manage to conquer the Ben.

Helping Stewart at the makeshift kitchen will be Maria Campbell, Gary's sister, who is also a professional chef in Fort William.

With the walk taking place

on July 28, Stewart is hoping there are plenty of climbers who will take up his offer of a burger, and, more importantly, that the weather holds up.

To support the team, visit their JustGiving page or join the Summit Cookin' Facebook event.

The team are aiming to raise £5,000 on the day, which Stewart thinks is not an unrealistic target.

'If you're going to do something mad you might as well just go the whole hog and try raise as much as you can. We are just going for it!'



Friends and family are fundraising for the £50,000 Gary needs for stem cell treatment.

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WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

■ Spean Bridge Golf Club ladies' and gents' open competition will be held on Saturday July 7. To enter, call 07767 463174 or email info@speangolf.golf.uk

■ A coffee morning and raffle, including bookstall, tombola, table top, treasure hunt and guess the birthday of the dog will be held in Ballachulish Hall from 10.30am until 1pm on Saturday July 7 in aid of Barking Mad Dog Rescue.

■ Glengarry Highland Games will be held at Invergarry Shinty and Sports Field on Saturday July 7 from 1-5pm. Traditional Highland games, plus, Highland dancing, pipe band and various side stalls and children's activities.

■ Fort William Town Team AGM will take place on Monday July 9 at 7pm at the Highland Bookshop.

■ Lochaber Vegan Fair will be held in the Duncansburgh Church Hall on July 21 from 11am until 4pm. Delicious food, information and talks, face painting and stalls. Entry is free.

Emotional day as Caol honours village stalwart

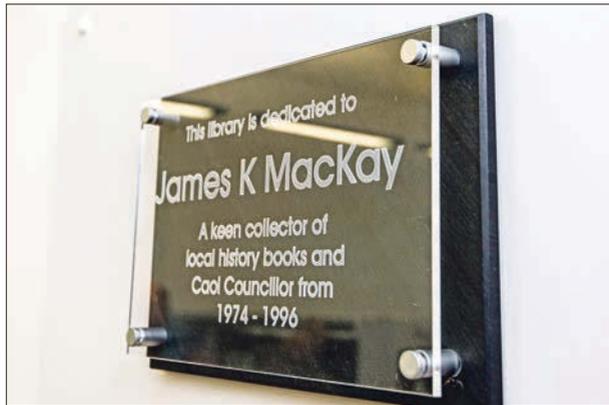
Family of James MacKay attend dedication of new library

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A 'very emotional and poignant day', was how the daughter of the late Caol councillor Jimmy MacKay described the recent event to dedicate the new local library to her father.

As well as a local councillor for Caol between 1974 and 1996, Mr MacKay, who died in the spring of 2003, was also a keen collector of local history books and helped shape much of the village as it looks today.

Mr MacKay's grandchildren, Lucy and Jack, who both attend Caol Primary School, unveiled the new naming plaque while proud mum Sarah Stephen looked



The plaque. All photographs: Abrightside Photography.

on. As well as a performance by Caol choir, there was a short religious service.

Sarah told the Lochaber Times: 'It's been a year since the new campus opened and

connection with it and that was put out to public consultation.

'My dad had not only served the village for a long time as a councillor, he was also for many years the manager of the village's old community centre, so it seemed quite appropriate and I was delighted when the idea was approved.'

Sarah added that the event had proved quite emotional, not just for her, but for the younger members of the family also.

'It was a very emotional day generally, even more so when my son Jack got upset saying he wished he'd known his grandad - sadly, he never had the chance to know my dad.'

'So it was really lovely that they got to unveil the plaque

and have that connection with him.

'With the choir singing, and both St Columba's and Caol Primaries involved, it all made it a beautiful occasion for us all.'

'Many thanks to all those who made it such a special day.'

'And big thanks must most definitely go to Ann-Marie Masson from High Life Highland without whose efforts I doubt this would have happened at all.'

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Lucy and Jack wrote and recited a lovely poem in their grandfather's memory.



Caol and St Columba's primary schools' joint choir sang two songs for family and friends.

There was a great turnout for the opening of the new Caol library.



Lucy and Jack unveil the plaque with their mum, Sarah.



Father Michael told a few stories about his good friend James MacKay at the opening and commemoration event, and of James's many achievements as a councillor.

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Invernevis House garden party raises £2,326

Money set to buy items to help the many residents feel more at home

Invernevis House in Fort William held a garden party fundraiser recently which proved a huge success, raising £2,326.77 for its 'Make Invernevis house a home' appeal.

The appeal was set up to buy items for the residents' communal spaces to make the spaces feel more homely and less like clinical areas.

Some nice furniture has already been purchased for the Parade area and the hope is to use some of the money raised from the garden party to finish decorating that space.

A spokesperson from the home said: 'We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the local businesses and residents of Lochaber who donated and who came and supported us on the day.'

'Special thanks goes to Lucile Burns who organised the event and made it such a success. To Wonderland, Mark Lawrie and Donald Innes for providing the music, and to all the staff for working so hard to make the event a success.'

During the garden party, Unison kindly presented Invernevis with a beautiful cake to celebrate the NHS's 70th birthday.

Right: Claire Cameron, manager of Invernevis and Alineen Dewson from NHS Human Resources, accepted the cake from Lynn Warmald, of Unison. Below, there was plenty of food and other stalls for visitors and families to enjoy. Photos: Anthony Macmillan



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Families got together to enjoy the good weather and all the wonderful activities and food that staff and helpers had worked so hard to provide.
Photographs: ABrightside photography

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Pupils say so long to P7

Fort William's primary seven pupils were all smiles on Friday as they bade farewell to their respective primary schools, to enjoy more than six weeks of holidays, hopefully in glorious sunshine, before heading in to first year at Lochaber High School.

Pupils from Caol, Banavie, Inverlochy, Lundavra and St Columba's primary schools, as well as pupils from Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar, enjoyed various activities, such as receiving their leaving certificates, before getting their photographs taken by the Lochaber Times's photographer.



P7 leavers from Caol Primary School.

All photographs: Abrightside Photography



P7 leavers from Banavie Primary School.



P7 leavers from Inverlochy Primary School.



P7 leavers from Lundavra Primary School.



P7 leavers from St Columba's Primary School.



P7 leavers from Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar.

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NHS boss to step down

NHS Highland announced this week that its chief executive, Elaine Mead, is to step down at the end of December this year.

After an NHS career spanning more than 30 years, Professor Mead has decided to move on and pursue her passion for quality improvement.

Starting out her professional career as a diagnostic radiographer, Professor Mead was appointed NHS Highland's chief executive in January 2011. She took on this crucial leadership role at a time when NHS Highland was facing challenging times.

Professor Mead joined NHS Highland in February 2005 from West Dorset General Hospitals, where she was director of operations and deputy chief executive.

Just over a year into her new post, in March 2012, she was part of the senior leadership team to become the first board in Scotland to integrate health and social care services in partnership with the Highland Council.

Widely regarded as being ahead of its time, the lead agency model has attracted worldwide interest, with integration arguably one of the biggest reforms in the NHS's 70-year history.

Announcing her decision to leave NHS Highland, Professor Mead said it had been a privilege to have spent her career in the NHS.

'This week, as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the NHS, I want to pay tribute to all of our fantastic staff up and down the country but in particular to my colleagues

in NHS Highland,' she said. 'There is no question our front-line staff are very highly regarded and it's been humbling to see the difference they make to people's lives day in and day out. Our staff support and practise great medicine and provide great care. I warmly and sincerely thank each and every one of them.'

Professor Mead added the role had been a huge responsibility as well as a privilege.

'Not only is NHS Highland there to care for people from cradle to grave and to improve the health of the public, but we are also the biggest employer in the area.

'I have always felt it was important to take our socio-economic, corporate parenting and environmental responsibilities seriously



Elaine Mead.

and that is something I have also been passionate to try to deliver.'

Paying tribute, NHS Highland chairman David Alston commented: 'Elaine has been an outstanding and passionate leader of NHS

Highland. She should be very proud of leading on so many positive developments. She has been ever present since joining us in 2005 and has worked tirelessly for the board and the people of the Highlands. She has been an innovative and forward thinking leader, nationally and internationally respected and she has really put NHS Highland on the map.

'She will be a huge loss to NHS Highland but leaves behind a tremendous legacy and strong leadership team.'

Under Professor Mead's leadership, NHS Highland has led the way in developing the Highland Quality Approach, an organisation-wide movement to change the culture to embed quality improvement and safety in health and social care.

Highlanders help fight moor fire

Highland infantry soldiers continue to be involved with the huge firefighting operation on Saddleworth Moor on the outskirts of Manchester as it entered a second week.

The 'Jocks' of 4 SCOTS (The Highlanders battalion, Royal Regiment of Scotland) who were scrambled to help last week have had their initial 48-hour deployment extended as the fires continue to burn.

Fire chiefs have praised soldiers' efforts as 'invaluable' and commended their enthusiasm and professionalism.

Macmillan funding continues

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is to continue funding the Macmillan benefits uptake service for people with cancer and other long-term conditions.

The policy and resources committee agreed last week to allocate £25,000 to match fund investment from Macmillan Cancer Support.

An officer works four days a week across the Western Isles to help people who may never have claimed benefits before to navigate the system while dealing with the physical and emotional problems cancer brings. Home visits are also undertaken to help people secure additional resources and financial support.

Nine motorists to be reported for drink/drug driving

Drivers in Fort William and Skye are among nine motorists to be reported for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs over the past weekend in the Highlands and Islands.

The detections came during the first weekend of a national safety campaign aimed at removing drink drivers from the roads.

The nine drivers to be reported include seven relating to drink drive offences, with the other two related to driving under the influence of drugs.

The incidents were recorded in Easter Ross, Nairn, Orkney, Skye, Aviemore and Fort William.

Tackling drink driving is a key priority for police in the Highlands and Islands. Figures reported to Highland Council last week revealed that the number of drivers detected has increased by 13 per cent - equating to 51 drivers more than the same period last year.

Roads policing Inspector Neil Lumsden said: 'To have nine drivers detected under the influence of either

drink or drugs in a single weekend is very disappointing.

'All of the drivers who will be reported are Scottish residents so should be well aware of the legislation and the dangers of getting behind the wheel under the influence.

'These incidents and the figures reported last week tell us that for a small but significant number of people the message is not getting through.

'It only takes one drink driver to put everyone else on the roads or

pavements in danger. On the other hand, these detections show our officers are in the right places to catch drink drivers and take them off the road. We will continue to take action against anyone suspected of drinking and driving. Many of these detections come about as a direct result of information from local communities who quite rightly do not accept this reckless behaviour.

'I would ask people continue to share their concerns with us so officers can take the necessary action.'

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Significant drop in Highland crime

Police in the Highlands have reported increased detection rates and significant reductions in crime that affects local communities – in particular violent crime, with more than 230 fewer victims year on year.

Key reductions have also been recorded in acquisitive crime, while officers have also been focused on improving safety on the roads.

Significant efforts have been made in reducing serious levels of violence, with a 7.4 per cent reduction in serious assault and a nine per cent reduction in common assault.

During the same period, the number of robberies has dropped by 18, a reduction of 50 per cent, while there have been 338 fewer incidents of disorder, a reduction of 10 per cent.

Tackling acquisitive crime remains at the forefront of police activity, with domestic housebreaking cases having

dropped by 35 per cent and thefts from vehicles also having reduced by 24 per cent.

The number of reported instances of shoplifting has increased by 23 per cent but close working relationships with retailers has resulted in an average detection rate in excess of 80 per cent.

Highlands and Islands divisional commander Chief Superintendent George Macdonald presented the performance figures, which are linked to the Local Policing Plan 2017/2020, to a meeting of The Highland Council in Inverness last Thursday (June 28).

Chief Supt Macdonald said: "These figures highlight the positive work ongoing in the Highlands during the past year to tackle issues which most affect our communities.

Partnership working is at the heart of our Local Policing Plan and remains key to our

preventative approach. These positive reported outcomes are in many strands attributable to the collaborative approach we and our partners endorse.

"On our roads, we have listened to the concerns of local communities and, with the support of our colleagues in roads policing, this has resulted in a 13 per cent increase in the number of drink drivers detected. In one way this is disappointing, but it also shows we are taking action to stop and remove suspected drink drivers from the roads. I would encourage our communities to report those they suspect continue to ignore the warnings and place themselves and other road users at risk.

"Tackling violence is a key priority in the Highlands and we are pleased to report a general reduction in this type of crime. This means that year on year 237 fewer people have

become victims of violence in its broadest sense.

"The general profile of violence in the Highlands shows that alcohol is the most recurrent factor and we remain committed to educating people about it.

"We have strong relationships with licensed premises and have increased the number checks by 922 year on year. Licensed premises checks in the Highlands now account for 16 per cent of all such visits across Scotland.

"We would not be able to record such results without the continued support of communities themselves and I am grateful for their support.

"We will never be complacent and I fully acknowledge there is always be room for improvement. However, we can guarantee that our efforts will continue to ensure the area you live in remains as safe as possible."

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



An enduring partnership

Partnerships in life and in business are fraught with pitfalls and problems, and over time many succumb to the results of individual human differences.

There are some, however, that endure. I am lucky that so far my near 20-year partnership with Andrew Stevenson has survived many of the usual ups and downs and personality clashes that end most such joint endeavours.

Like most businesses, we have had some difficult times – the roof being blown off the Ceilidh House in December 2011 and subsequent long-running issues borne from that were the cause of a number of these when, by taking the wrong action or by following the wrong advice, we would not have survived as a business.

As was the subject of last week's article, that business will soon no longer be part of what we do and it feels like an appropriate time to nod my appreciation to Andrew as without his determination through the very complex battles we found ourselves in a few years ago, the all-round positive outcome achieved by the sale of that business – for our staff, our landlords, our customers, the new company taking over and for ourselves – would never have been reached.

The following is a short poem I wrote for Andrew a few years ago when we were at a very low point and taking blows from many different angles. On top of the direct battles, there were many less than straight tactics that were attempted against us. In the words of the Canadian songwriter Stan Rogers: "Smiling b*****s lying to you everywhere you go."

However, with Andrew's ab-

solute refusal to give in on any front, we managed to overcome the considerable forces against us, and I am grateful to him that we came out the other side.

A Fighter

Any fool or bragging clown can glow when all is well,

But watch and pay attention and cracks will often tell.

When things become not quite so good, and start to fall apart

Then you'll know who you can trust and has the fighting heart.

By nature, blowhard, boastful types are heroes to themselves.

Their bank is full, they've shiny cars and trophies on their shelves;

But be wary of the boasting fish, who in lofty waters swim

Often they are only there because the tide came in.

Watch a man react and move when clouds are all he sees, When taking blows and losing ground and falling to his knees.

Most go down and kiss the ground without the grit to try. They pull the plug and give a shrug and crawl away to die.

Give me the man upon my side who'll fight when falling back,

Who cannot win but won't give in and blindly shows attack.

One of him when things are grim is worth a thousand men

And that's the man who'll live to stand and prosper once again.

Once you've been down in the mud with someone by your side You know they'll never panic with a sudden turn of tide.

A fortress with foundations built on hard and rocky ground

Will stand when cities built on sand collapse with trumpet sound.

View from the Chamber

As part of its work to support Lochaber businesses, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce promotes the area to visitors through the internationally recognised Outdoor Capital of the UK brand.

Visitors researching and planning trips in 2018 have access to more competing information and influence than ever before. How do tourism businesses achieve that all-important 'cut

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following and also promotes member businesses directly by e-newsletter to more than 2,500 people who have opted to receive it each month.

That's an impressive audience reach for local tourism businesses.

The interactive website acts as a simple point of entry to the area's attractions with the reassurance to visitors that they're getting information from a respected tourism brand.

We can also provide an expert social media service for member businesses.

Promoting your tourism business through the Outdoor Capital of the UK is easy to do.

Simply get in touch to become a member of the Chamber and start benefiting from being part of our established brand today.

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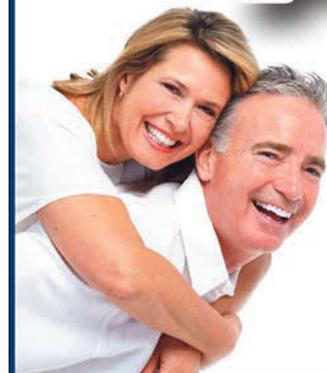
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The WH Way is made a little easier on old military road

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A section of the West Highland Way, on the old military road south of Kinlochleven, has recently been improved.

What was a long, rough and tiring part of the way, which was eroding and becoming indistinct, is now clear and smoother with better drainage.

This is the first phase of improvements from the north side of the infamous Devil's Staircase to where the old military road meets the hydro track to the Blackwater Reservoir.

The West Highland Way is Scotland's most popular long-distance path, with more than 35,000 people walking the whole length last year.

It starts at Milngavie, outside Glasgow, passes through Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, over Rannoch Moor, into Glen Coe and ends up in Fort William.

Survey figures in 2012 estimated that the West



Left and above: Completed work to paths one and two, and below, both the paths before remedial work was carried out.

Highland Way brings in nearly £16 million each year to businesses along its route.

There are numerous events and challenges every year to complete the route of 96 miles (154km) leading to this downhill section of the route

becoming eroded and with damage to cross drains and ditches causing water to get onto the path and wash away surfacing.

The Highland Council and Scottish Natural Heritage have part-funded the project,

costing £40,000 for this phase, with a second phase due to start in the autumn at a similar cost.

The Highland Council appointed experienced mountain path builders Highland Conservation Limited to

carry out the work throughout May and June.

By using locally-sourced stone material from under the vegetation, which is then carefully placed back, the construction is both sensitive to the local environment and prevents bringing in quarried material by helicopter at greater cost and CO2 emissions.

Senior long-distance route officer Jock MacGillivray said: 'I am very pleased with

what the contractors have done. This type of work was done, until very recently, by hand and the machine operators have shown great skill and awareness of their environment.'

The council says this improved section should be a welcome relief to walkers on what is usually their fourth or fifth day of the way being able to easily see the route and not stumble over washed out cobbles or follow indistinct lines on bedrock.

Chairman of the Lochaber Committee, Councillor Andrew Baxter said the improvement works were great news.

'This is a very popular route with a lot of foot traffic on the path so I'd like to thank the council's long-distance routes team and Highland Conservation Limited for their work in making sure the access is maintained and the path can continue to be enjoyed by visitors and locals,' he said.



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MSP calls for protected status for Iolaire site

Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan is calling on the Ministry of Defence to designate the site of HMY Iolaire as a protected place under The Protection of Military Remains Act 1986.

HMY Iolaire sank on January 1 1919 after striking rocks two miles from Stornoway where families were waiting to welcome home First World War servicemen.

While 82 survived, tragically 201 servicemen died in this incident and around a third of those known to be lost were never recovered from the sea and the wreck remains their final resting place. January 1, 2019 marks the centenary of the disaster and events will be held to commemorate those who were lost.

Dr Allan commented: 'The sinking of HMY Iolaire off Lewis on the Beasts of Holm has left an indelible impression on the islands of Lewis and Harris.

'There was barely a family on the island that didn't lose a relative in the Iolaire disaster and even now it is still raw in people's minds.

'As we approach the centenary of the sinking, it is important the site is designated as a military maritime grave to protect the site and commemorate the immeasurable sacrifice of those who served their country in a time of war and lost their lives so tragically close to home.

'I hope the Ministry of Defence will react positively to this request.'



HMY Iolaire.

Calls to restrict trawlers in Inner Sound of Skye

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

West coast fishermen are continuing their call for a year-round restriction on trawlers in a protected area of the Inner Sound of Skye after their proposals were rejected by Marine Scotland.

Members of the North West Responsible Fishing Association, the Torridon and Applecross fishermen's associations and the Scottish Scallop Divers Association came up with the proposals for a pilot study in response to a Marine Scotland request for views on how to preserve the industry.

The pilot centred on fishing grounds closed to trawlers in 1889 but re-opened by the



Ian Blackford MP.

Thatcher government in 1984 when the fishing industry faced an economic downturn.

Since then trawlers have been allowed to fish the area for six months of the year leading, it is claimed,

to a decline in 98 per cent of scallop species and 50 per cent of prawns. There are also problems where mobile and static fishing gear are used in the same area.

Details in the pilot document looked at these concerns as well as the socio-economic impact if the situation was allowed to continue, with stocks of all kinds being reduced to such low levels that the industry would be unable to support the level of employment it does at present.

However, the proposal was rejected by Marine Scotland which has angered members of the group who responded by saying they 'had taken away any hope the community had of securing a future for this fishery, locking into a 'boom and bust' cycle while making the proposed creel

management measures utterly pointless'.

MP Ian Blackford is supporting the fishermen and said: 'When I met with representatives of the various associations in Kyleakin last week, they were 'gutted' at their proposals being dismissed by Marine Scotland and not happy with the reasons given.

'Our fishing industry is a not only a vital employer in the area, but the backbone of many small communities, which may well cease to exist if it is allowed to fail. The authors of this pilot feel they have put a strong and logical case in preserving the marine environment and protecting the future resilience of the industry. I have written to Marine Scotland asking for a further explanation of their

reasoning in rejecting their proposals.'

Lochaber and Skye MSP Kate Forbes MSP said it had been important to meet with creel fishermen. 'They feel their concerns are not being heard in the melee of Brexit debates, as their businesses are dependent on exports, particularly European exports, and have little, if anything, to gain from leaving the European Union. It was useful to have the New Economics Foundation there to share its research findings on the future of the sector. Creel fishermen's efforts at revitalising the industry feel thwarted at every turn and I am keen to see what more can be done to support them. I hope this is one of many meetings to identify ways to lobby for the sector.'

Skye runner raises £1,300 in memory of Oban grandmother



A loving grandson who tackled this year's Isle of Skye half-marathon in memory of his Oban grandmother has presented a £1,300 cheque to Alzheimer Scotland.

Hugh Campbell, 32, is a Skye running champion who lives and runs a marketing business in Portree. His

Left: Hugh Campbell presents a £1,300 cheque to Louise Moir and Maria Fox who both work for the local Alzheimer Scotland branch in Portree, money he raised in memory of his grandmother.

grandmother Joan McGill lived in Oban's Pulpit Hill. She suffered from vascular dementia before her death, aged 83, in February this year.

Hugh said: 'My gran was born and raised in Oban. She lived there all her life and was well-known for the huge amount of community and volunteer work she undertook. While she was ill, she received a lot of support from Alzheimer Scotland and I wanted to give something back as a thank you. I would like to thank everyone who donated to the charity when I ran the Isle of Skye Half

Marathon in memory of my grandmother. Some of the donations came from people living in the Oban area.

'These funds will make a huge difference to people living with the condition and their families. During my time fundraising I have been surprised by how many people have approached me who said the condition affects a family member.

'It is a terrible disease and I truly hope we find a cure in the near future. Until that happens, we need to give people living with Alzheimer's and dementia all the support we can.'

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Skye student receives gold Duke of Edinburgh award

Portree High School pupil Kirsty Watt was among 15 young people to receive their gold Duke of Edinburgh Award in Inverness recently. The 15 young participants were part of a group of 42 from the Highland Council area who gained their gold awards in the past 12 months.



Lochaber MSP appointed to ministerial role by Nicola Sturgeon

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes says her commitment to serving the people of her constituency will remain as strong as ever, following her appointment to a junior ministerial post in the Scottish Government.

Ms Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, was one of nine new appointments announced last week as First Minister Nicola Sturgeon unveiled a major reshuffle.

Ms Forbes is to become minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy, working with the Finance Secretary on managing the Scottish Government's budget and on tax policy. Aged just 28, it is believed Ms Forbes is the first person born in the 1990s to be appointed to a ministerial post in Scotland, England or Wales.

Talking to the Lochaber Times, Ms Forbes said: 'It's a great honour to be asked to join the government as a minister. I love serving my constituency and my commitment to the people and the priorities of the Highlands remains as strong as ever.'

Commenting on the new appointments, the First Minister said: 'The new ministers bring fresh talent to the Scottish Government, ensuring we are equipped to deal with the challenges and maximise the opportunities facing the people of Scotland.'

'All of the new ministers I have appointed have already proven themselves as effective parliamentarians and I know they will do likewise in ministerial office.'

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Lewis Pipe Band tunes up for busy season

Lewis Pipe Band is set for summer competitions on the mainland, which began at the weekend with the European Championships in Forres.

The band aims to attend two of the five major championships every year and will be taking part in the World Championships in Glasgow in August as well as the European competition.

The cost of attending these events is considerable, so the band was delighted to receive support from community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust which has donated £1,000 for the second year.

Pipe band chairman Sandy Gomez said this money made a massive difference and would allow them to focus on practising instead of fundraising in the run up to a competition.

'It takes the pressure off fundraising. We can just knuckle down and prepare. Although we have to fundraise, the less time we have to spend fundraising the more time we can spend practising. That benefits the whole band,'

he said. Lewis Pipe Band currently has 22 members and 18 of them – 11 pipers and seven drummers – went to the European Championships on Saturday June 30.

It costs the pipe band around £3,000 to attend each competition but Lochs Motor Transport offers cheap coach hire.

As well as the European and World Championships, there are also the Scottish, UK and British Championships.

Only two of these are always in the same place – the Worlds in Glasgow and the Scottish Championships in Dumbarton – while the other three move around every few years.

Sandy said the location of the European Championships in Forres had been 'handy' for the band as it was so close to Inverness. Fortunately for the band, the championships will move to Inverness itself for the next three years.

The band plays in Grade 3A and Sandy said everyone had been practising hard over the winter so were better prepared for this year's competi-



Lewis Pipe Band.

tions than they were last year, when they had disappointing results.

'Things weren't settling right last year but we think we've nailed it this year,' he said. 'We're a lot happier with how practices have gone over the winter. I think we're playing better as a group.'

'The tunes we're playing this year are a bit more technical so everyone has had to knuckle down and work hard. Everyone has put in the effort.'

About 120 bands took part in the European

Championships, with about 12 bands in Grade 3A – but there will be double that number competing at the World Championship.

This event, on Glasgow Green on August 17 and 18, attracts 220 bands and 30,000 spectators.

Lewis Pipe Band was unable to attend the Worlds last year as Pipe Major Peter Mackay was away. Although it will be exciting to take part, Sandy admitted it was also rather scary: 'You do feel very nervy,' he said. 'There's more people there, more buzz about the

place and just knowing you're at the Worlds makes you that bit more nervous.'

'It's the big one and it's the absolute hardest to do well in. You know that if you've done well there, it means even more because it's the pinnacle of all the competitions.'

Donald John MacSween, Point and Sandwick Trust general manager, commented: 'PST wishes to encourage organisations like Lewis Pipe Band which is dedicated and deeply rooted in our community. Its Saturday performances during the summer are hugely popular and their winter training programmes ensure young people are encouraged to become involved.'

It costs between £10,000 and £12,000 a year to keep the band running, between the costs of attending competitions and keeping the pipes and drums in good order.

'We're grateful for anything we get in the collecting cans,' said Sandy, 'and for people who turn up to our fundraising nights.'



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Charity starts year-long partnership

Lochaber-based mental health charity Birchwood Highland has launched a year-long charity business partnership with Norscot Joinery Ltd – a family-owned business based in Inverness.

Norscot recently chose Birchwood Highland as its nominated charity.

Set to make a difference to the local community by supporting Birchwood Highland's work to tackle mental health stigma, the year-long partnership will provide opportunities for Norscot's staff and management team to take part in and organise fundraising events as well as the opportunity to get involved in volunteering initiatives on behalf of the charity.

Birchwood Highland is also

set to deliver a series of mental wellbeing Toolbox Talks to every member of Norscot's team of more than 50 staff.

Birchwood Highland's Toolbox Talks continue to be hugely popular among local business, with Norscot committed to delivering greater awareness of mental health issues among its own staff.

Callum Grant, managing director at Norscot Joinery Ltd, said: 'We're delighted to be working with Birchwood Highland as our charity partner for the forthcoming year. Birchwood Highland provides much-needed support to people experiencing mental ill health across the region and we already have a number of initiatives in place.

'It's a real pleasure to hand over a £1,000 donation from the annual VEKA awards which we believe will be put to good use by the charity. We trust that this is just the start of many generous donations to Birchwood Highland and look forward to raising money and awareness for their great cause.'

Emily Stokes, chief executive at Birchwood Highland, said: 'It's lovely to begin this very special partnership with Norscot Joinery, raising vital funds for quality of life activities for people we support, but also encouraging discussions around mental health issues in the workplace, and raising awareness of mental health more generally.'



The Sea Cadets enjoyed glorious weather for their annual event.

Lochaber Sea Cadets

On a bright, warm Sunday several groups of sea cadets from across the Highlands set off in the footsteps of Second World War Commandos by taking part in a speed march from Spean Bridge railway station to Achnacarry Castle.

During the war one of the first tests for Commando 'hopefuls' was to run in full kit from Spean station to the training camp at Achnacarry in less than an hour – any more and they were returned to their original units.

While the young Sea Cadets were not under

this demanding pressure, they still wanted to do their best in friendly competition with the view of winning trophies and medals provided by the Lochaber branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland.

The route is 7.2 miles and the overall winner, Finlay Dempster, covered the ground in one hour, four minutes and four seconds, carrying a 16lb pack, just outside the present Sea Cadet record of 59 minutes but 31 minutes ahead of the next 'marcher' across the line.

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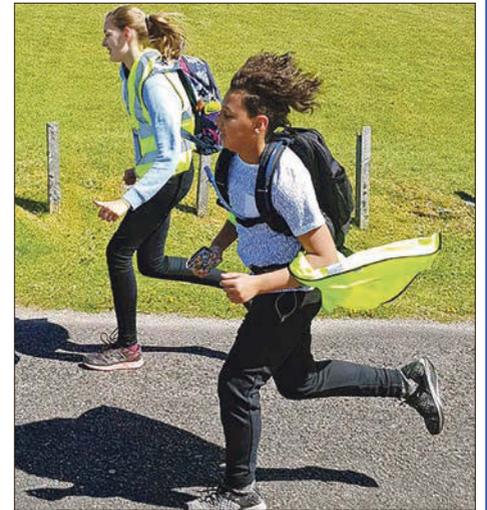
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Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



Cadets on the run pass the Commando memorial.

torpedo speed march rivals

Prizes were also awarded for second, third and fourth places, which on this occasion were taken by cadets from each of the other units from Inverness, Elgin and Oban.

Adding up and averaging all the times, the RBLS trophy for the best performing unit overall also went to Lochaber's St Christopher Sea Cadets.

Speaking at the awards ceremony, Lochaber Sea Cadets commanding officer Derick Campbell thanked everyone for taking part as

well as parents, helpers and estate workers who provided safety cover and lunch.

He said: 'The very warm conditions have been challenging for the marchers, but everyone completed the course safely and really enjoyed taking part.'

'Until now the march has been exclusively for Sea Cadets, but other local cadet units, Army and ATC have expressed an interest in taking part, so next year we may not just be competing with each other. I would welcome them along.'

'Many thanks to all who make this event possible from the Achnacarry estate, volunteers, cadets and in particular to the RBLS for continued support year on year. It just keeps getting better and better.'

'Thank you to all who came, some travelling more than 100 miles to take part and congratulations to everyone for their tremendous effort. Thanks to the members of the Legion who encourage and support us with their awards.'



Fastest cadet Findlay Dempster was presented with his trophy by Kevin Lane, chairman of the Lochaber branch, Royal British Legion Scotland.

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LETTERS

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Parking continues to be controversial

There are some subjects which seldom fail to provoke a widespread reaction from members of the public.

Among them is the thorny issue of traffic and parking.

So it should come as little surprise that the unexpected appearance of a new sign detailing 20 rules for using the Grange Road car park has prompted a vociferous – and highly critical – reaction from Fort William Retailers' Association chairman Drew Purdon.

Mr Purdon is furious for a number of reasons, as he has outlined in the Lochaber Times this week. Among his objections is the perceived waste of public finances, as well as the Highland Council in Inverness imposing restrictions on Fort William.

However, not everyone agrees with Mr Purdon.

Councillor Andrew Baxter stressed the new sign had nothing to do with controversial parking charges but was intended to address a long-standing problem for local residents.

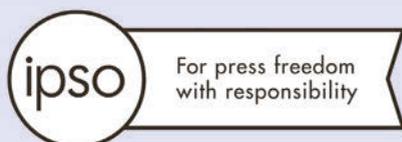
Councillor Baxter added the intention is to 'regularise this area so that we can take enforcement action against those who park inappropriately'.

While noting Mr Purdon's concerns, we would urge those who are upset to take a step back and consider calmly the council's position and declared ambition to help the residents.

A commitment has been made not to introduce charges in this car park so we suggest everyone allows the council a certain leeway until we see how the situation resolves itself.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001.

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Sewage saga in Nether Lochaber

Thank you for your recent coverage (June 14) of matters relating to Nether Lochaber Community Council's objection to Loch Leven Hotel's camping pods being connected to the mains sewerage.

Unfortunately, you have missed the point and the principle behind our arguments.

In 2009, against a backdrop of mass objection from residents, NLCC, HC Planning Committee and the Scottish Executive Reporter, Scottish Water and SEPA proceeded to build a giant, subterranean 'treatment works' at North Ballachulish, into which were redirected the sewage outflows from Glencoe and Ballachulish villages. These previously had outflowed into Loch Leven.

At the same time, the mains sewerage system was extended through Nether Lochaber, but only as far west as Onich Bay.

There are two main issues for us.

1. SEPA says it would oppose any private onsite treatment facility for Loch Leven's pods, a commercial enterprise, because there is a mains sewerage system at hand.

Fair enough.

However, in between Onich Bay and Inchree, two miles away in the same parish, we have 75 residential properties dependent on private septic systems, many of them 50 years old or more. These drain into fields, streams, areas of woodland, or are part of conjoined systems with pipes running to the low tide mark in Loch Linnhe, from where the tide can, over time, wash the detritus back into the EU-protected shellfish waters of Loch Leven, or spread coliforms along the beaches at North Ballachulish, below the treatment works.

An additional five houses are currently in the planning system, also with private systems, and yet SEPA seems consistent in offering no comment on these.

In total, Nether Lochaber is home to around 265 houses, almost a third of which are unconnected to the mains, but hosts the North Ballachulish Wastewater Treatment Works that receives the Glencoe and Ballachulish outflows pumped from up to six miles away.

Since 2009, neither Scottish Water or SEPA has made any effort to extend the mains further west through Onich, Cuilcheanna and Keppanach to meet their own modern aspirations for sewerage in the NSA.

2. The Association of South Lochaber Community Councils submitted comments to the recent Local Development Plan, detailing the contradiction of capacity figures at North Ballachulish between Scottish Water's 2009 planning application and an FOI request we submitted to it in 2016.

In effect, SW omitted any unit capacity relating to tourism from its 2016 analysis to present a picture of burgeoning spare domestic capacity that allows our villages to expand their housing stock.

We would appear not to have any hotels, guesthouses or B&Bs. And if this spare capacity does exist, why does NL still have

YOUR PICTURES



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75 unconnected properties, and Ballachulish seven unconnected properties within 50m of the main, consequently emptying into Loch Leven? There is a far bigger picture here than the one being publicly discussed by Scottish Water, SEPA, and planning officers.

**Iain Jenner, Chairman,
Nether Lochaber Community Council.**

Glencoe Community Trust not at odds with community

We feel we must clarify what has been written in your report 'Old Glencoe water tanks set to go' (Lochaber Times, June 28).

First of all, the community council/company chairman or even members of the local community have never approached the Glencoe Heritage Trust (GHT) about the water tanks, therefore there has never been any difference of opinion, as stated in your report. We wonder why it has been reported that there was/is a difference of opinion.

The community council chairman states he approached Scottish Water (SW) regarding the water tanks, but at no point did he, members of the community council or any member of

the public, be it local or otherwise, approach the Glencoe Heritage Trust regarding the water tanks. The Glencoe Heritage Trust owns the land the tanks are situated in but Scottish Water is responsible for the water tanks.

To clarify further, in 2014, the GHT trustees considered the possibility of a small hydro scheme for the community. Many discussions and a feasibility study took place with LOCOGEN to consider the area where the water tanks are situated, but disappointingly the report deemed that it was not viable as the flow of water would not be sufficient to support a hydro scheme. Another area of the same land was explored, but unfortunately the structures that required to be built and the cost meant it was no longer a sustainable option for the GHT to pursue.

The tanks have been derelict for many years and they became a cause for concern that somebody could slip into the tanks as they are in a popular walking area. Also the crofters graze their livestock in this area and the worry was that livestock could also fall into the tanks.

It was therefore agreed, after 16 months of discussions between Scottish Water and the Glencoe Heritage Trust, that Scottish Water would dismantle the tanks and make good

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Fort William. This week's photograph is a stunner, taken by Graham Kirkham from Oban, who captured the stunning sunset over the bay, taken from McCaig's Tower.

- Photographic exhibitions of past times.
 - Publication of cookbook (recipes donated by members of local community) and calendars.
 - Assisting in the organisation of the annual commemoration service of the Massacre of Glencoe, also maintaining the area of land which the massacre cross stands and erecting signage to the memorial cross.
 - The GHT owns a half share of the ancient Eilean Munde Burial Isle situated in Loch Leven, the trust also undertakes an annual strimming and tidy up of this sacred island.
 - The River Coe has continued to be leased from the GHT to the local angling club.
 - The GHT does not exercise its netting rights on Loch Leven to conserve salmon stocks.
 - Ensuring the River Coe is kept clear of fallen trees and natural preservation of the land to encourage wildlife, flora and fauna to thrive.
 - Invites pipe bands such as the Scots Guards and Canadian-Americans to come and play in the village, greatly supported by the local community and the many visitors.
 - The GHT has a large worldwide following on social media, a volunteer posts drone videos and photos on a daily basis promoting the beauty of Glencoe thus helping the local community and indeed Scotland.
- We conclude that the Glencoe Heritage Trust is in no way at odds with the local community.
- Alistair and Rosalin MacDonald,
Glencoe Heritage Trust**

Dismay at visitors' lack of care on visit to puffin colony

On a recent sailing to Staffa, I was dismayed at the treatment of the puffin colony by a significant number of visitors.

Notwithstanding the fact that the majority of people were too close to the birds' nests that they prevented them from landing/feeding young naturally – forcing the birds to turn back to sea in mid-flight – it was with despair that I watched:

■ People sitting/standing on top of, sitting at the entrance to and poking mobile phones inside burrows. Some were actually taking 'selfies' at one particular nest while a distressed bird could clearly be heard within.

■ A loud argument broke out between visitors, each accusing the other of 'hogging' a burrow.

■ A dog was let off the leash and sniffing around the burrows.

It is quite well-known that puffin numbers are in decline due to various reasons. People behaving like this does not help.

After witnessing all of these incidents, I think trip operators should show greater responsibility for the welfare of these birds, like on the Isle of May in the Firth of Forth, for example, where a number of safeguards are in place. I am well aware tour operators are not responsible for individuals' actions but I, and others on the trip, felt that it was a free-for-all once people set foot on the island.

It would be such a shame if this situation was allowed to spoil the enjoyment of the area for the many visitors from across the globe.

John Dewar, Kilmaurs, Ayrshire.

Air mo shlighe air ais bhon Eilean Sgitheanach bho chionn ghoirid stad mi tacan gus mo chasan altachadh, agus gus beachd às ùr a ghabhail air maise na sgìre sam bheil sinn uile cho fortanach a bhith a' còmhnaidh.

Bha grian a' deàrrsadh agus fad greiseig cha robh carbad ri fhaicinn na ri chluinntinn, cha robh nam chluasan ach ceilearadh eun agus osnaich beag gaoithe.

Ann am priobadh thug mo chuimhne mi air ais gum òige agus àm buain na mònachd air monadh Òsdail.

Dh'fheumamaid còmhdaidh fhaotainn gus acfhainn rùsgaidh is buaine agus biadh a ghiùlan na ceithir mìle na mar sin thuice, agus dhuinne mar chloinn 's e làithean sona da-rìribh a bh' annta sin.

Tha cuimhne agam gu sònraichte a bhith ag amharc is a' cùntas nan càraichean a' siubhal an rathaid-mhòir is iad a' pronnadh nan gucagan tearra a bha ag èirigh fo theas na grèine, agus tha nuallan uèirichean an telefòn a bha an crochadh ris na pòlaichean ri taobh an rathaid fhathast na mo chuimhne cuideachd.

Cuimhneachain chianalach air làithean sona agus daoine còire nach eil ann tuilleadh, ach chuir an srann aig làraidh làn fiodha às dhan t-sàmhchair agus dhan bhruadar agam ann am



beagan mhionaidean agus bha sreang de charbadan de gach seorsa a' tighinn bho gach taobh a-rithist.

'S cinnteach gum bi sinn uile a' coimhead air ais le toileachas air làithean a dh'fhalbh agus 's ann ainneamh da-rìribh a chuimhnicheas sinn air latha fliuch na air droch aimsir. Tha ar cuimhne mar gum biodh a' dèanamh taghadh air na seallaidhean as fhèarr agus as taitniche, ach tha fios againn mar inbhich gun robh math agus dona ann am beatha dhaoine an uairsin mar a tha an-diugh cuideachd.

Theagamh gun robh pàrantan a' dìon an cuid chloinne bho dhuilgheadasan chun na h-ìre 's nach robh mothachadh aca orra, ach thigeadh cuid a thachartasan nach gabhadh cleith agus a leanadh ann an cuimhne.

Nach tric a leughas neo a chluinneas sinn beachd faoin anns na meadhanan, agus gu deimhinnte b' e sin a bh' aig an neach-naidheachd a thuir gun robh e a' còrdadh ri saighdearan a bhith a'

feuchainn ri falaisg sgriosail ann an ceann a tuath Shasainn a mhùchadh.

Chan eil duine dam b' fheudar a bhith a' sabaid fhalaig neo teine sam bith dol a dh'innse dhut gun do chòrd an obair sin ris, agus 's e dìth tuigse da-rìribh a bh' aig an neach a thuir a leithid. Pàirt chudromach den ionnsachadh òg tha fhios, spèis a thoirt dha càch a chèile agus dha uisge agus teine!

There is nothing enjoyable about fighting to extinguish heath fires and only those who have experienced it will truly understand the strength-sapping heat, the dust, and the choking smoke. When the fire penetrates into peat below the challenge is formidable, and will ultimately only be overcome by substantial rainfall. Key lessons of childhood must be to respect one another, and fire and water.

**Ailean Caimbeul
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DISTRICT NEWS

FORT WILLIAM

Housing, the Belford Hospital replacement, the new Liberty alloy car wheels plant and a new road top Fort William Community Council's priority list for the coming year, according to chairman Alex Farquhar.

Mr Farquhar was giving his report at the council's recent annual general meeting. Mr Farquhar told the meeting it had been nine months since the reconstituted council's first meeting in September.

'We have made good progress in becoming involved with local organisations but there is much work still to be done,' he said. 'With a large number of new members, we are becoming more comfortable in our roles and with the part we can play in the community. We have members involved in the Nevis Partnership, Lochaber Transport Forum, Lochaber Housing Association and with the new Belford Hospital group. We have also seen the formation of a new Fort William and area association of community councils and look forward to playing an active part in its work. We have had informative visits from representatives from planning and from the Highland Small Community Housing Trust which have proved invaluable.

'We recognise the major concerns and opportunities will be housing, the new Belford Hospital and the Liberty development with a new road at the front of everyone's mind.'

KILMALLIE

Kilmallie Community Council has welcomed news that Highland Council has served notice on Boyd Brothers (Haulage) Ltd in relation to complaints about working outwith permitted hours at Annat Point, Corpach.

The notice required the company to comply with the terms of its planning permission by June 11, specifically to stop all work and use of the jetty between 10pm and 6am Monday to Saturday, including loading and unloading of vessels and docking of vessels.



Kerry MacDonald of Liberty British Alcan presents a cheque to Freda Alexander of the Artistic Roller Skating Club.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos IF F27 Skating donation

Skaters' demo to say thanks

Members of Lochaber Artistic Roller Skating Club recently demonstrated their technical and dance skills for Liberty British Aluminium representatives as a thank you for the company's generous donation of £500 towards the costs of competitions, shows and grades.

The dedication and knowledge of the club's founder Frieda Alexander, who is also a technical coach, and dance coach Liz Connell, has seen hundreds of

children and adults through the past 30 years.

Club members have competed in the USA, Europe and the UK as well as making a television appearance on Elaine C Smith's Birdz Eye View with the aim of promoting artistic roller skating in Scotland.

The club re-opens in the Nevis Centre on Sunday August 26 from 1pm until 2.30pm for beginners and 1pm until 4pm for advanced skaters. All ages welcome.

Foundry boss inspects Fort's bronze Ford

Brian Caster, director and sculptor of Powderhall Bronze in Edinburgh, has been to Fort William to review his handiwork – the Bronze Ford in Cameron Square.

This recently unveiled feature in the heart of Fort William has quickly become a focus of attention for visitors and locals.

Mr Caster personally supervised his team at Powderhall during the six-month construction and casting stages.

Mr Caster was joined by Iain Blyth, local engineer and team member of the Ben Bronze project group. Mr Blyth's own original 1911 Model T Ford was exhibited regularly during the fund raising years.

Mr Caster said the foundry was pleased and proud to be offered the contract by the Highland Council after the local fundraising effort over four and a half years. A total of £55,000 was raised privately and LEADER contributed £35,000.

'This gave us a real opportunity to demonstrate our skills,' he commented. 'This unique project was also remarkable for the degree of enthusiasm of the extended team who visited the foundry on many occasions during production. This



Brian Caster, seated, with engineer Iain Blyth and members of the Ben Bronze project team.

IF F27 Bronze Ford founder

included a party of students from Lochaber High School.'

Mr Caster and the Powderhall team are still working on the bronze tyre tracks and a large bronze wall plaque which features Henry Alexander in his Model T Ford atop the Ben, moulded in relief by Mr Caster. The plaque and tyre tracks should be installed in August.

The tracks will be set into the paving slabs leading towards West Highland Museum.

Lochaber Rotary Club appoints new president



Outgoing president Donald McCorkindale, centre, president-elect Iain Johnston and president elect for 2018/19 Clive Talbot.

It's all change at the helm of the Rotary Club of Lochaber after president Donald McCorkindale's term of office came to an end at last week's lunchtime meeting.

Before handing the chain of office to president elect Iain Johnston, Mr McCorkindale gave a summary of his past year as president.

He referred to the presidential outing to Morvern, presenting the Vosca Awards, the visit of the

Audley Voice Choir, the agricultural show at Torlundy and leading Santa into the Christmas festival.

Mr McCorkindale thanked club members for their support, ideas and encouragement in raising tens of thousands of pounds which have been distributed this year by the club to the local community and international groups.

Three new members had joined the club during his watch, bringing

the total number to 33 with four honorary members.

The presidential chain of office was handed to Mr Johnston, who said taking up the role of president was a privilege but accepted he has a mammoth task following Mr McCorkindale's successful year.

The position of president-elect for 2018/19 was passed to Clive Talbot who will maintain the presidential position during 2019/20.





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Some of the winners at Ardnamurchan High School's Celebration of Success.

Ardnamurchan High School hosts Celebration of Success

Ardnamurchan High School held its annual Celebration of Success last week and, despite some prize-winners being away on their Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition, the evening was well-attended.

Head teacher Christopher Millar-Craig spoke of the remarkable successes of the school's young people during the session.

These included winning the Highland and National Maths Challenge; the school's record of 100 per cent positive destinations for its young people; the ongoing success of the Youth Philanthropy Initiative and the many examples of pupil initiative and achievement.

He also made special mention of past pupils' successes and career journeys which parents had emailed in as contributions to the evening.

Senior pupils Kay Christian and Ian Kammerath delivered a witty overview of the school year, including trips, events and successes. Excellent music was provided by Iona Willis, Maighsi Rough, Joseph Tait, Rachel Bolton, guitar group Hunter's Legacy, Eilidh MacArthur and the senior music class.

In keeping with the school's Gaelic ethos, the evening included a video compilation exemplifying the enterprise of young people through their

Film G creations, much to the delight of the audience. Special award winners this year were: German Embassy (Edinburgh) award for the school's best German student for the year: Ian Kammerath; Overall School Nomination Winners: (pupils with the most staff nominations under the four capacities of the Curriculum for Excellence): Bethan White and Ben Gregg; Rural Excellence Award: Colin MacDonald; 'Sgeulachd' Award for Enterprise: AJ Macleod; Rotary Club of Lochaber Prize for Endeavour: Innes Ferguson; Ewan Gillespie Memorial Trophy: Kate Bradley; Lochaber Housing Association Cup for Academic Achievement in 2016-17: Charlie Fleming.

A delighted Mr Miller-Craig said: 'Once again, this has been an excellent year for pupil achievement, contribution and engagement.

'Well done to the young people and a big thank you to everyone who encourages and support our pupils and helps make Ardnamurchan High School what it is.'

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Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

■ Last Monday morning, a plastic bag containing a top set of dentures was placed on top of the notice board in the centre of Mallaig. Attached to the board was a notice to the effect that a reward of £500 was being offered to anyone who could locate the owner of the teeth. A phone number was supplied for the claimant to get in touch. By mid afternoon, the wallies had gone, with residents left open-mouthed in amazement at the speed with which they had been snapped up.

■ On the pub trail now. This concerns a dialogue in the Volley which captures the local nuances of our grasp of the English language. Dodo and Allan were standing at the bar. Dodo decided to skip to the loo. Allan called after him: 'What is it, Dodo? A half and a half?'

Over his shoulder Dodo replied, 'Naw, just a half, thanks.' The interesting aspect is that no-one in the Volley, barman, customers or Allan himself, had any doubts as to what Dodo meant. And the right 'half' was on the counter when Dodo made his comeback.

■ A Fergie of Fort William tale. Fergie was out training in the track-suit, with instructions to return home with a takeaway. So Fergie tucked a high denomination note into the folds of his running gear then pounded the pavements, completing his circuit via the bypass. Then, prior to going for the takeaway, Fergie checked his tracksuit for the bank note. It wasn't there. Great consternation and a full-scale search of his person revealed the note had 'flown'. Crestfallen, Fergie returned home, noteless and noshless. A couple of days later he heard a local worthy had found 'a high denomination banknote'. Fergie's immediate reaction was to ask if he handed it in. And the response? 'Aye,

he handed it in alright. In the Imp, the Crofter and the Maryburgh!'

■ 'You can take a white horse anywhere' or so the whisky advert proclaimed. Aye, even to the top of the ben. And, yes, that was the same white horse you saw in the High Street on Tuesday. Outside the Post Office first of all, then stopping for a stirrup cup across the road, outside the Ben Nevis Bar. So why was a white horse trotting along the street for the first time since Bill MacRae gave up the carting? It was pressed into service in the interests of 'post haste' and all was revealed in the Sunday Mail. It read, and I quote: 'In the south of Lochaber something stirred for the Sunday Mail pony express versus the Royal Mail first and second class delivery.' The pony express won, with a day or two in hand. But now I hear the Lochaline pillar box has been in an accident - with a horse box! It seems that, on Monday, the white horse's horsebox reversed into the post box, removing the bright red hood from the top of it. Apparently no letters blew or flew out at the same time.

■ What a pity the press cameras weren't permitted to roll at Fort William Sheriff Court when our learned friends - local and visiting - were waiting to become involved. They had to take their turn to get into one of the only two gowns available in the court house before taking their place in front of the sheriff.

■ Ally was checking his piece before setting out from Caol to Drumnadrochit. He noted with concern a pork pie had not been provided. Ally likes his pork pies. No piece is complete without one. So, in a tearing hurry, he grabbed what he thought was a wrapped-up pork pie from the fridge and set off up the road. Dinner break arrived and Ally unveiled his piece. On opening the wrapping, he discovered he had three slices of black pudding. Ally hates black pudding. So he fed it to Nessie on the way home. Imagine anyone from around here not liking black pudding - hot or cold! During the school holidays, summer and

winter, we of the Viewforth Gang used to line up at the MacDonald and Forbes grille - aye 'grille' - outside the butchers' back shop for Angus MacMaster to pass out black pudding left overs for us. It was like feeding time at the zoo.

■ Plantation residents are kicking up hell about the continuing problems of dampness in their houses. The words 'rising damp' appear to have taken on some of the significance, if not the humour, of the TV comedy series of that name. Because some tenants are so incensed at the approach to the problem by the district council, they've decided to get their own back. They say that the dampness has reached such a pitch that they're considering an approach to Lochaber Limited for grants to set up their own fish farming consortium in the Plantation.

■ This cameo incident could only happen in Fort William. Early last Tuesday morning, contractors from Aberdeen arrived in town and set up scaffolding outside Boots the Chemist. That was at 8am. When manager David Warburton appeared not long afterwards, he found the outside of the premises festooned with scaffolding poles and planks. 'What's happening here?' he asked, in righteous amazement. 'Oh, we've been told to get on with this big job at the chemist's,' was the reply. 'Not here, though,' David replied with certainty. At half past eight, Sandy MacFarlane arrived to open up his long-established premises. Looking along the High Street, Sandy said to himself, 'Well, there's a coincidence - Boots are getting scaffolding up today, as well as ourselves.'

Later that morning, a team of contrite contractor's men were busily erecting their scaffolding outside MacFarlane the Chemists to carry out work as had been requested by Sandy.

Surrounded by the scaffolding and the attendant hustle and bustle, Sandy felt disposed to put a large notice in the window. 'Bismuth as usual,' it proclaimed.

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LT

FOOTBALL**Fort FC back in training under new manager**

Fort William Football Club started pre-season training last week under new manager Kris Anderson.



Executive committee members of No 1 Oban Celtic Supporters Club Roddy MacIsaac, John Neil MacInnes and Alistair Gillies with former Celtic keeper Evan Williams and Lisbon Lion Jim Craig.

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

Oban No 1 Celtic Supporters Club celebrates 70 years

Oban's branch of Glasgow Celtic Supporters Clubs held a dinner dance in the town's Royal Hotel to celebrate 70 years of the Oban club.

Former Celtic keeper Evan Williams and Lisbon Lion Jim Craig represented the Glasgow club. On show at the event were the Premier League Trophy, the European Cup and the Scottish Cup.

During the evening, the Oban club raised £1,000 for the Celtic Foundation's 67 Kitchens charity which supports the building of 67 school kitchens in the developing world. The Oban club has raised £3,000 for the charity over the past 12 months.



From left: James Duncan, Iain Robertson, Scott McNeil, Helen Bryan and Rosemary MacIntyre are presented with their awards by Michael Bowman. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Fort open golf another success

The Fort William Open, sponsored by Bowmans Skip Hire, was played on Saturday June 23.

Results: Men: Gross - 1 Paul Campbell 69; 2 David MacPherson 73 BIH; 3 Ian Robertson 73.

Net - 1 Pdraig MacNeill net 62 (70-8); 2 Scott MacNeill net 63 (81-18); 3 James Duncan net 65 (79-14).

Ladies: Gross - 1 Rosemary Macintyre 89; 2 Hazel Caeron 91.

Net - 1 Kathleen Leitch

net 73 (90-17) 2 Helen Brian net 74 (96-22).

Nearest pin at third hole - Pdraig MacNeill; Nearest pin at sixth hole - Paul Campbell; Nearest pin at twelfth hole - Dan Cameron; Nearest pin at sixteenth hole

GOLF

- Hazel Cameron Longest drive for men at eleventh hole - Peter Laing; Longest drive for ladies at fifth hole - Gina Hough.

Texas tennis players head for Oban**TENNIS**

Tennis players from Texas are heading to Oban this week to take part in the West Highland Open Tournament.

The tournament at Atlantis is one of six Tennis Scotland

1000 Series events taking place this year and is part of the Tennis Scotland Open Tour. The championship event, starting tomorrow Friday July 6, attracts top ranked players including the party from Texas and a team

from Liverpool. Games will be played over the weekend.

This year's contest has seen 30 entrants sign up for the men's tournament.

'We have had a very full entry. It's quite unheard of in Scotland.

'We have eight Americans playing and, of course, people just love coming to Oban to enjoy the tournament,' said Mary McLean, one of the organisers.

Ranking points players receive from the men's and women singles will count towards the TS Open Tour Leader Board, with the top players qualifying for the Tennis Scotland Open Tour Masters Event in December.

Sunday served up the first event of the tournament with singles and doubles competitions on Argyll Day. There were also evening events for club members, local players and visitors from Monday to Wednesday when players were encouraged to bring out their Wimbledon whites. Schools have also joined in.

The West Highland Open Tournament was revived in 1971 but there are trophies that show it was being held over the years between the end of the First World War and the beginning of the Second World War.



Sunday was the first day of the West Highland Open Tournament at Atlantis, Oban.

Temperatures soar for Lochaber's 'Triple Hirple'



The third race in Lochaber Athletic Club's Triple Hirple sets off from the Cotswolds shop on the high street.

Forty four hardy runners took part in the first leg of Lochaber's 'Triple Hirple' at the weekend.

This short but brutal race is tough enough in fair conditions but turn the heat up to 27 degrees and it becomes a different prospect all together.

Having said that, the temperatures did not seem to bother Melantee winner James Espie, of the Deeside club, who finished in a time of 00:31:11.

But but he was the exception, with all the other runners crossing the line looking exhausted.

First Lochaber Athletic

Club (LAC) runner over the finishing line was Stephen Traill in third place with a time of 00:36:11.

Conditions were slightly better for the Half Ben Nevis second leg of the Triple Hirple on Sunday with a light breeze blowing and the temperature down a couple of degrees.

Espie once again faired best in the hot sunny weather, finishing more than nine minutes ahead of his nearest rival in a time of 00:53:58.

Could it be the weather is always good on Deeside?

Traill was first LAC runner home again, this time securing fourth place with a time

ATHLETICS

of 1:03:09. It seemed like he would only need to turn up for the Cow Hill race third leg of the 'Triple' on Monday night to make it a hat-trick of wins.

Results of third leg on The Lochaber Times website.

Elizabeth Apsley was first lady home again and she also looked like making it a hat-trick of wins.

It was great to see her and her clubmates (Thames Hare & Hounds) competing in the Highlands.

Cow Hill - Callum Fraser (LAC), first male. Elizabeth



Steven Traill, chef at Fort William's Blas restaurant, leads the pack.

Apsley (Thames H&H) first female. Overall m&f winners for Triple Hirple - Steven Traill (LAC) and Elizabeth Apsley (Thames H&H).



One of the races kicks off at Claggan Park.



Peter Carmichael of Lochaber Rugby Club looks focused.

LT

All systems go for D & K Cu



Donald Campbell in action against Alloa Athletic during last year's tournament.



Oban Saints Football Club secretary David Buchanan reports that arrangements are in order for its 25th annual football tournament, again kindly sponsored by D & K Lafferty Contractors, which takes place on Saturday.

David said: 'This is a milestone in the club's history. I doubt if there is another tournament organised by an amateur team and featuring professional clubs that can say it has been

running for 25 years so thanks go to Angus MacEachan whose idea this was way back in 1993.'

St Johnstone make a welcome return to the tournament after missing the last two years, along with top junior side St Anthony's making their debut at the event.

The competing clubs are Hamilton Accies, holders, St Johnstone, Dundee United, St Anthony's and, of course, amateur host club Oban Saints.

The competition, held at Mossfield Stadium and Glencruitten



Park, starts at 11am and is played on a round robin basis with the teams taking on each other in 40-minute games.

Hamilton Accies manager Martin Canning said: 'This is a great tournament, ideal for pre-season match fitness. It allows the coaches to give all their 22-man squad plenty of game time. They could field four different teams on the day if they wanted to.'

Former Scotland internation-

alist and Dundee United coach Dave Bowman added: 'I've been coming to this tournament for years and the format is excellent. It's always a great day out and our fans love coming to Oban.'

Tournament fixtures:

Dundee United v Hamilton Accies, Mossfield; St Johnstone v Oban Saints, Glencruitten. Both games kick-off at 11am.

Oban Saints v St Anthony's, Mossfield; Hamilton Accies v St Johnstone, Glencruitten. These games kick off at noon.



MOTO3

John McPhee crashes out fighting for Assen win

Connell's John McPhee, who achieved excellent results the whole weekend at Assen in the Dutch TT, fought for victory before falling off his bike two laps from the end.

John found the right pace from the start which allowed him to get the third best time in each of Friday's free practices, 0.155 seconds from the best time in FP2.

John took sixth position on the starting grid in an amazing all action race. Each lap, he fought tenaciously, either fighting in the top five, or leading the race, but a fall two laps from the end, prevented him from winning.

Alain Bronec, CIP Gren Power team owner, said: 'John was fantastic. He fought for the podium during the whole race and took the lead several times. He remained in the top five and his lap times were great. Although he fell two laps before the finish line, he really worked hard and we're satisfied with his weekend. We put all our trust in him for the next races since he showed he could be one of the leaders in the championship.'

John said: 'I try to stay positive as it's the only thing I can do. It really was a very good weekend, a great race in which I remained in the top five. I fought for victory and I'm glad of the progress I made regarding performances.'

'I feel bad for the team since I fell and wasn't able to bring victory or, at least, stand on the podium. We need to keep working. The level improves every weekend and I'm sure results will come soon.'



John McPhee in action. Photograph: Bonnie Lane.



Lochaber Disabled Bowlers Club at their annual awards night.

Lochaber disabled bowlers hold annual awards night

Lochaber Disabled Bowlers Club held its annual awards night in the LAD Cafe in Caol last week.

The club has been running for more than 30 years and meets every Tuesday night in Caol Community Centre, from September through to June.

Members enjoy carpet bowls and a welcome cuppa and a fun-filled evening

is had by everyone. Every member received an award for their bowling skills, with the main awards as follows:

Men's Club Champion - Darren Harkins; Ladies Club Champion - Donna McKay; Susan McIntosh Memorial Shield - Siobhan Curran.

The club has been fundraising all year to buy a new indoor bowling carpet

BOWLS

and held two raffles, raising £557, and received donations totalling £550, from Lochaber Housing Association, Lochiel Masonic Lodge, Fort William Masonic Lodge and anonymous donors.

p tournament



Winners of last year's D & K Lafferty Cup Tournament were Hamilton Accies who have won the trophy four times.

FOOTBALL

St Anthony's v St Johnstone, Mossfield; Dundee United v Oban Saints, Glencruitten. Games kick off at 1pm.

St Johnstone v Dundee United, Mossfield; St Anthony's v Hamilton Accies, Glencruitten. Games kick-off at 2pm.

Hamilton Accies v Oban Saints, Mossfield; Dundee United v St Anthony's, Glencruitten. Games kick off at 3pm.

Fort shinty club's second pitch plan on track for 2020

Fort William Shinty Club says it hopes to have its new second shinty pitch ready for action by April 2020.

The combined playing and training pitch is to be created next to the club's present ground and clubhouse at An Aird and is urgently needed because of the boom in local interest in the sport.

In five years, the club has gone from fielding just two senior teams to putting out five teams, including its under-17s and under-14s sides and a women's team.

Club chairman Duncan MacPhee, co-founder of local law firm MacPhee and Partners, says the new pitch would be a major asset and as well as Fort William club games, could also be used for the north area inter-district matches.

'If we don't get a second pitch to move some of our games, the condition of the existing pitch is not sustainable.

'The consequence of that will be that children are not able to play shinty.

'Every policy and initiative is for more sport for youngsters,' said Mr MacPhee.

'There is also been a huge increase in interest in the game, which is fantastic to see, but we have to provide the facilities to meet that demand.

'There was huge support for the creation of junior and ladies' teams and we now also want to look at a set-up to allow us to bring shinty for the disabled to this area too.'

The new £250,000 shinty pitch will be natural grass and the plans incorporate a flood-lights and boundary fencing.

Highland Council granted

approval for the club's planning application last year and Mr MacPhee says hopes are high funding from SportScotland can now be secured.

The club is now seeking SportScotland funding for the project, with support from the council's Leader programme and the Scottish Environment Protection

SHINTY

Agency's landfill community fund.

'And we have also done a huge amount of fundraising ourselves and have raised £45,000, which is more than the required minimum to let us leverage additional support, which is fantastic,' added Mr MacPhee.



Duncan MacPhee of Fort William Shinty Club with ground staff and members of the club's womens' and under-14 teams who will use the new field. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.



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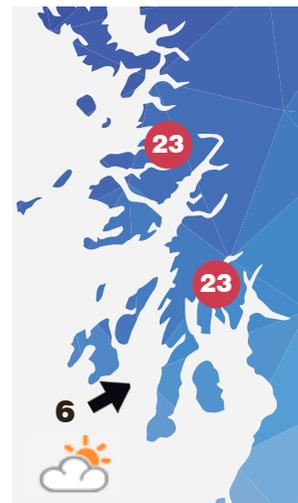


WEATHER

Thursday
Sunny
Breezy from the west
Temperatures
10°C to 17°C.

Friday
Sunny
Light winds from the west south west
Temperatures
12°C to 18°C.

Weekend Outlook
Sunny on Saturday
Cloudy on Sunday
Breezy from the south west
Temperatures
13°C to 20°C.



FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday June 28, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	04.12	1.7	09.47	3.1
	16.15	1.6	22.21	3.3
Fri	05.05	1.7	10.38	3.0
	17.09	1.7	23.21	3.2
Sat	06.08	1.7	11.44	2.9
	18.31	1.7	**.**	**
Sun	00.41	3.2	07.13	1.6
	13.10	3.0	19.22	1.6
Mon	02.09	3.3	08.17	1.5
	14.31	3.2	20.33	1.4
Tues	03.14	3.5	09.16	1.2
	15.30	3.4	10.09	0.9
Wed	04.08	3.7	09.06	3.2
	16.20	3.6	22.40	0.9

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd



INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Fort shinty club's second pitch plan on track for 2020

Nevis Range moving forward with interim chief Rod Pashley

Nevis Range Mountain Experience, Lochaber, has announced the appointment of Rod Pashley as interim chief executive officer.

Mr Pashley said he was delighted to be involved in a business that delivers the best adventure experiences Scotland has to offer and was looking forward to helping Nevis Range on the next leg of its phenomenal journey.

Mr Pashley brings an incredible amount of experience and energy to the role.

His career began in mountaineering, taking in three years in Antarctica and 17 years with The Outward Bound Trust as director of training.

Mr Pashley's incredible body of work led to the creation of People Positive, where he served as managing director for more than 20 years.

Ian 'Spike' Sykes, chairman of Nevis Range, commented: 'Rod's experience, drive and enthusiasm will be a huge asset for us and we are delighted to welcome him to the Nevis Range family.'

And he added: 'It's a really exciting time to join Nevis Range which is having quite a transformative year, recording its highest number of skiers in more than 10 years, making significant strides in the mountain bike market through a partnership with Trek bikes. We're just coming off another successful Mountain Bike World Cup, the re-development of our café and the establishment of relationships with a number of Chinese tour operators. There are many plans in progress at Nevis Range to enhance the customer experience and I fully expect that in the near future Nevis Range will be recognised as one of the leading experience centres in Europe.'

In a partnership with with Trek Bikes, Nevis Range will be unveiling a number of initiatives over the next year designed to encourage and develop mountain biking at all levels at Nevis Range, whilst transforming the reach of the home of the Fort William Mountain Bike World Cup into a globally recognised Trek mountain bike destination.



Nevis Range interim chief executive officer Rod Pashley.

Fort travel to Rothes in first game of the season

FOOTBALL

Fort William travel to take on Rothes in the first game of the new Breedon-sponsored Highland League season which kicks-off on Saturday July 28.

The Lochaber side have been drawn against Inverness Caley Thistle in the North of Scotland Cup.

This fixture is scheduled for Claggan Park on Wednesday August 8 with an 8pm kick-off.

Lochaber club lotteries

LOTTERY

Fort William Golf Club's lotto numbers drawn on June 28 were 12, 13 and 20.

Anita MacLean was the lucky winner of the £1,300 jackpot.

Next week's top prize will revert to £100.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 14, 16 and 20. There were no winners so the jackpot for this week's draw will be £800.

Caol Community Centre's Bingo Club lotto numbers were 5, 15 and 20. Two lucky winners, G Blackmore and N Donnelly, share £1,700. Next week's jackpot will be £100.

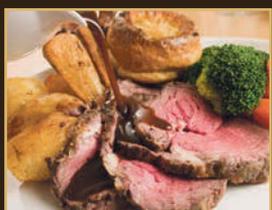
Caol Regeneration Lotto numbers for June 28 were 1, 9 and 12. Oona Gunn won the £400 jackpot.

Next week's jackpot will be £100.



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