

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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All aboard the Balmoral



Wimbledon comes to Oban

Fiancée says government has let down Billy Irving

LOUISE GLEN

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ON JULY 24 Connel man Billy Irving, along with 34 other innocent men who were working aboard the anti-piracy ship Seaman Guard Ohio, will have served two years of a five-year prison sentence in India.

The men have consistently given evidence to a claim they were 'wrongly and unjustly imprisoned'.

For nearly four years now, the men and their families and friends have been fighting to bring the matter to an end.

As the second anniversary of his imprisonment nears, Yvonne MacHugh, Billy's fiancée, slammed the government and Foreign Office for their inactivity.

She said: 'Billy and the men have been caught in a political web and a justice system that has failed them and so many others. All of them have been let down by the company they worked for - Advanfort. Most importantly, they have been let down by the government.'

'They have had their freedom taken from them. Billy has missed out on the first two years of his beautiful son's life, whom he adores and loves so much. His rights to being a father and protecting his family have been taken from him.'

'He has been stuck in limbo for four years not knowing what his future holds or what will happen to him and if he will ever get his freedom back. 'Those 35 men have had to sit



Yvonne and William were all smiles during their flight to India in May to visit Billy in hospital.

in a Indian prison thousands of miles from home and watch as murderers, rapists and thieves arrive and leave the prison before them. Yet they still suffer daily and for what?

'They have not hurt anyone. They are not a threat to anyone. They are good men. Innocent men. Men who were out working, making a living for themselves and their families.'

'They were protecting seafarers to ensure their lives were

not at risk while they were at work. What good has come of locking our men away?

'I just want this nightmare to be over. I want to marry the man I love. I want my son to have a father. I want all 35 families to be reunited and I want justice to prevail.'

'Two years into a five-year sentence and still there is no light at the end of a very dark tunnel. More than 250 days since the appeal against their

conviction and still we have no verdict.'

'This month I urge you to do one thing. Spread the word of this injustice. Tell your friends, families and strangers about the #chennai6. Sign our petition. Write to your local MPs, celebrities or Indian politicians. Tell them we want our men home. Mothers and fathers want their sons home. Wives want their husbands home, children want to play

with their daddies again. Help us free them.'

For its part, the UK government claims to be doing everything it can to help the men. A spokesman for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said: 'We are in close contact with the men and their families, and we recognise what a difficult time this is for them as they continue to wait for a verdict on their appeal. 'We have taken significant

action on this case. The Prime Minister raised it with Indian Prime Minister Modi at the G20 in Hamburg last week, saying she hoped for news of a verdict in the case shortly. She had previously raised the case during her visit to India in November 2016.

'The Foreign Secretary [Boris Johnson] raised it with his Indian counterpart in January. 'And to underline the importance of the case, the Chancellor of the Exchequer raised it when he met the Indian Finance Minister in April.'

'The case is also raised regularly at official level both in New Delhi and Tamil Nadu. On each occasion, they stressed the importance of seeing progress.'

'Our staff in India have been providing support to all six men since their arrest and will continue to do all they can to ensure the men's welfare is protected in prison.'

The six British ex-forces personnel were on anti-piracy duties with a combined 74 years of service, were arrested in October 2013 after they were accused of entering Indian waters without permission.

The Indian High Court at first accepted the paperwork was in order and dismissed the case, but the men were unable to leave India while a lengthy appeal against the charges being dropped was considered.

This led to the men standing trial at the magistrates court, which then decided that the men had failed to prove that they were on anti-piracy duties.

INSIDE YOUR OBAN TIMES THIS WEEK

Back on track

THE former Mull railway is back on track down in England and carrying passengers. Full story - page two.

Emotional letter

BILLY Irving has written a lengthy letter to *The Oban Times* describing an emotional visit from fiancée Yvonne and son William. Full story - page three.

New sheriff

OBAN Sheriff Court has a new man in charge. Patrick Hughes was inducted last week. Full story - page four.

Nearer to home

LAURA MACINTYRE, the Barra teenager seriously injured in the Manchester bombing, is 'a step nearer to home' as she recovers in Glasgow, says her family. Full story - page five.

Hero honoured

A CANADIAN First World War hero descended from outlaws originally from the Isle of Mull has been honoured at the Clan Maclean Gathering at Castle Duart. Full story - page seven.

Best in shinty

IN OUR unrivalled shinty coverage, get the latest on the Camanachd Cup semi-final draw, plus full reports and pictures from all the weekend's matches. Round-up on pages 26 and 27.



FOX AND HOUND THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

FRINGE SOLO SHOW 2016

1 IN 2 CHANCE

By Helen Fox

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First boats use Oban's new pontoons

BUSINESS is blooming on Oban's Esplanade after hotels and bars are reporting a 'bounce' from pontoons being built adjacent to the North Pier.

The pontoons are due to open officially later this year, but last weekend at the risk of owners themselves, the facility was already in use by at least six vessels. The boats were all sitting on the breakwater to the edge of the pontoon finger berths.

The placing of the pontoons off Oban's Esplanade brings to the end years of wrangling about the project and its worth to the town.

Concerns have been raised about the viability of the pontoons while other marinas in the area have objected to them.

An aspiration for some form of

pontoons around Oban's Esplanade has been talked about for at least 60 years. As area committee chairman until May 2017, Councillor Roddy McCuish was at the forefront of delivering the project.

Derek Connery, chief executive of BID4Oban, said: 'Obviously there are the direct benefits of bringing people to town, as increased footfall leads to increased spending.'

'I also think there will be some significant indirect benefits. First, the improved aesthetic of that part of the town and, secondly, believe it or not folks like to look at boats and, as such, visitors tend to gravitate to the Railway Pier, so this will keep them moving around the town.'

The improvement for visiting cruise ships is huge.'

One sea charter vessel owner told *The Oban Times*: 'The pontoons are good news for everyone. Finally, Oban will have somewhere for groups to meet in the town centre and it will open up the entire West Coast for day trips out to the islands.'

'It has been almost impossible for bigger boats to find a regular berth in Oban in the summer. The pontoons are going to change all that.'

'This means more jobs for local people - as well as the knock-on effect of more tourists coming to the town for trips.'

Contractor Gael Force has employed Gareloch Support Services (GSS) and Oban-based

North West Marine as its main sub-contractors.

There is no completion date for the pontoons, but at the weekend the busy port saw at least five yachts use the pontoons while pleasure cruiser the MV Balmoral made her way onto the North Pier.

Earlier in the year it was hoped the pontoons would be finished by late summer.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'Work on developing Oban's transit berthing facility is progressing well. We are now working on the utility connections and navigational set-up. This initiative is all about supporting the local economy and we welcome the widespread local support shown for it.'

INVERARAY HIGHLAND GAMES

Winterton Park, Castle Grounds. Tuesday 18th July 2017, 9.00am-5.30pm

SOLO PIPING, HIGHLAND DANCING, HEAVY, FIELD & TRACK EVENTS, CYCLING, WRESTLING (Incl WORLD CABER CHAMPIONSHIPS)

Inveraray & District Pipe Band (Grade 1) will parade from Church Square led by His Grace The Duke of Argyll at 10.45am

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OT

Parliament to scrutinise government's Islands Bill

THE Scottish Parliament's Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee is encouraging individuals and organisations to share views on how to give more power and protection to Scotland's islands, as it examines the Scottish Government's Islands (Scotland) Bill.

The bill was introduced to Holyrood last month and it is hoped will 'island-proof' government legislation.

This means that every law introduced will need to be suitable for introduction to the islands and that it is sustainable; if not, resources must be found to make it so.

Committee convener Edward Mountain MSP said: 'The committee's call for views is an opportunity for people with direct experience of living, working and voting on the islands to influence their future by voicing

their views and opinions on the issues that matter to them.

'The Scottish Government's bill covers significant issues, such as helping ensure that whenever new legislation is introduced, the economic growth and sustainability of Scotland's islands will be an important factor; and providing a power for Scottish ministers to create a marine licensing scheme for coastal waters.

'Its ambitious aim is to provide

a more strategic approach that enables Scotland's islands to continue to flourish. It is crucial the committee thoroughly scrutinises these proposals to ensure they fully meet the needs of our island communities.'

The convener continued: 'Over the next six months we hope to hear opinions from across the country.

'As well as taking evidence at Holyrood, the committee will

visit campaigners and individuals on the islands for views on the bill's proposals.

'It's crucial that the valuable knowledge, experience and expertise of everyone in Scotland with an interest in the future of our islands feed into our work wherever possible.'

The deadline for submitting evidence to the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee is Monday September 25.

Timber transport contract renewed

A TIMBER transport service that delivers environmental and community benefits by taking timber lorries off public roads is to continue for another five years.

The TimberLINK service transports by ship as much as 90,000 tonnes of Argyll timber each year to processors in Ayrshire – and removes around 900,000 lorry miles from the public roads network.

Recently re-tendered, the contract to manage the service has been won by Associated British Ports (ABP).

Supported by the Strategic Timber Transport Fund, the new £800,000, five-year contract will run until April 2022.

Fergus Ewing, the Scottish Government's Rural Affairs Secretary, said: 'TimberLINK is an excellent example of how support from the Strategic Timber Transport Fund is delivering environmental and community benefits to Scotland's rural communities.'

'This is a vital service that helps both to unlock Argyll's timber resources and to support economic development around the local ports.

'It reduces fuel usage and cuts carbon emissions and, by reducing the number of timber lorry journeys on Argyll's complex roads network, helps to cut congestion, reduce driver frustration and reduce accident



Fergus Ewing welcomed the contract agreement.

risk. That is wholly to be welcomed.'

The level of forest cover in Argyll is twice the Scottish average and the area produces around 15 per cent of Scotland's timber.

However, limited local processing capacity means that much of this has to be transported to markets outside Argyll.

Stuart Cresswell, ABP's port manager, said: 'We are delighted to have won the contract to manage the TimberLINK service for the third time.'

'Having operated the service successfully for 15 years, we have offered continuity for the forest industry sector and look forward to continuing this success into the future.'

Mull Railway's diesel engines find home in Staffordshire



It is two years since the Mull Railway was lifted from its tracks between Craignure and Torosay Castle and put in storage. Diesel engines Glen Auldyn (with The Tobermory Stillman nameplate on the front), Frances and Victoria – which took many children and adults on the spectacular island journey – were eventually moved to the Leek and Rudyard Railway by benefactor Simon Clarke. Mr Clark updated readers this week saying: 'The steam engine Victoria is away for its 10-year overhaul. We have moved some of the old carriages into our workshop to start the overhaul, but they are not currently in service. Both diesels, Victoria and Glen Auldyn, are in regular use and we have used some of the old Mull track and points, but not yet started the extension which is where most of it will be used.'

CalMac agrees to assess wifi aboard vessels

CALMAC has agreed to commission an independent assessment of the wifi availability onboard Hebridean crossings.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan has welcomed the news, as he has in the past called on CalMac to improve its onboard wifi for passengers.

Mr Allan wrote to CalMac

to outline concerns around the wifi availability and quality on board Hebridean services both at sea and in ports, following recent complaints.

In response, CalMac has said an independent assessment of the service has been commissioned to allow it to understand why there may be issues and how best

to address them. Dr Allan said: 'I am pleased that CalMac has commissioned an independent assessment of its wifi service.'

'In the 21st century, where wifi is a common feature on trains and buses, ferry passengers have every right to expect a similar basic service and I am glad that CalMac has admitted

that it initially underestimated the scale of the challenge.

'I welcome CalMac's commitment to have a full and proper analysis of what needs done, not only to manage public expectations, but to establish what is required to improve the onboard service. I first remember being lobbied on this issue by pupils at

Castlebay School, when I joined Keith Brown MSP, then the transport minister, to hear the case for wifi on the Oban ferry. Years after the commitment from CalMac, the service is still often unusable to most.

'I look forward to hearing of the outcome of the independent assessment.'



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Foot passengers require ferry bookings

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar along with Caledonian MacBrayne, Police Scotland and the Stornoway Port Authority are encouraging travellers to make bus and ferry bookings well in advance of travel.

CalMac has already announced that foot passengers require a booking

for sailings on July 16-24 due to the high volume of travellers expected on ferries for the Hebridean Celtic Festival.

Councillor Uisdean Robertson, chairman of the transportation and infrastructure committee at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, said: 'We are

delighted that so many people are coming to visit the Western Isles over the summer and we are thoroughly looking forward to welcoming them.'

'The week of the Hebridean Celtic Festival will be a particularly busy time, with Ullapool to Stornoway and other ferry services likely to be at full

capacity and we are keen to avoid unnecessary congestion and delays.'

'It is essential for those intending to use the bus service between Ullapool and Inverness to pre-book with Scottish Citylink on their website or call 0141 352 4444 at least 48 hours prior to travel to avoid disappointment.'

Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

LAPHROAIG DISTILLERY is another of the trio of whisky producers on the south-east coast of the island and is the only local distillery to be granted a royal warrant by the Prince of Wales following Charles's first visit to Laphroaig in 1994.

The distillery was formed by the farming brothers Donald and Alexander Johnston in 1815. They were of Ardnamurchan stock and may have been involved in some illicit distilling before seeking respectability and becoming licensed distillers.

In 1836, Donald offered £350 for his brother's share in the distillery. This was immediately accepted and Alexander emigrated to Australia where he died in 1881. Sadly, Donald died in 1847 from injuries he received when he accidentally fell into a vat of partially-made whisky.

His heir, Dugald, was only 11 years old at the time of his father's death so the distillery was run by his uncle, John Johnston, assisted by local farmer Peter MacIntyre. Dugald took full control in 1857 and continued to be in charge until his death 20 years later.

The Johnston family involvement continued for another four decades until it was inherited in 1921 by trained engineer Iain Hunter who was to be the last of the Johnston family line.

Throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries there was much



Laphroaig Distillery.

dissension between the Laphroaig Johnstons and the MacKie family, who were the owners of the neighbouring Lagavulin distillery and acted as agents for Laphroaig.

The bone of contention arose over the Mackies claiming more than their fair share of the Laphroaig product for their blending purposes. This led to litigation which saw the Mackies attempting to block the Laphroaig water sources. Expensive court cases ensued before the Mackies threw in the towel.

Despite the costs involved in these actions and the ensuing financial restraints, Iain Hunter greatly expanded and improved the distillery. He also left no stone unturned to ensure that Laphroaig became a global brand.

In 1927 he was approached by the island laird Sir Hugh Morrison who wanted a special whisky produced to mark the coming of age of his son and heir John Granville Morrison, later elevated to the peerage as

Lord Margadale. This resulted in the deluxe Islay Mist brand, now highly prized by connoisseurs.

In 1935 Hunter appointed Bessie Williamson, a Glasgow University graduate, as his secretary and she began to play an integral part in the running of the distillery.

Following the Second World War, during which Laphroaig was commandeered as a military depot, Bessie's managerial responsibilities greatly increased as Iain Hunter's health and mobility diminished. He died in 1954 and bequeathed the distillery to Bessie who, in 1961, married the Canadian singer, composer and broadcaster Wishart Campbell.

By now well versed in the distilling business, Bessie greatly increased Laphroaig's reputation but also realised that for it to successfully survive it needed the support of an international group to provide the necessary financial muscle.

In the 1960s, the island distillery was acquired by Long John International with Bessie remaining at the helm and increasing her role as world ambassador for the celebrated Islay whisky.

Bessie, who retired from business in 1972, died in a Glasgow hospital 10 years later. Her husband, who had no direct input into the workings of the distillery, died in 1983.

Today, Laphroaig is owned by

Beam Suntory, which is also responsible for the distilleries at Bowmore, Ardmore and Auchentoshan.

Coffee and cakes

MEMBERS of the Round Church are busy putting the final preparations in place for their summer coffee afternoon taking place tomorrow (Friday July 14) in the Bowmore Buffet Hall at 2pm.

There will be a wide variety of homebaking and produce to choose from as well as other goodies to tempt you and part you from your money.

Admission is £4 and proceeds go towards the upkeep of the island's most iconic A-listed building.

Birthday thanks

I AM grateful to family and friends who ensured that my 80th birthday on July 3 did not go unmarked. My sincere thanks for all the good wishes, generosity and hospitality.

I'm now in serious training in preparation for joining the nonagenarians ranks. Sláinte!

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

Hearing my son call me Daddy was just amazing

LOUISE GLEN

lglen@obantimes.co.uk

CONNEL man Billy Irving responded at length to a card sent to him by *Oban Times* chief reporter Louise Glen. Here is his reply in full.

Hi Louise, Thank you for your lovely card and your support, really means so much to me and helps me to stay strong.

The support we have had not just from the UK but all round the world has been totally amazing and overwhelming.

We receive so many letters and parcels which is such a boost to our morale.

For me, all the support and help is for my family too and that they are not alone.

I know my fiancée has been fighting non-stop since the beginning of this nightmare. During this time she went through pregnancy, moving house, working and raising our now two-and-a-half-year-old son.

Saying that I am proud seems such an understatement and doesn't give Yvonne the credit she is due.

But I am so proud of Yvonne. Not only has she done all the fighting for me, but she has put up with my complaining and moaning, listening to me and basically being my rock.

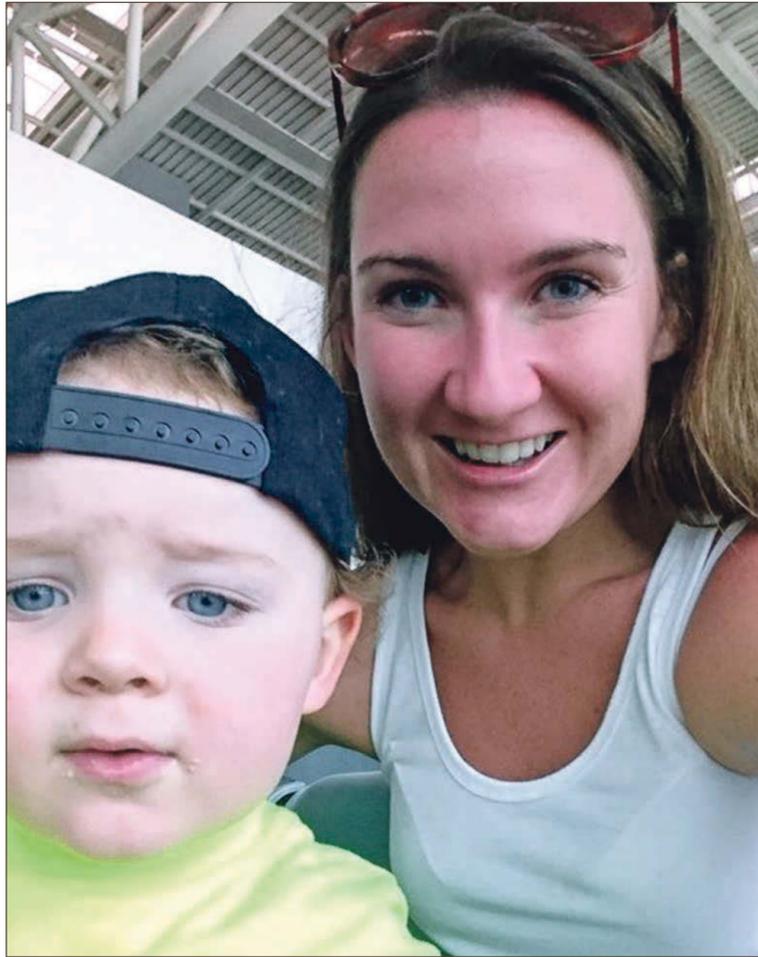
Knowing all we have been through for almost four years now and Yvonne has stood by me. I just hope I can be the man, husband Yvonne deserves.

My son William is growing up without his dad. Being denied his dad because the powers that can end this total miscarriage of justice refuse to intervene, even after evidence is clear we are innocent. Also letters from lawyers and Human Rights at Sea were given to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on request to prove violations of human rights, violations of laws and illegal detentions by India in 2014, still, to date, FCO/UK government have done zero about our complaints. Letters from lawyers and HRS (three years on) and are still allowing our human rights to be broken by Indian authorities.

This is the same country and government I served for 10 years in the army (which I am proud of serving in), doing operational tours in Northern Ireland/Iraq and Afghanistan – those places where my government sent me, where I was willing to give my life, where I have lost friends.

I did these in the knowledge that UK government would fight and protect its citizens. I now know I was wrong.

I have begged for help, I have provided proof of miscarriage of justice/laws, violations of



The visit by Yvonne and William to India gave a huge boost to Billy's morale.

human rights and yet the UK government will not step up and fight for us. They have not once condemned any of our mistreatment or injustice.

I am sorry, I go off on a tangent when I speak about our government. I get sidetracked from what I was trying to say.

My son William growing up without me, his father, breaks my heart.

When Yvonne and William surprised me on my birthday by visiting me here in prison it was out of this world.

As I walked down to the jailer's office (a guard came and said I had to see a jailer), I just got about 10 metres away and I heard: 'Daddy!' I looked up and there was Yvonne and William shouting 'Daddy' as loud as he can.

The feelings/emotions I had cannot be described. It was the first time I heard William speak. The first time I had been called daddy.

And to see the look on Yvonne's face. Such a proud mum. It was just totally amazing. I got to spend two hours with them in the five days they were allowed to see me.

I was scared William wouldn't bond with me or me to him but from the minute

he shouted daddy my worries vanished.

William was and is amazing. But being cooped up in the jailer's office (which is about three-and-a-half metres square) other people in it, the heat was outrageous (hottest month of the year, May).

I just wish we were not restricted and we could play, run about. In saying that, we did play hide and seek, ha ha.

Those two hours per day will always stay with me, hearing William talk, being called 'daddy', hearing and seeing William laugh and best of all our big family cuddle.

I've never been one for talking about my feelings or emotions, but since this fiasco I have opened up more.

My happy thoughts in here are 1. Getting to Yvonne and William and being a family, 2. Being a dad to William, 3. Marrying Yvonne (when we can do it, I just can't wait to call Yvonne my wife), 4. Being surrounded by family and friends.

Four things that seem simple and are free (well maybe not getting married that will cost, lol) also things I have taken for granted before this fiasco, by that I mean family and friends.

Other things that help me cope in here is drawing/painting and music.

I have my chanter, penny whistle, harmonica and the prison has an acoustic guitar.

I play the pipes but I just play about trying to teach the others.

I have written quite a few pipe tunes now (but I have a feeling some might be tunes I've known or heard since I was a boy, lol) and I have written three songs with guitar.

I wanted to share some things with you, feel free to put them in your story (if this gets to you on time). I do apologise for my writing and spelling but I hope it is readable. I am not the best at writing letters.

If you can, can you please put a massive thank you for everyone's support and help. It really has helped me and my family so much.

If you have any questions you'd like me to answer please, feel free to ask and I will do my best to answer them.

Thank you for your lovely card, it really brightened my day. Massive thank you to all at *The Oban Times*.

Kindest regards, William (Billy) Irving.

How you can help Billy

Send a video message of support to Billy's partner Yvonne via www.facebook.com/thechennai6, simply saying: 'I support the Chennai six.' If you do not have the technology, come into *The Oban Times* office and we can record a message.

Join up at one of the four places to get information: www.chennai6.co.uk, www.facebook.com/thechennai6, www.twitter.com/chennai6 and www.change.org/6soldiers.

Write to Brendan O'Hara MP, Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and Prime Minister Theresa May at House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

Hold a fundraising event, perhaps a coffee morning or cake sale, at your work with pre-printed letters for colleagues to send to the relevant parliamentarian.

Billy will be receiving a free copy of *The Oban Times* every week from now until his release and we will run weekly messages of support to him. Send these marked 'Messages for Billy' to *The Oban Times*, Oban, PA34 4HB or email: editor@obantimes.co.uk. Or send us a photograph of your parcel.

Send a letter or a parcel to Billy or one of the other men in prison, to: Office of Superintendent, William Irving, Puzhal Prison, Puzhal 1 Central Prison, Chennai, India, 600066. A 2kg parcel costs £13-£18 to post via the post office. Signed-for deliveries could cause an issue with guards, so just use a standard service. For a list of items that can be sent, see obantimes.co.uk.

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

About 1pm on Friday June 30, in Argyll Square, Oban, near to the Clydesdale Bank, a disturbance occurred between a man who was with a woman and three other women. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

About 5.50am on Friday July 7, following a report of a man behaving in an abusive manner and assaulting a woman in a flat in Scalpay Terrace, Oban, a 30-year old-man was detained. The man was later arrested and charged with assault and abusive behaviour and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

About 11.45am on Sunday July 2, on the A828 near Benderloch, a collision occurred between a Suzuki Swift and a Nissan Micra. Subsequently, a 26-year-old man was charged with careless driving. The occupants in the Nissan Micra suffered minor injuries as a result of the collision and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

About 2.05pm on Friday July 7, within Lidl store in Oban, an unattended Samsung mobile phone was stolen. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

About 9.50am on Monday July 10, on the A828, near Barcaldine, a motorist was stopped for allegedly exceeding the speed limit. The driver, a man aged 29, was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Between 7pm on Thursday July 6 and 9.30am on Friday July 7, in Mill Lane, Oban, a Landrover Discovery had a door lock damaged and entry was gained. It is not thought that anything was stolen from the vehicle. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

Anyone with information about any of these incidents is asked to call police on on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Find is linked to St Columba

EVIDENCE kept in a matchbox has been used to prove that a wooden hut traditionally associated with St Columba on the island of Iona dates to his lifetime in the late sixth century.

Carbon dating has led to the breakthrough, which proves samples of hazel charcoal unearthed in an excavation of a wattle and timber structure on Iona 60 years ago are from the exact period Columba lived in the Inner Hebridean monastery.

The samples were excavated in 1957 by archaeologist Professor Charles Thomas but, with radio carbon dating only just emerging at the time, they were not tested

and instead kept in matchboxes in his garage in Cornwall.

Altogether, 10 radio carbon dates were returned from samples from Prof Thomas's excavations, all dating to the early medieval period (AD 500-1100).

The 'hut' is believed to be the monk's 'cell' where he prayed and studied in isolation. Results show the hut dated back to between AD540 and AD650, while Columba died in 597. Prof Thomas died last year.

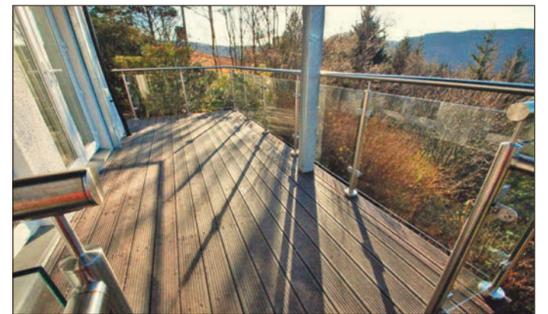
Dr Adrian Maldonado, from the University of Glasgow, described the carbon dating as vindication of his foresight in storing the samples.

Memorial benches and so much more from Fusion Marine recycled plastic outdoor furniture range

A memorial bench is a perfect tribute to a loved one sadly lost, providing benefit to the community and a lasting remembrance for that special person.



Fusion Marine recycled plastic benches are ideal for this role because of their long-life and low maintenance. Environmentally friendly and so very tough, these memorial benches really do offer the perfect remembrance that will last much longer than traditional wooden benches.



Engraved metal plates are easily mounted onto the benches and their natural coloration means they fit well into a variety of surroundings.

tables and benches are available in colours that blend in naturally with the environment.

- Better chemical resistance
- Will not leach chemicals into the soil.

The Fusion Marine recycled plastic range includes a wide variety of durable outdoor products, including picnic tables and benches, decking, fencing and boardwalks, which are ideal for private users or for commercial operators such as holiday parks, nature reserves, visitor centres and other outdoor areas. The

Decking planks are also supplied, forming the ideal material to ensure your garden decking lasts for a very long time with no need for tiresome and costly frequent treatments to preserve the wood or constant cleaning to prevent the build-up of slippery algae.

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

The advantages of recycled plastic for such outdoor products include:

- Tough and durable
- Decay resistant
- Low maintenance
- Environmentally friendly
- Slip-resistant surfaces
- Will not crack or split
- Non-toxic and inert
- Weather resistant
- Impervious to water
- Resistant to micro-organisms

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

www.fusionrecycledplastic.com

Oban volunteers give so much to the town

OBAN War and Peace Museum is one of our most treasured assets, loved by locals and visitors alike (if you haven't visited yet, you should) and it's in need of help at the moment, writes *Oban town ambassador Kay MacDonald*.

It's run by fantastic volunteers who do two-hour shifts to keep it open to the public and at the moment they're struggling to fill those shifts. If anyone has a few hours to spare, I would heartily recommend it as a worthwhile thing to do as well as being fun and entertaining.

We're very lucky in Oban to be served by so many groups run by volunteers for the benefit of those of us who live in and around the town – Oban and Lorne Lions, Rotary Club of Oban, Oban Communities Trust and Oban Phoenix Cinema to name a few – people who give of their time and talents for the community and I know that they all struggle to recruit new members to lighten the load.

If you have a few hours or a skill you think may be useful, then please think about offering your services. It's a great

way to get to know different people and be part of the wider community.

As well as being a town ambassador, which is a fantastic way to get to meet all these fabulous volunteers, I'm also a member of the Oban branch of the Scottish Women's Institute, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

So far we've celebrated with a tea party in the Guide Hall with a scrumptious afternoon tea provided by Argyll on the Pier and next the Lorn Group, which consists of all the SWI groups in the area, is having an afternoon tea in the Great Western Hotel.

One of my favourite things about the SWI is all the fabulous food but it's also about meeting like-minded ladies who enjoy crafts, cooking and a blather.

I was really saddened recently to learn that some of the groups in Lorn will be closing because of falling membership. I've gained so much through my membership of the SWI – I've made new friends, learned new skills and gained confidence.

Being part of a group like

the SWI or volunteering for one of the charities locally is something I would recommend for everyone, not only for the contribution they make to the community but also for what they can do for you personally.

The Rotary Club of Oban has a great event this weekend with the annual duck race in the Black Lynn from the bridge on Combie Street.

Ducks will be available to buy from stalls in Gibraltar Street and Station Square on

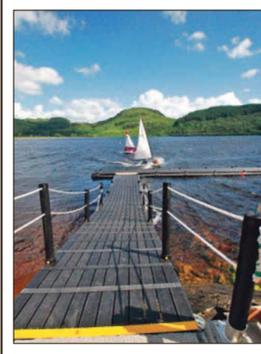
Friday and Saturday and, after all the rain recently, we should have a good burn for them to race on.

I'm really looking forward to it. Good luck, ducks.

The photo last week was just round the corner from Coast restaurant on George Street on the upper part of the building. The date is 1888 and the letters look like MAC. If anyone can enlighten me, I'd be grateful.

This weeks photo is easier to find ... if you know where to look.

WHERE IS THIS?



OT

New sheriff says Oban is the 'perfect town to live in'



From left to right: Sheriff Principal Duncan Murray, Sheriff Patrick Hughes and Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute Patrick Stewart.

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

THERE is a new sheriff in town – and he thinks 'Oban is the perfect town to live in'.

Patrick Hughes, 40, was officially inducted into his new role on Wednesday July 5. He takes over from Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC who retired from the position.

Dozens of people made their way to the Oban court for the ceremony, where a number of speeches took place.

Sheriff principal, Duncan Murray, procurator fiscal Laura Mundell, and Karen MacAllister of Oban Faculty of Solicitors attended the event and were full

of praise for Sheriff Hughes' appointment.

Mr Hughes, who grew up in Irvine, is a graduate of the University of Strathclyde and became a procurator fiscal depute in 2004, when he qualified as a solicitor.

He worked in this role for four years before being promoted in 2008 to senior procurator fiscal depute.

Sheriff Hughes, who has also been a part-time tutor at the University of Strathclyde, spent some time as the acting head of the wildlife and environmental crime unit in 2014.

Speaking to *The Oban Times* about his new role, he said: 'I think it is a great honour.

It's a privilege and I will do everything I can to ensure I am worthy of it.'

Sheriff Hughes' first impression of his new home was also a positive one. He said: 'I am extremely taken with Oban. It is the perfect town to live in. It's compact, full of natural beauty and I am impressed with what a busy main street it has.'

Fort William Sheriff Court also received a new sheriff this year – Eilidh MacDonald, a graduate of the University of Dundee.

The appointments were made by the Queen on the recommendation of the First Minister on the basis of a report by the Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland.

Oban fire service has summer safety guide

AS PEOPLE prepare to head off on their holidays, Oban community fire station is asking that they read its summer safety guide beforehand.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is asking that you 'switch off before you set off' if you are leaving your house for an extended period of time.

Electrical appliances such as televisions, hair straighteners and computers are more likely to cause a fire if they are accidentally left on for long periods of time – for example, when people go on holiday for a week or two.

'Here in Scotland,' the guide reads, 'we boast some of the most stunning scenery in the UK. We'd really appreciate your help to keep it that way.'

Never throw a lit cigar or cigarette away in a rural environment.

Dispose of glass or bottles in the bin and not out in the open, as glass can magnify the sun and cause fires.

Ensure recreational fires are made in a fire safe pit or con-

tainer and that they are properly extinguished.

A fire in a caravan or mobile home spreads much more quickly than it would in a house or flat, and therefore they should be fitted with a smoke alarm.

Caravans and tents should be at least six-metres apart and well away from parked cars.

Tents can be 'gone in 60 seconds', so don't light fires near them, cook well back from them, and make sure any campfires are out before you go to sleep.

It's also important to know the risks associated with carbon monoxide if you are planning to go camping this summer.

The early signs of CO poisoning include tiredness, drowsiness, dizziness, chest pains or nausea.

Never take a portable barbecue or lit charcoal into an enclosed space such as a tent or caravan, even if they are cooling down, as the fumes can be lethal.

To find out more, visit <http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/safer-summer.aspx>.

Date set for second Soroba clean-up

A DATE has been set for the second phase of Oban Community Centre's clean-up in Soroba.

On July 29 people will again get together to help out with cleaning up the site, but more volunteers are needed.

The clean-up will begin at 11am and people are being asked to meet at the Soroba community centre.

Last month around 20 people turned out to help and were rewarded with an unlimited supply of tea and coffee and a barbecue.

To find out more, or to get involved, search for Soroba community centre on Facebook or show up on the day. Tools will be provided.



Volunteers last month were rewarded with unlimited tea and coffee, and a barbecue.



Minister's walkabout boosts Oban cadets

THE Reverend Christopher 'Kit' Jarman, a retired chaplain to Oban Sea Cadets, embarked on a personal endeavour after recently recovering from cancer.

Rev Jarman completed a five-mile walk between Oban War and Peace Museum and Glenburnie House – a single distance of half a mile exactly as measured out by the cadets – along the Corran Esplanade.

He did this 10 times cheered on by a group of Oban Sea

Cadets and friends for the total distance of five miles.

This was a tremendous feat of endurance for the clergyman who not so long ago required daily support not only to walk but also to wash and dress.

Rev Jarman raised a fantastic £3,500 for Oban Sea Cadets and presented the youngsters with a cheque on Thursday July 6 during their weekly parade night at Tweeddale Street's Oban Cadet Hall.

WHITE VAN Man

AUSTERITY is a word familiar to all of us.

So how does austerity affect you? Has it forced you to tighten your belt due to pay freezes? Is it due to a lack of funding for public services? Where and when is all this going to end?

Last week we discovered that wages for top-earning council officers range from £55,000 to £124,999 per year.

This is disgraceful at a time when austerity has been forced on us by those who make it clear that Argyll and Bute Council must make some very hard choices to save money.

When I think of public sector workers restricted to one per cent wage rises, or companies which offer zero-hours or reduced hours contracts, forcing many people to take up two or three part-time jobs, it makes my blood boil.

Is it time for a total rethink of local government officers salaries? Yes.

Not one council officer should earn more than £50,000 per year, and that goes for the chief executive.

It was said that you have got to pay top prices for top officers.

No official is worth that kind

of money when they expect the workforce and electorate of Argyll and Bute to suffer.

Maybe council officers should take cuts in their salaries. Not only would that bring them back to reality with a bang but it would also help to sort out the financial crisis being experienced by the council.

At the end of the day not one of us is better than the other.

We are all Jock Tamson's bairns – a sentiment that too many people are not willing to accept.

George Berry

Soroba tenants voice concern about cladding

A SOROBA resident has raised concerns over the insulation that surrounds the flats in the area and the age of the wiring in some homes.

However, Argyll Community House Association (ACHA) has responded to these concerns, saying all its homes meet the Scottish building regulations and that it carries out cyclical electrical inspections.

George Berry raised the questions at the monthly Soroba Residents' Association meeting on Tuesday July 4. He was worried because of variations between flats.

'Why did they change it?' he said. 'There are two of them that have a gap and the rest are face

to face with the building. I would like them to remove the metal plating so we can get access to the fire protection that is there and take a sample from it.'

In the building that Mr Berry is referring to, there is an overhang on the outer part of the structure revealing a metal plate at the bottom.

Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of ACHA, said: 'It has been drawn to the association's attention that there is a gap between the insulation and the wall of a block in Soroba which the association is inspecting this week.'

'If this is found to be a variance from the normal specification, either by defect or anything else, then it will be repaired.'

Referring to why some of the buildings are different, Mr MacGregor said: 'The association will use different specifications depending on what buildings we are working on at a given time. All specifications meet the Scottish building regulations.'

'The association has an ongoing programme of external wall insulation to improve the thermal efficiency of our tenants' homes.'

'We do not fit curtain walling with an air gap. The system we use is installed directly onto the face of external walls and the external coating is not combustible.'

'The specification we use is phenolic board which is Euroclass B and the fibre is Euroclass 1.'

Mr Berry also questioned the safety of wiring in some of the homes.

'The estate is about 40 years old,' he said. 'Back then houses were getting sold for pennies.'

'Because people can no longer come up with £7,000 to £8,000 to rewire their flats in Soroba, the wiring is now 40 years old.'

But Mr MacGregor reassured tenants, saying: 'I can confirm that ACHA carries out cyclical electrical inspections.'

'For example, this year blocks at 2, 8, 9 and 10 Colonsay Terrace, 18, 19, 22, 23 and 24 Shuna Terrace, 8 Scalpay Terrace, 32 McCaig Road and 1 Ulva Road will be part of the rolling programme.'



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BOGSA PIANA / PIANO ACCORDION
WITH MAIREARAD GREEN
21 - 25/08/17



CÙRSA FLÒDAIGEARRAIDH
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100 people on Mull show support for Glen Iosal

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcpcpee@obantimes.co.uk

AROUND 100 people on Tobermory gathered at a care home to protest against cuts to its warden provision.

The concerned islanders rallied outside Glen Iosal as senior managers from Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and the Trust Housing Association met residents living in the sheltered housing complex and their families.

The HSCP is looking to withdraw funding from the Trust Housing Association, the organisation that runs the care home. This will result in warden support at the 25-flat complex being cut from 35 hours to 25.

A petition asking for the decision to be reversed has been signed by 780 people. It states that social work does not have the staff to pick up the shortfall. 'The main point seems to be that this does not seem like a consultation - it feels like a done deal,' said Katharine Elwis, who started the petition.

'We feel we are not being consulted, we are being told, and no matter what we say about the impact of the decision, it is going to change their mind.'

'We wish an impact assessment had been done before the decision was made and this should have been done by the board.'



Dozens of people protest against cuts in wardens' hours. One, left, carried a sign that reads: 'Keep Glen Iosal as caring supported living.'

'A lot of the elderly people were assuming they could come here when independent living gets too much for them.'

'Anxiety levels have gone up and residents here are already vulnerable and the stress they

have been put under is unforgivable. It's been handled badly, considering people are vulnerable here. The support from the community has shown the residents they are not alone and everyone cares about Glen Iosal.'

Shaun Davidson, the HSCP's local area manager on Mull, said: 'The idea is to bring the Trust Housing Association services, the last of the warden-type old housing support service contracts, in line with the rest of sheltered housing provision in Argyll and Bute.'

'However, while everyone is trying hard to make the best use of reducing budgets and to identify solutions, we are, of course, aware that every complex is unique.'

'So before we make any changes, we will conduct a full consultation process to ensure that all the residents' individual needs and requirements are met.'

'If any resident feels that they need personal care, we will refer them to a social care worker and an assessment will be carried out to see if they meet the criteria to access our care at home services.'

Councillor for Oban South and the Isles Mary Jean-Devon said: 'I am worried. We have been trying for five or six years to get home carers on Mull. People have had to be moved off the island. One size does not fit all.'

Councillor Devon said it would cost more money to pay additional carers than it would to keep the wardens' hours as they are.

She added: 'We have to fight it. I would like the status quo to remain. If not, people won't have the peace of mind that they have now - that's someone to stroke their hand and wait with them while the ambulance comes.'

A 75-year-old Glen Iosal resident, who asked not to be named, said: 'I am absolutely anxious, the same as everyone else here.'

'It is a ridiculous situation. We have tried to explain to all the powers-that-be that we are not going to save money here, we already have the perfect set up as an island.'



There is a campaign to block quarrying in Glen Creran.

Appin quarry dispute over need for sand

THE opposing sides in a row over a planned quarry in Glen Creran near Appin are split on the crucial question of whether there is a shortage of local building sand.

The Argyll-based applicant, A & L McCrae Ltd, which mines aggregates at Barrachander Quarry near Kilchrenan, lodged a planning application in October to extract and process sand and gravel at Glasdrum, in particular high quality building sand for which, it argues, there is a shortage in Argyll and Bute.

The Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan, it adds, allows a new quarry where there is a local need, defined as 'predominant use within a 30-mile radius of the extraction site'. Argyll and Bute Council's planning department wrote letters to five quarries in the local market area to determine the available products for sale, and their replies were posted on the Quarry Protest group's website.

Bonnar Sand and Gravel at Cairndow found demand for fine building sand had 'declined' to less than one per cent of its business, adding 'it would be a difficult situation should a new enterprise reduce the employment pool further'.

Leiths Scotland, which operates a quarry at Dornie by Fort William, was 'more than capable of supplying' the maximum annual demand of building sand, with 'significant reserves' and a new plant producing up to 500 tonnes per day.

Colin Hodge, who owns the quarry operated by Breedon at Benderloch, confirmed his reserve of more than one million tonnes of 'easily winnable sand and gravel' in 'all grades', and a 'lack of demand' for 'abundantly available' fine-grade building sand. Breedon and MacLeod Construction of Lochgilphead, which runs two Argyll quarries, also confirmed they supply building sand.

The plan has so far gathered 1,500 objections, and the Quarry Protest group has commissioned and published an 'expert report' by Philip Lea, director of engi-

neering consultants Johnson, Poole and Bloomer, which concluded: 'There can be no justification of need for an additional quarry,' 'the demand for building sand is limited and it is currently and will continue to be met from existing sources'.

In response, A & L McCrae responded with a 30-page report. Manager Calum McCrae argued 'representation from local contractors has clearly demonstrated a local need for building sand.'

'An example arose during the upgrade of an Argyll and Bute Council sports pitch in Oban recently, where high quality sand could not be sourced locally and was therefore imported into Argyll from Lanarkshire in articulated bulkers. This was at a huge cost to Argyll and Bute Council and in turn the taxpayers. The testing of the sand at Glasdrum has proven it is high quality and could have been used for this project.'

Mr McCrae said that, within the two local quarries closest to Glasdrum, 'Benderloch does not produce building sand and North Connel has a very small supply which is insufficient to meet local needs'. The remaining quarries at Dornie, Kilmartin and Clachan, he added, 'entail HGV road haulage for significant distances with the associated environmental impacts and additional costs to consumers.'

'Evidence from local contractors shows that, due to lack of local availability, building sand is also currently imported from quarries outwith Argyll and Bute at even greater distance than those identified above. Whereas the Quarry Protest group report is predicated on the continued supply of the market from excessive distance, the proposed Glasdrum quarry would provide a local supply.'

But protesters hailed 'proof' there is 'no requirement for any more sand or gravel in the area'. One Glen Creran resident, Tony Kersley, argued the plan amounted to 'a gravel quarry in "disguise", in direct competition with Breedon in Benderloch'.



Accident highlights need for campaign

One man was taken to hospital following the accident at the Dunbeg junction last Friday. Photograph: Oban Times reader Jaroslav Fituch

THE OBAN TIMES continues its Stay Alive on the A85 campaign this week by focusing on the Dunbeg junction.

A multiple-car accident at the already highlighted 'dangerous' Dunbeg junction on the A85 on Friday July 7 saw one man taken to hospital while three cars were badly damaged.

Emergency services were called to the accident shortly after 3pm on Friday.

This latest accident highlights concerns voiced by residents and workers at the Scottish Association for Marine Science over a number of years.

STAY Alive on the A85

Contractor John MacMillian, who witnessed the accident, said: 'It is really too bad that no-one wants to stick their neck out and say the junction on that road is a death trap.'

'Since Dunbeg was built there have been no major improvements to the main exit onto the A85. There are at least an extra

500 more people and cars using the road to Dunbeg every day.

'Frankly, the road is not fit for purpose and needs to be reviewed. I have heard the government will only take a view on doing something if there is a certain number of fatal accidents. That is appalling.'

'We need a roundabout and we need people in Oban to sign up to the Stay Alive on the A85 campaign to make sure it is supported by both the local council and the Scottish Government, and that changes are made before anyone else loses their life.'

The Oban Times has set up a

petition with the aim of making the road safer for drivers and passengers, in particular between Oban and Connel.

To support the campaign, cut out and sign the petition slip below and hand it into The Oban Times office, or alternatively sign our online petition by searching 'Stay Alive on the A85' at change.org.

People can also collect campaign car stickers from The Oban Times office, Oban Phoenix Cinema, the Bid4Oban office in Stevenson Street, the Halfway House petrol station, Tesco, Lidl and Dunbeg Village Stores.

The Oban Times petition for safety improvements on the A85.

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

PLEASE SIGN BELOW:

Name

Address Tel

..... Email

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

Barra bomb victim recovering in Glasgow

MANCHESTER bomb victim Laura MacIntyre, from Barra has been transferred to a Glasgow hospital to continue her recovery from serious blast injuries.

The 15-year-old is making 'good progress' having suffered serious hand and leg injuries, her parents said in a statement.

Laura was at the Ariana Grande concert with friend Eilidh MacLeod. Eilidh was

one of eight people killed in the attack at Manchester Arena.

Michael and Nan MacIntyre said their daughter, a pupil at Castlebay Community School, is now one step closer to home.

The couple thanked people in Manchester for their help, particularly a man who stayed with Laura in the aftermath of the bombing.

Laura's parents said: 'We'd like to take this opportunity to

thank the people of Manchester and in particular all those who have done so much to help Laura and our family.'

'The kindness and care started from the first moments after the bombing when a young travel safe officer held Laura's hand and comforted her for an hour while she waited for treatment.'

'We believe he helped save Laura's life that night and he will always be a hero to our

family. Since then, he has been to visit Laura in hospital and it was a privilege to meet him and thank him in person.'

The family thanked medical staff at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. 'We couldn't wish for a more dedicated, kind and professional group of people. We'd also like to thank Greater Manchester Police and Police Scotland for their support.'

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OT

Glen Orchy and Innishail

THE community council received a report from Carraig Gheal Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund and stressed the importance and success of this fund to the wider community.

Grant guidelines were discussed and agreed and will now be issued to any applicant with the application form.

It was noted that the community council had not endorsed a micro grant application for wildlife feeding costs in a private garden in Cladich.

Grants were agreed for Dalmally Primary School, which receives £500, and, after a ballot, an award was agreed for the Loch Awe-side Red Squirrel Group

– £250 from An Suidhe micro grant and £150 from the community.

Police appeal

PC DARREN Miller particularly asked that all residents report anything unusual by phoning 101.

He said that people were naturally reluctant to trouble the public services, but it is increasingly important to let the police decide priorities, otherwise incidents are not recorded and a false value of rural crime and concerns is created.

The community council has agreed to carry any reasonable costs of Rural Watch signs.

St Kilda

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar has welcomed an announcement of a £16.8 million investment by UK Ministry of Defence and QinetiQ in two new BAE Systems tracking radars, to be installed on St Kilda, and the upgrade of two existing radars at Mod Hebrides.

Chairman of the sustainable development committee, Councillor Donald Crichton, said: 'This is excellent news for Uist and for the Outer Hebrides. This investment demonstrates a commitment to the base and the employment that it provides and to a secure future.'

'I would hope this upgrad-

ing of equipment will make the Hebrides Range even more competitive and will pave the way for future development in this important sector for the islands.

'I hope this investment opens the route to new and innovative business at the range, that it provides stability for the workforce and opens new opportunities for young people.'

'The comhairle remains highly supportive of the Hebrides Range and I would be keen that we continue to work with the range to maximise local opportunities from this investment.'

Lochgilhead

AFTER listening to young people in their area, an Argyll-based youth group has secured funding to increase the provision of local recreational facilities.

Mid Argyll Youth Development Service (MAYDS), based in Lochgilhead, has received £155,118 from the Scottish Land Fund towards the purchase of its current building, which it had previously leased from Argyll and Bute Council, and two adjoining pieces of land.

For more than 20 years, the local charity has worked with young people to provide a wide range of recre-

ational, educational, social and learning opportunities, including workshops, group activities and support services.

With this funding, MAYDS will now have the freedom to develop a broader range of activities including outdoor work, play space, a garden and a skateboard park, which was particularly sought after by young people in the community.

MAYDS manager Fiona Kalache said: 'MAYDS is thrilled and overjoyed at receiving this award. This will make a huge difference, thanks to everyone whom helped to get us here.'

Dunoon

WORK on a fantastic new Dunoon Primary School is about to get under way.

Argyll and Bute Council has signed a contract for the work with project partners hubNorth Scotland Ltd and Morrison Construction.

The project will see a major refurbishment of the historic Victorian building as well as the building of a new wing. Work will start this month and is scheduled for completion in spring 2019.



Approximately £10 million is being invested in the school, with half coming from the council and the remainder coming from the Scottish Government.

The school will remain open during the work.

Benderloch and Connel



Primary two and three from Lochnell school took part in a beach clean at Tralee beach with staff and volunteers from Hope Kitchen. The children also organised a collection of toys and games for the charity and would like to thank all those who donated.

Residents pack public meeting

MORE than 70 people attended the community council meeting in North Connel Hall on Tuesday June 27 to hear from Sustrans about the proposed route for the cycle path from Ledaig to Benderloch.

An overwhelming majority rejected the latest proposal by Sustrans because it involved crossing the A828.

The issue of safety was the main concern, as parents of young children stated that crossing the busy trunk road was unacceptable and they urged the stakeholders to work out a route that provided a safe path for children going to school.

A major block to achieving the preferred route is an objection by a landowner but it is hoped that further negotiation will lead to a workable solution.

Ward councillors who attended the meeting were asked to intervene and revisit the core path option. The date for the next Ard-



Janie and Kathlene with their dad's lobster box.

chattan Community Council is set for Tuesday August 22 at the Victory Hall in Benderloch at 7.30pm.

Retirement

A MUCH-LOVED and respected teacher at Lochnell School, Joy Cameron, said her farewells last Friday to staff and pupils as she begins her retirement.

The creative and inspiring teacher had a wonderful send-off a few days earlier when parents, pupils and staff held a special party at the school. Pupils past and present all attended to wish Joy well in the next chapter of her life.

Soup lunch

THE popular soup lunch

season has begun in Connel Church Hall.

Every Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 2pm volunteers serve nourishing soup and fine home-baking in a friendly atmosphere. All are welcome.

Box returned

DURING a recent clear-out of a shed, Ardchattan resident John Campbell came across a box.

After a bit of research he found that it was a lobster box and belonged to the late fisherman Ross McMahon from Kerrera.

Mr Campbell said: 'It has been in our shed for more than 40 years. After some inquiries, I was able to return it to Ross's daughters, and my photograph shows them taking delivery of it at Ardchattan.'

'I want to thank Les Robertson for his help with this – he was one of Ross's crew on the *Calum Cille*.'



Joy Cameron was given plenty of help to cut her cake during a rousing send-off.

Western Isles

ANGUS Brendan MacNeil, the MP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, has won the chance to be one of the first MPs in this session of parliament to make their own mark on the law by introducing a Private Members' Bill.

These are public bills introduced by MPs who are not government ministers.

Mr MacNeil was drawn in seventh place out of the 461 MPs who took part in a ballot of members.

Twenty ballot balls were drawn by clerk assistant John Benger, with the names of the successful MP read out by the chairman of ways and means, Lindsay Hoyle MP.

However, as time for debating Private Members' Bills is limited to just 13 Fridays in each parliamentary session, only the top seven in the ballot are virtually guaranteed debating time.

The next step will be the presentation of the bill on Wednesday July 19, when the 20 successful MPs will introduce their chosen bills in the House of Commons chamber at the start of the day's proceedings.



Angus MacNeil, above, and Alasdair Allan.



Being lonely isn't just a feeling, it's considered to be as bad for our health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. 'Many people link loneliness with older people, but that's by no means the full picture.'

'I've signed a pledge to support the commission in its aim to tackle loneliness – both in Na h-Eileanan an Iar and in my role in parliament. You can pledge to start a conversation too through the Jo Cox website <https://www.jocoxloneliness.org/pledge>.'

Renewables

MP ANGUS Brendan MacNeil has been pressing the UK government to support renewable energy projects in the islands and, on Tuesday July 18, he will again maintain this pressure when he meets Richard Harrington, under-secretary of state at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Mr MacNeil said: 'Locational price modelling is ruining the chances of island renewables wind projects. The islands need to be considered as a distinct category open for CfDs (Contracts for Difference) to make wind projects in the islands viable.'

'I will be meeting Richard Harrington to again highlight the urgent need for action to allow renewable energy projects in the islands the opportunity to progress.'

Physiotherapy

NA H-EILEANAN an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan has expressed his concern at physiotherapy provision in the Western Isles, following representations made to him by concerned parents.

A large number of frustrated parents and carers attended a paediatric physiotherapy event at the Caberfeidh Hotel in Stornoway last Tuesday to discuss the issue with NHS Western Isles and the integrated joint board (IJB).

Dr Allan said: 'I have been contacted by a number of parents whose children have been unable to get an appointment since the retirement of the paediatric physiotherapist in June.'

'I understand that the post has been advertised twice and that efforts continue to fill the post.'

'I appreciate that the IJB and Western Isles have recognised these concerns and have confirmed they will work with both parents and carers closely on this issue.'

'However, in the immediate short term, there are clearly concerns among this group of parents which need to be addressed, and I have raised these in correspondence with both boards.'

Cox commission

MR MACNEIL last week met the Jo Cox Commission to raise awareness of loneliness in Na h-Eileanan an Iar.

Mrs Cox, who was murdered by a constituent last year, set up the commission, along with 13 organisations.

The commission is continuing her legacy by raising awareness about loneliness and working to reduce the stigma of being lonely.

Mr MacNeil said: 'A British Red Cross survey found one in five people said they always or often felt lonely.'

At Random

MARTIN LAING
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Safe crossing is needed near shops

I MET a distressed woman tourist last week in Oban.

The lady, from Lancashire, was using a mobility scooter and trying to cross Lochavullin Drive, the stretch of road that runs between Homebase and Tesco in the retail park.

The visitor was attempting to cross from the Homebase side towards Tesco's filling station. The problem was that while there was a dropped kerb on her side of the road, there wasn't one directly across on the other side.

The woman was forced to edge out into a very busy road – as it often is – and turn right across the traffic and travel a good 10 yards or more to the next nearest dropped kerb.

Luckily, the courteous drivers who had to brake to allow her passage showed patience and respect.

'I'd like to know which dimwit designed that particular crossing point.'

At the very least, and as a matter of urgency, Argyll and Bute Council should take action to put a safe crossing in.

A trend I loathe

AT RISK of being an old curmudgeon, I have loathed the



The crossing only has a dropped kerb at one side of the road.

modern development that sees children 'graduate' from schools – even primaries.

Now, however, it's become even worse with pre-school children 'graduating' from nurseries – or 'early-years' facilities as they are unnecessarily dubbed.

This is beyond the pale. It is completely ridiculous to dress the tiny tots up in graduation gowns and mortar board hats to graduate when they have not even started school yet.

What's more, it must be confusing for the wee ones, who will fail to understand what is going on. Nursery children don't

graduate. Primary and secondary children don't graduate. University or college students graduate.

And as for the utterly lamentable adoption of that other American trend for school 'proms' ... don't get me started.

Too many chiefs

WE REPORTED last week that the number of high earners at Argyll and Bute Council has increased, as has the amount of money they are paid.

This anomalous situation has arisen during a period of austerity that has seen positions

at lower levels remain unfilled. And, according to a union representative, the gap in salaries between the top earners and lower paid workers is increasing.

The union rep also said that people at the bottom of the scale are working harder than ever to cover for unfilled posts.

How can this happen? How can the council require more managers to manage fewer people?

How can the council justify a rise in salary for high earners during a period when it has, for instance, chopped the school library service?

Surprise, surprise

I WAS enjoying a pint or two in a busy and popular Oban hostelry on Tuesday evening and paying cursory attention to a football match involving Glasgow Rangers.

When the opposition – a team from Luxembourg, I discovered – scored, there was much cheering.

Who knew there were so many visitors here from little Luxembourg?

What do you think?

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Clan honours a hero 5,000 miles from home

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

A CANADIAN war hero, descended from Indian chiefs and an outlaw family originally from Mull, was honoured by his relatives at last month's Clan Maclean Gathering at Castle Duart – despite booking a hotel in the wrong Tobermory.

Private George McLean, whose ancestors hailed from Kengharair, near Dervaig, was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM), the second highest award for gallantry in the field, for his actions during the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917.

To mark the centenary of Pte McLean's act of bravery, two of his relatives – Freda and Emma Louie



Private George McLean.

McLean served during the Boer War, where he became known as a fair shot and a good horseman.

He was awarded the South Africa Medal, and settled back down as a rancher in the Douglas Lake area, with his wife, Theresa Ashton, with whom he had four children.

Aged 41, with the First World War well under way in October 1916, George enlisted once more in the 172nd (Rocky Mountain Rangers) Battalion, in Vernon,

British Columbia. Sailing for Great Britain almost immediately, he was in France with the 54th Battalion of the Canadian Infantry (Kootenay battalion) as early as December.

An issue of the *Vancouver Daily Sun* dated October 7, 1917, reported Pte McLean had made a name for himself in the military annals of the Battle of Vimy Ridge (April 9-12, 1917), where he launched a daring solo

attack on many German soldiers. On the third day of battle, Pte McLean returned from carrying a wounded officer out of the melee to find himself and a companion near a German dugout containing around 60 men.

Armed with about a dozen Mills bombs – small grenades nicknamed 'pineapples' – he was about to throw the first one when his companion was killed by his

biographer, Mel Roth-enburger, wrote his friend did not want his share of the rum handed out to soldiers before they went over the top.

As he handed it to George, a sniper bullet ended his life. That incident is said to have spurred him into the actions that won him the DCM, as he began bombing in earnest.

In the face of such determination, the German sergeant-major threw up his hands shouting: 'Do not throw the bomb.' Pte McLean paused and the German asked how many soldiers were in his party. McLean answered that there were 150.

The German then handed over his automatic and called to his companions who emerged with

“Single-handed, he captured 19 prisoners”

Citation for gallantry for George McLean

their hands up. McLean then marched the survivors to the British lines under cover of the German automatic weapon.

George McLean became one of nearly 2,000 members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force to earn the DCM. His citation reads: 'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion when dealing with enemy snipers.'

'Single-handed, he captured 19 prisoners, and later when attacked by five more prisoners, who attempted to reach a machine gun, he was able, although wounded, to dispose of them unaided, thus saving a large number of casualties.'

After returning to Canada, George eventually became a fireman in the Vancouver region, and died on September 6, 1934, in Merritt, British Columbia.

Earlier this year, a century after his brave feat of arms, the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust and the Okanagan Nation arranged for Private George McLean to be remembered in his hometown of Merritt, and a message was sent for the ceremony by the chief of Clan Maclean, Sir Lachlan Maclean.

“He was born into the Wild McLean outlaw gang”

from Kelowna in British Columbia – made a pilgrimage to the family's ancestral home during the island's Clan Maclean Gathering.

However, at the last minute they discovered that their travel agent in Vancouver had booked them to stay in Tobermory, Ontario – a village 200 miles north-west of Toronto – but fortunately their clansmen were able to find them accommodation in Tobermory, Mull, for their trip.

George McLean was born in Kamloops, British Columbia, on April 15, 1875, the only son of Allan McLean, leader of the infamous Wild McLean outlaw gang, who was hanged for murder at New Westminster in British Columbia in 1881.

George did not talk of his father as he grew up working as a cowboy in Nicola Valley, but on his other side he did at least have noble lineage: his mother, Angele, was the daughter of Johnny Chillihezta, chief of the Douglas Lake Indian band, and the niece of Nicola, grand chief of the Okanagan people and chief of the Nicola Valley peoples. Like many aboriginal Canadians,

MORVERN lines

KINLOCH CASTLE, sitting at the head of Loch Scresort on the island of Rum, is one of the finest examples of the Edwardian age to be found anywhere in Europe.

The much-published photograph of the front hall and gallery, with its red carpet, portraits, animal skins, stags' heads and rich furnishings, is recognised the world over.

The castle was erected in 1897 for its work-factor and, boy, does it still have it, no matter what you might think of it or Sir George Bullough, who built it. It stands alongside Fingal's Cave, the Cuillins, Inveraray Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse as one of the must-see places in Scotland on the globe-trotters' lists. But just how much longer is it going to be around?

When the island of Rum and virtually everything on it was sold in 1957 by the Bullough family trustees to the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) for not much more than the price of a family campervan, there was a condition attached. NCC, and presumably Scottish Natural Heritage, its successor, were to maintain the grade A-listed Kinloch Castle and, at Lady Bullough's express wish, its contents were to be kept as they had been in their Edwardian heyday.

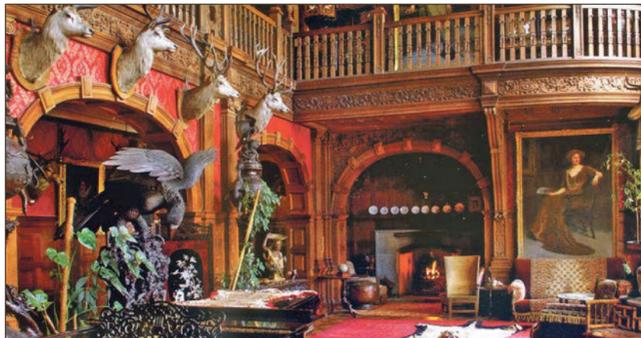
The father of a friend of mine knew Lady Bullough. In the early 1950s, she offered him the entire 26,500-acre island and the castle for £18,000. He tried hard to persuade his father to accept it but in the end they felt that, although the deer stalking in those days was second to none, the upkeep of the castle would eventually beggar them.

Alistair Scott, in his fascinating book, *Eccentric Wealth – The Bulloughs of Rum* (Birlinn, 2011), writes that it was thanks to Max Nicholson, director general of the NCC, who won Lady Bullough's trust, that she virtually gave away the island and the castle to the nation in the knowledge that both would be conserved.

Now, however, concerns are being



Kinloch Castle and its world famous front hall and gallery. Photographs: Paul Barker



voiced on Rum and elsewhere suggesting that SNH is not looking after the castle as well as it might.

In a Rum Working Party report dated March 1975, it was recommended by its author that the castle be razed to the ground which, if implemented, would cause less of an uproar than allowing it to deteriorate and slowly disappear.

Demolition was clearly not a serious option at the time but its deterioration to its present state 42 years later suggests that blowing it up when it becomes uninhabitable may still be on the cards.

It might go some way to explaining SNH's reluctance to move forward with a proposal in 2014 undertaken by

the Prince's Regeneration Trust for a £9.5 million conversion of the castle into nine apartments which would have triggered other sources of public funding.

SNH has always said that it is not in the business of looking after stately homes and one can sympathise with it to a certain extent. But why, in 1957, did its predecessor undertake to maintain the castle when it must have been well aware of the high running costs and the difficulty of getting tradesmen to such a remote location to work on it?

Clearly, the NCC wanted the island for a nature reserve for whatever reason but, as Scott said, 'they can have had no serious intention of honouring the

commitment in the case of the castle'.

The tragedy in all this is that when, in March 2003, Scottish ministers announced their decision to transfer SNH's headquarters and around 270 jobs from Edinburgh to the Highlands, they settled on Great Glen House, a £15 million purpose-built headquarters building in Inverness.

If they had chosen Kinloch Castle (which they already owned) and spent this huge sum on restoring the roof, expelling the dampness by installing a wood-fuelled biomass boiler and converting parts of it into offices, laboratories, lecture halls and executive accommodation, it would not be in the sorry state it is now.

Such a move would have seen the building of dozens of family cottages, shops and a new primary school, thus ensuring a vibrant and thriving community on Rum for future generations.

If only the then First Minister Jack McConnell had been a bit bolder, Mallaig would have become a throbbing supply hub; the railway line to Fort William would have been assured and the entire Inner Hebrides marine transport system upgraded and enhanced.

What a coup for the Scottish Parliament and, more importantly, what a boost for the local economy.

The last word must go to Alastair Scott. He wrote: 'Rum's natural beauty and unique geology will always attract visitors, but that alone will not be enough. With a castle that sleeps 55 and is itself an edifice of exceptional historical value, the community has a hope of a bright future.'

'I would argue that Kinloch Castle is Rum's greatest asset in its potential for providing a financial basis for a sustainable future, and that without it the island's economy is moribund. And for as long as records and memory exist, to lose it would stand as a benchmark of shortsightedness, administrative incompetence and national shame.'

Iain Thornber
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Health provision in Argyll faces key challenges, says locality manager

The Oban Times has asked Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (previously the health board) to deliver a series of articles putting the spotlight on workers within the service and the issues that affect working in healthcare. Answering the questions this week is **Annie MacLeod**, locality manager for Oban, Lorn and the Isles.

Tell us more about your job.

I've been locality manager at Oban, Lorn and the Isles for the past 14 months. It's been an interesting time for me as I came into the role just as legislation has passed for the integration of health and social care. Prior to that, I have had senior management roles in health, social care and charities. My last role was director of care for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Housing Trust, an anti-poverty charity in Yorkshire.

My experience has taught me the importance of creating a nurturing environment within the workforce. Developing individual skills, fostering teamwork and listening to staff are critical. I believe front-line staff have the knowledge and many of solutions we need.

Since joining Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership as locality manager, the management team has a very visible presence, both within the hospital and the community. The local management team meets every Monday and looks at day-to-day operational issues as well as quality and safety.

How has the integration of health and social care gone so far?

The staff have been great and have

risen to the challenge, both on the social care and health side. This combination of knowledge and skills gives us a well-rounded view of individual people requiring support. This helps when it comes to discussions about what we have to do to improve our services. Our system is still evolving and our staff are working extremely hard and showing a real commitment to help integrate the services.

What are the key issues?

We have identified several so far. The main challenge is that we know we need to change, to become more efficient in the way we deliver services, especially as there are recruitment and financial challenges.

I don't think anyone can have escaped the media coverage of the health and social care crisis we are in nationally, and that is mirrored in our locality.

Change is often difficult, especially if it means changing traditional ways of working.

Another key challenge is communicating what we are doing and helping people to understand we are doing the best we can within the context and difficulties we face.

A significant challenge is the recruitment of staff across the board, from doctors, nurses, midwives, physios and allied health professionals and social care professionals such as social workers and home carers.

Our focus is always on how best we can provide safe and sustainable health and social care provision across Argyll and Bute.

Working in partnership is crit-



Annie MacLeod is full of praise for the team at the Health and Social Care Partnership for Argyll and Bute.

ical and there are considerable benefits we are enjoying from a full commitment from independent and third sector partners in our locality plan.

Tell us more about the locality plan.

We have got a good plan but it is true that the model of service provision and the way we approach it will be different in future.

There are already good examples of this approach.

For instance, we have developed new combined health and social roles for people who work within the community.

We hope these new roles will prove attractive and offer career progression, so more people will apply for these jobs with us.

We are also looking to progress a new health care model of using multi-disciplinary teams of staff in neighbourhoods in the local community. Our aim is to make more efficient use of both available resources and funding.

We are also taking a more 'prevention rather than cure' approach. The Lorn healthy options scheme in Taynuilt is a good example.

It's a community initiative which encourages people to get healthier and fitter through participation in a flexible programme of activity designed to meet individual needs and aspire to be a healthy village.

The Lorn Medical Centre in Oban has recently helped with the training of advanced nursing and assessment skills in the nursing teams.

Among other initiatives, I am delighted the Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban will have status as a carer-friendly hospital in the next few weeks.

This initiative will help us to identify carers and provide further support to families and friends after relatives are discharged from hospital. We have also invested in carer support for our islands.

You mentioned that one of the challenges is communicating with the public.

That's what behind the idea of this column. We hope to do this on a regular basis to share information about the services we already have but also about those we are developing.

Despite our recruitment and financial constraints we are trying to ensure the development of safe and sustainable services that meet the population's demands.

There is much I am really proud of what we do locally here in Oban, Lorn and the Isles. I know we will have to continue to make difficult choices about our services. I am hoping our column will be informative and provide an opportunity to highlight what we are doing well, what is available to local people and outline the difficult choices we face to ensure safety and quality of services.

Tell us more about yourself, Annie. What helps you to relax?

I live in Morvern and I have what I think is the best commute to work in the world. Morvern is a wonderful place and I love the sea, sailing and kayaking. You can see me sometimes swimming in the Sound of Mull.

I'm married with two children, both of whom are graduating in the same week this summer.

What drives you?

I trained as a nurse in Edinburgh and did my midwifery in Glasgow. And I think that training and its values, especially the value of providing the very best of care, has never left me.



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ACHNABOBANE RESIDENT THINKS BIG AS HE UNVEILS DETAILS OF DREAM £2M COMPLEX TO ATTRACT VISITORS

Ambitious garden centre plan for Spean Bridge

ELLIE FORBES
eforb@obantimes.co.uk

AMBITIOUS plans for a £2 million garden centre and visitor attraction outside Spean Bridge have been lodged with the Highland Council.

Situated about a mile from Spean Bridge, Achnabobane could welcome up to 60,000 visitors next summer if the project is given the green light.

An application for planning in principle has now been submitted to the local authority.

The brainchild of Achnabobane resident Ross MacGregor, the plans would see a petting zoo, garden centre and restaurant built on land situated just off the A82.

It is anticipated 12 full-time equivalent year-round jobs would be created.

Mr MacGregor's existing trout ponds, red deer farm and Christmas tree business would be incorporated into the new plans.

The 37-year-old stockbroker from London grew up in the area. After moving to London for 10 years, he came back to

Achnabobane in January this year.

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times*, Mr MacGregor said he hopes to fulfill his life-long dream of having a garden and visitor centre.

'From a young age I have been around visitors. My mum used to run a B&B and I would show the visitors around and point out where Ben Nevis was,' he said.

'I have always had this dream of seeing a visitor attraction and garden centre here.'

Mr MacGregor first had the idea in 1999 when he was awarded funding for the deer farm.

'It is a no brainer to build this here, with mountain biking and ski-ing near by.'

'We want to try and use the area, and everything it has to offer, to the maximum.'

Achnabobane has transformed in the last 30 years. From the original farm house and cottage, it now boasts housing.

Mr MacGregor continued: 'This farm is a honey pot. People want to come and live here and Achnabobane is regarded as a small village now. Visitors come here in droves. There is definitely demand for it.'

Mr MacGregor said the project would be split into two phases, with phase one, costing around £2 million, completed by summer 2018.

He said: 'Phase one will include a garden centre with ponds, a restaurant, petting zoo and retail space. We would hope to have a second phase where we would build cycle tracks and maybe have some pedalos for the children. We would like to make some of it indoors or sheltered.'

John Fotheringham, chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry community council, said councillors would have to examine 'all the relevant policies' before deciding on whether to support the plans or not.

He said: 'We have requested an extension from Highland Council planning until after our next meeting on August 1 so we can fully research this application. It would not be fair to the applicant or the community at large if we were to take a decision without a thorough investigation.'

Mr MacGregor added: 'We want to work with the community and planners to hear their opinions on this project.'



Ross MacGregor feeds Angus the young bull and calf Charlie. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image, F28 ross macgregor 01 IF

Work on vital bridge nears completion

WORK to improve a vital community link in Fort William could be completed this week.

The Highland Council hopes the £300,000 revamp of the Soldiers Bridge, which crosses the River Lochy between Black Parks Road, Inverlochy, and Lochyside, will be finished this week.

The bridge, which connects people on the National Cycle Network route 78, the Caledonia Way, would then hopefully be open to the public.

The project has been delivered by Highland Council in partnership with Sustrans Scotland and Transport Scotland.

A Highland Council spokesperson told the *Lochaber Times*: 'Before the work started, access to the bridge had been restricted for some time because of the failure and subsequent closure of the northern ramp.'

'The new ramp is wider and the bridge deck and handrails have also been replaced with upgraded materials.'

'We thank walkers and cyclists for their patience during the works and for using the signposted diversion which has been in place.'



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Argyll College UHI scoops prestigious annual awards

ADVERTORIAL

Two of the top accolades in the Highlands and Islands Students' Association's (HISA) annual awards scheme have been won by Argyll College UHI representatives.

Mo McKenna and Judi Worthington, who run the College's Arran Centre, were named 'Best Support Staff' and Dunoon student Scott Anderson won the 'Best Engagement with the Student Voice - Student' category.

A further three staff members were Highly Commended in this year's honours, which are open to nominations from all 13 different Colleges and research institutions which make up the University of the Highlands and Islands.

The announcement was welcomed by Argyll College UHI Principal Fraser Durie, who was very impressed by both the number and standard of nominations from across the area.

'It is wonderful that our students felt strongly enough about the fantastic job many of our staff and student representatives do that they took the time to nominate them for these prestigious awards,' he added.

'The Argyll College UHI nominees were up against high quality competition from an area stretching from Shetland to Elgin to Perth, so to come out with two awards and three commendations is brilliant.'

'I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate our winners in particular, but also all other nominees and other staff who together work so hard to ensure Argyll College UHI provides the best educational experience it possibly can.'

Mo and Judi, the Arran centre manager and assistant centre manager respectively, were nominated by a student who said although there were only two of them, they 'provide the support, encouragement and advice of a team of 100'.

'They are always so happy, enthusiastic and positive and work together so hard as a team to make our lives at college as smooth as possible,' the student added.

'The pair of them are true stars and it's fantastic that they've been recognised for all they have done for me and every other Arran student. They truly deserve it.'

Mo said she and Judi were both 'stunned and absolutely delighted' to have received the award.

'Supporting students through good times and bad can be one of the most challenging, but also the most rewarding, parts of our job. I know how hard all staff in University of the Highlands and Islands work to support students, so to win this is just amazing,' she added.

Scott Anderson, won the Best Engagement with the Student Voice category, and is no stranger to awards last year having won the Best Class Representative accolade in the same scheme.

Scott spent 20 years in the catering industry before embarking on life as a student, and now juggles his studies with helping to look after his three children.

The student who nominated him states he has 'worked tirelessly always trying to engage with students across our network. He has made every effort to hear what students are saying and to act on their feedback. He has gone above and beyond in his role and his dedication should not go unnoticed.'

Scott said: 'I am genuinely shocked, honoured and humbled that people went out of their way to nominate me again! I'm really grateful to the students of Argyll College UHI and to HISA for giving me these opportunities and experiences that I have enjoyed so much over the last year.'

The three Argyll College UHI nominees who were Highly Commended were Campbelltown's Kerry McGeachy in the Most Inspiring Lecturer category, and Morag Nimmo from Dunoon and Dawn Miller from Campbeltown, both in the Most Engaging Video Conference Tutor category.

The University of the Highlands and Islands was one of the first UK institutions to



Scott Anderson and Luke Humberstone

introduce student-led teaching awards. The initiative, now in its eighth year, recognises excellence in 14 categories, with winners coming from around the university partnership.

Dr Iain Morrison, dean of students at the university, said: 'You cannot fool a student: they know high quality learning and teaching and great student support when they see it. The fact that there was a record number of nominations, covering every part of the university, suggests that our staff continue to provide excellent teaching and support for the people whose feedback they care about most, their students. The student testimony from these awards is genuinely moving at times and anyone considering studying with us can be assured they will be in good hands.'

Holly Scrimgeour, president of the Highlands and Islands Students' Association, said:

'The HISA Awards are an excellent opportunity for our students to celebrate the people who have supported them throughout their studies and reward them for their efforts and contributions to university life.'

'Our lecturers and support staff are vital to the student experience during study and these awards allow us an insight into who is going above and beyond to positively benefit our student population.'

'The nominations are a delight to read. The HISA Awards also acknowledge our class representatives and clubs and societies ensuring that we celebrate those students who give their time and support to their classmates. It is an honour to give these awards.'

For more information on Argyll College UHI, an academic partner of the University of the Highlands and Islands, go to <https://www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk/>



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Viewpoint



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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Billy Irving has now been incarcerated in a prison in India for two long years. The former soldier from Connel has suffered unnecessarily while the British government's staff at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have sat on their hands and have done little to help.

It is impossible for any of us to imagine what Billy is going through.

However, it is not just Billy himself who is suffering. His devoted and indomitable fiancée Yvonne MacHugh has fought a sustained campaign to keep his predicament in the public consciousness.

As Billy only too graphically explains in his moving

letter published today, his little son, William, now two-and-a-half, is growing up without a father. And their extended families are also pained by his absence.

Part of Yvonne's campaigning has been the setting up of the Facebook page, Bring Billy Back. As she says on the page: 'Billy has lost his home, his car, the birth of his first child and years out of his life he can never get back. His own government have even failed to support him.'

This week Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said he will 'leave no stone unturned' in his effort to bring Billy back. It is appalling that the government has left it this long to act, and we will hold him to his pledge.



Days gone by – 1991

This week we turn the clock back to 1991 and the parade led by Lord Gray ahead of the Taysnuit games.

MacPhail

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From St Kilda to Stuttgart – part one

IT HAS been a long time since I travelled through and to so many varying locations in one week.

From the remote and rugged cliffs of St Kilda to the emerald glens of Antrim, to the golden wheat fields of East Yorkshire, to the bustling streets of Stuttgart, through the oyster, raw herring and champagne bars of Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, I got back to where I started under the majesty of Ben Nevis in Fort William – and all in six days.

The first three days were wonderful, the fourth a mixed bag, the fifth an array of the worst travel experiences I have ever had, and the sixth a wonderfully tranquil and relaxing journey home.

Since bringing the St Olave back down the Caledonian Canal to the sea in May, we have been waiting for the right weather conditions to coincide with a suitable time to take a voyage out to St Kilda. The forecast for last Tuesday and Wednesday was good and schedules were flexible enough to free up the time, so off we went.

On the way out to Eriskay, where we were going to fuel up and spend Tuesday night, we stopped off in

Tobermory to deliver a few birthday presents for Alasdair 'Steptoe' MacLean. He was out fishing but we left the loot with his wife Iona. With all the writing about scallops over the past month I had built up quite an appetite for them so couldn't miss the chance of a good feed in MacGochans. With its close proximity and association with Isle of Mull scallops, the quality of product served here is consistently better than any top restaurant.

Scallops are in my top three favourite foods, but in too many restaurants what you get is a tasteless mouthful of disappointment. Not so in MacGochans and a good plate full locally landed succulent, sweet amazingness was enjoyed immensely by myself and my able shipmate, Duncan Kennedy from Knoydart.

Good company and good food – a never failing combination.

As we were steaming out of the Sound we spied Steptoe himself hauling creels just to the south of us, so we swung by to wish him a happy birthday. Twenty years ago to the day, I was out on the Dawn Treader with Steptoe. I was 18 and was just having a day out before playing the box in MacGochans that night. Life is full of an infinite range of parallel timelines simultaneously moving with different perceptions of speed, length

and changes of self within each. It does not feel very long at all since that day in 1997 and neither do I feel very different.

Contrastingly, we filmed the *Alive* video shots of the Dawn Treader in almost the same location but much poorer weather only in September last year and that feels like a lifetime ago. More importantly than all that theoretical pondering was the fact that when came round on Steptoe's port side he passed over a basket of prawns. Prawns are in the same region as scallops on my favourite food list, so a feast was going to be had when we were tied up later on.

The sea was calm as we passed the Cairns of Coll then sailed onward across the Sea of the Hebrides and as we neared Eriskay, a few harbour dolphins accompanied the slowly increasing north-west wind.

The Acairsaid Mhòr in Eriskay was once home to one of the most renowned small fleets of herring ring-netters in the country, operated by the esteemed MacKinnon family and it was the history and the once thriving bustle that filled my thoughts as we tied up at the now quiet harbour.

After refuelling, we settled down to a feast of prawns and waited for the rest of the gang to arrive off the ferry from Mallaig.

To be continued ...



Social media

We asked last week for people to nominate what they think is the most beautiful part of Oban.

Kevin Keen posted: 'I like the view from the road at the top of Jacobs Ladder, looks over the distillery, the pier then over Kerrera etc. Always good place for a sunset too.'

Roy Summers said: 'The view from Eaderglyn at top of Bealach an Righ across Oban Bay. Although I don't think the yellow building improves it!'

Maggie Archer wrote: 'For me it is The Tower over looking the shore. Parsley, a Maine Coon Cat (very famous in Oban) wears a tracker when out and about. His mama takes pictures and posts

them on his FB page. You should find him and post a picture. He hangs out at The Balmoral and he loves The Tower and the local pubs. I am serious he's famous all over the world.'

John Muir suggested: 'Oban itself..I worked on the oilrigs for 27yrs..in my 2 weeks leave..I spent a lot of time going up to Oban from Ardrishaig..just love the place..great shops..friendly natives..the Ducati family ...the late Willie Kerr..John Stoddard..Kevin Burnett..just the memories of years gone by..but Obans the best town on this side of the Mississippi.'

Danni Hay offered: 'The view from the pier straight out past Dunollie castle

and the maiden Isle. Not condemned buildings or council monstrosities.'

Carine Baker posted: 'Looking across the bay to Kerrera and beyond to the majestic and beyond it to Mull. Especially in winter with its snow capped peaks.'

Siobhán Ni Rachtuir said: 'view from mccaigs tower had to be included.'

Murdo MacKenzie wrote: 'Looking up to Soroba.'

Allan Strang Jnr posted: 'The view to Mull and Morvern with Kerrera and Lismore below. Certainly not any of your pics above surely!'

Dougie Weston quipped: 'One of ma refurbished bathrooms in the Royal.'

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Hospital provides a fabulous service

Sir,
The *Oban Times* story of the body in A&E was picked up in sensational fashion on the front page of the Daily Mail (June 30).

The effect of this is surely to undermine the morale of the colossally loyal and hard-working existing staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban, and makes it more difficult to attract new staff to come and work here. It must also have made it very distressing for the family involved.

Peter Bennie, of the BMA Scotland, said last week: 'The financial difficulties facing the NHS in Scotland, and the pressures on our clinical workforce are unrelenting. Good health services cost money, and health spending is a political choice. We want the Scottish public to be consulted on what they need from the health service, and they must be told honestly how much it will cost.'

That is the point. Your paper, along with the whole people of this area, should be highlighting and supporting the superb service this whole area receives from its hospital in Oban, despite the constant budget cuts at local level, and the unwelcome problems caused by those cuts. Funding for NHS Scotland is in the hands of the Scottish Government. We all have a say in the matter.

Your contributor, David Pollard from Mull, makes a very good point about the 'island proofing' policy. By contrast, Michael Russell MSP, in your article, reveals the real Scottish Government direction of travel – ever increasing centralisation of services.

Mr Russell refers to Oban's hospital as 'doing all the things a community hospital does best'. Oban is not a community hospital; it is one of six district general hospitals, classified as such by Nicola Sturgeon.

There is a huge difference between the two categories of provision. For Oban to be downgraded to community hospital status would mean infinitely more patient services being transferred to Glasgow or Inverness, with all the uncertainty, cost, unnecessary travel and anonymity of service that implies.

The *Oban Times* is the voice of the people of Oban, Lorne and the Isles. Please will your editorial team become the champions of the vital services that are currently provided by Oban Lorn and Islands Hospital as a district general facility.

The headline I look forward to seeing is: 'Oban Times succeeds in saving Oban hospital service.'

Mike Robertson,
Oban.

Saved from choking by superb team

Sir,
Given the adverse publicity levelled at Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban recently, I thought you might welcome a letter of appreciation.

My husband, who is a survivor of oral cancer, relies on mouth swabs to clear detritus from his mouth as he

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



BHA AN T-UISGE A' DÒRTADH is mi a' tilleadh às an Eilean Sgitheanach bho chionn ghoirid agus 's gann gun robh an trafaig a' gluasad is carbad slaodach neo dhà a' bacadh na bha air an cùlaibh.

Bho mhullach Dhruim nan Cleòch chithinn gun robh sreang de char-badan a' sineadh suas ri mìle romham agus ged nach fhaicinn fada às mo dhèidh, bha an loidhne a' leantainn an sin. Feumaidh tu foighidinn a' sibhal rathaidean na Gàidhealtachd aig àm sam bith ach tha cùisean gu sònraichte trang le luchd-turais fad an t-samhraidh agus tha mòran a ni gairdeachas ri sin is iad an eisimeil a' ghnìomhachais airson bith-beò.

'S fhada bho thòisich turasachd air buaidh a thoirt san Eilean Sgitheanach agus gu mì-fhortanach dh'fhuing cànan is cultar dualchasach an àite ri linn. Ged a tha e fìor mhath a bhith a' faicinn beagan ga dhèanamh tron Ghàidhlig ann a bhith a' tìladh agus a' toirt aoigheachd dha luchd-turais, saoilidh mi fhìn gun gabhadh mòran a bharrachd buannachd a thoirt aiste.

had no swallowing reflex. These are small sticks with a sponge tip.

One night recently at 2.30am, he woke me to say a sponge tip had lodged in his throat and he was in danger of choking. I telephoned for an ambulance but none was available.

I therefore drove him to A&E and, as we turned in, he began to choke. However, we were seen immediately by the staff, who called a clinician who was there in less than five minutes, and removed the obstruction with dexterity – and good humour.

We are indebted to the hospital staff who undoubtedly resolved a situation which could have ended in tragedy.

Susana Garland,
Kilmore.

MP seems to have selective memory

Sir,
It was gratifying to read that our newly re-elected MP Brendan O'Hara will represent all constituents in Argyll and Bute, no matter how the voted. I have always been under the impression this was the essential duty of all MPs, regardless of party.

However, I would suggest he let himself down badly by accusing Prime Minister Theresa May of calling the election in the interest of the Conservative Party rather than the country. This came from a member of a party whose leader has consistently put independence ahead of all other aspects of government and, as a result, lost 500,000 votes and 21 seats. Hypocritical in the extreme.

Mr O'Hara then criticises Mrs May's 'lame-duck' government for relying on the DUP to stay in power. It has obviously slipped his mind that his own party, the SNP, depended on the votes of six insipid Green Party members to govern – if you will pardon the expression – Scotland. The adage of people in glass houses springs to mind.

Mr O'Hara concludes by hoping the government will now see the sense of having Scottish voices in the Brexit negotiations. Again, it would appear a selective memory is an essential SNP attribute as he seems to have forgotten the 13 Conservative, six Labour and two Lib Dem MPs the Scots sent to Westminster in place of his unseated colleagues, who will be available if required.

W B Coutts,
Laurel Crescent, Oban.

Lament for the Scalpay peat-cutters

Sir,
In recent months, far from being the informative and interesting newspaper it once was, *The Oban Times* has become a highly-coloured advertising vehicle for every music festival in the Highlands, and a congratulatory broadsheet for all the swimmers, climbers, cyclists, bungee jumpers (not so much of that these days) and abseilers among us.

All very commendable but not really what I fork out my 85p for. For years I kept a scrapbook of snip-

pets from the paper, but alas it has had to be abandoned. No more gems such as 'the defence witness said he would have noticed if his friend had a meat cleaver tucked into his trousers' and 'the high jump was cancelled because campers had inadvertently burned the equipment'.

And as for the antics of the Rowan Club and the Scalpay peat-cutters – how I miss them.

Yes, you still have a few cracking columnists, but oh for the days when digital images weren't quite so easy to come by and the columns had to be filled with words.

Glimpse through some of these wonderful old papers that we had the pleasure of reading on your 150th anniversary and let's have a bit more effort at the content.

Trish Hurst,
Carradale.

Appeal for help to trace RAF skipper

Sir,
When I was a foolish 11-year-old, I gave away my father's RAF log book and medals. Now 50+ odd years later, I am trying to piece together a dossier of his six years' of serving in the RAF in the Second World War, earlier in Pathfinder Force and then for the remainder of the war, as flight sergeant, flying Lancasters, in Bomber Command 15 Squadron.

His skipper in Lancasters came from Oban and ran a garage or motor dealership. In the early sixties, my father visited him while touring Scotland.

I am hoping that one of your readers may be able to give me his skipper's name so that the historian at 15 Squadron Association can use the name to unearth my father's war records as I do not have his service number.

My email is gdroberts1@aol.com
Gordon Roberts,
via email.

Support for victims of terrorist attacks

Sir,
In recent months our country has witnessed terror attacks in Manchester and London.

In London, terrorists used knives and vehicles to kill and maim people, while in Manchester a suicide bomber killed and injured people attending a pop concert. These terror tactics were first deployed in Israel and the parallels don't stop there.

On that note I wanted to let your readers hear about one contribution that hasn't been given national media coverage but merits recognition.

Three Israelis – Rabbi Dov Benyaa-cov-Kurtzman, Professor Yori Gidron and Dr Moshe Farchi – set up trauma centres in the aftermath of the Manchester and London terror attacks. If you want to send a message of thanks to the people who helped our country via our elected politicians then follow this link www.israelbritain.org.uk/news.

Susan Wallace,
Fort William.

Ailean Caimbeul

a bhitheas i anns na coimhearsnachdan agus anns na dachaighean, dà phrìomh amas ann am Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig.

Chan e a-mhàin turasachd cultarail a dh'fheumas taic bathair agus ghoireasan, tha an aon rud fìor a thaobh gnìomhachas aoigheachd anns an fharsaingeachd, agus ged a tha na sporain poblach gann de stòras, feumar dèanamh cinnteach gum bheil seirbheasan iomchaidh agus dòigheil ma choinneamh nan daoine a tha a' tighinn nan dròbhan chun na Gàidhealtachd is dha na h-Eileanan. Meal an naidheachd air muinntir Mhìnginich san Eilean Sgitheanach a tha a' leudachadh pàirce chàraichean airson dèiligeadh ris na mìltean a tha a' tadhal air "glumagan nan sìthichean" air Allt Coir' a' Mhadaidh.

CONGRATULATIONS to Minginish community in Skye on their initiative to enlarge the car park and create new facilities for visitors to the famed Fairy Pools near Glen Brittle. Hopefully a problem resolved with a business solution.

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

Press policy

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

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

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

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

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

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Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses

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

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

be printed.

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

Official opening of new Sleat centre

A NEW £1.8m community hub was officially opened in the south of Skye on Saturday with an afternoon of ceremony and celebration.

An Crùbh in Sleat, which is owned and run by Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative (CDI), was declared open by pupils of Bunscoil Shlèite.

The afternoon began with a procession led by piper Derek Forrest. Inside visitors enjoyed drinks before the family fun activities began. The afternoon was spent tasting food prepared by An Crùbh's chef Lawrence Millot as well as fayre stocked in the shop. Games and crafts kept the children happy, while information displays and a chat entertained adults.

In the evening, a cèilidh and barbecue rounded off the day with music from the Malin Lewis Band.

CDI chairman Mark Wringe said: 'We are very pleased with how the afternoon went and the evening cèilidh was well-attended, with fabulous food prepared by our chef and assistant. The afternoon food and drink tastings were provided by suppliers to the shop.'

The hub boasts a licensed shop and café, post office, community hall, meeting room, exhibition space, toilets and showers and spectacular views over the Sound of Sleat.

Situated just above the A851 near Duisdale and Camuscross, the building was completed on December 23 2016 and run by the local community. Funding from the National Lottery was secured for the build while the community's continuing fundraising efforts are taking the business side forward.

Residents urged to back plans to expand West Highland Museum

ELLIE FORBES
eforb@obantimes.co.uk

THE WEST Highland Museum has unveiled plans to expand the popular tourist attraction by 2022.

The Fort William museum hopes the project will bring it into the 21st century and provide additional space to extend current exhibitions and bring in new ones.

The museum owns land behind the building at Monzie Square which is where it hopes to extend to.

Jackie Wright, a trustee and chairwoman of the management committee told the *Lochaber*

Times: 'In the last three years, we have been looking at what we could do with the museum. The museum is very compact and it would be good to have more space to expand current collections and bring in new ones.'

'We would be looking at applying for stage one funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. But before we do anything we want to engage with the community and put a survey together to see what people want, so this is the very early stages.'

'We can't just do nothing because it's not sustainable for the museum. We have so many people in July and August, it's scary sometimes. We would

hope to have everything in place and up and running ideally by 2022 before the centenary anniversary of the museum.'

One of the most important heritage resources for researchers around the world, the museum is one of the most popular visitors attractions in Lochaber, attracting around 50,000 visitors a year.

The museum has a renowned collection relating to Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobite cause, but it also holds a wealth of curious and fascinating displays and objects on less well-known aspects of the lives of the people of the West Highlands.

Founded in 1922, the museum

moved into its current home in 1926 following a fundraising appeal to buy the former bank building.

John Hutchison, chairman of the museum trustees, said: 'The trustees are keen to make sure it plays a full part in local life and builds on its growing popularity as a visitor attraction.'

'With more people coming into the building and with the growth of our collections, we want to make sure we are doing all we can to present the Lochaber heritage to best effect.'

'We want to revitalise the museum, make sure we are telling the stories local people see as important and make sure we

are telling them in the best way.' The governance of the museum is also being reconsidered, with hopes it can one day be owned by the Lochaber community.

Mr Hutchison said: 'We want to make sure the people of Lochaber have ownership of the museum, so as well as looking at the building and how it displays our heritage, we're looking at moving from a trust to a community company which everyone in the area can join.'

To guide its plans, the museum needs the views and support of Lochaber residents. It has designed a short survey which will run to mid August in the museum and online from the

museum website www.westhighlandmuseum.org.uk.

The survey will look at the building, themes and stories of the museum, what it could be doing better, what support there is for the expansion to the rear and/or taking in adjoining buildings and whether people want to become a member of the new community company.

Mr Hutchison added: 'We're being supported by the Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, as well as the Scottish Land Fund and Museum Galleries Scotland. We are really looking forward to getting the views and feedback of local people and visitors.'



Dogs and owners line up before the show. Photograph: Iain Ferguson The Write Image: F28 Dog Show 01 IF

Lochaber dog show success

LOCHABER and District Canine Society held its annual dog show on Tuesday July 4.

Nearly 40 dogs and their owners went along to join in the fun.

Classes for pedigree dogs included a special beginners class for dogs and handlers who have never won at a Kennel Club show to encourage newcomers.

The novelty classes are always highly popular and with 21 dogs entering the best condition class, it was a difficult job for the judges. There was also a puppy walk for those too young to take part and a best trick competition.

This year's chosen charity was Canine Partners and a representative from the charity was at the event.

Fiona Barcenas, and Barnum the dog, were happy to tell owners about the work of the charity and Fiona judged the best trick

competition. Fiona said: 'Thank you so much for the lovely evening. It was a breath of fresh air, so light-hearted and upbeat. At the same time it was so well-organised and professional. It was an honour for Barnum and I to judge the dog trick section.'

Sarah Holroyd, show secretary, said: 'Once again I'm overwhelmed by the generosity of people in support of our companion dog show. We raised more than £587.79 for Canine Partners. Well done and thanks to everyone who gave generously of their time and money, to all those who helped in the organisation, set-up and running of the show and to all those who came along and took part. I hope you all enjoyed your night.'

See www.lochabertimes.co.uk for results.



Scott Bellwood and Nev the nine month Bearded Collie from Inverlochly who won the overall Best Novelty Class category.

One head teacher for two schools

SPEAN Bridge Primary School has a new head teacher.

Kim Bentley, current head teacher at Invergarry Primary School will now also manage Spean Bridge after money-saving proposals, which will see head teachers manage several schools at once, were approved by Highland Council.

The changes will now see Spean Bridge and Invergarry primaries served by a single cluster head teacher and three principal teachers.

Kate McGillvery, who was associate head teacher at Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge primary schools, left her post at the end of the school session. The drastic shake-up of management in Highland schools was voted through in January.

Tanning salons in the spotlight

THE HIGHLAND Council, one of several local authorities in Scotland which licenses UV tanning salons, will be conducting an audit on all licensed premises in Highland to verify compliance with EU safety standards regarding the output of ultra violet (UV) radiation.

Environmental health officers have become increasingly aware of concerns nationally whereby the UV bulb strength has been found to exceed the standard for such equipment.

The use of any UV tanning equipment can expose staff and customers to UV radiation. UV radiation can cause injuries in the short term, sunburnt skin or conjunctivitis, and ill health in the long term, premature skin ageing, skin cancer and cataracts.

Man dies in Ben Nevis fall

A MAN in his 50s has died after falling 50 metres from Tower Ridge, Ben Nevis, on Saturday July 8.

A spokesman for Lochaber Mountain Rescue (LMR) team said: 'We are sad to report that a call-out on July 8 was to a climber who suffered fatal injuries sustained in a fall while climbing Tower Ridge. Our thoughts and condolences go to his family and friends.'

'A big thank you to R951 who did a fantastic job to make the recovery from a very difficult location and all the climbers who assisted and brought down the climber's friend. A sad day.'

John Stevenson, leader of the team, told the *Lochaber Times*: 'The man had just started to climb Tower Ridge. He was just at the bottom end when he slipped and fell into the gully. The helicopter went straight in and did a fantastic lift, but there was nothing anyone could do. He was pronounced dead at the scene.'

A police spokesperson said: 'At 11.30am on Saturday July 8, police received a report of a male in his 50s having fallen during a climb on Ben Nevis' Tower Ridge. Police, Lochaber Mountain Rescue team and R951 were immediately deployed, however, on arrival the man was found to be dead. The death is not being treated as suspicious.'

'Next of kin have been informed and the family ask that their privacy be respected at this time.'

The team was called out again at 8pm on Sunday to help a woman who had



Lochaber Mountain Rescue team members on the summit of Ben Nevis during a rescue.

fallen and damaged her leg on the Steall, Glen Nevis.

Earlier in the week, the team carried out a challenging rescue involving three climbers who were cragfast on Long Climb on the Orion Face of Ben Nevis.

LMR found the climbers about 200 metres below the top of the route. A team member was lowered down during the 'difficult technical rescue'.

A team spokesperson said: 'It was safer and easier to lead them back to summit. Conditions were poor during the rescue with rain and low cloud.'

Mr Stevenson told the *Lochaber Times*: 'It had been a quiet summer up until last week, and then we had some difficult rescues, along with the usual summer slips and falls.'

He added the team, which has 45 volunteers, relies on employers to let members away from work to help with rescues.

Warning issued over new scam

A HIGHLAND man has been cheated out of a substantial sum of money after falling victim to a new scam.

Highland Council Trading Standards officers have reported a conman posing as a reputable property landlord used the man's mobile number to collect personal information from his Facebook account.

David MacKenzie, Highland Council's trading standards manager, explained: 'We received an inquiry from a Highland student who had placed a 'flat wanted' advert in an online classified ads website.'

'His advert had only his mobile number, no name or other identification details. He received a call from a man who seemed plausible and who name-checked people and places the student knew.'

After allegedly 'carrying out checks', the caller got back in touch and offered a room in a flat in return for a holding deposit.

The student was keen to secure the flat and sent the deposit by bank transfer. Unfortunately, there was no flat and it was a scam.

Mr MacKenzie continued: 'There was little we could do to help the consumer. A bank transfer is a bit like handing over cash and there is little chance of recovering the money. Plus the crime here is fraud rather than a Trading Standards matter so we passed the information to the police.'

'We examined the case to determine how the scammer knew so much about the student from just a telephone number and no name.'

'It turned out the information was gleaned from the student's Facebook account, despite the fact he thought his Facebook profile was set to not disclose his mobile number.'

'There are two key settings on Facebook dealing with your mobile phone number:

who can see your mobile number and who can look you up by your mobile. Most people understand the first setting but we suspect many people don't realise the potential implications of anyone being able to find your identity from just your mobile number.'

The council is urging consumers to make sure their Facebook settings are what they want them to be.

The council officer added: 'If a scammer has only your mobile number but not your name and no other identifying information, they can still search Facebook to see if you're listed.'

'We are advising consumers that if you don't want people to find your Facebook profile by using your mobile number, to change the privacy setting on 'Who can look me up'. For example, change that from the default setting of 'Everyone' to just your friends.'

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New for 2017: HNC Computing

Responding to the demand for advanced computing and digital media skills, the college introduced NC Computing with Digital Media last year in Fort William and, starting in September, will roll out HNC Computing.

So if you would you like to improve your career options by learning the skills necessary to design, implement and support IT systems in a vast range of industries, this course could be for you.

Please call for more information: 01397 874000

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We are here to advise you

business

adviser

A majority of British adults are falling through an 'advice gap' by not making use of financial advisers, according to new research from unbiased.co.uk and MetLife. The research also reveals that those who do use advisers are often failing to seek advice about the most important issues.

THE LATEST research from unbiased.co.uk reveals the remarkable cost-benefit ratio for those who take financial advice. In fact, data shows the benefits of financial advice can outweigh the cost by nearly 6,000%.

The research found that nearly half (43%) of UK savers approaching retirement increase their retirement savings levels by £98 a month as a direct result of taking financial advice, boosting their savings levels from £89 a month pre-advice to £187 post-advice. When looking at UK savers over 40 who do not receive financial advice, almost half (45%) currently save no money whatsoever for their retirement, while 52% say they do not feel prepared for this key milestone. This indicates that a sizeable proportion of unadvised Britons could be woefully under-prepared for the future and could face poverty in retirement. People who seek advice have more peace of mind about their future than those who do not.

Seeking guidance can be the foundation to setting up a successful business and it is important for start-ups to realise the worth of a professional adviser such as an accountant, independent financial adviser or solicitor. Not only can they offer you valuable advice but also save you money in the long term, particularly when it comes to tax benefits and funding, while freeing up your time to focus on other important business matters.

The increasing cost of living is stretching people's wallets to a point where getting a mortgage is becoming a real challenge. So rather than becoming overawed by the sheer number of deals on the market or risk making the wrong choice, take advice from a professional mortgage broker. They will guide you to the right product and explain the benefits of a variety of different deals, from fixed rate to tracker mortgages. A quick glance on any price comparison site will throw up a whole host of mortgage deals from some of the biggest mortgage lenders. However, independent mortgage brokers will have access to deals that are not advertised on the internet, which is why taking professional advice could make all the difference.

Independent financial advice doesn't just pay with regard to the amount of money saved up – it also leaves consumers more confident and better engaged with their finances.

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We want you to benefit from our bespoke services whether you are a private individual, a charity or a business. The firm of R A Clement Associates is the largest accountancy practice in the West Highlands of Scotland, with four partners and offices in Oban, Fort William, Lochgilphead and Tobermory.

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Argyll Financial Services

DOES IT MAKE SENSE TO COMBINE YOUR PENSION POTS? The days when people began their careers with one employer and stayed there until they retired are long gone. It is estimated that, depending where you live, people now have an average of between six and 11 different jobs during their careers. This can mean that over the years they end up with pension entitlements in several schemes with different providers.

In certain circumstances, it can make good financial sense to consolidate your pension into one new plan. This means you can manage all your retirement savings in one place, reducing the paperwork and administration. You might be able to save money on fees, and choose funds that are better suited to your investment outlook and attitude to risk. However, there are circumstances where this might not be in your best interests. If you are in a public sector pension scheme, such as the nurses' or teachers' schemes, then the benefits they offer can be hard to replicate elsewhere. Or, if you have saved into an employer final salary scheme, you may find that it offers guaranteed retirement income or guaranteed annuity rates, valuable benefits that you would lose if you moved it elsewhere. You may be charged exit fees too.

If you are lucky enough to be currently contributing to a final salary scheme, it is worth finding out if your employer will allow past contributions from other pensions to be moved into their scheme.

Argyll Financial Services Limited help many individuals manage their finances. Contact us on 01369 706198 or info@argyllfinancial.co.uk to help secure your financial future.

The purpose of this article is to provide technical and generic guidance and should not be interpreted as a personal recommendation. You are not certain to make a profit and you may lose money. Argyll Financial Services Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.



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A WELL-SPENT 45 MINUTES

It's too easy to get it wrong on pensions, and following recent rule changes it definitely pays to acquire reliable and impartial guidance.

Do you know that you have a number of options relating to pensions that weren't available before? There have been worrying reports of some making unwise decisions because of flawed or misleading information.

Pension Wise is a service delivered locally by Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau. Appointments only take 45 minutes, and are aimed at those approaching age 50 or over and have a defined contribution pension pot. It will explain the different choices available, along with considerations such as tax and benefits.

Face to face appointments can be made through Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau T: 01546 605 550 or call the national Pension Wise service T: 0800 138 3944 www.pensionwise.gov.uk

Pension wise
Your money. Your choice.



Business Advice Sessions

ARE YOU IN BUSINESS AND NEED HELP DEVELOPING YOUR BUSINESS?

BUSINESS GATEWAY CAN HELP YOUR BUSINESS DEVELOP AND GROW

DO YOU WANT TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS OR CONSIDERING A CAREER CHANGE?

WHY NOT COME AND MEET ONE OF OUR ADVISERS TO DISCUSS YOUR PLANS OR IDEAS

Interested? Our Business Advisers are available to meet with you at a location convenient to you.

To arrange an appointment with an adviser call 01546 604030 or email bg@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Fish farmers prepare to serve up Taynuilt Highland Games

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A FISH FARMING company will be the main sponsor for Taynuilt Highland Games, as well as serving up samples and running a competition to raise money for local community groups.



Dawnfresh Farming has contributed £2,000 to the organisers of its local Highland games, which take place on July 22.

Dawnfresh Farming, the UK's largest producer of farmed trout, has six sites in Scotland, including three in Argyll on Loch Awe and Loch Etive. The company employs around 25 people at its sites on Loch Etive, with almost all of them living in the immediate area around Taynuilt and Oban.

At the games, Dawnfresh will have free samples of smoked

trout to allow local people to taste the quality of the product, which is farmed on their doorstep. The company will also have a guess the weight competition for one of their fish, with a food hamper for the winner and all donations raised being donated to local community groups.

Events at the Taynuilt Highland Games include dancing competi-

tions, piping and traditional track and field events for all ages.

Stewart Hawthorn, from Dawnfresh, said: 'We are incredibly proud to be able to be one of the main supporters of the Taynuilt Highland Games this year as well as to take a full part in the festivities.'

'As one of the largest local employers in the area, most of our

team live locally and we consider ourselves to be a real part of the community here so it is important we take part in these events.'

'We hope those coming along with stop by to taste the amazing quality fish that is produced on their doorstep as well as taking part in our competition to raise more money for the local community.'

MP backs creative sector

ARGYLL and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara, newly appointed spokesperson for the SNP on culture, media and sport, gave his support to the creative industries at an event in Westminster aimed at highlighting the potential risks of Brexit.

Mr O'Hara said: 'It is vital that the UK government gets the best possible deal for the sector as it affects the ability to tour and trade easily with the UK's largest export market and to attract talent, EU arts funding, workers' rights and the rights of EU citizens in the UK.'

'Musicians are rightly concerned that the Brexit process may lead to the introduction of work permits and visas for British talent touring and working across Europe which, as you can imagine, would be problematic if you are working in several different European countries over the course of a few days.'

'So I have no hesitation in giving my support to professional musicians and performers in Argyll and Bute and will urge the UK government to ensure that they can continue to travel easily across Europe post-Brexit for touring and performing with minimum burdens placed upon them.'

Oban golf raffle tees up funds for charity

The Oban Rotary Am-Am golf competition raised a record sum of £725.10 from the raffle and once again this was passed to Mary's Meals charity.

Although based in Dalmlally, Mary's Meals has brought worldwide recognition to the Oban area through its premises in Stevenson Street, which enjoys a huge throughput of traffic.

Oban Rotary president Graham Fraser presented the funds to local office manager Marie Rowan. Also in the picture is Mary's Meals volunteer Maureen Drummond and Am-Am convener David Mudie.



Gaelic centre lands £50,000 cash windfall

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig, the national centre for Gaelic, has acknowledged the financial support of £50,000 gifted to the college by Dr Frederik Paulsen junior who, along with Mossburn Distillers, is the 'driving force' behind the development of the newly-completed Torabhaig Distillery on the south of Skye.

The donation, made through the Paulsen Family Foundation, is given in support and in recognition of the important work which Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

undertakes and delivers, as the national centre for Gaelic, with regard to securing the continued regeneration and development of the language, culture and community.

Dr Paulsen's family, which owns the globally successful company, Ferring Pharmaceuticals, started in Sweden in 1936, by Dr Paulsen's late father, Dr Frederik Paulsen senior, has a long history of engagement in philanthropic activity throughout the world.

Dr Paulsen, born in the tiny

port of Dagebull on the North Frisian coast, took a very particular and special interest in maintaining and supporting the Frisian language of his parents and ancestors.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's director of fundraising, Donnie Munro, said: 'This donation is very welcome indeed and, quite apart from its obvious usefulness, it is an important international commendation of our on-going work in support of the Gaelic language, culture and community and mirrors the Paulsen

family's historical support for, and understanding of, the issues facing minority languages across the world.'

The donation, which is spread across two financial years, will be applied in support of the work of the Tobar an Dualchais-Kist o Riches, National Conservation and Digitisation Programme, considered by many to be one of the most extensive, far-reaching and important cultural heritage programmes undertaken anywhere in Europe.

Tesco event gives boost to Oban Hospice

The Friends of Oban Hospice is the fundraising arm of the organisation and two of them - Anne May and Faye MacPhee - were in Tesco car park last weekend where handbags, scarves and jewellery were being sold to raise money.

Anne and Faye were part of a team of volunteers on the stall throughout the day last Saturday.

Oban Hospice is shortly to operate from its own premises in Stevenson Street which will be known as the Dove Centre.



Tributes are paid to former councillor

THE convener of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has paid tribute to former Councillor Iain MacKenzie, who died aged 72 on Thursday June 30.

Mr MacKenzie was educated at Bayble Junior Secondary and the Nicolson Institute before studying at Lewis Castle College and then at Stow College in Glasgow.

He worked as a radar and radio/TV engineer for five years and then as an air traffic engineer at Stornoway Airport between 1968 and 2006, before he was elected to the comhairle as a councillor for Steòrnabhagh a Tuath in 2007, being re-elected in 2012.

Iain served on several committees including Transportation

and Infrastructure, Education and Children's Services and Sustainable Development. Iain also served as a member of the police and fire board for many years.

Convener Norman A Macdonald said: 'Iain was a very active participant in all of the community in a very unassuming manner. He also served as an elder in the Free Church over many years.'

'Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Georgina, his children Don and Karen, the grandchildren, and his extended family and friends.'

£57,000 funding for museums in Argyll

TWO museums in Argyll are among the 15 from across Scotland who are set to benefit from over £600,000 of funding from Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS).

Kilmartin Museum in Lochgilphead and Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds in Oban have been awarded £17,000 and £40,000 respectively.

Kilmartin Museum is currently undergoing redevelopment, and MGS funding will pay for professionals to produce a new plan for presenting and interpreting its collection.

Dunollie Museum have secured their funding to improve the outdoor dining

facilities at its popular Kettle Café.

Joanne Orr, CEO of MGS, said: 'We are pleased to be supporting projects that will contribute to the long-term sustainability and resilience of these museums. The awardees have demonstrated a real commitment to enterprise, skills development, and improving their offering for future visitors.'

And Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop added: 'I am pleased to see MGS making further interventions to support our many museums and galleries across Scotland, increasing access to our wonderful collections countrywide.'

WIN lunch for 4 people at The Deck Restaurant









The Deck Restaurant at the Isle of Eriska, is open to residents and non-residents with incredible views looking out over Eriska's golf course, towards the loch, Isle of Lismore and Morvern mountains, the setting is difficult to rival!

To enter our competition, answer this simply question:
Q. What is the name of the island on view from the deck?

For your chance to win, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to The Oban Times, Isle of Eriska Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Tuesday 25th of July

Answer.....

Name.....

Address

.....Postcode.....

Telephone.....Email.....

Terms and conditions: Closing date for entries is midnight, Tuesday 25th of July. Wyvex Media and any agencies connected with the competition and their families are not eligible to enter. The prize is as stated. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is also open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications. Digital subscribers can enter by printing this page and submitting their entry along with a letter explaining you are a digital subscriber (please provide your email address). The prize must be taken by Thursday 31st August

Isle of Eriska Hotel would like to send you information.
 If you would not like to be contacted, please tick here.



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The Balmoral in Coll

All aboard for Oban to Coll on the Balmoral



Coll welcomeers.

I have never had the opportunity to take a sailing ship out of Oban and to visit some of my favourite places by sea.

So when the opportunity arose to take a trip on the MV Balmoral, a boat owned by a trust, which normally limits herself to the south of the UK, I was delighted.

I took with me a friend who, despite living in the town for more than 30 years, had also never had the opportunity to take to the high seas.

We set out in bright sunlight and headed towards Coll, on the way passing all the places you imagine – the edge of Kererra, Duart Castle, Craignure, Salen, Tobermory and then past Cailleach Island at the top of Mull to views over to Staffa, the Dutchman's Cap, Lunga and the Treshnish Isles.

The weather became very stormy on the passage between the tip of Mull and the island of Coll. Captain David Howie made the difficult decision not to take the boat out into the wilds of the

Treshnish islands and instead he would allow us 30 minutes on the Isle of Coll and then he would turn and take us up to the Corran rapids.

The wind would have hit the boat broadside and would be 'pretty uncomfortable for passengers'.

So instead we disembarked the vessel. It was the first time the MV Balmoral had been into Coll, and she and her 20-plus crew wanted to make a good impression.

'Be back by 2pm' was ringing in our ears as we touched down on terra firma.

Being the adventurous types we are, we decided to talk to four islanders who had come down to the ferry to meet the ship.

One of them, David Warner, who spends at least four weeks every summer on the island, and has done for the past 40 years, gave us a lovely tour of the island – both roads.

Coll is much bigger than I would have ever known. It was 2.01pm.



malt OF THE month

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(Fort William) Ltd.



Laphroaig Quarter Cask
48% abv

It is not every day that you come back from lunch to find a box on your chair with a slice of cake inside.

In *The Oban Times* office, most things are snapped up by someone or another who passes and fancies a wee mouthful of something sweet.

In this case especially not a cake that has made its way from Islay via Waltons' van from a man you haven't met in person.

But that was the very lovely situation I found myself in last

Friday when David from the Port Charlotte Hotel sent me one of the most delicious cakes imaginable.

It was covered in gold sparkles and it had about 15 different layers of wonderfulness – soft and crunchy with deep dark flavours.

I knew from the first moment that this was a very special cake that could only be properly enjoyed with a little nip or two of whisky.

I raked around in the cupboard and finally found something suitable for the task in hand – a Laphroaig Quarter Cask, purchased only a few

weeks before. It was almost perfect.

It wasn't until a few days later that I got the chance to phone David and thank him for the dessert. He was, as every creative person is, underwhelmed by his own achievement. He said: 'Oh, there are one or two more things I need to do to get it perfect'.

To me the only thing that would have made it even more perfect would have to have been sitting on Islay enjoying the dram with a good friend.

Louise Glen

Artisan Ice Cream from the Isle of Gigha



Made with the milk from Tarbert Farm Available in shops in Argyll

Appin Art Group
EXHIBITION
July
19th-29th
Excluding Sunday
10.30am-6.00pm
4pm close last day
Port Appin Hall
Free Admission



A' cur 's a' Buain

Listings for Thursday 13 July – Thursday 20 July 2017

DIARDAIN 13 IUCHAR
THURSDAY 13 JULY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
19.00 **Gach Creutair Beò** – Vets (rpt)
19.30 **Beul Chainnt** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** – News
20.30 **Eileanan Fraoich** – Heather Dewar visits Staffin (rpt)
21.00 **Robert Mone** – Saorsa gu Siorraidh? (rpt)
22.00 **UR | NEW: Belladrum 2016** – Errol Linton
22.30 **UR | NEW: Dhan Uisge**
22.35 **UR | NEW: Hitler v Churchill**, Ep2/2

23.25 **Eadar-chluich** (rpt)
23.30 **Ceòlraidh** (rpt)

DIHAOINE 14 IUCHAR
FRIDAY 14 JULY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
18.35 **Machair** (rpt)
19.00 **An Là** – News
19.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
19.30 **O Mo Dhùthaich** (rpt)
20.00 **British Connection: Clydesdale & Kelso** (rpt)
20.50 **Binneas – Na Trads** (rpt)
21.00 **Honeyballers** – Celebrates the female pioneers of Women's Football (rpt)
21.40 **Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber** (rpt)
22.00 **Ceòl Country** (rpt)
23.00 **Corp & Anam** – Irish Drama (rpt)
23.50 **Dhan Uisge** (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 15 IUCHAR
SATURDAY 15 JULY

16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's Programming
19.00 **Machair** (rpt)
19.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
19.30 **Craic** – Women's panel discussion (rpt)
20.00 **Ceòlraidh** (rpt)
20.30 **Puirt-adhair - S1, Ep5** (rpt)
21.00 **Ceòl Country** (rpt)
22.00 **Honeyballers** – Celebrates the female pioneers of Women's Football (rpt)
23.00 **Corp & Anam** – Irish Drama (rpt)
23.55 **Eadar-chluich** (rpt)
24.00 **Gun Sgot?** (rpt)

DIDOMHNAICH 16 IUCHAR
SUNDAY 16 JULY
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's Programming
18.30 **Seachd Là** – News Review
19.30 **Alleluia!** (rpt)
20.00 **Bean a' Mhinisteir** – A look behind the door of the Manse (rpt)
20.30 **Eileanan Fraoich** – Heather

Dewar visits Staffin (rpt)
21.00 **Scotstar: Teasairginn Eiginneach** – The ScotSTAR Transfer Service (rpt)
22.00 **Ceòl Country** (rpt)
23.00 **Hitler v Churchill** – Ep 2/2 (rpt)
23.45 **Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber** (rpt)

DILUAIN 17 IUCHAR
MONDAY 17 JULY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
19.05 **Binneas nam Beann** (rpt)
19.35 **Beul Chainnt** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** – News
20.30 **O Mo Dhùthaich** – From Uist with Love (rpt)
21.00 **Trusadh – Na Soisgeulaich** – Reaching out with Hope (rpt)
22.00 **Hòro Gheallaidh** (rpt)
22.30 **Gruth is Uachdar** – A timeless rite-of-passage story about a young boy in Harris. Ep2/3 (rpt)

23.30 **Cuide ri Cathy** – Carol McGiffen (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 18 IUCHAR
TUESDAY 18 JULY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
19.00 **Gach Creutair Beò** – Vets (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** – News
20.30 **Puirt-adhair** – Highland Airports (rpt)
21.00 **Farpaisean Chon-chaorach** – Sheepdog Trials (rpt)
22.00 **Trusadh – Na Soisgeulaich** – Reaching out with Hope (rpt)
23.00 **Craic** – Women's panel discussion (rpt)
23.30 **Alleluia!** (rpt)

DI CIADAIN 19 IUCHAR
WEDNESDAY 19 JULY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
19.05 **Binneas nam Beann** (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** – News
20.30 **Bean a' Mhinisteir** – A look at life behind the door of the Manse (rpt)
21.00 **Gruth is Uachdar** – A timeless rite-of-passage story about a young boy in Harris. Ep3/3 (rpt)
22.00 **Fonn Fonn Fonn** – Music Quiz (rpt)
22.30 **Hòro Gheallaidh** (rpt)
23.00 **Robert Mone** – Saorsa gu Siorraidh (rpt)

DIARDAIN 20 IUCHAR
THURSDAY 20 JULY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
19.00 **Gach Creutair Beò: Vets** (rpt)
19.30 **Beul Chainnt** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** – News
20.30 **Eileanan Fraoich** – Heather Dewar visits Staffin (rpt)
21.00 **Peter Tobin: Murtair Bitheanta** (rpt)
21.50 **Binneas – Na Trads** (rpt)
22.00 **UR | NEW: Belladrum 2016** – Barbara Dickson
22.30 **UR | NEW: Dhan Uisge**
22.40 **UR | NEW: Aghaidh ri Aghaidh** – The rivalry between Boeing and Airbus
23.30 **Ceòlraidh** (rpt)



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Friday 14 - Thursday 20 July

ANGELS IN AMERICA: PART 1 MILLENNIUM APPROACHES | 15 | 225 MIN

Thu: 19:00
Part 1, Millennium Approaches America in the mid-1980s. In the midst of the AIDS crisis and a conservative Reagan administration, New Yorkers grapple with life and death, love and sex, heaven and hell. Andrew Garfield (Silence, Hacksaw Ridge) plays Prior Walter along with a cast including Denise Gough (People, Places and Things), Nathan Lane (The Producers), James McArdle (Star Wars: The Force Awakens) and Russell Tovey (The Pass). This new staging of Tony Kushner's multi-award winning two-part play is directed by Olivier and Tony award winning director Marianne Elliott (The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time and War Horse). Part Two: Perestroika, will also be broadcast live on 27 July 2017.

BABY DRIVER | 15 | 133 MIN

Fri: 19:15, Sat: 20:30, Mon, Tue, Wed: 19:15
A talented, young getaway driver relies on the beat of his personal soundtrack to be the best in the game. When he meets the girl of his dreams, Baby sees a chance to ditch his criminal life and make a clean getaway.

CHURCHILL | PG | 118 MIN

Fri: 17:00, Sat: 18:15, Sun: 18:45, Mon, Tue, Wed: 17:00, Thu: 17:00
June 1944. Allied Forces stand on the brink: a massive army is secretly assembled on the south coast of Britain, poised to re-take Nazi-occupied Europe. One man stands in their way: Winston Churchill. Behind the iconic figure and rousing speeches: a man who has faced political ridicule, military failure and a speech impediment. An impulsive, sometimes bullying personality – fearful, obsessive and hurting.

DESPICABLE ME 3 | U | 110 MIN

Fri: 12:30, 14:45, Sat: 12:00, 16:15, Sun: 12:15, 16:45, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 12:30, 14:45
Despicable Me 2 and Minions, returns to continue the adventures of Gru, Lucy, their adorable daughters—Margo, Edith and Agnes—and the Minions. Parker voices the role of villain Balthazar Bratt, a former child star who's grown up to become obsessed with the character he played in the '80s, and proves to be Gru's most formidable nemesis to date.

KIDS CLUB: MINIONS MOVIE | U | 91 MIN

Sat: 11:30
Children's Classic. Minions Stuart, Kevin and Bob are recruited by Scarlet Overkill, a super-villain who, alongside her inventor husband Herb, hatches a plot to take over the world. Adults & Children £2 entry.

SILVER SCREEN - MAD TO BE NORMAL | 15 | 125 MIN

Sun: 14:30
Mad To Be Normal reveals the story of R.D. Laing, the famous psychiatrist and one of Scotland's greatest ever minds. Working out of Kingsley Hall in East London throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Laing performed various daring experiments on people who were diagnosed as mentally disturbed. His revolutionary methods involved experimenting with LSD on his patients and practicing a form of self-healing known as metanoia, causing outrage and controversy in the medical profession and radically changing attitudes and perceptions of mental health around the world.

SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING | 12A | 175 MIN

Fri: 13:00, 19:00, Sat: 17:30, Sun: 12:00, 18:00, Mon: 13:00, 19:00, Tue: 16:00, 19:00, Wed: 13:00, 19:00, Thu: 16:00, 19:15
3D: Fri: 16:00, Sat: 14:30, 20:15 Sun: 15:00, Mon: 16:00, Tue: 13:00, Wed: 16:00, Thu: 13:00
Thrilled by his experience with the Avengers, Peter returns home, where he lives with his Aunt May, under the watchful eye of his new mentor Tony Stark, Peter tries to fall back into his normal daily routine - distracted by thoughts of proving himself to be more than just your friendly neighbourhood Spider-Man - but when the Vulture emerges as a new villain, everything that Peter holds most important will be threatened.

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



Souvenir shop.



New love.



Newlyweds Roger and Pamela.



George and Rose Mair from Mauchline.

And, well, it is the west coast after all. Plenty of time, we thought. But, no, the gangplank had already been lifted and my friend and I were on the wrong side.

Captain Howie said: 'Hello, ladies. Are you sailing with us?' By this point a large crowd of islanders had gathered with babies on hips and toddlers in chairs to witness the shame of *The Oban Times* being late back.

At that, a squad of burly and not-so-burly men lifted the gangplank down and we walked thanking anyone who would listen and made our way onto the boat. Everyone cheered.

Now that everyone knew who I was, it was much easier to talk to people and find out who was aboard the ship.

We met the grannie and papa of the ship's captain: Rose and George Mair from Mauchline.

It seemed to me that the couple were making huge inroads into introducing the vessel to as many people as possible. The love and passion they had for the boat, and their 29-year-old grandson (who is also the Mauchline church organist), was palpable. The captain's fiancée was on board but she had gone for a little lie down in the staff accommodation.

The accommodation is one of the next parts of the vessel that are to undergo some refurbishment.

Over the winter months and while in dry dock in Bristol each spring, the MV Balmoral undergoes a transformation. Her refurbishment so far is to make her into a vessel from a different era – transporting sailors back in time to the 1940s and into the elegant cruising set of the time.

The boat, built in 1949, is only a few years older than her sister ship, the Waverley, and for a lady of almost 70 she is looking superb but needs the care of the many volunteers and 'friends', who fundraise and support the work of the vessel.

I met people like Pat and Rodger Bolton, newlyweds of only six years, and still madly in love with both each other and the Balmoral.

The couple had travelled from Essex on their first trip to Scotland to board the vessel, and sell newspapers for £2, and raffle tickets for a trip around warmer climes on the other Balmoral – a luxury sea-going liner.

If you missed the MV Balmoral this year, I would encourage you to take a trip next year or enjoy the crew on board for the ceilidh on the first Friday of the short season in the town.



Fergus Gillanders and David Howie.

Summer exhibition - Liz Myhill

Lime Tree An Ealdhain Gallery, Fort William July 1-31, 2017

This summer, the Lime Tree Gallery is pleased to announce their latest exhibition, showcasing the work of Liz Myhill, opened on July 1. Liz Myhill is a Scottish artist whose work spans a wide range of subject matter, gathered through working directly in the outdoors in the countryside.

Liz says: 'I work across a range of media including watercolour, mixed media and traditional printmaking techniques producing original artwork and short editions of hand-pulled prints.'

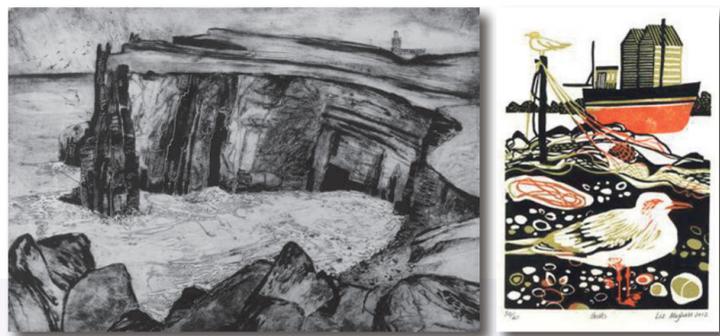
Glasgow Institute of Fine Arts.

'Much of my inspiration lies with the natural world, dramatic Hebridean landscapes and the island way of life. The act of walking, watching and recording, whether fleeting or through lengthy study, allow me to gain a connection and sense of place.'

She has received a number of awards including the RGI David Cargill Award and prestigious Elizabeth Greenshield Foundation grant.

The Lime Tree An Ealdhain Gallery in Fort William is the venue for the show, which runs for the month of July 2017. This state-of-the-art gallery, attached to the Lime Tree Hotel, is owned by resident artist David Wilson, who has designed an extensive space which regularly shows travelling national exhibitions as well as the work of Scottish artists.

The gallery is open 10am to 10pm, seven days a week and admission is free.



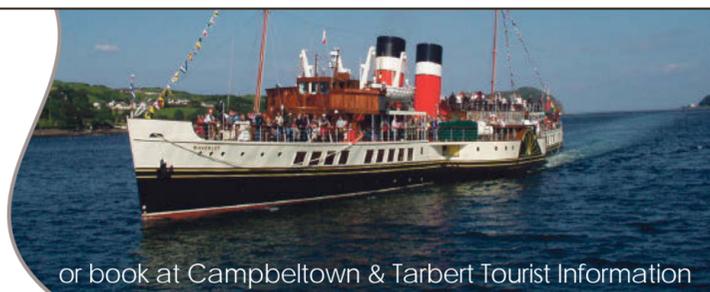
Cruise Sandra Isle this Weekend...

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Cruise Sanda Isles SUNDAY July 16 Leave 2.30pm back 5pm
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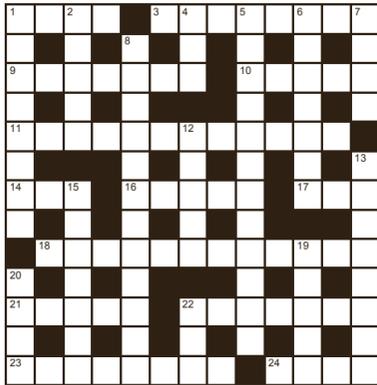
Sailing from TARBERT

Cruise Loch Fyne EVERY WEDNESDAY until August 23 Leave 2.45pm back 4.20pm
SUNDAY July 30 Leave 3pm back 4.30pm
Fare: Cruise Loch Fyne £21 SC £19



or book at Campbeltown & Tarbert Tourist Information

THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



Across

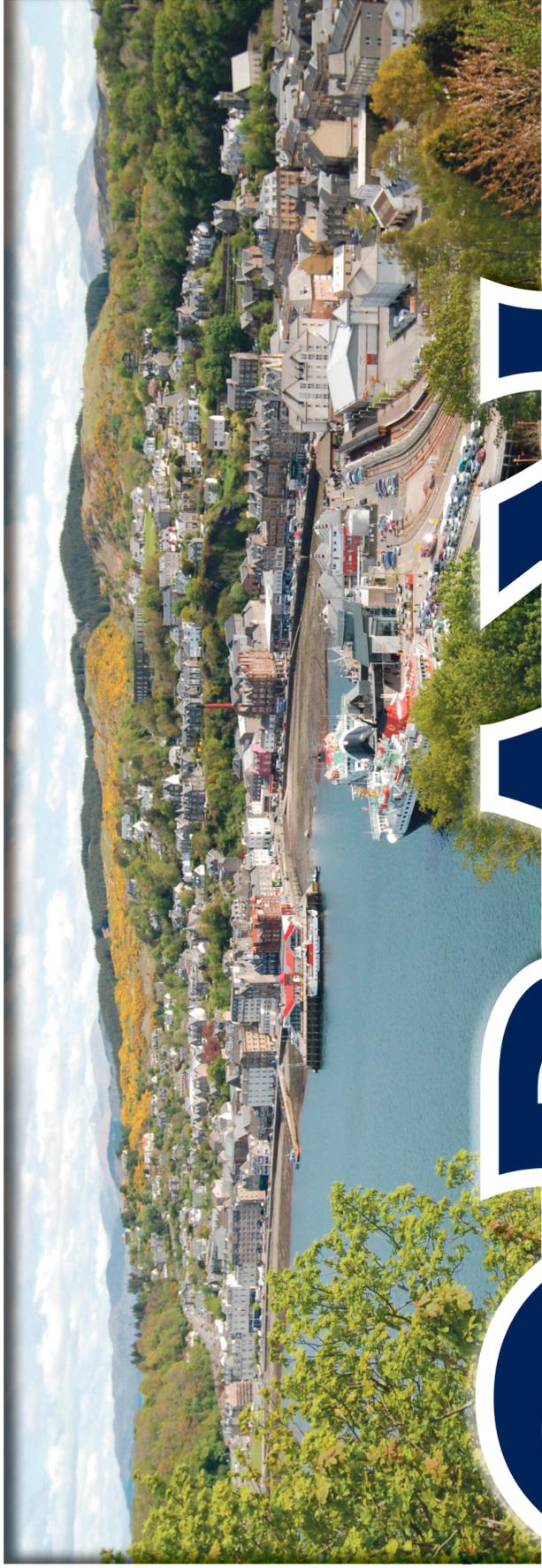
- 1 Soaks up (4)
- 3 Methane (5,3)
- 9 Marks at the end of a speech? (7)
- 10 Asian shrub fibre used in textiles (5)
- 11 Separate place for clothes (8,4)
- 14 Thrill (3)
- 16 Shield of Zeus (5)
- 17 Wreath (3)
- 18 Subordinate (12)
- 21 Extreme (5)
- 22 Saddle horse (7)
- 23 Writer (8)
- 24 Tool building (4)

Down

- 1 Closure (8)
- 2 Put out (5)
- 4 You exist (3)
- 5 Unusually (12)
- 6 Mouth ulcer (7)
- 7 Warp (4)
- 8 Police officers (12)
- 12 Dusk to dawn (5)
- 13 Innocent (4-4)
- 15 Elks (7)
- 19 Needle point (5)
- 20 Musical sounds put together (4)
- 22 Sore substance (3)

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1

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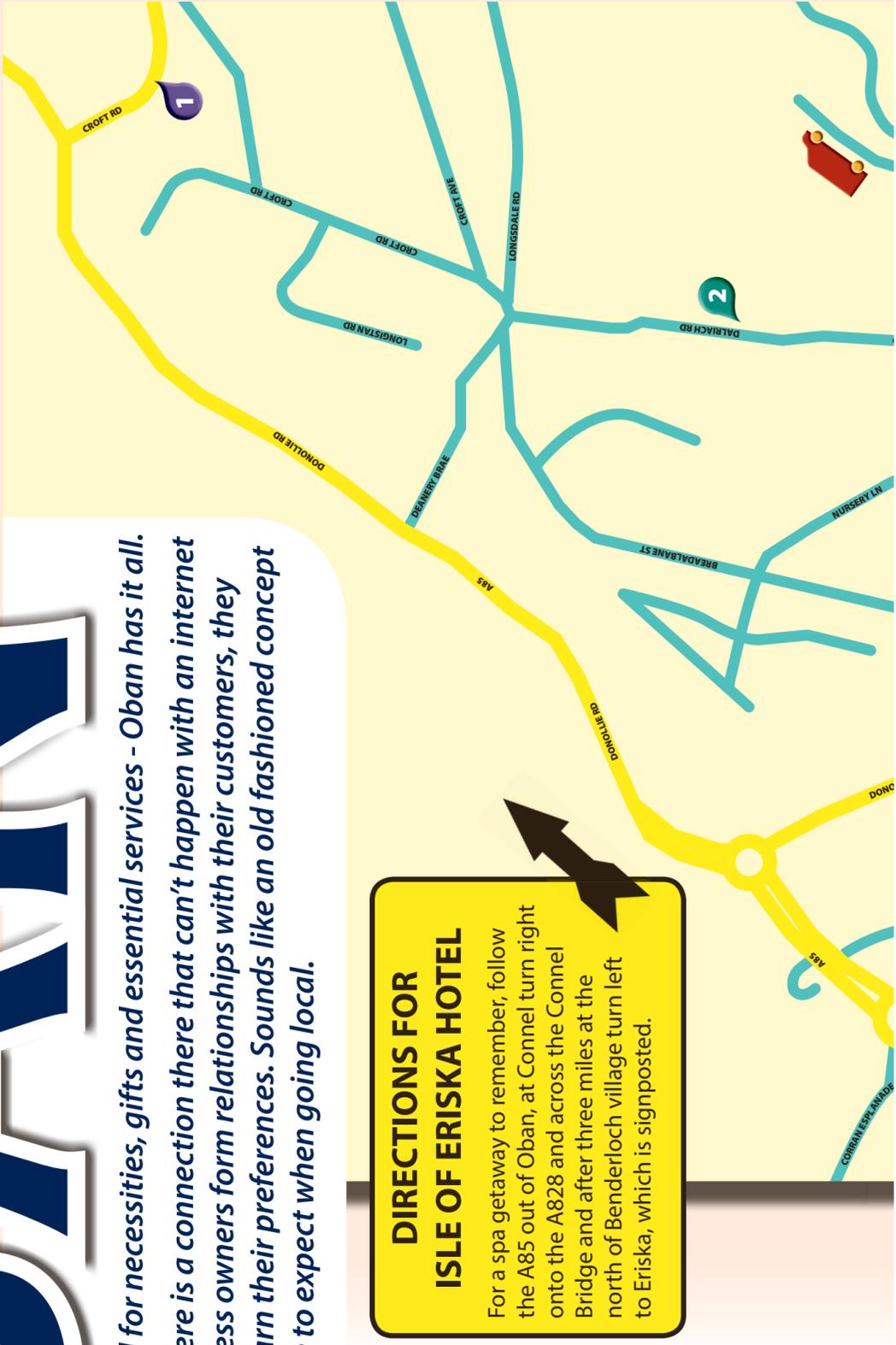
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DIRECTIONS FOR ISLE OF ERISKA HOTEL

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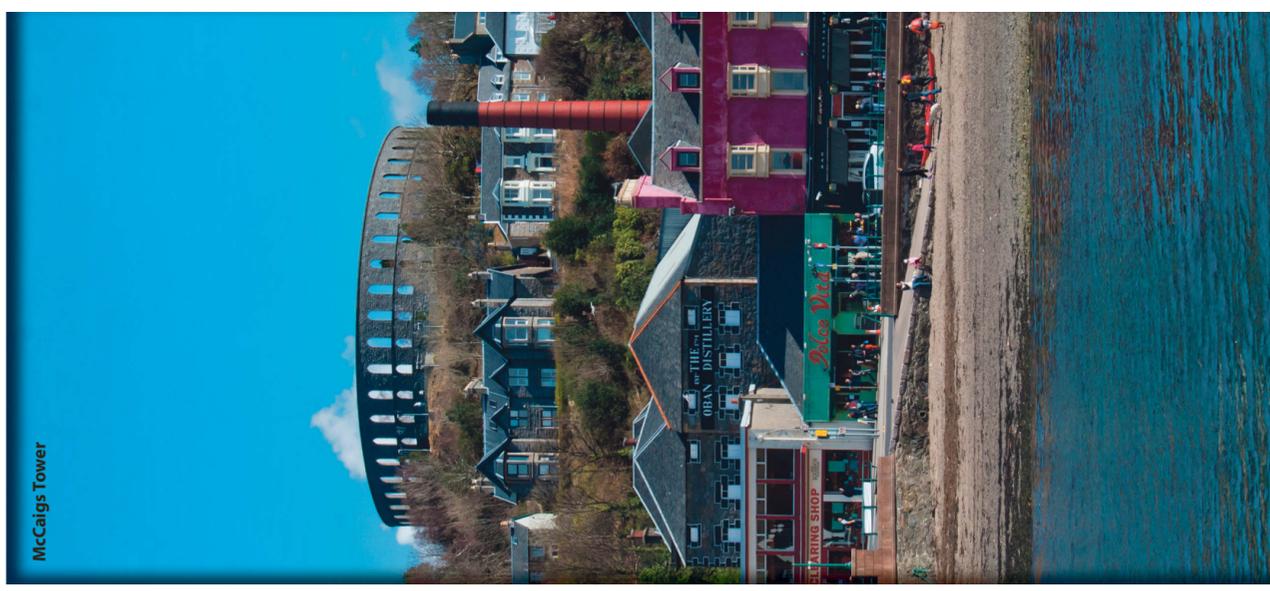
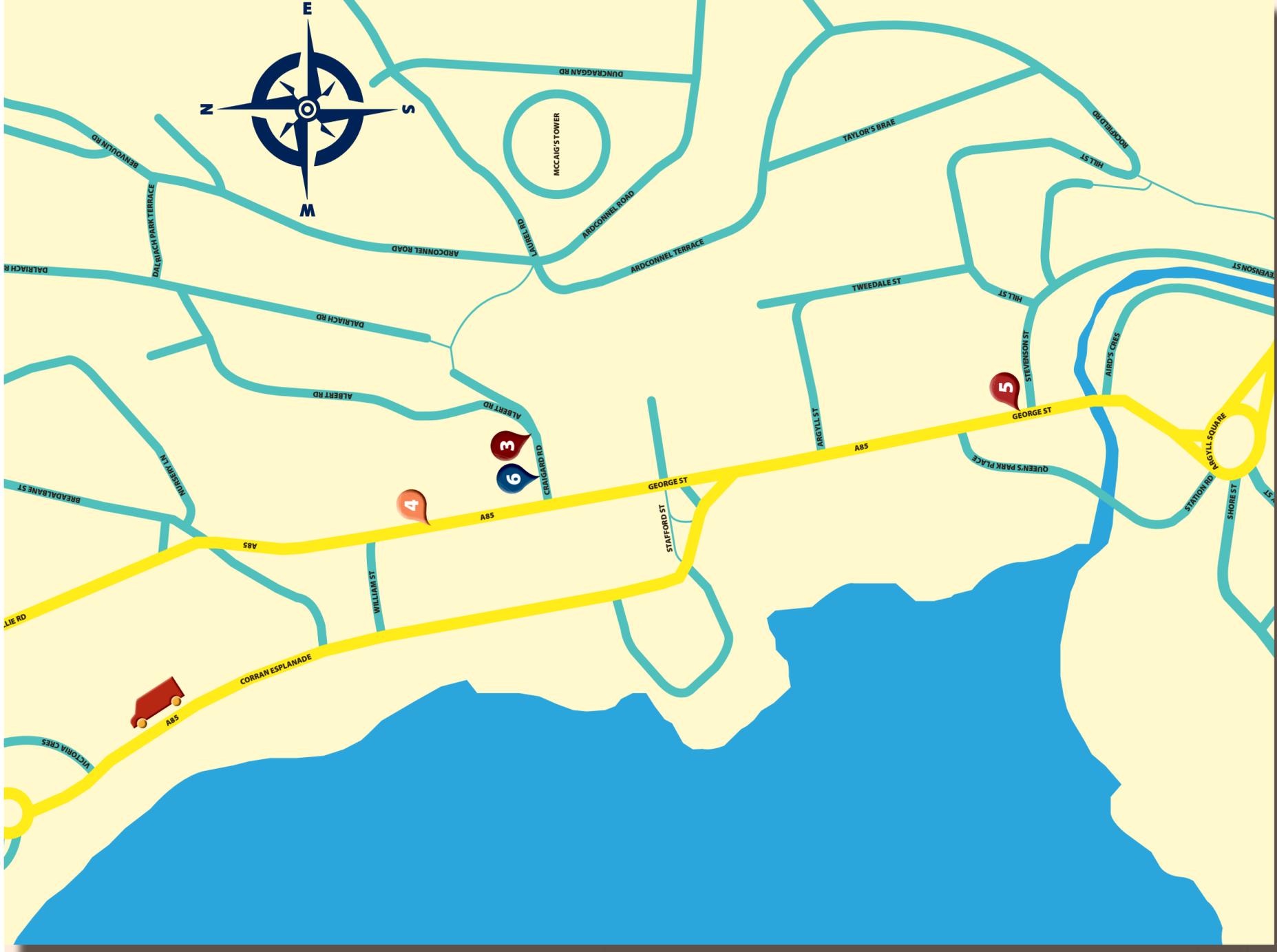
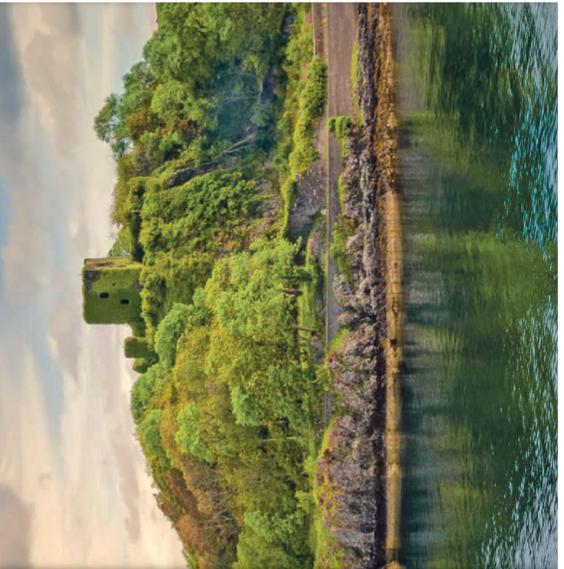
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Glasgow Letter

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



Another Gaelic speaking Glasgow taxi driver

As any Highlander who has had experience of Glasgow taxi will know, the drivers regularly recognise and comment on a Highland accent. More often than you may expect, the taxi driver has genuine links to the Highlands and Islands. In the past six years, I have ended up singing a verse and a chorus of Eilidh with a taxi driver from Harris; I have been taken to the airport by a gentleman who regularly attends the National Mòd; and

(in an unforgettably surreal moment) I have bled through to a driver who had a strong Cockney accent but who, on discovering I spoke Gaelic, proceeded to speak to me in his mother tongue with a strong Eriskay blas.

I had another such experience at the weekend when myself and Martin Gillespie, from Skerryvore, jumped into a taxi heading into town. Before we had uttered a word, the driver exclaimed: 'Ca bheil sibh a' dol, illean?'

It transpired he was an islander, fluent in Gaelic, who recognised both Martin and myself thanks to his keen interest in traditional music.

We had a number of friends in common – including Helen Sonachan, about whom we chatted for some of the journey. As we got out of the taxi, we both remarked that we would need to tell Helen's daughters, Caitlin and Sheen, about this chance meeting.

We entered the establishment to which we had been heading and, lo and behold, the first people we saw sitting at a table were Caitlin and Sheen themselves.

The whole tale is the epitome of why so many Highlanders feel at home in Glasgow. In fact, it reminded me of the famous line in Gabelrunzie's

Park Bar Song, which I have always felt rings true:

'The driver turned his head around saying "Is that yourselves I see?'

'Well, dammit, it was Lachie Mòr – a native of Portree!'

Dr Kenna Campbell MBE

In the Queen's birthday honours list, Dr Kenna Campbell was awarded an MBE 'for services to the promotion of the Gaelic language, music and Gaelic-medium education'.

A glimpse at Kenna's CV will immediately reveal why she fully deserves this

honour. Among many other things, she taught at the first fèis in Barra in 1981, was an early trustee of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, and is a board member of PNA and An Lòchran. She also played a big part in the campaign to establish the first Gaelic-medium primary education provision in Glasgow in 1985.

It is, however, on a more personal level that I think she deserves the award. The countless Gaelic singers to whom she has freely imparted her expertise will all attest to her kindness, her patience and her passion for passing on her wisdom and knowledge - gleaned both from her

classical singing education and her rich Gaelic upbringing on Greepe, Skye.

I count myself very lucky to be among those who have enjoyed and benefited from many wee singing sessions and blethers with Kenna, and I am delighted that she has been honoured appropriately for her immeasurable dedication.

Pub scene

Park Bar.
Friday: Nicky McMichan
Saturday: TBC
Sunday: Nicky McMichan
Islay Inn.
Friday 14: Crooked Reel.
Saturday 15: Auld Skool.



Fox and Hound Theatre Company

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After our sell-out run last year, we will be fresh from the Brighton Fringe and our first Scottish tour, performing two Tennessee Williams shorts as a double-bill and a piece of new writing.

This Scottish company will have you asking questions, carried away on the wind and facing the realities of life.

Both productions appear at Venue 236, Greenside@Infirmary Street, 4-26 (Excl 13, 20)

Tennessee Williams' Double-bill: Space-Forest, 1:45pm (1Hr)

Ivan's Widow: Set in a Psychiatrists office in the late 1970s, America.

Cast: Codge Crawford and Helen Fox.

In attempting to cope with her husband's death, she seeks answers from her psychiatrist and "the bottle" struggling to differentiate between fantasy and reality. The psychiatrist is a cold, promiscuous and predatory man, but with a seemingly genuine concern for his patient. This play leaves you wondering whose truth is real...

Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen: Set in a studio flat in New York, 1930s

Cast: man Codge Crawford, woman Helen Fox.

In economic depres-

sion, a couple find themselves in a cycle of deprivation. They have ravaged appearances and the scene between them is one of eternal repetition where emotional content is worn out and they live in the acceptance of something hopelessly inalterable.

'In his end lies his beginning: almost the last and first plays of Tennessee Williams ... are a must-see. Beautifully crafted performances, these rare Williams plays deserve packed houses and Fox and Hound themselves accolades for putting on... Williams plays ... and proving a special

attunement to them all' (Simon Jenner, Fringe Review, Brighton)

'Helen Fox is mesmerising once more' (Roz Scott, Fringe Guru, Brighton)

New writing in 2 Chanceby Helen Fox/Mint Studio, 16:05 (1Hr)

Set- various, present day. Cast: Gemma, Helen Fox; Matt/Doctor, Codge Crawford; Jude/Bart, Stephen Carruthers; Bambi/Fleb, Ellie Stevens.

Life is repeating itself, what are the chances? Gemma is diagnosed with the same cancer that killed her mum just a few years earlier. Her dad has only just gotten

his life back together, she can't bear to break his heart again and will try to fight for her life. While having chemo, Gemma realises it's therapy in more than one way, she meets a brave girl and an acerbic nurse who teach her about courage, humour and life after the big C.

Email: foxandhoundtheatrecompany@gmail.com

We perform on Friday the 21st of July at 7:30pm, doors open at 7pm, and there will be a Q&A after the show.

Tickets can be bought from 01631 567333 or at the Corran Halls themselves, 54 The Esplanade, Oban.



New gin is in the spirit of island's traditions

The boys from the Sunshine Isle have done it again, and in the most anticipated event since their launch of their first bottling, Tiree Whisky Company will introduce their first gin at the Tiree Music Festival next weekend.

Owners Ian Smith and Alain Campbell, both native islanders and members of the band Trail West, formed Tiree Whisky Company to preserve and promote the island's whisky heritage – after all, at one time it was home to no fewer than 50 illicit stills.

In May, they released The Cairnsmuir, a limited edition 19-year-old single malt, named after an iron-ore steamer that ran aground off Hough on the Isle of Tiree in 1885 while carrying a 100-ton cargo of spirits and beer.

'We are very excited to finally be releasing Tyree Gin,' Ian said. 'We have worked very hard behind the scenes, from gaining all the relevant approvals to hand foraging the botanicals and the seaweed ourselves. We are both very passionate about Tiree and its history and heritage, so it has always been important that we have a big focus on the island's history.'

No longer an artisan fad, gin is a major player in the Scottish economy with gin bringing £1.76 billion to the UK economy, 70 per cent of which is produced in Scotland.

Tyree Gin is an exciting addition to the Hebridean gin market, with its flavour coming from locally foraged botanicals such as eyebright, ladies bedstraw, water mint and angelica, together with

help and sea-belt from the Atlantic Ocean – all of which combine impeccably to create a true taste of Tiree.

'We carried out a lot of research on the island's whisky history and it was that research which motivated us to start the company,' Ian explained.

'With the gin, we wanted to bring attention to the island's seaweed industry. Even when it came to

choosing the name we liked the idea of using the island's old spelling, Tyree.'

As well as being stocked behind the bar for the festival, Tyree Gin will have a stall in the community village where they will be holding free tasting sessions and bottles can be purchased for local collection.

Bottles are also available for pre-order at www.tyreegin.com.




Oban Otters are currently seeking to recruit volunteer teachers to help deliver quality swimming lessons for our Learn to Swim programme.

This is a very rewarding role, in a friendly community swimming club, working as part of a team to contribute to the development of our swimmers to enable them to achieve the best of their ability.

Our Learn to Swim programme is on a Thursday night 5pm – 8pm with 30-40 minute sessions.

If you are a qualified UKCC Level 1 Teacher of Aquatics or a UKCC Level 2 Teacher of Aquatics and would like to join our club we would love to hear from you.

If you are interested in becoming a qualified swimming teacher please get in touch, Oban Otters will pay for training, PVG and ongoing CPD.

If you are interested in becoming a poolside helper before committing to any courses we would be happy for you to come along and work alongside our qualified teachers.

Contact us at obanotters@gmail.com

Cèilidh air chuairt 2017

Fèis Latharna Argyll Cèilidh Trail

Ceòl traidiseanta air a chluich le cuid den òigridh as fheàrr aig Fèis Latharna
Traditional music from some of the best young musicians and singers from Fèis Latharna

Ceann latha	Aite	Baile	Tachartas	Uair
Date	Venue	Town / Village	Event	Time
Tue 18 July	Inveraray Castle The George Hotel	Inveraray Inveraray	Inveraray Highland Session	1.00pm 8.30pm
Wed 19 July	Uig Hall	Dunoon	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm
Thurs 20 July	Lochranna Village Hall	Isle of Arran	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm
Fri 21 July	Iona Village Hall	Isle of Iona	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm
Sat 22 July	Easdale Island Community Hall	Easdale Island	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm
Tues 25 July	Clachan Village Hall	Tarbert	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm
Wed 26 July	Corner House Strachur Memorial Hall	Tarbert Strachur	Session Family Cèilidh	2.00pm 7.30pm
Thurs 27 July	Gigha Village Hall	Isle of Gigha	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm
Fri 28 July	Carradale Village Hall	Carradale	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm
Sat 29 July	Tayvallich Village Hall	Tayvallich	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm
Sun 30 July	The Old Inn	Appin	Session	4.00pm
Tue 1 August	The Victory Hall	Benderloch	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm
Wed 2 August	Craigish Village Hall	Craigish	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm
Thurs 3 August	Kilmore Hall	Kilmore	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm
Fri 4 August	An Cridhe	Isle of Coll	Coll Show Dance	7.30pm
Sat 5 August	Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Oban	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm

www.feisean.org/ceilidh | www.feislatharna.org | mail@feislatharna.org | #ceilidhtrail

Audience are treated to rousing evening of entertainment



Pictured above are all those who entertained an appreciative audience at Taynuilt's first ceilidh of the summer series. Taking part were piper Kate MacPherson, accordionists Kirsty and Isla MacCormick, Highland dancer Ailidh Munro, soloists Anna Twigg and Ann Barlow, pianist Andrew Dunlop and The Hollow Mountain String Band (Ann Barlow, John MacMahon and Rab Woods).

Fear an Taighe for the evening was Davy Paterson.

Junior athletics at Argyll's Highland games

The Highland Games season is under way in Argyll with Lorne Games in Oban already held at the end June.

Next on the programme is Inveraray on Tuesday July 18 followed by Mull Games at Tobermory two days later on Thursday July 20. Taynuilt are on Saturday July 22 and finally Oban Games take place on Thursday August 24.

Several junior track and field events are being held to encourage more local young athletes to take part.

This applies to the Highland games in Argyll, which are affiliated to the Scottish Highland Games Association [SHGA].

Junior events will be held at Lorne, Inveraray, Mull and Oban, with separate events for both boys and girls between the age of 11 and under 16.

The age qualification is under 16 on May 27, 2017, which was the date of the first games on the SHGA fixture list.

The events are 90 metres, 600 metres, high jump, long jump and shot putt, with the two track races being on a handicap basis according to age and ability.

There will be an overall junior championship with points awarded over the series of four games and trophies presented to the top boy and girl at Oban games on



the August 23. Prize money will be an added incentive at each of the four Highland games.

As well as the junior events at the four SHGA games there is a full programme of senior events (16 years and over) in two categories with local events confined to athletes born or resident in Argyll and open events.

To compete in the open events, athletes will have to register with the Scottish Highland Games Association for the day or for the season.

Junior athletes at both Inveraray and Mull Highland Games next week should enter on the field between 10am and 10.30am with the first event likely to start at 10.45am.

For Mull games, competitors from the mainland are

advised to travel on the first ferry from Oban at 7.30am.

Further information on the junior events at Inveraray, Mull and Oban can be obtained by contacting Bill MacCallum on 01546 602664.

Scottish Jumps Championship at Mull

For the first time Mull games have been awarded the Scottish Highland Games Association Jumps Championship which is a national competition for most points in the high jump, long jump and triple jump.

This championship will attract some of Scotland's top jumpers to compete on a field which is regarded as the best surface for jumping of all the games in Scotland.

Just last year at Mull, Allan Hamilton from

Edinburgh, Scotland's number one long jumper, set new Scottish [SHGA] records in both the long jump and triple jump and has ambitions of adding the high jump record this year. The high jump record of 6ft 3.5in set by the great Jay Scott has stood since 1955.

Ladies' mile race at Inveraray games

A ladies' mile race will be held at Inveraray on July 18 and is open to ladies 16 years and over with no upper age limit.

The race will be handicapped according to age and ability with starts given to the older and slower runners.

All entries are on the day and the race is likely to be in the early afternoon. In addition to generous prize money, an annual trophy will be awarded to the winner.

Morvern games and gala week celebrates 30 years

Morvern games gala week will celebrate its 30th anniversary this year. The week starts on Saturday July 15 with the Morvern Highland Games at Knock Park, Lochaline.

Hailed as one of the most scenic games in Scotland, the location at Knock Park overlooking the mouth of Loch Aline and the Sound of Mull is quite spectacular.

Former games and gala week chairman (1987-93) Stuart Jackson explains how the event was started.

'There had been a games and children's sports in years gone by, but both had been in

abeyance for a number of years until the Sporting Club of Lochaline instigated their revival.

'Many of us had enjoyed the benefits of growing up in the area and had taken part in the myriad community activities that helped shape our formative years, so we did not want to deny our children the same experiences.

'I am delighted that not only did we create an event that the community supported but that our expectations have been exceeded, as here we are 30 years on and still going.'

Stuart also gives us some personal thoughts:

'I am very glad that both my sisters, Mairi and Riiona, choose to serve on subsequent committees, however, my family ties go back more than 60 years, when my grandfather, Jimmy Macgregor, was games secretary.

'As a family, we are extremely proud that this year's winner of the Morvern mile will receive a trophy in memory of my grandfather.'

'I hope that the Morvern games and gala week goes on from strength to strength and that, more importantly, the whole community enjoys and participates in this wonderful event.'

To mark the 30th year,

the committee decided that the games field would benefit from a facelift and, with financial support from Morvern Community Trust and Ardtornish Hydro Fund, purchased new fencing and seating.

July 15 - Highland games and sports. Junior sports commence at 10.30am. Official opening by the chieftain at noon followed by senior sports.

Lochaline Social Club with entertainment from Rock'n'Reel from 9pm.

July 16 - Duck race, Morvern run, regatta and clay shot.

July 17 - Table tennis

tournament, sand mine tour, bowls.

July 18 - Orienteering, distillery open day, bingo, Highland Husle.

July 19 - Heritage Society walk, church teas, dog agility, yoga, quiz.

July 20 - Highland herbal walk, Crombie shooting, football, producers' market and pool competition.

July 21 - Sporting fun, rodeo race night, crab catching and MS charity day.

July 23 - Ladies' shinty match and survivors' dance.

For more details contact Riona Whyte on rionawhyte551@gmail.com, 0755 488 5304.

Mull and Iona gala promises a week of fun and frolics on islands

Mull and Iona gala is offering a full programme of events on the Ross.

July 21: Gala kicks off with the float parade through Fionnphort, live music from Creich David and barbecue outside the Keel Row. The Creel seafood bar also open. Then there is a dance in the evening at Creich Hall with Rock'n'Reel

July 22: Bunnassan fives.

July 23: Dinghy race, Iona.

July 24: Coffee morning, Heart Start training. Scarecrow trail launches. Currently we have just over 40 scarecrows entered. A map is available to purchase that offers a guide round the trail and an option to vote for favourite scarecrows

July 25: Heart Start training, one-club golf on Iona.

July 26: Practical Plants day, Bunnassan Hall ceildh, Under Milkwood.

July 27: Stock judging event, music night at Keel Row.

July 28: Start of open gardens, Ayrshire Infinity Choir, ranger-led kids' event.

July 29: Ayrshire Choir at Iona Abbey, Start of Pennyghael art exhibit, Donald MacNeill at Creich, Mull Theatre evening, barbecue and ceildh at Iona Hall.

July 30: Big Creich cook-up w/ PTA, Uisken games,

July 31: Last day of open gardens, Prosecco, fish and chips and choons at The Creel, ranger-led kids' event

August 1: Big Fit walk, car treasure hunt.

August 2: Bunnassan biodiversity day, Screen Machine.

August 3: Music night at the Keel Row.



Donald (Pedie) MacNeill and Roberto Diana Hebridean "Timeline" tour



14th July	Coll	An Cridhe	25th July	Colonsay	Village Hall
19th July	Islay	Bruichladdich Hall	26th July	Luig	Atlantic Centre
20th July	Lismore	Village Hall	27th July	Clachaig Inn	Glencoe
21st July	Caol	Community Centre	28th July	Iona	Iona Library
22nd July	Resipole	Resipole Studios	29th July	Mull	Creich Hall

with Jen MacNeill & Giulia Cartasegna
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Fort William's Leisure and Recreation Facility

The Nevis Centre

What's on at The Nevis Centre



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Closing date is August 31 2017. Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Usual Wyvex Media rules apply.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

An Comunn Gàidhealach - Meur Chruachain Cruachan Branch
Second Taynuilt Summer Ceilidh
Featuring
Fear an Taighe: Donald Harrison
Piper: Calum Garvin
Peat Reek (Kirsty Duncan, Ron Pirrie & Chris Beveridge)
Helen Watt, Eoin Behan, Joanie Garvin - Fiddle
Michael Garvin - Accordion, The Isla Sinclair Dancers
Taynuilt Village Hall, Thursday 13th July, 7.30pm
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A family friendly ceilidh of song, music and dance. A warm welcome is extended to all

MID ARGYLL ART SOCIETY
50th ANNUAL EXHIBITION
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LOCHGILPHEAD DRILL HALL
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Public respond positively to new camping bye-laws

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



Gordon Watson.

NEW CAMPING bye-laws have received a largely positive response since being introduced at the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

The seasonal bye-laws, which apply to four per cent of the national park, are in place from March 1 to September 30 each year. The changes include how long people can stay in lay-bys.

This was brought in to manage the environmental damage caused by the huge number of people camping in some areas and displaying anti-social behaviour.

People can still stop and rest in lay-bys, including staying over-

night if necessary, but permits to stay in them will no longer be issued and this will be mon-

itored by Police Scotland. New areas have been allocated for those seeking a permit.

Online surveys show that 85 per cent of respondents would recommend staying in one of the new areas and 92 per cent found it easy to purchase a permit.

The park authority has welcomed the positive response from campers and is taking proactive steps to address any teething issues and negative feedback.

Gordon Watson, chief executive of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority, said: 'It is early days, but overall there has been a very positive reaction from visitors and we are already seeing a

welcome difference in the areas we are trying to protect, with fewer abandoned campsites and irresponsible fire-lighting.

'It is great to see such significant positive feedback on the camping experience from the survey responses too.

'There has also been some negative, but mostly constructive, feedback and this, along with our own close monitoring, is being used to help us fine-tune things.

'We've said all along that we would do this and the changes we are making demonstrate our commitment to listening and addressing issues where we can.

'We particularly support the contribution from Police Scotland on how inappropriate

encampments in some loch-shore lay-bys will be addressed to ensure these locations are accessible for more people to enjoy.

'The changes we have made are all aimed at providing a more positive experience for visitors while protecting our busiest loch shores. We look forward to welcoming people camping and staying in motor-homes, and hearing their views as the season goes on.'

Further information about camping in the national park, including the bye-laws, detailed maps of the camping management zones and the booking system for camping permits can be found at www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/camping.

People urged to discover 'mysterious' creatures

THE RSPB Scotland is urging people to discover the 'mysterious' creatures on their doorstep by taking up the Wild Challenge this summer.

Wild Challenge is an awards scheme for schools and families. There are 24 activities over two categories - Help Nature and Experience Nature.

People will receive either a bronze, silver or gold award depending on how many are completed.

A survey of almost 15,000 wildlife enthusiasts showed that hedgehogs one of the most popular creatures, being spotted in 57 per cent of Scottish gardens or outdoor spaces.

One of the rarest - great crested newts - were only spotted by two per cent.

James Silvey, from RSPB Scotland, said: 'Gardens and

outdoor spaces are often where we have our first experience with nature, such as blackbirds singing from fences or foxes dashing past. Unfortunately, such garden wildlife and the sounds and sights it creates are becoming less and less familiar for many people.

'There are lots of ways that we can make our outdoor spaces great homes for nature where wildlife can thrive.

'From making feeders for your garden birds to building a cosy home for a hedgehog, or simply letting the grass grow to provide an important refuge for invertebrates - simple steps like this can make a big difference to local wildlife.'

To learn more about the RSPB Wild Challenge and to see how to get involved, visit www.rspb.org.uk/wildchallenge.

Islay estate awarded prestigious accreditation

AN ESTATE on Islay was one of eight in Scotland to receive an international accreditation this year.

Dunlossit Estate received the prestigious accolade for its ongoing work in wildlife management and conservation.

The Wildlife Estates Scotland (WES) accreditation was made at the Scottish Game Fair, held at Scone Palace.

The total number of accredited farms and estates across Scotland now stands at 52, covering just over 1.2 million acres.

Scottish Land and Estates chairman David Johnstone said: 'Wildlife Estates Scotland accreditation is a rigorous process that asks estates and farms to meet the finest standards across wildlife and conservation management and

it is pleasing that another eight estates and farms have met this benchmark.

'The newly-accredited properties are very diverse in nature but they have all demonstrated the excellent work they are conducting on issues such as species and habitat management.

'We seek a broad range of information from estates, including data on 70 birds and animals, which helps to provide significant insight into what is working well and where our conservation efforts need to be targeted.

'While challenges lie ahead for the future of the WES project, we should be proud that we have reached this important milestone in the scheme.'



David Johnstone of Scottish Land and Estates, left, hands the award to David Gillies of Dunlossit.

VisitScotland reveals why people come to Argyll



Argyll's scenery is its top attraction.

MORE than 80 per cent of holidaymakers who come to Argyll and the Isles do so for its scenery and landscape, according to VisitScotland's biggest ever survey.

The figure of 84 per cent is far above the national average of 50 per cent and second only to the Highlands, where 87 per cent of visitors cite scenery as a key motivator.

The second most popular reason people visit is 'to get away from it all', followed by the region's history and culture.

The survey was carried out in the summers of 2015 and 2016,

with 681 visitors to Argyll and the Isles being interviewed.

Sightseeing by car, coach or on foot is the most popular activity undertaken by visitors at 79 per cent, while going for a short walk or stroll (61 per cent) and hitting the beach (57 per cent) were second and third most popular activities.

Visitors to Argyll and the Isles also gave positive ratings of their holiday experience, with 92 per cent giving scores of seven out of 10 on the satisfaction scale, while almost two-thirds (64 per cent) gave the highest ratings of nine or 10 out of 10.

David Adams McGilp, regional partnerships director at VisitScotland, said: 'The stunning scenery of Argyll and the Isles is world famous, so it's no surprise that the vast majority of our visitors come here to enjoy the views.

'I'm also delighted to see that so many of our holidaymakers rate their experience so highly.

'Finding out what drives people to enjoy a holiday here provides the tourism industry with valuable insight into the make-up of our visitors and ensure we continue to provide the best customer experience.'

Minister discusses issues affecting national park

SCOTTISH minister Roseanna Cunningham met mountain path trainees at Loch Lubnaig to discuss issues affecting the area.

The cabinet secretary for the environment, climate change and land reform met the trainees and board members of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and discussed the National Park Partnership Plan 2018 to 2023.

The plan sets out the proposals that aim to tackle priorities, including youth employment, climate change, outdoor recreation, health and wellbeing and investment in towns and villages. Other issues highlighted in the plan include a declining population and the price of homes.

Ms Cunningham said: 'Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park is a fantastic place for people to enjoy recreational activities.

'It's also supporting communities and businesses, innovating on climate change, natural flood management, and improving physical and mental health.



Roseanna Cunningham, centre, meets Lachlan Hutchison and Veronica Keyte.

'It's great to see the national park recognise the importance of supporting young people into

employment, with this mountain path scheme providing trainees with hands-on experience which

will help them, our rural communities and economy.'

To read the draft National Park

Partnership Plan 2018-2023 go to www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/consultations.

Hikers asked to report vehicle tracks on hills

CONSERVATION bodies are calling for outdoor enthusiasts to help them assess the damage caused to Scotland's mountains by vehicle tracks.

The Scottish Environment LINK Hilltracks group wants hikers to photograph or video any instances of upland tracks that are harming the landscape or environment.

This evidence will help the group, which includes many of Scotland's biggest outdoor and conservation organisations, compile a new report in spring 2018 into whether current legislation is working.

Mel Nicoll, who has recently been appointed to help with the LINK Hilltracks campaign, said: 'People are often shocked to learn that landowners generally can't be refused permission before they bulldoze new tracks in Scotland's hills as long as they

are claimed to be for agriculture or forestry, including in some of our wildest, most untouched landscapes and national parks.

'Since 2014, landowners have had to notify councils before constructing or upgrading these tracks, but they still don't need to apply for planning permission in most cases.

'We want hill-goers to send us photos and videos, with the map reference if possible, so we can better gauge the level of damage and assess whether the 2014 law change has helped improve standards.

'We'll publish the results in a report next spring.'

LINK is urging anyone who comes across what they think might be a new or expanded track to email hilltracks@scotlink.org or tweet using hashtags #Hilltracks or #NoMotorsUp-Mountains.

THIS WEEK'S WALKS

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

Today (Thursday July 13) Sgurr an Eilean Ghiubhais, Mallaig.

A walk in wild country with superb views of Loch Nevis and Knoydart, then a descent to the port of Mallaig.

Start at Glasnacardoch where parking is available at the start of the old Mallaig Road at NM675955.

Follow a good track under the railway and E to Loch an Nostarie. Continue on the path gradually uphill, through a narrow pass to Loch Eireagoraidh. A steady climb NE over rough ground leads to the rocky summit of Sgurr an Eilean Ghiubhais, 552m. Descend SW to the watershed, passing several small lochans, then head W to gain the N ridge of Sgurr Eireagoraidh, and climb to the summit, 548m. Descend the N ridge to the 400m contour.

Turn WNW and descend gradually over rough ground to reach the track at Mallaigmore, NM698975. Follow the track to the join the public road at Mallaig Bheag and follow it into the town. Transport required from CP at NM674969. For a slightly shorter circular route, turn SW and head down the slopes to a lochanLR on the Allt a' Bhainne. Cross the burn, continue SW to reach a footpath and follow it W through some conifer woodland. Aft about 800m at WP NM6881396095, fork left and head S to join the outward route at the shore of Loch an Nostarie.

Distance: 15km, height to climb: 780m.

Meet at Fort William Woollen Mill at 9am.

Sunday July 16 Altnafeadh to Kinlochleven, Glen Coe.

An easy climb to quite a high altitude. Great views and good paths and tracks throughout. Head north up the WHW.

The path zigzags up the Devil's Staircase to a col at 550m, with a large cairn and good views of the Mamores, Rannoch Moor and Buachaille Etive Mòr. Continue northwards, descending the old military road to the top of the pipelines and follow the track down to Kinlochleven.

Transport required at end of walk at The Ice Factor NN187619. Bus service to Glencoe Village, dep 4.05pm.

Transport required to retrieve cars from start.

Distance: 9km, height to climb: 250m.

Meet at Glencoe Village car park at 9.40am.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Please see full walk details at www.nevishillwalking.club.

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

Saturday July 15 Sgurr nan Gillean, Skye

This 964m Munro is known as the 'peak of the gullies', or possibly the 'peak of the young men'.

The 'tourist' route starts from the parking near the Sligachan Hotel. Follow the path which leads to and crosses the Allt Dearg Mor. Continue south along the path and cross the bridge over the Allt Dearg Beag.

The well-defined and cairned path heads for Coire Riabhach, traverses below Pinnacle ridge, then up over scree and boulders to reach the SE ridge of Sgurr nan Gillean. This ridge provides a good scramble to the summit. Return by the same route.

Distance: 12km, height to climb: 950m.

Suggested by Gavin Theobald; co-ordinated by Suzanne Theobald.

FARMING NEWS

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Marking time as lambs continue to make progress

By Ewen Campbell,
SRUC Kirkton and Auchtertyre research farms manager

THE lambs have been growing steadily over the past month - I cannot believe it is already marking time.

Over the past few weeks we have gathered all our ewes and lambs from different flocks for marking. This has involved a number of different jobs, including weighing the lambs and ewes, vaccinating against a range of clostridial diseases, ear-notching (marking), double ear tagging and worming all of the lambs. There was a lot to fit in, but thankfully this is all done now.

I was curious as to how the lambs in our Auchtertyre flock had fared since we managed to tag some of them born in the hill park before they went to the open hill, as part of our attempt to get to the bottom of the 'blackloss' here.

Out of all the 412 tagged last month, 39 died within 24 hours of birth in the park itself and only 29 haven't come in yet, so we haven't had too many losses so far, which is good.

We also had 67 untagged lambs from the remaining ewes that lambed out on the open hill. We'll see how well they come in again when we gather for the milk clipping in mid July.

Every year, we also have an issue with 'plochteach' (yellowesses), where the skin on the lambs can become very sensitive to light and they develop severe sunburn-like symptoms. So far this year we have seen very few affected.

We have seen three cases in the Kirkton research flock, all of them Scottish blackface, and 11 in the Auchtertyre flock, all of which were also Scottish blackface, apart from one Swaledale cross lamb. The lambs affected were treated with a vitamin B complex injection and a steroid injection. They were then put into the shed with their mothers, to stop the sunlight making their symptoms worse.

Our cows are now with the shorthorn bull on the hill. We will wean the calves in September and



SRUC staff and students have been busy marking lambs.

weigh both the cows and calves to calculate each cow's efficiency based on the weight of calf reared by the cow. The calves will then be sent to one of SRUC's other farms at Oatridge, near Edinburgh for finishing.

As well as being busy with the livestock here, we also had our share of visitors.

Colleagues in Edinburgh were involved in organising the 21st International Farm Management Association conference at the beginning of July, and they were keen for delegates to come to our research farm here as part of the site visits.

We hosted three groups of conference delegates, one on the Tuesday, one on the Thursday and a final group on the Saturday. More than 120 people came in total - a mixture of scientists, farmers and consultants.

We told them about our sheep genetics and

systems research work, demonstrated our state-of-the-art handling facilities and how we use EID for sheep management, as well as the financial and labour benefits of using this technology.

We also told them about our grassland management and how we are using drones to map the distribution of weeds in our fields. We also talked about our cows and, finally, how we are involved in developing new sensors to be able to track livestock on the open hill.

These international visitors were impressed by the range of activities we have here regarding hill farming systems, and could see the many similarities with their own situations.

We also had two visitors from AgResearch in New Zealand who are developing a hill country strategy to help address the production challenge faced by sheep farmers out there. They had good discussions with a few of my colleagues and were impressed by the parallels between the issues we are seeking to address here and the issues hill sheep farmers are facing in New Zealand. We hope to work more with them in the future.

Finally, we hosted a worm and fluke workshop, in collaboration with the Soil Association and the Moredun Institute. It was a very practical affair looking at effective ways of treating fluke and worms.

It covered diagnosis, control approaches, different treatments and pasture management. We showed how we used the EID-associated weigh-crate to help us implement the targeted selective treatment approach, where lambs are only wormed if they are not reaching their expected target weight.

The workshop also looked at how wader scrapes established to benefit wildlife might affect fluke management on the farm. More than 20 people participated and the feedback was very positive.

Once again, no rest for the wicked and another busy month.

Tiree prepares for annual agricultural show

THE community on Tiree is gearing up for its annual agricultural show next Friday, July 21.

And there will be something for everyone, with a packed line-up of activities, culminating in a dance in the evening.

What is new for 2017? To be judged in pens - cow with her calf and ewe with her twin lambs.

There will also be classes for veteran

horses, decorated harness, a baking demonstration and a special children's corner. Choose from more than 200 classes from poultry, pets, horses and ponies, tractors, Clydesdales, cattle and sheep, covering all breeds of livestock on Tiree. All entries are welcomed.

This year also sees an all ladies line-up of judges. Show schedules are all available at the website www.tireeshow.co.uk, with copies at the rural centre.

As well as livestock, there are classes in the home industries section for baking, creating, knitting, painting and growing, with categories for all ages and visitors.

A highlight will be the recycled materials scarecrow competition.

The ever-popular Mark Wylie and his Drakes of Hazard will be performing twice during the day.

Following the champion of cham-

pions, the day will round off with the presentation of cups followed by the grand show raffle and tossing the sheaf.

And to round it all off is the not-to-be missed show dance with Gunna Sound in An Talla at 9.30pm. Tickets are £10 at the door.

Entry to the show is priced at £5 for adults, £2 for children five to 16 and free for under-fives.

Around the markets

Stirling - Caledonian Marts on Monday July 10 sold 158 store cattle at their fortnightly sale. Bulls averaged 250ppkg selling to 276ppkg for Limousins from Spouthead, Milton of Campsie and to £1230 for a Limousin from Ardgate, Gartocharn. Heifers averaged 240ppkg selling to 282ppkg for Limousins from Graystale, Stirling, and to £1180 for Simmentals from East Kerse, Lochwinnoch. Dairy-bred bullocks averaged 156ppkg selling to 171ppkg from Lawhill Cottages, Torrance, and to £670 from Wester Whitefield, Dunfermline. Leading prices bullocks £1200 Wester Whitefield £1150 East Kerse £1130 Ardgate £970 Spouthead. Leading prices heifers £1130 East Kerse £1000 Ardgate £930 Graystale.

Bullocks sold to 250ppkg (twice) from Brockwoodlees, Cannonbie purchased by T. Johnston, Butchers, Cow Wynd Falkirk, and to £1763.84 from C. Smith South Flanders, Kippen. Heifers to 252ppkg from D McLaren, Classloch, Kinnross purchased by G. Kirk & Son Butcher, Stirling Road, Denny, and to £1577 from Brockwoodlees. Bulls sold to 245ppkg Brockwoodlees 242ppkg Balquharrage 240ppkg (twice) Classloch 235ppkg Faskine 232ppkg Bruckley, Blairsgreen & Balquharrage 228ppkg, 225ppkg Mains of Culmalundie & Bruckley 220ppkg Cander Mains & Annfield. Heifers p/kg 248ppkg Classloch 245ppkg Blairsgreen, Balquharrage, Brockwoodlees and Mains of Throsk 242ppkg Blairsgreen 240ppkg Priestside, Faskine and Lochend (Morton) 232ppkg (twice) Barrochan Cross and Cander mains 230ppkg (twice) Wester Gartshore. Bulls per head £1763, £1730 South Flanders £1538 Brockwoodlees £1530 Bruckley and Mains of Culmalundie £1516 Classloch. Heifers per head £1577 Mains of Throsk and Brockwoodlees £1557,

£1522 Classloch £1520 Blairsgreen. Young bulls per head; £1628 Airthrey Kerse £1445 Mosshall. Also, forward were 46 cast cows and bulls. Beef cows averaged 135.5p selling to 182.2p from W Dick & Sons, Mains of Throsk, Stirling, and to £1490 for the same beast. With a plainer show of dairy cows they averaged 101p selling to 124.6p from W Waugh, North Bankhead, Avonbridge and to £1000 from A W & J Broom, Solsgrith, Home Farm, Dollar. Other leading prices; Beef cows per head; £1290 Mains of Throsk £1240 Gibley £1120 Greencraig £990 Golland £930 Gibley. Black and Whites per head; £910 North Bankhead and Summerhouse £880 North Bankhead £870 and £830 Solsgrith. Beef cows p/kg; 170p Mains of Throsk 145.8p Gibley and Greencraig 141.6p Gibley 136.2p Greencraig 124.2p Summerhouse 123.6p North Bankhead 119.7p Summerhouse 117.9p Solsgrith 114.6p Summerhouse.

new season lambs selling to an average of 215.6ppk and 712 ewes and rams. Spring lambs (1824) Wester Mye (BText) £127; Oatfield (Text) £127; North Field (Suff) £124; Wester Kepdownie (Char) £96. Spring lambs (1824) South Dundonald (BText) 267p; North Field (Text) 258p; South Flanders (Suff) 241p; Wester Kepdownie (Char) 221p. Ewes (712) - Easterton & Wester Mye (Text) £124.00; Halkerton (Suff) £105; Bogside (BFL) £95.00; Hill of Errol (Chev/Mule) £95; Easterton (X) £89; White Sykes (Mule) £85.00. Tups - Greenlands (Chev) £139; Greenlands (Chev) £125; Broomfield (BFL) £118. **Dingwall** - Dingwall & Highland Marts on Tuesday July 4 sold 12 prime cattle. Prime heifers (12) averaged 237.5p (+8.9p) and sold to 247.0p per kg and £1,523.20 gross. Prime heifers sold to 247.0p per kg for a 575kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Bridgend Farm, Dingwall, to Messrs Fraser Brothers Butchers, Dingwall and £1,523.20 gross for a 640kg Charolais cross also from Bridgend Farm, to Messrs John M. Munro Ltd, Dingwall. Other leading prices per kg; Heifers: Bridgend Farm, (AAX), 245p.

Other leading prices per head; Heifers: Bridgend Farm, (AAX), £1,470.00. Dingwall & Highland Marts also sold 205 prime sheep. New season lambs (108) averaged to 216.5p (+1.0) and sold to 242.4p per kg and £103 gross. SOQ 36.5kg to 45.5kg (102) averaged 220.6p (+5.0p) per kg. Feeding sheep (97) sold to £79 gross. New season lambs (108) averaged 216.5p (+1.0p) and sold to 242.4p per kg and £103 gross for 42.5 kg Suffolk crosses from Glaslullich Farm, Nigg to Messrs Fraser Brothers Butchers, Dingwall. SOQ 36.5kg to 45.5kg (102) averaged 220.6p (+5.0p) per kg. Feeding sheep (97) sold to £79 gross for Texel rams from Bogburn Farm, Duncairn. Other leading prices per head and per kg; New season lambs: TexX - Kinnahaird Farm, Contin, £99, 227.6p; CharX - Torgormack, Beauly, £98, 225.3p; SuffX - Borrowston Mains, Thurso, £95, Glaslullich Farm, 226.5p; CHM - Borrowston Mains, £94, 226.5p. Feeding sheep: Zwb ewe - Easter Arboll, Tain, £70; SuffX ewe - Lochdhu, Nairn, £70; TexX ram -

Lochdhu, £69; Mule ewe - Balintore Farms, Tain, £68; Belt ram - Upperton, Glenurquhart, £67; Cross ewe - Balintore Farms, £67; Chev ewe - Bogburn Farm, £66; Chev ram - Morvich Farm, Rogart, £60.

ewe - Balintore Farms, £67; Chev ewe - Bogburn Farm, £66; Chev ram - Morvich Farm, Rogart, £60.

Stirling - Caledonian Marts on Thursday July 6 sold 137 cattle. Prime bullocks averaged - 220p. Prime heifers averaged - 223p. Young bulls averaged - 177p. Beef cows averaged - 135p. Dairy cows averaged - 101p (a poor show for quality). A few more prime cattle forward with all classes once again dearer and many more could have been sold to the large ringside of buyers.

Stirling - United Auctions on Thursday July 6 sold 2536 prime sheep including 1824

PROMOTING SMALL WOODS MANAGEMENT IN ARGYLL

ARGYLL SMALL WOODS COOPERATIVE & THE CROFT WOODLANDS PROJECT

2017 events programme

Bracken control demonstration
(Facilitated by the Farming Advisory Service)

Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) is a vigorous and aggressive fern, spreading rapidly by means of strong underground stems or "rhizomes". Bracken is a major weed in many upland and upland margin areas, causing management problems in agriculture, forestry, conservation, game management and recreation.

Come along to this half day demonstration to learn about:

- How it grows / spreads and the value of bracken
- Grants / funding
- Asulox update
- See a variety of low and high tech equipment that can be used to control bracken including a horse roller, scything, toppers and weed wipes

The afternoon is free, supported by the Forestry Commission Scotland, Woodland Trust and the Farming Advisory Service

Date: 25th July 2017
Time: 1pm - 4pm
Venue: Kilmartin, Argyll (Courtesy of Scottish Woodlands)

- The event is free
- Outdoor clothing and footwear essential
- Booking Essential

To book a place please contact: Neil Donaldson on info@argyllsmallwoods.coop Or 07810810818

This event is supported by:

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10:30am Wednesday 26th July 2017
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Wednesday 26th July 2017

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Rural Centre, Crossapol, Isle of Tiree
Judging from 10.30am

CATTLE, SHEEP, HORSES & PONIES, CLYDESDALES, POULTRY, PET SHOW
TRACTORS, HOME INDUSTRIES, CRAFTS, SIDESTALLS, TEAS

Main attraction - Mark Wylie and THE DRAKES OF HAZARD
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WYVEX MEDIA Promotions Executive (part-time)

A very rare opportunity has arisen for the right person to join our team in Oban as a Promotions Executive. The successful candidate will be responsible for designing and implementing a regular series of promotions and offers for the readers of the Oban Times, Argyllshire Advertiser, Campbelltown Courier, Arran Banner and their websites. They will also be heavily involved in using our large social media following to maximise both newspaper and digital sales.

Ideally with a background in promotional marketing, the right candidate will be able to demonstrate that they are full of creative ideas, have a flair for copy writing and have the organisational skills to see complex promotions through from conception to implementation. You will also liaise with retailers and promotional partners to source offers for our readers and attend relevant events in our circulation area. A full, current driving licence is essential.

This is an incredibly exciting opportunity for the right candidate and they will be involved with all departments within the business, from editorial, and production to advertising. As such, being a team player and having first-class communication and interpersonal skills are an absolute must.

The position on offer is currently on a part-time basis and we are happy to discuss working patterns and flexibility with the right candidate. The role will be based in our Oban office.

If you fit the bill, send your CV (including current salary) to ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk by 28th July 2017



Community Support Assistant MacDougall Place, Mull

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To apply visit the recruitment section of our website at www.acha.co.uk

If you cannot access the website, please contact the recruitment team:

01546 605817 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

CVs are not accepted.

For more information, please contact Brian Murphy on 01546 605932 or email brian.murphy@acha.co.uk

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 28th July 2017

Interviews will be held on 8th August in Oban.

Apostleship of the Sea (AoS)



Registered charity in Scotland number SCO43085

Part-time Regional Port Chaplains: Diocese of Argyll and the Isles

Salary: £23,000 per annum pro rata to 3 days per week

"I call on the chaplains and volunteers of the Apostleship of the Sea to continue with their commitment to the pastoral care of their brothers and sisters"

Pope Francis, July 2014

AoS would like to appoint two part-time regional port chaplains to work in the diocese of Argyll and the Isles, predominantly with the fishermen who work in the busy fishing industry out of ports scattered throughout the diocese. It is envisaged that two appointments will be made, one based on the mainland, the other in the Western Isles. Both appointments will be reviewed after 12 months.

The task of AoS regional port chaplains is to be alongside the People of the Sea, to make visible our care for their pastoral and spiritual well-being through a hands-on, practical expression of the Catholic Church's mission.

- AoS regional port chaplains are priests, nuns, permanent deacons and lay chaplains.

- A Catholic faith, belief in our mission to seafarers and fishermen working within a globalised industry and excellent interpersonal skills are essential.

- Experience in chaplaincy is desirable.

For an application pack or an informal chat contact Martin Foley, National Director, on 07941 231628 or martinfoley@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk.

For information about AoS please visit our website: www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk.

Port visits can be arranged with a working regional port chaplain.

Deadline for applications: Friday 28 July 2017

Interviews: In Oban, 8 August 2017



REF554 STORE MANAGER SPAR SPEAN BRIDGE, INVERNESS-SHIRE, PH34 4EP

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Closing date for applications is 21 July 2017.



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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 Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
17/02875/FUL	Larch Cottage, Tirindrish, Spean Bridge		Erection of timber chalet
17/02892/PIP	Land 355M SE of Taigh Breagh, Achnabobane, Spean Bridge		Erection of garden centre, restaurant and visitor centre
17/02990/FUL	Tigh A Rudha, Onich, Fort William		Extension to house, change of use of garage to studio and erection of extension
17/03028/FUL	Ben Nevis Distillery, Lochy Bridge, North Road, Fort William		Installation of LPG gas supply (12 x 2 tonne underground vessels)
17/03046/FUL	Maybank, Mallaig		Alteration/extension and change of use from house to guest house
17/03057/FUL	National Trust for Scotland Visitor Centre, Glenfinnan		Provide a seasonal food outlet, the outlet is 3.75m x 2.2m x 2.2m
17/03093/FUL	Land 70M SE of Hillside, Portuairk, Kilchoan		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

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 - 13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
17/01748/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse.	Plot 5 Memorial Field Land South Of Drimmin Cottage Kilchrenan Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HF	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
17/01747/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse.	Plot 4 Memorial Field Land South Of Drimmin Cottage Kilchrenan Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HF	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
17/01234/PP	Erection of replacement communications tower (overall structure height 25 metres) and associated works.	Ben Cruachan Telecommunications Mast Lochawe Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally
17/00963/PP	Erection of garden shed (retrospective).	60 Jamieson Street Bowmore Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA43 7HL	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay
17/01613/PP	Proposed industrial development comprising of access road, light industrial units (Class 4), storage units, storage compounds and siting of storage containers (Class 6), installation of communal septic tank and associated fencing.	Land West Of Landfill Site Glengorm Road Glengorm Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Tobermory Area Office
17/01742/PP	Erection of 2 timber cabins for holiday letting purposes and installation of septic tank (part retrospective).	Land South Of An Diadan Port Ellen PA42 7AT	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
17/01306/PP	Erection of telecommunications equipment compound with 25 metres high lattice tower, installation of culvert and associated works.	Land North East Of Catnish (Off The B8074) Glen Orchy Argyll And Bute PA33 1BD	Sub Post Office Dalmally
17/00684/PP	Change of use of dwellinghouse to house of multiple occupation (retrospective).	Dorain House Station Road Bridge Of Orchy Argyll And Bute PA36 4AD	Sub Post Office Dalmally
17/01677/PP	Installation of replacement external plant equipment.	Former Lidl Store Lochavullin Drive Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4PL	Oban Area Office
17/01678/PP	Erection of two dwellinghouses, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access.	Land West Of Craig Lora Edendorich Dalmally Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

KILFINICHEN FARMS LLP MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 THE MARINE LICENSING (PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013

Notice is hereby given that Kilfinichen Farms LLP, Tiroran, Isle of Mull PA69 6ER will hold a pre-application consultation event regarding a proposed licensable marine activity at Kilfinichen, The Steadings, Kilfinichen, Isle of Mull PA69 6ER grid reference NM49810- 28286. The activity consists of the construction of a pier for the removal of harvested timber.

Further information, can be obtained concerning the proposed pier development from:
Mr A Holmen, Kilfinichen Farms, Kilfinichen, Isle of Mull, PA69 6ER
The pre-application consultation event will be held on Thursday 24th August at 9.30 am:
At The Steadings, Kilfinichen, Isle of Mull PA69 6ER
Persons wishing to provide comments on the proposed construction of the pier can do so by writing to the prospective applicant at: andrew@kilfinichen.com,
Or by post to
Kilfinichen Farms LLP, Kilfinichen, Isle of Mull PA69 6ER, not later than 22/08/2017
Comments should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making comment. Comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. If Kilfinichen Farms submits an application for a marine license to Scottish Ministers, an opportunity will be given for representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers on the application.

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GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Ian Campbell and James Campbell, trading as D&J Campbell Limited of 1 Blackcroft, North Connel, Argyll, PA37 1QX is applying to add an operating centre to keep four goods vehicles and six trailers at Moleigh, Kilmore, Oban, PA34 4QR.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

First registration of a croft

Ivor Macleod has registered their croft 29 Auchinard on the crofting register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 8/3/2018.

Details of registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration is C4156.

Oban and Lorn Dementia Support Group ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 18th July 2017
7:15pm
Carers Centre, Albany Street, Oban
All welcome

HARBOURS ACT 1964 (AS AMENDED) THE TOBERMORY HARBOUR EMPOWERMENT ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Tobermory Harbour Empowerment Order 2017 (the "Order") was made by the Scottish Ministers on 9 June 2017. The Order came into operation on 10 June 2017.

Any person who desires to question the Order on the ground that there was no power to make the Order or that a requirement of the Harbours Act 1964 (as amended) was not complied with in relation to the Order may, within six weeks from the date on which the Order became operative, make an application for that purpose to the Court of Session.

A copy of the Order and the map annexed to it may be inspected, free of charge, between the hours of 9am and 5pm from Monday to Friday at Tobermory Harbour Association, Taigh Solais, Ledaig, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6NR.

Any person who requires any further information regarding the Order should contact the undernoted agents for Tobermory Harbour Association: Burness Paull LLP, 50 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH3 9WJ
Ref: TOB/2001/3/CNM/AJXL



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TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (CLIFTON CULVERT REPLACEMENT) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION BY THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS UNDER SECTIONS 20A AND 55A OF THE ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984

The Scottish Ministers hereby give notice that they have determined that their proposal to replace the Clifton Culvert on the A82 trunk road is - (a) not a project which falls within Annex I of Council Directive No. 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment as amended by Council Directive No. 97/11/EC and Council Directive No. 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and Council; (b) is a relevant project within the meaning of Sections 20A(9) and 55A(7) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, and falls within Annex II of the said Directive but that having regard to the selection criteria contained in Annex III of the Directive it should not be made subject to an environmental impact assessment in accordance with the Directive, and accordingly the project does not require the publication of an Environmental Statement.

H D GILLIES

A member of staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House,
58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF.
4th July 2017



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First registration of a croft

Samuel John MacNaughton has registered his croft at 61a Banavie, Kilmallie on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person wishing to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 24 November 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is I2182

First registration of a croft

Samuel John MacNaughton has registered his croft at 51-53&55 Banavie, Kilmallie on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person wishing to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 29 March 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is I2179



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984

ACQUISITION OF LAND (AUTHORISATION PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1947

THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (CLIFTON CULVERT REPLACEMENT) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2017

Notice is hereby given that the Scottish Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred by the above mentioned Acts, on the 4th July Two Thousand and Seventeen prepared a Compulsory Purchase Order entitled "A82 Trunk Road (Clifton Culvert Replacement) Compulsory Purchase Order 2017" which affects the land described in the Schedule hereto for the purpose of improving the A82 Dalnottar to Inverness Trunk Road, lying between Tyndrum and Bridge of Orchy in the vicinity of Clifton, Stirlingshire.

The Order is about to be made and comes into operation only if made. If the Order is made, a conveyance registered in implement of the Order may vary or extinguish rights to enforce real burdens and servitudes affecting the land.

Copies of the draft Order and of the map referred to therein may be inspected free of charge from 11th July 2017 until 1st August 2017 at: The offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF, The offices of Stirling Council, Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET, and The Village Store, George A Brodie and Co, Tyndrum, Crianlarich, Stirlingshire, FK20 8RY during normal business hours.

ANY PERSON may object to the making of the Order, in writing stating the grounds of objection, to the Director of Trunk Roads and Bus Operations, c/o Mark Paterson at Transport Scotland, Trunk Roads Network Management Directorate, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF quoting reference NW/A82/CLIFTON/CPO/MP. Any objections must be received on or before 1st August 2017.

H D GILLIES

A member of staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House,
58 Port Dundas Road, GLASGOW G4 0HF

This is the Schedule referred to in the foregoing Notice dated 4th July 2017 relating to the A82 Trunk Road (Clifton Culvert Replacement) Compulsory Purchase Order 2017.

SCHEDULE

In this schedule the plot references and areas referred to below correspond to those given in the Schedule and the map annexed to the A82 Trunk Road (Clifton Culvert Replacement) Compulsory Purchase Order 2017.

Plot Nos	Land in the County of Stirling
1	890 square metres or thereby consisting of the solum and verge of the A82 Glasgow to Inverness, by way of Fort William, Trunk Road including the existing Clifton Culvert
2	84 square metres or thereby consisting of the verge, up to the masonry wall, lying to the north of the A82 Glasgow to Inverness, by way of Fort William, Trunk Road at Clifton Culvert
3	195 square metres or thereby consisting of private garden, scrub/long grass/rough ground to the south of the A82 Glasgow to Inverness, by way of Fort William, Trunk Road at Clifton Culvert and the bank and bed of the burn to the midway point to the west of the A82
4	Not used
5	4 square metres or thereby consisting of private garden, scrub/long grass/rough ground to the south of the A82 Glasgow to Inverness, by way of Fort William, Trunk Road at Clifton Culvert

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SECOND-STEPPERS 'STILL NEED BANK OF MUM AND DAD'



on the ladder without some kind of support. This compared with around 50 per cent needing help to buy their first home.

Mortgage director at Lloyds Andy Mason said: 'Parental support continues to play a vital role in helping young people to get on the property ladder. However, it is clear that despite improved conditions for this part of the housing market, Second Steppers will still rely on the 'Bank of Mum and Dad', with hard-pressed parents being once again called on for financial help.' Of those getting help, 19 per cent received it from their parents, while nine per cent were aided by grandparents and six per cent by friends. If you are looking to upsize or would like to discuss your options, call us and we can give you all the advice to help you move up on the property ladder.

While it has always been common for parents to help their children out financially with their first home, new research from Lloyds Bank shows that 32 per cent of 'second steppers' have sought assistance. In fact, the average amount of support needed is £21,231.

Family considerations often factor into a house move, with 23 per cent of buyers saying they put off starting a family until they moved. With parents eager to foster the next generation, a nice home for their grandchildren is a sound investment.

The research also found that 35 per cent could not take the next step

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OIRO £490,000

Craigneuk offers an amazing opportunity to purchase a spacious, traditional property enjoying stunning sea views from almost every room and only a short walk from the beach. The property has been let as a successful holiday let but is equally suited to being a permanent family home. Part of Craigneuk's charm is that despite its size, it retains a cosy and homely feel with having multiple reception rooms. Additionally, the layout ensures the interior is bathed in natural light throughout the afternoon and evening. The largest lounge is perfect for relaxing after a long day, with its open fire and large bay window and cosy window seat, where you can sit and enjoy the view.

RIVERSIDE COURT, ISLE OF MULL

- Ground Floor Flat
- 2 Bed/1 bath
- Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating - D59
- LL Reg - 38043/130/21420

PCM £450

Unfurnished ground floor 2 bedroom flat. Located within walking distance of Tobermory in a small modern development. The flat consists of 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom, large hall store cupboard, lounge/dining room and kitchen. The gardens' front and back are shared with the rest of the four flat block. Parking is provided in a car park in the development. Electric heating & double glazing. Council Tax Band C. Deposit & full references required. Available end of September.

KILBRANDON COTTAGES, ISLE OF SEIL

- Terraced cottage with garage
- 4 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Quiet residential situation
- Close to the sea
- Easy maintained front and rear garden
- EPC Rating - D66

OIRO £210,000

7 Kilbrandon Cottages - A charming terraced cottage situated in a quiet residential area only a stone's throw away from the sea. The property has been maintained in excellent order throughout with manageable front and back gardens. The ground floor boasts a practical layout with a large lounge, complete with fireplace and patio doors leading to the rear garden. The well-proportioned kitchen diner boasts plentiful cupboard space and dining area.

ARDTORNISH, PULPIT HILL

- Detached House
- 5 Bed
- Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC - D61
- LL Reg 477753/130/05361.

PCM £900

Beautiful, detached house with stunning views across Oban Bay. This unfurnished, 5-bedroom house has been renovated to a high standard throughout in modern, neutral décor. The property comprises of porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs WC, large utility room, 3 double bedrooms, 2 single bedrooms, 2 en-suites, large family bathroom. Double glazed throughout. Rent excludes Council Tax (G) and utilities. Deposit & full references required Available end of August.

SHEEPKNOWE HOUSE, BUNESSAN

- Spacious detached granite house
- 4 Bedrooms / 4 Bathrooms
- Built in 1870
- Excellent B&B Potential
- Large well maintained garden & lawn
- EPC Rating - F26

OIRO £325,000

Sheepknowe House - A substantial detached granite house positioned in a private location within walking distance of the village of Bunessan, on the beautiful Ross of Mull. Built in 1870, the property is full of character and has been lovingly maintained by its current owners. The ground floor accommodation in the front part of the house comprises of a front porch, spacious central hallway, shower room, large dining room, large sitting room - and conservatory with patio doors, which open onto a terrace and front lawn.

LORN DRIVE, GLENCOE

- Mid-terrace house
- 3 Bed/1 bath
- Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating - D59
- LL Reg 379032/270/01391: 379037/270/01391

PCM £595

Unfurnished 3 bedroomed mid-terrace house in highly desirable, residential area of Glencoe village. Recently refurbished to a good standard with neutral décor throughout. The property consists of 3 double bedrooms, lounge with wood burner, modern kitchen, bathroom with shower over the bath, garden to front and rear of property. The property is unfurnished throughout. Council Tax Band B. Deposit & references required. Available Now!

CRAIGNURE BAY HOUSE

- Large Detached House
- 3 Bedrooms/3 Bathrooms
- Spacious Contemporary Layout
- Successful Holiday Let
- Stunning Sea Views
- EPC Rating - C72

OIRO £295,000

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ELLENABEICH

- Detached house
- 2 Bed/1 bath
- Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating - F27
- LL Reg 295062/130/01521

PCM £500

2 Bedroom Unfurnished Cottage in desirable Ellenabeich, Seil. The accommodation comprises 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom, lounge & kitchen. The kitchen includes a cooker, fridge and washing machine. Outside there is a private parking space, flower beds, small paved area and nearby shared garden with views towards the sea. Single glazing and electric heating throughout. Rent excludes Council Tax (C) & Utilities. References and Deposit required. Available July.

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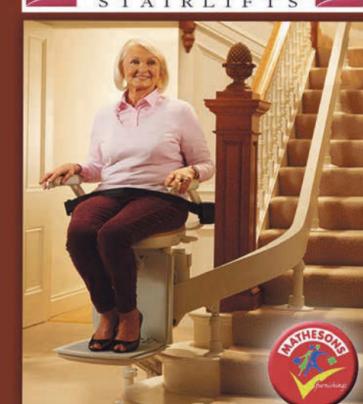


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DEATHS

BINNIE - Alastair died peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital on July 11, 2017. Beloved husband of Isobel and treasured father to Gordon and Lorne, father-in-law to Kirsteen and Deborah. Much loved grandad of Matthew, Jensen, Brodie, Arden and Lewis. Sorely missed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CRAIG - Isobel, Shirley, David and family of the late Johnnie wish to thank all those involved in the care of Johnnie especially Dr Glen and all the district nurses who were so attentive. Thanks to Donald MacKinnon for a beautiful church service, to Ian MacInnes (D&A Munn) for his caring and professional service and to the Rowantree Hotel. To the Flower Basket for the beautiful flowers and Colin MacKinnon for piping. Thanks also to everyone for the phone calls, cards, flowers and visits and to all who attended the church and graveside. The amount of £491 was collected for Macmillan Suite at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban.

MACARTHUR - Bernadette and the family would like to thank everyone for their cards, letters, telephone calls, flowers and support following the death of Iain. Our sincere thanks go to the emergency services and staff at the A & E. Our grateful thanks to Ian and his team at D & A Munn for their respectful caring and professional services. Heartfelt thanks go to the Rev Dugald Cameron, Donald MacKinnon and Iona MacMillan for their comforting words. Thanks also to Donnie Files for piping, Maureen for the flowers and the Rowan Tree Hotel. Our wholehearted appreciation to the Brethren of Oban Commercial Lodge No 180 and those who made the journey from other Lodges. Finally thank you to all who turned out to pay their respects at the church and graveside. The retiring collection for the Salvation Army Local Branch came to over £700.

MACNICOL - Mary Ann and David would like to thank Invernevis staff, doctors and nurses for the care of Flora. Special thanks to Rev Christopher MacRae, Angus Morrison and David Kirk. Also to everyone for cards and visits and those who attended the church and graveside. Also Caol Community Centre and Mike McFall for the funeral arrangements. The sum of £500 collected for Invernevis House and Free Church Children's Ministry.

MORANS - The family and friends of the late Catherine (Katie) Morans, would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours, for the many kind expressions of sympathy received in their recent bereavement. Special thanks to doctors and nursing staff at Tarbert Surgery, Mid Argyll Hospital Lochgilphead, Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban and local district nurses for all the kind care and attention received. Special thanks also to Rev Robert MacLeod for his friendship, visits, tribute and comforting service, Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for professional services, West Loch Hotel for excellent catering and to all who paid their last respects at church and graveside. Donations for Tarbert Free Church totalled £716.30.

MEMORIAMS

BUCHANAN - In loving memory of Peter. Remembering you is easy We do it every day Missing you is the heartache That never goes away Love always.

- All at Glasdrum and Andrew and family.
MACBRIDE - Remembering always a dear Aunty, Mary, died on July 13, 1995. Forever in our thoughts.
- Rosemary, Ewen and family, Spean Bridge.

PROSSER - In loving memory of our dear dad, granddad and great-granddad George, beloved husband of the late Mary, who died on July 13, 2002.

We treasure your memory Remembered always with love - Betty and all your family
SCOBIE - Remembering our mum Morag, who passed away July 12, 2015. In our thoughts every day.
- Ailsa, Roy, Rona and family.

SMITH - In loving memory of our dear parents, Morag who died on July 14, 2007 and Jimmy, who died on August 1, 2012. In our hearts you will always stay Loved and remembered every day.
- Violet and Theresa.

SPEIRS - George. Treasured memories of a beloved husband, dad, papa, dad-in-law and good friend. We will love you forever darling.
- Liz.

And the sunlight clasps the earth and the moonbeams kiss the sea.
STEWART - Iain, July 12, 2002. Happy thoughts of times together Hold memories that last forever.
- Love Dunriona and family.

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

TRAYNOR - Treasured memories of our beloved parents and grandparents, mother Jessie, who passed away July 16, 2013 and father John, on November 22, 1994. Dear are the memories And precious they stay No passing of time Can take them away.
- Violet, Iain, Janet, Jennifer and families.

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Obituary – Bernard Smith 12/11/55 – 03/04/17

WRITING an obituary for Bernie Smith is a sad duty and even months after his passing it is hard to believe he is gone. Since being asked to write this, I have found it difficult to bring myself to put pen to paper on the matter, hence the time that has elapsed from when Bernie was given a fitting send-off at the beginning of April. However, a trip to a very special place has evoked fitting emotions to bring closure to the task.

As I write this, I am steaming down the west side of the Hebrides on the way back from St Kilda, where Bernie worked with my father, fishing for lobster. Lying at anchor in Village Bay brought memories of them both.

When they worked together, Bernie would have been in his early twenties and my father in his mid-thirties. That was the start of a long family connection that lasted throughout both their lives and will continue down the generations.

Bernie moved to Tiree just before starting school as one of the many Glaswegian children, who through the Glasgow Corporation, were fostered into rural households. He was raised in West Hynish by three unmarried siblings – Bella, Teen and Lachie MacKinnon – and always spoke of them with gratitude for giving him a good start in life. Like many others who came to Tiree in this manner, he integrated into community and became as Tirisdeach in his ways, customs and identity as any others from the island.

A mark of this integration into Gaelic culture was that, at the age of 14, Bernie won the James C MacPhee Memorial Medal at the National Mod. The song he sang to win the competition was *Lag nan Cruachan* and from then till his last public performance in January this year, this song was his favourite.

On leaving school, Bernie headed for Glasgow to serve his time as a plumber. Then, after a short time working as one of the famous 'Kishorn Commandos', he moved back to Tiree and got a job with my father as a crew member on the lobster boat Alice Robert. After some years at this, Bernie re-entered the building trade and soon started his own business.

This was to mark a significant part of his life as he built up the very successful company that was to become Bernard D Smith and Sons. Bernie was rightly proud of his success and it was achieved as only true success can be, with fairness, integrity and respect for others. Bernie is a good example of those who show that business and financial success can be combined with existing as a good

human with a well-balanced social and family life.

This brings me on to the most important part of his life – family. He was married to Margory in 1991, with Ian being born in 1993 and Bernie junior in 1997. Bernie was a particularly devoted husband and father.

A large part of the drive he had to make a success of his business was born from the desire to be able to provide well for his family – and this he certainly did.

Both Ian and Bernie junior are a credit to him and Margory and, in their own different ways, they are destined to follow in their father's successful footsteps. Both boys have a talent, work ethic and zest for life that was shown through example by Bernie and Margory. Bernie was immensely proud of all three, as they were of him.

The paragraph below is extracted from a version of a short piece I wrote just after he died.

'None of us knows how long we have left in this life and, in the grand scheme of existence, when we go, I don't think is particularly relevant. What is important is the impact we have when we are alive and the peace and happiness we can feel before we travel on. To be loved by those we want to be loved by, to be respected by those we want to be respected by, and to have led a life that can be looked back on with joy and satisfaction – these are the dreams of life for which we all should strive, and Bernie epitomised those who totally conquered these great and rich achievements.'

Bernie was a generous contributor to local charities and often, but always discreetly, he would send money to children who were going off to the Mod to compete. This generosity was a big part of his character and was also shown in the hospitality and welcome to be found by visitors at his West Hynish home.

In the months leading to Bernie's death, his family and those coming to visit showed clearly the stature of the man. If a head of state, celebrity, king or queen were terminally ill, they would not have been so lovingly looked after or received as many visitors from so far afield as Bernie did. There must be very few people so widely well liked with such a vast range of good friends from all walks of life. His character was attractive and his company always enjoyable.

Bernie, while strong-minded, was not controversial, did not partake in conflict and never did I hear him utter negative remarks about other human beings. Life is full of divisive issues and if we chose

to, we could find many reasons for discord. As Bernie showed, this is avoidable.

Two days before he died, I went to Tiree to give him a homemade copy of the *Seventh Wave* CD as it was clear he wouldn't be with us by the time the manufactured ones arrived. The news of his illness last year was a big part of the inspiration behind one of the songs so I was keen that he would hear it as part of the album. It was a mark of his positive attitude and humour that even in his weakened state, he was still able to crack a joke, asking if he was getting a discount on the price.

That night a crowd of us gathered in the house to listen to Ian's first *Take The Floor* broadcast. It gave Bernie great pleasure to see both his sons bringing the music of Tiree forward to new generations – Ian with Trail West and Bernie junior with Ceol an Aire and other bands that he regularly guests with.

Music and song were integral parts of Bernie's life and in his last months he performed at the biggest concert of his singing career. This was a sold-out show at the Strathclyde Suite of the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall called *The Tiree Song Book*. Bernie was very weak at the time and both he, and most in the audience, knew that this would probably be his last public appearance. His performance was the best I have ever heard from him and the circumstances made it all the more powerful. Below is an excerpt taken from my *Oban Times* piece written on it at the time.

'And during the highlight of the night for myself and for many, when Bernard Smith, backed on accordion by his son Ian, sang *Lag Nan Cruachan*, I could feel my father, Eachann Mòr, standing beside me filled with pride listening to Bernie singing that song which he had sung for him so many times before.

'As he always did, Bernie nailed it, and all the performers and the entire audience – in imagination, in spirit and in person – filled the hall with as collectively positive an energy as I have ever felt in one room. There is power in song.'

From his beginnings as an orphaned child from Glasgow to a giant figure of the West Coast, Bernie's voyage has taken him far. Though he is gone, that voyage will continue through his wife and his sons. He will be remembered fondly and his name will last in legend long after his final song was sung.

Angus MacPhail

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Thought for the week

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.'
Philippians 4 v 6

What if ... There's no doubt that life can be unpredictable. After all, who could have predicted that Leicester City would be the English Premiership champions in 2016, or that the UK would vote to leave the European Union? The Brexit vote has certainly brought a new level of uncertainty to our national life for the foreseeable future. Most people prefer to live their lives in an environment of stability, certainty and reasonable predictability. Those engaged in business insist that to be successful they need high levels of political and economic certainty in order to plan for future investment and growth. At an individual level, we live our lives in the hope that we will be shielded from unpredictability and its possible impact on our finances, health and relationships. Recent research has, however, pointed to an increase in anxiety levels. Individuals are increasingly asking the 'what if' question before making purchases, going

on journeys or entering into personal or business relationships, a clear symptom of this state of 'raised anxiety'. When stress and anxiety strike, the Bible is a good place to look for reassurance. After all, much of it was written about people who knew uncertainty and unpredictability but who testified to the 'keeping power' of God through difficult times. So while we might not be able to prevent anxious thoughts from entering our minds, we can have a positive and confident response. The Apostle Paul knew about living in uncertain times, yet he was able to write to the Christians in Philippi saying: 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.'

C E Morrison

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Accies retain D & K Cup



OBAN Saints got their preparations for the 2017-18 season under way last Saturday in traditional style with the 24th playing of their annual tournament kindly sponsored by D&K Lafferty Contractors Ltd. Once again the tournament attracted top quality participants in the form of regulars Alloa Athletic, Dundee United and trophy holders Hamilton Academical who, together with hosts Oban Saints and tournament debutants South Lochaber Thistle, entertained the large crowd of spectators to a feast of football in pleasant weather conditions.

Due mainly to their early involvement in the new style SPFL League Cup Alloa Athletic, Dundee United and Hamilton Academical were represented by their under-20s development league teams, with Saints getting in on the act with the inclusion of youngsters Kenneth Black, Jay Cooper, Gavin Forgive and Ruairidh Horne, who would all go on to acquire themselves well in considerably more experienced company.

The eleventh hour withdrawal of Berwick Rangers left event organiser David Buchanan with a major headache so Oban Saints extend their grateful thanks to Kinlochleven-based South Lochaber Thistle who stepped in at extremely short notice to fill the void.

Dundee United and Hamilton Academical got proceedings under way at Mossfield with Accies claiming a comfortable victory to get their trophy defence off to the best possible start. After a goalless first half, Accies made the breakthrough when United keeper Josh Donaldson parried a Conor Scullion free-kick over his crossbar for a corner kick. The in-swing from the Accies left was headed home by player of the tournament Lewis Ferguson. Ferguson, son of Glasgow Rangers legend Derek, ghosted in at the back post and sent a downward header through the legs of the helpless Donaldson, giving the United keeper no chance from such close range. Lewis Smith completed the scoring with an excellent run through the inside right channel, holding off the close attentions of Scott Reekie to fire a low finish across Donaldson and into the bottom corner.

The first match at Glencruitten was contested by South Lochaber Thistle and Alloa Athletic and saw the Alloa youngsters edge out the tournament's late stand-ins thanks to the only goal of the game, and Alloa's only goal of the day, from Scott Sinclair.

Saints entered the fray at Mossfield against Alloa Ath-

Football

letic. The Oban side started in positive fashion with Donald Campbell testing Alloa keeper Christopher Smith with a left-foot shot from 22 yards. Smith pushed Campbell's stinging shot over his crossbar with Paul Carmichael heading the resulting corner wide of target at the back post. The bright start for Saints was rewarded in the third minute after a good move on the left. Craig MacEwan sent Paul Carmichael through the inside left channel where he was forced to the by-line by Ivan Bengono. The Saints striker got the better of the Alloa central defender to cut the ball back to Scott Maitland who flicked a left-footed finish across the face of goal and inside Christopher Smith's left hand post.



14-year-old Gavin Forgive showed up well in his first outing with the Saints' senior squad.

Saints continued to dominate and reached half-time well in charge and a goal to the good.

With four minutes remaining, Craig MacEwan rattled the Alloa crossbar from a Kerr Newbigging cross after Donald Campbell and Fraser MacFarlane had linked up well on the right.

At Glencruitten, Hamilton Academical recorded the biggest winning margin of the day against a rusty South Lochaber Thistle side who hadn't trained since winning the West of Scotland Amateur Football League Iain Thomson Memorial Trophy at the end of last season. Tournament joint top scorer Lewis Smith bagged a brace to help see off an already tiring Lochaber side with three further goals being added by two of Accies' six triallists.

Saints remained on Mossfield for their second match which saw a comfortable victory over the tiring South Lochaber Thistle. Manager Alex Craik made six changes, which included debuts for youngsters Kenneth



Hamilton Accies retained the D & K Cup with some superb football. Tournament report Derek Black. Photos: Kevin McGlynn and Derek Black

Black, Gavin Forgive and Ruairidh Horne. Saints opened the scoring after five minutes when Donald Campbell collected a pin-point Willie Gemmell pass on the edge of the Thistle box. Donald turned away from his marker and fired a low shot on target which keeper Bradley Cameron got a hand to but couldn't prevent from finding the bottom corner.

An in-swinging Fraser MacFarlane corner from the Saints left dipped agonisingly over the outstretched foot of Jay Cooper at the back post before the early Saints pressure bore fruit once more. Last season's top scorer and player of the year Craig MacEwan turned in the box and lashed a right-foot shot into the postage stamp corner giving Bradley Cameron no chance.

Saints made it three just before the interval when Donald Campbell hooked a left-foot finish into the roof of the net after good build up play on the right from Jay Cooper and Craig MacEwan.

Manager Alex Craik shuffled the pack once again at half-time replacing Paul Carmichael, Willie Gemmell and Craig MacEwan with Matthew Kelly, Fraser MacFarlane and Scott Maitland. The pace dropped slightly in the second half with Saints maintaining the upper hand but failing to add to the scoring.

Dundee United put the disappointment of losing their opening match behind them edging out Alloa Athletic at Glencruitten with Logan Chalmers netting the only goal of the match, sending him on his way to becoming the tournament's joint top scorer.

South Lochaber Thistle, who have joined the Greater Glasgow Premier Amateur Football League for the coming season following the demise of the West of Scotland Amateur Football League, completed their gruelling four consecutive match schedule at Mossfield against a Dundee United side who were now hitting their stride. The Terrors completely dominated the match, taking the lead through a Louis Appere header from a first-half set piece. Thistle had nothing left in the tank by this stage and the Tannadice Park men ran out comfortable winners with further goals added by Declan Glass and Scott Reekie.

With both sides on maximum points, the Saints versus Hamilton Accies encounter at Glencruitten was already looking like the tournament decider. Unfortunately for Saints, who have yet to get their pre-season training properly under way, the superior fitness of Hamilton's young professionals was to prove too hot to handle.

A deflected 15th-minute shot from yet another of the Accies



Hamilton Accies captain Marc Kelly receives the D & K Cup from Councillor Jim Lynch.

triallists completely deceived Graham Douglas in the Saints goal with the Saints keeper only able to parry the ball into his own net.

Two minutes later a swift attack on the left turned the Saints defence with Accies skipper Marc Kelly poking home a low Rico Quitongo cross at the near post to double the advantage for his side.

Still reeling from this quick-fire double, Saints conceded again on the stroke of half-time. Kerr Newbigging was penalised by referee Pat O'Donnell for a shirt pull in the box with Marc



Donald Campbell heads for goal during the game against Alloa Athletic.

Kelly stepping up to send Graham Douglas the wrong way from the penalty spot.

Saints steadied the ship and coped with everything that Accies could throw at them until eight minutes from full time when Lewis Smith found space on the left of the Saints box to turn and drill a low shot into the bottom corner past the right hand of Graham Douglas. The 4-0 victory placed Accies firmly in pole position needing only to avoid a heavy defeat in their final fixture to retain the trophy.

Saints final match against Dundee United was to prove the second place decider. Saints started strongly and were

denied by United keeper Fraser Currid who made three excellent saves in the opening minutes of the match to deny Saints.

Somewhat against the run of play United opened the scoring after 12 minutes when Logan Chalmers sent a looping header back across goal which eluded the despairing dive of Graham Douglas and nestled in the bottom corner.

United doubled their advantage in the 15th minute when Dylan Henry turned the ball in at the back post after a good move on the right had opened up the Saints defence.

Jay Cooper and Scott Maitland made way for Paul Carmichael and David McPhee for the second half which got off to the worst possible start when a Keith Millar clearance took a wicked deflection and ended up in the Saints net.

Kenneth Black, Donald Campbell and Paul Carmichael combined well on the Saints left, setting up a shooting chance for Fraser MacFarlane who was foiled by a smart save from Fraser Currid.

Paul Carmichael burst through the middle onto a Donald Campbell pass in the 29th minute and, with the United defence appealing in vain for an offside decision, knocked the ball past Fraser Currid only for the United keeper to haul him down. Referee John Stobo pointed to the penalty spot from where Donald Campbell sent Currid the wrong way to give Saints restored hope.

The Saints fightback was extinguished five minutes later when Logan Chalmers curled a delightful left-foot finish into the top corner, leaving Graham Douglas rooted to the spot.

The agony was completed for the tiring Saints when a 36th-minute Logan Chalmers cross from the right was slammed into the net from close range by Graham Taylor.

In the final match at Mossfield, cup holders Hamilton Academical, who needed only to avoid a heavy defeat at the



Player of the tournament was Lewis Ferguson.

hands of Alloa Athletic to clinch a fourth tournament success, cruised over the line with two more triallists netting in a 2-0 victory.

Tournament organiser David Buchanan thanked the visiting teams for their continued support for the tournament and congratulated winners Hamilton Academical and player of the tournament Lewis Ferguson on their success. David also thanked the sponsors, the spectators, many of whom

had travelled considerable distances to be there, the Argyll and Bute Council grounds staff who had prepared the two pitches perfectly, and, finally, the match officials Jimmy Litster, Pat O'Donnell, Jim Pearson and John Stobo without whom the event couldn't take place. David then called upon Councillor Jim Lynch to present the winning team with their individual trophies and the winning captain Marc Kelly with the D&K Lafferty Cup.



16-year-old Ruairidh Horne in action against South Lochaber Thistle.



Another debutant was 15-year-old Kenny Black.



South Lochaber Thistle's David Forbes in action against Dundee United.



Saints new signing David McPhee heads clear during the 1-0 win over Alloa.



The Oban Saints squad pictured before the tournament.



Craig MacEwan turns away after netting the second goal against South Lochaber.

Contrasting conditions for 2017's Round Mull Race

CONTRASTING weather conditions gave a variety of sailing in this year's Ardfern Yacht Centre and Owen Sails-sponsored Round Mull Race.

Run by Oban Sailing Club, the circumnavigation saw 36 boats competing over the weekend, making it one of the most popular events on the West Coast. The fleet races 100 miles over three stages – Oban to Tobermory, Tobermory to Bunessan and Bunessan to Oban.

Light conditions after the start in Oban Bay on Friday saw the four-class fleet merge as the

wind shut off for most of the fleet at the northern entrance to the bay.

Those lucky enough to be to the fore managed to keep the breeze and made good progress to Lismore light, continuing on a beat to the finish near Tobermory Bay.

The Sigma 400 of Scott Chalmers won Class 1 and the Mishnish Bucket for the best performance of the fleet overall. The Class 2 winner was Tidechaser with Class 3 won by Hot Toddy. Donald McLaren and family in Sigmatic lifted

the restricted sail class overall.

On Saturday the spinnaker fleet had a kite run out of Tobermory Bay with a following wind where places changed as the wind fluctuated before going ahead and increasing in strength.

The long beat to Bunessan was punishing for some of the smaller boats with a lumpy sea and strong headwind with some boats taking around seven hours to reach Loch na Lathach. Those staying out towards Coll took the advantage on boats short tacking the Mull shore.

Ken Pritchard and team on the J122 Moonstruck Too took the honours winning Class 1 and the Bunessan Hall Trophy for the best performance of the day. David Hay won Class 2 with Bragar while in Class 3 Alistair Pugh and his Contessa 32 Marisca stormed ahead to win by a strong margin.

Mystic Sun, the Oceanis 440 of Williams and Johnson, lifted the prize in the restricted sail class. The buffet and ceilidh organised by the Bunessan Hall committee in aid of the Ross of Mull Historical Society was excellent with a good evening had by all.

Sunday dawned calm with very light airs and the fleet over an hour to reach the Sound of Iona. Zephyrs saw kites fill and then collapse with some boats opting at this stage to retire from the race. As time went on and the wind failed to materialise, the majority of the fleet retired.

Roxanne and Moonstruck Too were the only boats to finish at Frank Lockwood's Island with a matter of minutes before the time limit expired. The Chalmers family on Sunrise failed to make the finish by only seconds.

Billy Forteith, main organiser of the race, said: 'We were pleased with the way the event

Sailing

went overall. It was disappointing on Sunday that the wind shut off but that's racing. We look forward to seeing all the familiar faces as well as new ones for next year's Round Mull 2018.'

He thanked all the main sponsors – Owen Sails and Ardfern Yacht Centre as well as Forteith Refrigeration and Heat Pump Solutions, T Barbour Fuels, Dimension Polyant for T-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 are awarded at the OSC prize-giving in November.

Results:
Oban to Tobermory Class 1: 1 Sunrise; 2 Wookie 2; 3 Roxanne.

Class 2: 1 Tidechaser; 2 Bragar; 3 Shadowfax.

Class 3: 1 Hot Toddy; 2 Marisca; 3 Oyster Catcher.

Restricted sail: 1 Sigmatic; 2 Celtic Spirit; 3 Mystic Sun.

Tobermory to Bunessan Class 1: 1 Moonstruck Too; 2 Sunrise; 3 Taz.

Class 2: 1 Bragar; 2 Sorr of Appin; 3 Shadowfax.

Class 3: 1 Marisca; 2 Oyster Catcher; 3 Scintilla of the Sea.

Restricted Sail: 1 Mystic Sun; 2 Shenavall; 3 Celtic Spirit.

Overall trophies:
The Mishnish Bucket – Sunrise.

The Bunessan Hall Trophy – Moostruck Too.

Glencoe Trophy – Roxanne.

Mull Plaque – fastest circumnavigation on elapsed time – Roxanne.

Class 1: overall Antique Schwegges Trophy – Roxanne.

Class 2: overall Royal Bank of Scotland Cup – Bragar.



Tidechaser won the first leg class 2 race from Oban to Tobermory

Class 3: overall The Jolanta Trophy – Marisca.

The Bilgewater Shield: The best overall points of all classes, the Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy – Moonstruck Too;

Fastest circumnavigation corrected time double-handed

– The Bilgewater Shield – best double-handed performance – Oyster Catcher.

Overall winner 2017 The Torran Rock for the monohull with the best corrected time overall regardless of class – Roxanne.



Glencruitten

GRAHAM Whitelaw won the senior championship by four shots on Saturday at Glencruitten with scores of 58, 69 = 127. Philip Murphy was runner-up with a score of 67, 64 = 131.

In the Glencruitten mixed open on Sunday, the winners were Steven Murphy and Diane Colewell with a score of 65-8 = 57.

Runners-up were Donald MacLennan and Louise MacLeod with a score of 79-18 = 61.

In the ladies' handicap championship second round, Kirsty MacKenzie had a score of 87-24 = 63, followed by Mary Plunkett on 95-26 = 69 and Christine Cameron with a score of 94-20 = 74.

On Saturday the second round of the George Smith Trophy takes place alongside the championship second round.

Tobermory

MEN'S Section: Lions Trophy – 1 Calum MacLean 38 points; 2 Ewan MacCrone 34 points; 3 Donald Brown snr 33 points.

Senior: MacBrayne Cup – 1 David Honeyman 102-26=76; 2= Mike Campbell 97-21=76.

Gents nine-hole stableford – 1 Calum MacLean 21 points; 2 David Honeyman 17 points; 3 Brian MacRae 16 points.

Ladies: MacBrayne Cup – 1 Doris Haregreaves 58-18=40; 2 Kathy McAdam 56-11=45; 3 Jennifer Jack 56-07=49.

Taynuilt

A R C TROPHY played on July 9 – 1 Alex Needham 39+40=79pts; 2 Andy Ronald 39+35=74pts; 3 Calum Munro 32+37=69pts.

Club championship second round, scratch and handicap Played on June 25.

Scratch – 1 Andy Ronald 68; 2 Mark Henriksen 69; 3 David Howie 69.

Handicap – 1 Calum Munro 70-9=61; 2 Andy Ronald 68-7=61; 3 Mark Henriksen 69-7=62; 4 Richard Bergant 74-12=62.

Islay

MACROBERT Thistle mixed competition: 1 Robert and Carol MacLarty 31 pts; 2 Euan and Fiona McGlynn 30 pts (bih); 3 Jimmy Harris and Liz Mudie 30 pts.



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Saints prepare for the new season Football

AFTER the exertions of last Saturday's D & K Cup tournament, Oban Saints players are given a break with no game this weekend but they will return to serious pre-season training on Wednesday July 19 at Oban Lorne Rugby Club, starting at 6.30pm.

A number of senior players were missing from the tournament squad due to injury and holidays but hopefully most will be available for training and the pre-season friendly games at home to Vale of Leven Juniors on Saturday July 22; South Lochaber Thistle on Saturday July 29; Lochgilphead Red Star on Wednesday August 2 and the Argyll and Bute Cup tournament in Lochgilphead on Saturday August 5.



Oban Bowling Club's annual ladies day triples competition took place recently with teams from West Lothian, Helensburgh and West Argyll as well as a good turn-out from Oban. The semi-finals saw the Oban team of Helen MacLean, Margaret MacAlpine and Donna MacLean lose out to the Colgrain triple. Last year's winners Liz Fraser, Liz Smith and Jenny Jones also lost to the ladies from Bellsburn. The two worthy finalists battled it out and after six hard-fought ends it was all square, so it was all to be decided in an extra end and that came down to the last bowl of the day to be delivered by the skip of the Colgrain team and it was a brilliant delivery to take the title. The winning triple from Colgrain were Carol Morrison, skip Natalie Sharpe and Vickie Ellise.

Martin Heath Team lead the league table

SUNDAY June 25 saw the third round of the Glensanda mini team squash league competition held at Atlantis Leisure. Another entertaining day of great squash matches on offer to watch and a fantastic atmosphere at the club. Thanks to all the teams who played on the day and to Norma Marshall for her refereeing skills.

Squash

The results were – The Magnificent Six 9, Jackie's Ball Beakers 6; Martin Heath Team 8, The Hot Shots 7; Norfolk-in-Chance 9, Kelly's Heroes 6.

The next round of matches will be on Sunday August 13 at Atlantis Leisure starting at 10am.

LEAGUE TABLE	F	A	Diff	Joker	Pts
Martin Heath Team	55	14	+41	Yes	55
The Hot Shots	34	19	+15	No	34
Paul's Nick-ers	32	21	+11	Yes	32
Norfolk-in-Chance	29	24	+5	Yes	29
Jackie's Ball Breakers	29	38	-9	Yes	29
The Magnificent Six	21	50	-29	No	21
Kelly's Heroes	14	29	-15	Yes	14

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2050

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

J MacAulay
Bishopton Road
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Oban

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.
If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.
The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.
Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



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SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Camanchd Cup semi-final draw throws up interesting pairings

NEWTONMORE, Oban Camanchd, Lovat and Skye Camanchd reached the Tulloch Homes Camanchd Cup semi-finals following the shinty action last Saturday.

Tulloch Homes Camanchd Cup – quarter finals

Newtonmore 4 Kyles Athletic 1
The tie of the Tulloch Homes Camanchd Cup quarter-finals was the meeting between Newtonmore and Kyles Athletic at The Eilan.

Newtonmore's Steven MacDonald returned from suspension and Michael Russell, who had targeted this game as his return from a broken finger, played at full centre with a protective glove on his hand. Paul MacArthur, Drew MacDonald and Jamie Robinson were all out injured but Andy MacKintosh was back in Paul John MacKintosh's side.

Kyles Roddy MacDonald started after missing the previous week's win over Glasgow Mid Argyll with a shoulder injury. There was also a place for Grant Irvine who has been nursing a hamstring problem but Innes MacDonald and Cammy Keith were injured and Scott MacDonald didn't travel. Boss James Perlich fielded Donald Irvine at wing back and Thomas Whyte at full centre.

Evan Menzies made the breakthrough on 30 minutes. Iain Robinson cut in from the right before leaving the ball for Menzies whose 25-yard strike beat Kyles Athletic keeper John Whyte at his left side.

Kyles introduced David Zavaroni at full centre shortly after.

Despite Newtonmore's dominance, they only had one goal to show for their first half efforts. The visitors did create chances but Norman Campbell in the home goal was equal to their efforts.

Glen MacKintosh made it 2-0 on 49 minutes. David MacLean played in a corner from the right and when the ball dropped for MacKintosh in front of goal, he needed no second invitation to lash the ball high into the net past a helpless keeper.

Steven MacDonald's long hitting out of defence was a feature of Newtonmore's play and he turned defence into attack on 58 minutes. MacDonald's high ball forward was misjudged by Callum Miller and Iain Robinson raced in on goal, executing a composed finish.

Kyles lost Roddy MacDonald with a recurrence of his shoulder injury midway through the second half. They pulled a goal back on 71 minutes through

Grant Irvine, who took a touch to control the ball before scoring from 20 yards out after the Newtonmore defence failed to clear Robbie MacLeod's shy from the left.

Ominously for Kyles, Grant Irvine limped off with what looked like a hamstring pull with five minutes to go.

Glen MacKintosh rounded off the 4-1 win four minutes into stoppage time. MacKintosh beat his marker to run in on goal. Keeper John Whyte looked set to clear the danger but the Scotland forward didn't give up, winning the ball back and rolling it over the line from close in.

Rory Kennedy and Steven MacDonald were good at the back for Newtonmore but Michael Russell was their star performer, dominating the middle of the park and covering every blade of grass. Defender Andrew King was best for Kyles.



Newtonmore's three goal scorers: Glen Mackintosh, Iain Robinson and Evan Macrae.

Photograph: Neil Paterson.

In the end, Newtonmore turned in their best performance of the season when it mattered most.

Other than Roddy MacDonald, Kyles offered little in attack but they have an immediate shot at revenge as the sides meet again this weekend in the Marine Harvest Premiership.

Newtonmore may feel they have struck a psychological blow ahead of the encounter between the seven times reigning champions and the current league leaders.

Inveraray 0 Oban Camanchd 5

2017 finalists Oban Camanchd reached the Tulloch Homes Camanchd Cup semi-finals with a 5-0 win over Inveraray at The Winterton.

Inveraray made changes to their recent squad, opting for experience over youth, a tactic that has had mixed results for the Burgh side in the past.

Aidan McIntyre returned for Ian Hay's side but Daniel Cameron served a one-game ban for passing through the dis-

ciplinary points threshold, Marc MacCallum was unavailable and Andrew MacCuish was on holiday so Willie Neilson started up front.

The sides had already met once this season in the Gregor Cameron Glasgow Celtic Society Cup semi-finals and although Camanchd came away with a 1-0 victory, Inveraray's performance that day gave them great optimism and hopes of a cup shock going into this one.

From the first whistle, Inveraray's Lewis MacNicol won the possession but this would be one of the few times the Inveraray forwards would get to see much of the ball.

Camanchd, playing with a favourable wind behind them, began to dominate the centre line play and, at times, almost seemed to have an extra man spare whenever the ball broke loose. With Oban pressing forward and Inveraray struggling to absorb the pace of the game, something had to give and with just two minutes played, Malcolm Clark opened the scoring, his low drive finding its way past Inveraray keeper Scott MacLachlan.

Usually losing a goal against local rivals in the Scottish would motivate a team but Inveraray struggled to fight their way back into the tie and Oban continued to dominate the first half.

They got their rewards as a Lorne Dickie effort from distance on 15 minutes and Willie Neilson's strike on 35 minutes made the score 3-0 at the interval. Neilson's effort was the goal of the game, volleying the ball downwards from above his head.

Inveraray managers Ruairidh Graham and John Montgomery knew they had a task on their hands to stem Oban's dominance and, going into the second half, they made two changes, with boss Graham and Douglas Dando both withdrawn in favour of Ruairidh Graham junior and Ally McDonald in an attempt to stiffen up the centre line.

Initially these changes seemed to work, with the rejuvenated Inveraray side looking more hungry and eager to win 50-50 balls.

Oban Camanchd were still a threat though and when they broke forward on the hour mark, Matt Rippon finished to add a fourth goal and Inveraray's chances of an upset were gone.

Inveraray continued to work hard and were a different proposition to the team which played in the first half. Young guns Fraser Watt and Ruairidh Graham both displayed an eagerness to win and their attitude was great to see from two of the games up and coming players.

With 20 minutes to go, Oban Camanchd once again turned up the tempo, and Willie Neilson got his second with what was his side's fifth and final goal of the day with a low, 25-yard shot on the angle from the right.

Oban Camanchd introduced 16-year-old Lewis Buchanan in the second half and he played very well.

Oban Camanchd will relish the win and the opportunity to go one further than their beaten finalists tag from last season especially as Inveraray have proved difficult opponents in recent cup competitions.

Lorne Dickie and Willie Neilson were influential for the Mossfield men.

Inveraray, known for their cup pedigree, will be disappointed with this loss and they have now bowed out of every senior cup competition.

Their attention will turn to the Marine Harvest National Division and the chance to win a place back in shinty's top flight.

Kilmallie 1 Lovat 3

Lovat scored three times in the first half before eventually beating Kilmallie 3-1 at Canal Parks.

Stephen McAlister was free of suspension for the hosts and started on the bench. John Stewart played at full forward and defender Steven Stewart played with strapping on his knee.

Lovat had Lorne MacKay and Craig Mainland back, with the latter named substitute.

The visitors had a difficult journey with busy roads meaning they only arrived at the ground 20 minutes ahead of throw-up.

Kilmallie started with the wind advantage but Lovat kept the ball low and created chances and Kilmallie keeper Shane Gillies was forced to make some good stops.

Lovat broke the deadlock on 23 minutes. Steven Stewart was penalised and Calum MacAulay's lofted free-hit found its way to Lorne MacKay on the left of the 'D' and Lewis Tawse touched the ball into the net to make it 1-0.

Scott MacKenzie doubled Lovat's lead on 31 minutes. MacKenzie won the ball in midfield before sending a strong, low shot from distance into the corner of the net with Greg Matheson and Lorne MacKay running in should any rebound come their way.

Lovat scored a clinching third goal on 37 minutes. Lorne MacKay came deep on the wing before playing the ball into space. Calum MacAulay ran on to MacKay's perfectly weighted ball and steered the ball into the net from the edge of the 'D' to make it 3-0 at the interval.

Kilmallie now had the elements and Lovat boss Fraser Gallacher introduced Craig Mainland 10 minutes after the restart with Bailey MacKay replacing Scott MacKenzie.

Kilmallie started to claw their way back into the tie and they reduced the deficit on 72 minutes. Substitute Lewis Birrell pushed forward, forcing a diving Stuart MacDonald save and Birrell forced the ball home from inside the 'D' following the ensuing scramble.

Kilmallie made a late push for a second goal but Lovat held out to reach the semi-finals.

Both full backs, Allan MacDonald for Kilmallie and Lovat's Drew Howie, were excellent with Howie having to be at his best as John Stewart was a handful.

Strathglass 3 Skye Camanchd 5

Skye Camanchd are the only team from outwith shinty's top flight to reach the Tulloch Homes Camanchd Cup semi-finals after they beat Strathglass 5-3 at Cannich.

Lewis Douglas was missing for Strathglass, whilst Michael Stokes was moved to full forward after playing bullshee forward against the islanders a week earlier.

Skye forward Jordan Murchison was still sidelined with a foot injury. Defender John Gillies has had the cast removed from his broken wrist and is working his way back to a first team return.

The sides had already met three times this season with Skye winning each time; the latest a 6-0 league win in Portree seven days earlier.

After the previous week's win, Skye manager Willie Cowie was determined his team wouldn't show any complacency for their biggest game of the season so far and they got off to the best possible start as early goals from Danny Morrison and Iain MacLellan had them 2-0 ahead



Left to right: Jock Turner, Camanchd Association Chieftain; Diane Kerr, sales consultant, Tulloch Homes; Donald Campbell, chief executive, MG Alba; Billy MacKay, construction director, Tulloch Homes; and broadcaster Hugh-Dan MacLennan at the semi-final draw.

Camanchd cup semi-final draw

THE DRAW for the semi-finals of the Tulloch Homes Camanchd Cup was made on Monday at BBC Scotland, Pacific Quay, Glasgow.

Making the draw was MG ALBA chief executive Donald Campbell, assisted by Diane Kerr, sales consultant, Tulloch Homes, and Billy MacKay, construction director, Tulloch Homes.

The draw is as follows: Tie 1: **Oban Camanchd v Lovat** - to be played on Saturday August 12 at An Aird, Fort William.

Tie 2: **Skye v Newtonmore** - to be played on Saturday August 26 at Bught Park, Inverness.

Both matches will be televised live by BBC ALBA and throw-up at 4pm. BBC Scotland will televise the final.

The Camanchd Cup is shinty's greatest prize and one of Scotland's oldest and most iconic sporting trophies. The final will be played at Bught Park, Inverness, on Saturday September 30.

with the first five minutes. Will Cowie slipped in Danny Morrison for the opener with Morrison hitting a back-hand strike from 15 yards out into the roof of the net.

James Pringle then cut in from the left in the lead up to Skye's second goal but his low shot was saved with his foot by Strathglass keeper Ally MacAdams. However, the ball spun loose and Iain MacLellan rushed in to volley the rebound into the net.

There was more from the visitors as a lovely move down the Skye right on 25 minutes ended with Will Cowie crossing to Danny Morrison and his 12 yard shot flew low into the net for his second goal of the game.

Scott Douglas pulled a goal back with a good finish a minute later.

Will Cowie made it 4-1 from the penalty spot up a couple of minutes before the break with referee Graham Cameron spotting Skye forward Iain MacLellan being pulled back inside the 'D'. Cowie sent the penalty low and hard past the helpless keeper.

Strathglass made a determined start to the second period and Josh Fraser reduced the deficit a minute after the restart when he crashed the ball high into the net from a tight angle on the left.

Whether it was a case of Skye relaxing or Strathglass upping their game, or a bit of both, when Darren Reid made it 4-3 with another good strike around the hour mark, Skye knew they had a fight on their hands.

It was left for Will Cowie to ease the islanders' nerves when he made it 5-3 on 83 minutes. James Pringle played a free-hit from 20 yards out back to Cowie and his low, hard drive found the net.

Bullough Cup semi-final

Lochside Rovers 0 Inveraray 1

The Inveraray seconds were surprise 1-0 winners against Lochside Rovers in their Bullough Cup semi-final at Ganavan.

The Inveraray seconds top Marine Harvest South Division 2 but Lochside Rovers, well-positioned in second place in Marine Harvest South Division 1, had been on an 11-game winning run during which they'd only conceded two goals.

Neil Campbell scored the only goal of the game after 31 minutes. Campbell took his goal really well following a move in which all four Inveraray forwards combined to good effect. Campbell finished with a nice half-swing from a tight angle, under pressure from Steven Sloss, with both players having a great battle throughout.

Lochside spurned a number of chances to make their mark on this tie. They missed Lewis Buchanan who was on first team duty and Graham MacPherson in the Inveraray goal made some fine saves, including turning a Neil MacFarlane shot, which was heading for the top corner, over the bar. On another day they could have been comfortable winners but the Inveraray colts deserve credit for passing such a difficult test.

The Inveraray second team now await the outcome of the second semi-final between the Kyles Athletic reserves and Strachur which takes place at

Tighnabraich this Saturday. The 2017 Bullough Cup Final takes place on Saturday August 5.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kinlochshiel 4 Lochaber 0

Kinlochshiel took advantage of Kyles Athletic being on cup action to draw level on points at the top of the table following a 4-0 victory over Lochaber in their 3pm throw-up at Kirkton.

Colin MacDiarmid remained suspended for the home side, whilst work commitments ruled out Fraser MacVicar. Finlay MacRae and John MacRae were back after missing the previous week's win over Lovat. Oliver MacRae and Gordie MacDonald remained injured.

Lochaber's Martin Johnstone was free of suspension. Finlay MacRae gave Kinlochshiel the lead after 15 minutes and Keith MacRae made it 2-0 on the half hour mark.

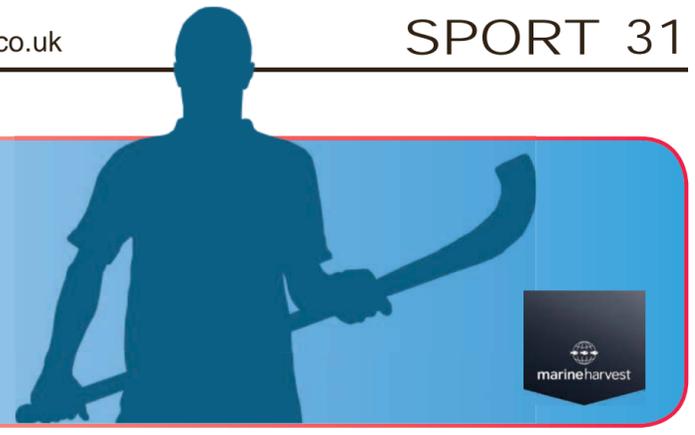
The same two players combined again in the second half as Finlay MacRae got his second to make it 3-0 on 56 minutes whilst Keith MacRae did likewise with four minutes remaining.



Inveraray's Lewis MacNicol and Gary McKerracher of Oban Camanchd in a tussle for the ball during last weekend's Camanchd Cup quarter final at the Winterton which the red and blacks won 5-0. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.



Kyles Athletic's Andrew King shields the ball from Newtonmore's Iain Robinson during the Camanchd Cup tie at the Eilan last weekend. The home side won 4-1. Photograph: Neil Paterson.



Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

With Kinlochshiel's cup interests already ended, they are able to focus solely on the league. They only trail leaders Kyles Athletic on goal difference, although they have played a game more. With Kyles travelling to The Eilan to play Newtonmore this Saturday, Kinlochshiel will be determined to capitalise on any potential slip-up when Glasgow Mid Argyll visit Kirkton.

**Glenurquhart 2
Kingussie 3**
Glenurquhart twice came from behind before eventually going down 3-2 to Kingussie at Blairbeg.

Glenurquhart manager Iain MacLeod had selection problems and named himself as a substitute. Andrew Corrigan, Connor Golabek, Euan Lloyd and James Hurwood were amongst the Glenurquhart absentees. Callum Smith was free of suspension but unable to play because of work commitments.

Kingussie manager Dallas Young welcomed forward Savio Genini back into his squad. Lee Bain gave Kingussie the lead on 19 minutes when he took advantage of a ball that got past full back John Barr to score.

Glenurquhart wing forward Daniel MacKintosh equalised on 37 minutes but the hosts only stayed level for a couple of minutes.

Excellent dribbling from Ryan Borthwick saw him run in towards goal and he played the ball to Lee Bain, giving the Kingussie full forward the simplest chance in front of an empty goal to make it 2-1.

However Daniel MacKintosh got his second on 52 minutes to make it 2-2 and that's the way it stayed until 10 minutes from time when Savio Genini got the winner to break a four game Kingussie losing streak. They stay third in the division ahead of a meeting with basement side Lochaber at The Dell this weekend.

Marine Harvest National Division

**Fort William 4
Beaulieu 0**
Fort William got third in the Marine Harvest National Division after they beat Beaulieu 4-0 at An Aird.

Sean Cameron was in the Fort squad after sustaining an injury in the previous week's Balliemore Cup semi-final win over Inveraray but he was only able to start on the bench. Alexander MacMillan remained out with a hand injury.

Beaulieu were without keeper Josh Grant and they opted to start the match with the wind in their favour.

The home team suffered an early blow when Bryan Simpson had to come off after suffering a leg knock. Sean Cameron, who normally plays in defence, came on in the forward line.



Oban Celtic's David Hill closes in on Padraig McNeil of Inverness during Saturday's National Division game which the Oban side won 6-4. Photograph: Donald Cameron.

The switch paid dividends on 37 minutes when a move involving Calum Shepherd, Jack Fraser and Seamus Gall ended with Cameron turning and smashing the ball high into the net.

Sean Cameron got his and Fort William's second a minute before half time with another well-struck shot.

Graham Campbell, who had an earlier effort ruled out for offside, made it 3-0 nine minutes into the second half with a strike into the top corner of the net.

Fort William continued to dominate and Lachie Shaw made it 4-0 with practically the last hit of the game.

The win sets Fort William up nicely for this Saturday's Balliemore Cup Final against Caberfeidh which takes place at Blairbeg.

**Inverness 4
Oban Celtic 6**

Oban Celtic eventually edged out Inverness 6-4 in their 3pm throw-up at The Bught Park.

Inverness keeper Ian Munro was missing so Allan MacLeod deputised. Somhairle MacDonald was another home absentee.

Oban Celtic were again without David MacInnes as well as Rory Bruce, George MacMillan, Connor Howe and the suspended Andrew MacDonald. Robert Alexander returned.

Inverness opened with the wind advantage but Celtic started well and Daniel Madej gave them the lead on three minutes.

James Cameron pulled Inverness level on seven minutes.

Daniel Madej got his and Oban Celtic's second, only for Ewan Neilson to draw Inverness level once more.

Neil Carmichael scored just before half time to make it 3-2 at the break and when the impressive Daniel Madej scored shortly after the restart to make it 4-2, the visitors looked good for both points.

Inverness thought otherwise though and two more goals from James Cameron completed his hat-trick to make it 4-4.

A double Celtic substitution saw Daniel MacMillan and Kieran Carnie replace Ross MacMillan and Lee Aske and both were to play vital roles during the closing stages as Carnie scored to make it 5-4 followed shortly after by a Daniel MacMillan goal which completed the 6-4 win, lifting Kenny Wotherspoon's side to sixth in the table.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

**Newtonmore 5
Kingussie 3**

The reserve team derby between the Newtonmore and Kingussie at The Eilan was brought forward to Friday evening with a 7pm throw-up.

This was the second successive meeting between the sides with

the Kingussie colts winning their Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup semi-final a week earlier.

However there were a number of changes to both sides and Newtonmore raced into a three-goal lead thanks to strikes from Chris Sellar in the opening minute, Conor Jones on eight minutes and Duncan Gorman on 22 minutes.

It stayed that way until the interval but Kingussie's Liam Borthwick pulled a goal back a minute after the restart and Kevin Thain made it 3-2 on 51 minutes.

David Cheyne halted the come-back as he made it 4-2 on 54 minutes.

Dylan Borthwick reduced the deficit to a single goal once more on 62 minutes.

A second from Chris Sellar on 83 minutes gave Newtonmore a 5-3 advantage and enough breathing space to see the match out.

**Skye Camanachd 1
Aberdeen University 1**

Aberdeen University made a second successive long trip west, this time to face the Skye Camanachd seconds at Pairc nan Laoch Portree.

With Skye Camanachd second team manager Kenny MacLeod on first team duty, youth coach David Pringle looked after the side.

A week earlier, the students produced a late, late show to beat the Kinlochshiel seconds 4-2 but this time they had to settle for a point, coming from a goal down to draw 1-1 with the islanders.

Both sides had chances before



Fort William's Sean Cameron was on the scoresheet twice during his team's 4-0 home win over Beaulieu. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography.

Connor Gilpin put Skye ahead from the penalty spot on 35 minutes, sending the ball low to the keeper's left side.

Ewan Fraser, who hit the post in the first half, scored on 56 minutes to make it 1-1.

Aberdeen University stay second in the league whilst Skye remain third. However it's leaders Newtonmore seconds who benefit most from this draw as they are now three points clear at the top of the table, although they have played a game more than the students.

**Kinlochshiel 2
Fort William 1**

The Kinlochshiel reserves leap-frogged the Fort William reserves into fifth place in the division after their 2-1 win in their noon throw up at Kirkton.

The visitors struck first with Greg Kelly giving the Fort the lead on five minutes.

Kinlochshiel's Alasdair Nixon made his come-back after an appendix operation and he gave his side a 17th minute leveller.

Duncan Matheson got the winner on 63 minutes.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

**Bute 6
Ballachulish 0**

Bute beat Ballachulish 6-0 in their 3pm throw-up at The Meadows.

Willie Boag gave the home side a 22nd minute lead and Robert Walker made it 2-0 four minutes before the break.

Robert Walker got his second four minutes after the restart and Ian McDonald made it 4-0 on 65 minutes.

Late goals from Craig MacKay 10 minutes from time and a



Oban Camanachd's Willie Neilson dives into a tackle with Inveraray's Nicholas Crawford. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

Robert Walker hat-trick strike a couple of minutes later made it 6-0.

Bute are only a point behind the three teams immediately above them in the league and they have games in hand.

**Glenorchy 4
Kyles Athletic 5**

The Kyles Athletic second team came from 3-2 down to beat Glenorchy 5-4 at Mart Park.

Incredibly, all nine goals came during the first 42 minutes of the match.

Scott MacDonald put Kyles ahead after two minutes and George Thomson made it 2-0 three minutes later.

Glenorchy turned the game on its head as Graham Morrice on 18 minutes and Allan MacKechie's brace on 20 and 26 minutes had the home side 3-2 ahead.

Craig Martin made it 3-3 on 33 minutes but John Sartain put

it was Glengarry who took the lead on 13 minutes through Nick Dalgety.

Martin Cameron made it 2-0 on 24 minutes, and with Brian Mackain and Steven Cameron having a great tussle in midfield, the visitors extended their lead though Raymond Robertson on 35 minutes.

Caberfeidh needed a goal and it came a minute later when Jamie Matheson ran through on goal and slotted the ball past the keeper to make it 3-1.

Caberfeidh put Scott MacPhail on Glengarry danger-man Nick Dalgety and it remained 3-1 at the break.

The hosts also pushed Paddy Wilson further forward and he was involved in his side's second goal with the ball ending up in the net off a Glengarry defender to make it 3-2 with 49 minutes played.

When referee John MacRitchie pointed to the penalty spot after Paddy Wilson was impeded on 52 minutes, Jamie Matheson hammered the ball home to complete the comeback.

With 15 minutes to go, Raymond Robertson got his second to put Glengarry back in the lead.

It was left for Jamie Matheson to make the difference as he completed his hat-trick with goals on 80 and 85 minutes to give Caberfeidh victory.

Stuart Krzyzanowski set up his strike partner to make it 4-4 and the winner, to the delight of the home support, was a thunderous Matheson shot following a corner.

The Caberfeidh colts now trail league leaders Glengarry by just two points but they have a game in hand.

**Lovat 4
Lochaber 3**

The Lovat seconds turned in what was probably their best performance of the season, beating the Lochaber seconds 4-3 at Balglate.

Keith Neville gave Lochaber the lead after seven minutes but Cameron MacMillan drew Lovat level on 10 minutes.

Raymond Rennie put the Balglate side back in front on 20 minutes but Andrew MacDonald made it 2-2 from the penalty spot on 28 minutes.

A second from Cameron MacMillan on 59 minutes and a Darren Douglas goal on 68 minutes gave Lovat a two-goal cushion which they required as Jack Dignan, on his comeback from injury, made it 4-3 on 72 minutes.

Taynuilt's David Campbell levelled after 20 minutes and the sides remained level for just four minutes before Hal Jones got his second to put Kilmory back in front.

A Craig Houston goal on 77 minutes sealed the win and Kilmory move off the bottom of the table at Glenorchy's expense.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

**Caberfeidh 5
Glengarry 4**

The top of the table clash between Glengarry and the Caberfeidh second team at Castle Leod turned out to be something special with Caberfeidh eventually winning by the odd goal in nine.

The hosts started brightly but

**Lewis Camanachd 1
Kilmallie 4**

The Kilmallie seconds took the points, winning 4-1 against Lewis Camanachd at Shawbost.

Andrew McAlister gave Kilmallie the lead in the opening minute but a first goal at this level from Sean MacLeod made it 1-1 on 30 minutes.

Ross MacKenzie put Kilmallie back in front on 31 minutes and a second half Jamie MacEachan double on 53 and 77 minutes made it 3-1.

**Strathspey Camanachd 3
Strathglass 2**

Strathspey Camanachd beat the Strathglass second team 3-2 in their 1.30pm throw up at Grantown Grammar School.

Martin Ross, Johnathan Gray and Connor Aubrey counted for the home side with Colin Birnie and Stuart Harvey netting for the visitors.

**Inverness P
Lochcarron P**

Lochcarron were unable to field a team for their noon meeting with the Inverness colts at Bught Park and both clubs agreed to reschedule the match for a later date.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

**Bute 4
Aberdour 4**

The Bute seconds came from 4-0 down to draw 4-4 with the Aberdour seconds in their noon throw up at The Meadows.

Aberdour bossed the first half and led 3-0 at the break with Andrew Fraser, more recognised as a full back, grabbing a hat-trick.

When Jamie Anderson added a fourth early in the second half, the match looked over as a contest.

The Bute colts rallied though and a Chris McGowan hat-trick and a Neil McKirdy goal earned them an unlikely point from a 4-4 draw.

Bute stay fifth, with Aberdour sticking sixth.

**Glasgow Mid Argyll 4
Oban Lorn 1**

The Glasgow Mid Argyll colts defeated Oban Lorn 4-1 at Yoker. GMA scored three times late in the first half to grab the initiative.

Lewis Clark opened the scoring on 36 minutes and Andy McGhee made it 2-0 three minutes later.

Calum McLay netted a third on the stroke of half time and the same player got his second eight minutes into the second half.

There was some consolation for Oban Lorn when the ball ended up in the net off GMA keeper Jonathon Oates with 20 minutes remaining.

WCA challenge match

**Dublin Ladies v
Scotland Ladies**

Dublin County Ladies Select and Scotland Ladies will meet in their latest shinty/camogie clash on Saturday July 15 in Dublin, with a 2pm throw-up.

This is the second game of a three-match series.



Kilmallie's Martin Stewart has an attempt on goal during the Camanachd Cup quarter final against Lovat. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography.



Fixtures

Saturday July 15

Balliemore Cup Final
Caberfeidh v Fort William
Andy MacLean

Strathdearn Cup semi final

Skye v Kingussie
Iain Kennedy - noon
Glengarry v Newtonmore
John Wood

Bullough Cup Semi Final

Kyles Athletic v Strachur
Des McNulty

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kingussie v Lochaber
Referee TBC
Kinlochshiel v Glasgow MA
Innes Wood - 3pm
Newtonmore v Kyles Athletic
Graham Cameron
Oban Camanachd v Kilmallie
Lachie Wood

Marine Harvest

National Division
Beaulieu v Strathglass
Willie MacDonald - noon

Marine Harvest

North Division 1
Aberdeen University v Beaulieu
Referee TBC

Marine Harvest

South Division 1
Bute v Col Glen
Robert Baxter
Kilmory v Ballachulish
Ewan MacDonald
Lochside Rovers v Taynuilt
Ronnie Campbell

Marine Harvest

North Division 2
Boleskine v Lovat
Martin MacLean
Kilmallie v Lochaber
Archie Ritchie
Lewis v Strathspey
Referee TBC

Throw-ups 2.30pm, unless stated.

Results

Friday July 7

**Marine Harvest
North Division 1**
Newtonmore 5 v 3 Kingussie

Saturday July 8

**Tulloch Homes Camanachd
Cup 3rd Round**
Inveraray 0 v 5 Oban Caman
Kilmallie 1 v 3 Lovat
Newtonmore 4 v 1 Kyles Ath
Strathglass 3 v 5 Skye

Bullough Cup Semi Final

Lochside Rovers 0 v 1 Inveraray

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kinlochshiel 4 v 0 Lochaber
Glenurquhart 2 v 3 Kingussie

Marine Harvest

National Division
Fort William 4 v 0 Beaulieu
Inverness 4 v 6 Oban Celtic

Marine Harvest

North Division 1
Kinlochshiel 2 v 1 Fort William
Skye 1 v 1 Aberdeen University

Marine Harvest

South Division 1
Bute 6 v 0 Ballachulish
Glenorchy 4 v 5 Kyles Athletic
Kilmory 3 v 1 Taynuilt
Tayforth 2 v 0 Col Glen

Marine Harvest

North Division 2
Caberfeidh 5 v 2 Glengarry
Inverness P v P Lochcarron
To be re-arranged
Lewis 1 v 4 Kilmallie
Lovat 4 v 3 Lochaber
Strathspey 3 v 2 Strathglass

Marine Harvest

South Division 2
Bute 4 v 4 Aberdour
Glasgow MA 4 v 1 Oban Lorn



Participants and prize-winners at West Highland Tennis Week. Photos: Bob McCulloch

Glasgow Warriors camp returns to Oban this month Youth rugby

YOUNG rugby players from Argyll and Bute will be given the chance to learn from the best this summer, as Glasgow Warriors' Young Warriors camp returns to Oban later this month.

The one-day camp, for P4-U15 boys and girls, will be held at Oban RFC on Friday July 21, and will provide a valuable opportunity for budding rugby players to enhance and develop their skills under the eyes of Glasgow's experienced community coaches.

The club's last visit to Oban came in August 2015, when former Warriors captain Al Kellock brought the Pro12 trophy to the Young Warriors camp in the wake of Glasgow's historic first league title.

Places can be booked now at www.glasgowwarriors.org, with each participant receiving a Glasgow Warriors kit pack and individual action plan.

Speaking about the camp, Oban RFC club secretary Murray Hamilton said: 'It's great to have Oban Lorne hosting the Glasgow Warriors summer camp once again this summer.'

'This has been one of our busiest youth seasons ever and this camp will allow many of our players to continue their development over the holidays and help them prepare for another busy season.'

Goals galore in five-a-side league Indoor football

THE ATLANTIS Leisure five-a-side football league continued at the weekend, with three games taking place.

Last week saw a series of close games. However, players must have looked out their shooting boots at the weekend, as each winning team scored double figures.

Oaklea 4 Inter MilGingerLama 11

This was the first match of the season for Inter and last year's player of the season Grant MacPherson made sure they started with a resounding victory.

Despite being 3-1 down in the first half, a James Ford inspired performance saw them grab the convincing win and a man of the match award for James.

Menzies Parcels 1 AC Milama 12

After drawing their first match of the season last week, AC Milama bounced back in excellent fashion with a superb footballing performance, helped by two unfortunate injuries to Menzies leaving them playing with no substitutes.

Martin Bonar was awarded the man of the match after a great box to box display.

Atlantis 10 Cuan Mor 2

After last week's disappointing defeat, Atlantis again were only able to field a small team due to various commitments.

A good performance saw them pick up the win with man of the match Duncan Campbell scoring several fantastic goals.

Wimbledon comes to Oban

SUNDAY saw the conclusion of an exciting week of tennis in Oban.

The 46th West Highland Tennis Championships got off to a successful start with the primary and secondary competitions. The tournament starts with local events and the Argyll day kicked everything off. The winner of the local gents' singles was Gregor Brydon, who returned last September from a year at the John Newcombe ranch in Texas. A new format for the doubles, FAST 4 Tennis was tried out, and was won by Kenny Drummond and Melissa Oatts.

Following on from this each evening, a variety of competitive formats took place

'Memories Monday' had players dressing in whites, using old-style rackets and playing a team event

On Tuesday evening, the ever-popular handicap singles event took place and then the final competition was 'Wacky Wednesday' where players came dressed as wackily as possible and the

format of play was a mix-and-match event with specific tennis challenges brought in between matches. A great fun evening was had by all

The championship events commenced on Friday morning. Oban still attracts one of the biggest entries for a weekend tournament with players from Texas, all over Scotland and England competing in a range of events.

With an entry of almost 60 players, Mary McLean, the tournament referee, had a tight schedule to work to, with almost 100 matches to complete over the weekend. The weather was excellent on both Friday and Saturday and, despite a very rainy finals day, all the competitions were completed successfully. Thanks go to the players who co-operated at all times, Atlantis staff, and the Taynuilt Sports committee for the use of their court.

The good weather, especially on Saturday, allowed all the events to either get to the semi-finals or final stages. There were some excellent

closely-fought matches right from the first round up to the finals.

The gents' final this year was contested by Daniel Gunn, from Stirling University, and Ben Smith, from Buckinghamshire. The youngster demonstrated a high level of skill and under pressure played extremely well to take not only the gents' championship title but also the boys' 18 title. In this event high quality tennis was displayed by both finalists.

The ladies' final involved Lisa Munro (Nairn), a former winner, and newcomer to the tournament, Zoe Moffat. This was a closely contested match, with Lisa's driving ground shots, accuracy and good serving allowing her to take the title. The gents' and ladies' doubles were equally finely contested with the top seeds in both coming through to win the titles.

The social programme is an important part of the tournament and players enjoyed a quiz on Friday evening and a barbecue, hosted by Argyll and

Bute Council, on the Saturday evening.

The tournament would not be possible without the generous support of many bodies and, at the prize-giving, Hugh McLean, chairman, thanked local businesses, Atlantis Leisure, Rotary Club of Oban, Argyll and Bute Council, Oban Tennis and Squash Club for their continued support.

Prize-winners: gents' singles – Ben Smith; runner-up – Daniel Gunn. Gents' plate – Gregor Brydon; runner-up – Billy Thomson. Ladies' singles – Lisa Munro; runner-up Zoe Moffat. Ladies' plate – Taylor Brown; runner-up – Isabella Crawford. Boys' 18 and under – Ben Smith; runner-up – Thomas Smart. Girls' 18 and under – Ellie Crosbie; runner-up – Kendall Jablonowski. Gents' doubles – Calum Stout and Matthew Stout; runners-up – Chris Jacques and James McNaught. Ladies' doubles – Lisa Munro and Shona Graham; runners-up – Zoe Moffat and Lucy Whelan.

Local event winners: gents' singles –

Tennis

G Brydon; runner-up – K Drummond. Gents' plate – N Innes; runner-up – A Graham. Fast 4 tennis doubles – K Drummond and M Oatts. 'Memories Monday' team night – K Keen, A Graham, S Hutchison, D Gemmill. Tuesday handicap singles: gents' – E Swan; runner-up – D MacPherson. Ladies' – S Hutchison; runner-up – D Gemmill. 'Wacky Wednesday' mix and match challenge event – A Graham and A Imrie; runners-up – A Oatts and K Adams.

Junior events: primary event – 24 primary school aged players took part in a challenge and fun event. All participants received a medal. Secondary competition: junior boys – Neil McCracken; runner-up – Fergus Carmichael. Senior boys – D MacPherson; runner-up – Rory Dowd; girls – Molly MacPherson; runner-up – Katy MacPherson.



Singles winners Ben Smith and Lisa Munro with tournament referee Mary McLean.



Some of the participants who took part in the target competition.



Senior schoolboy winner David MacPherson with Denise Gemmill and runner-up Rory Dowd.



Gregor Brydon won the local gents' singles title.



Eoghan Swann, winner of the Tuesday night handicap singles.



Shona Graham and Lisa Munro won the ladies' doubles.



Kenny Drummond was runner up in the local gents' singles.

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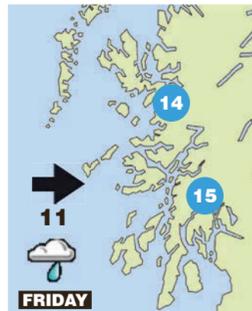
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Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

WEATHER

Thursday	Sunshine and showers Winds moderate south south westerly Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.
Friday	Cloudy with rain in the late afternoon Winds moderate westerly Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.
Weekend Outlook	Light rain on Saturday Sunshine and showers on Sunday Winds moderate west north westerly Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday July 13, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm			
Thur	02.14 1.2 07.59 3.5 14.19 1.1 20.25 3.7	Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	02.48 1.3 08.34 3.4 14.54 1.2 21.03 3.6	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	03.29 1.3 09.15 3.3 15.38 1.3 21.48 3.5	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	04.19 1.4 12.10 3.2 16.32 1.4 22.44 3.3	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	05.23 1.5 11.06 3.1 17.38 1.5 23.58 3.2	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	06.36 1.5 12.28 3.0 18.56 1.5 *** **				
Wed	01.35 3.3 07.48 1.4 14.03 3.1 20.14 1.4				

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

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Dozens compete in Nevis hill race

ACHNABOBANE RESIDENT THINKS BIG AS HE UNVEILS DETAILS OF DREAM £2M COMPLEX TO ATTRACT VISITORS

Ambitious garden centre plan for Spean Bridge

ELLIE FORBES
eforb@obantimes.co.uk

AMBITIOUS plans for a £2 million garden centre and visitor attraction outside Spean Bridge have been lodged with the Highland Council.

Situated about a mile from Spean Bridge, Achnabobane could welcome up to 60,000 visitors next summer if the project is given the green light.

An application for planning in principle has now been submitted to the local authority.

The brainchild of Achnabobane resident Ross MacGregor, the plans would see a petting zoo, garden centre and restaurant built on land situated just off the A82.

It is anticipated 12 full-time equivalent year-round jobs would be created.

Mr MacGregor's existing trout ponds, red deer farm and Christmas tree business would be incorporated into the new plans.

The 37-year-old stockbroker from London grew up in the area. After moving to London for 10 years, he came back to

Achnabobane in January this year.

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times*, Mr MacGregor said he hopes to fulfill his life-long dream of having a garden and visitor centre.

'From a young age I have been around visitors. My mum used to run a B&B and I would show the visitors around and point out where Ben Nevis was,' he said.

'I have always had this dream of seeing a visitor attraction and garden centre here.'

Mr MacGregor first had the idea in 1999 when he was awarded funding for the deer farm.

'It is a no brainer to build this here, with mountain biking and ski-ing near by.'

'We want to try and use the area, and everything it has to offer, to the maximum.'

Achnabobane has transformed in the last 30 years. From the original farm house and cottage, it now boasts housing.

Mr MacGregor continued: 'This farm is a honey pot. People want to come and live here and Achnabobane is regarded as a small village now. Visitors come here in droves. There is definitely demand for it.'

Mr MacGregor said the project would be split into two phases, with phase one, costing around £2 million, completed by summer 2018.

He said: 'Phase one will include a garden centre with ponds, a restaurant, petting zoo and retail space. We would hope to have a second phase where we would build cycle tracks and maybe have some pedalos for the children. We would like to make some of it indoors or sheltered.'

John Fotheringham, chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry community council, said councillors would have to examine 'all the relevant policies' before deciding on whether to support the plans or not.

He said: 'We have requested an extension from Highland Council planning until after our next meeting on August 1 so we can fully research this application. It would not be fair to the applicant or the community at large if we were to take a decision without a thorough investigation.'

Mr MacGregor added: 'We want to work with the community and planners to hear their opinions on this project.'



Ross MacGregor feeds Angus the young bull and calf Charlie. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image, F28 ross macgregor 01 IF

Work on vital bridge nears completion

WORK to improve a vital community link in Fort William could be completed this week.

The Highland Council hopes the £300,000 revamp of the Soldiers Bridge, which crosses the River Lochy between Black Parks Road, Inverlochy, and Lochside, will be finished this week.

The bridge, which connects people on the National Cycle Network route 78, the Caledonia Way, would then hopefully be open to the public.

The project has been delivered by Highland Council in partnership with Sustrans Scotland and Transport Scotland.

A Highland Council spokesperson told the *Lochaber Times*: 'Before the work started, access to the bridge had been restricted for some time because of the failure and subsequent closure of the northern ramp.'

'The new ramp is wider and the bridge deck and handrails have also been replaced with upgraded materials.'

'We thank walkers and cyclists for their patience during the works and for using the signposted diversion which has been in place.'

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Model T replica to take centre stage

A BRONZE replica of the Ford Model T car that was driven to the top of Ben Nevis in 1911 will be unveiled in Fort William next year.

The group behind the project has received £35,000 EU LEADER funding to complete the project. The sculpture will be unveiled in Cameron Square on Saturday May 19, 2018, to coincide with a rally of Model T cars from all over the UK which is scheduled to come through Fort William that weekend.

The replica celebrates the journey of Henry Alexander, the son of Scotland's first Ford dealer, who drove a Model T to the summit of Ben Nevis in 1911.

The sculpture will take pride of place in Cameron Square between the High Street and the West Highland Museum, and will feature Alexander at the wheel.

Chris Robinson, chairman of the Ben Nevis Bronze Ford Committee, said: 'The Model T will be a significant promotion of the town. It will sit in the High Street and no-one will be able to pass it by without wondering what it's all about. It will get a bit of a buzz about the place.'

The total cost of the project is estimated to be £89,000.

Many Lochaber people and businesses have contributed to the project and considerable sums have been donated by Model T enthusiasts. Tyre tracks on the pavement in the square will lead into the West Highland Museum encouraging visitors to find out more about the famous ascent.

Film footage of the climb in 1911 was discovered in 2015 and will be on show at the museum.

To mark the centenary of Alexander's

quest in 2011, 77 volunteers carried a dismantled replica of a Model T Ford to the summit of Ben Nevis where it was reassembled and then taken apart again before coming back down. Some of these parts will be used as the moulds for the bronze replica.

Mr Robinson said the structure will become part of a bronze trail through Fort William, starting at 'Sair Feet' in the West End, to the aluminum worker in Inverlochy, finishing at the Commando Memorial in Spean Bridge, adding: 'There has been talk of having a bronze trail, with potential for many more throughout Fort William.'

Highland Council Lochaber leader Andrew Baxter said: 'Congratulations to the team behind this bold project. It will be a fantastic centrepiece to the town.'

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Cafe franchise out to tender

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar has published the tender for the franchising of the vacant cafeteria within Ionad Spòrs Leodhais.

It is anticipated there will be interest in the contract opportunity from suppliers based in Lewis.

Chairman of the education, sport and children's services committee, councillor Angus McCormack, said: 'This is an exciting opportunity for a provider to establish a café at the heart of our sports centre in Stornoway and to serve the many people of all ages who use the facilities.'

The contract notice has been published on Public Contracts Scotland with the tender documentation available through the PCS-Tender portal. Prospective suppliers should register with both portals if they have not already done so. The closing date for tender submissions is July 31 at 2pm.

Independent wifi study welcomed

NA H-EILEANAN an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan has welcomed CalMac's commitment to commissioning an independent assessment of the wifi availability onboard Hebridean crossings.

Alasdair Allan, who has in the past called on CalMac to improve its on-vessel wifi for passengers, wrote to the ferry operator to outline concerns around the wifi availability and quality on-board Hebridean services at sea and in ports, following recent complaints.

CalMac has said an independent assessment of the service has been commissioned to identify any issues and address them.

Priorities in focus with partnership

THE OUTER Hebrides Community Planning Partnership has been consulting with communities on the priorities it will focus on over the next few years.

As well as the online survey, the group met with residents in two areas to look at the information from the survey in detail. Partnership chairman Norman A MacDonald said: 'It was very clear from the survey results what the main priorities for people are and we will continue to work closely with our communities and partners to ensure we have a joined-up approach.'



Veronica Gordon, midwife, and Paul Daly, member of Western Isles Maternity Services Liaison Committee, with the Cuddle Cot for Barra.

Kind cot donation to help bereaved parents on Barra

THE COMMUNITY midwifery service on Barra has been presented with a Cuddle Cot, which allows bereaved families to spend more time with babies who have died, been stillborn or miscarried.

The donation was made possible after fundraising by Leigh and Adam, parents of Madelyn Jess Gordon, who sadly passed away two days after being born in August 2015.

Last year Heather Lawrence, a parent representative from the Simpson's Memory Box Appeal (SiMBA) handed over a Cuddle

Cot and photography equipment to the Western Isles Hospital Maternity Unit during a Bereavement Care and Memory Making Study Day. This donation was made possible through donations to SiMBA in memory of Heather's daughter Aeryn, who was stillborn in April 2016.

SiMBA aims to help families who have suffered the loss of a baby, regardless of their geographical location.

but having the use of the cuddle cot in the family room also meant we did not have to say goodbye as soon as her treatment was withdrawn. We could spend more time with her, without tubes and wires in the way.'

Catherine Macdonald, NHS Western Isles Maternity Ward Manager, said: 'Through SiMBA's generosity, memory boxes are provided to parents as a treasure chest of mementos such as 'the blanket of love', birth acknowledgement certificate, hand- and footprints and photographs.'

Major investment in bid to secure missile base jobs

TWO NEW weapon-tracking radars worth almost £17 million are to be installed on St Kilda as part of a modernisation of missile testing bases.

At MOD Hebrides, two existing radars are also to be upgraded in a £95 million programme. They will be used as a part of a tracking station and will be fully functional by spring 2020.

It comes as part of a joint investment by MOD UK and QinetiQ which will help reduce the overall operating costs of the range.

QinetiQ-run Hebrides Range is a large private employer on Benbecula with more than 100 staff. The UK's largest missile range, it lies on the north-west

part of the island of South Uist and consists of a 'deep range' for complex weapons trials and in-service firings and an 'inner range' for ground-based air defence campaigns.

At the end of last year it was thought up to 19 of the 148 posts at the range would be cut as QinetiQ sought to reduce its workforce. But a multi-million-pound contract between MOD and QinetiQ was agreed at the range for the next 11 years.

Cathy O'Carroll, QinetiQ group director test and evaluation, said the modernisation of UK test and evaluation is a key part of future growth.

'Working with the UK MOD, we want to ensure we are able

to deliver air ranges that are relevant and competitive for the UK Armed Forces as well as government and industry customers around the world, she said.

'These new radars will provide a step change in what we are able to deliver for our customers and ensure the UK MOD is getting value for money. MOD Hebrides is a key range for the UK which has helped to deliver significant and ground-breaking demonstrations, such as Unmanned Warrior. These new radars will help ensure more complex work can be carried out at the range.'

MOD Hebrides occupies 115,000km² of segregated airspace allowing UK MOD,

industry and international customers to conduct trials, experimentation and rehearsal.

Councillor Donald Crichton, chairman of the Western Isles sustainable development committee, said: 'This is excellent news for Uist and the Outer Hebrides. This investment demonstrates a commitment to the base, the employment it provides and to a secure future.'

'I would hope this upgrading of equipment will make the Hebrides range even more competitive and will pave the way for future development in this important sector for the islands.'

Mr Crichton said he hopes the investment will provide stability for the workforce.

'I hope this investment opens the route to new and innovative business at the range, that it provides stability for the workforce and opens new opportunities for young people.'

'The comhairle remains supportive of Hebrides range and I would be keen that we continue to work with the range to maximise local opportunities from this investment.'

Richard Smart, director weapons at the MOD's defence equipment and support organisation, said: 'We are pleased to continue our collaboration with industry in delivering modern air tracking radars in support of test and evaluation conducted for the UK Armed Forces.'

Community wind farm gives charity £2,500

PROFITS of £2,500 from a community-owned wind farm have been donated to a Western Isles charity helping vulnerable islanders.

The money is the first half of an annual commitment of £5,000 to Advocacy Western Isles from Point and Sandwick Trust (PST).

The donation will enable the service to increase the hours of its workers to help meet demand across the islands.

Ernie Garden, chairman of Advocacy Western Isles, said

the increased hours would go towards helping people with mental health issues and the elderly.

Advocacy Western Isles is for people who feel isolated and don't know where or who to turn to, explained operations manager Cathy Anne Dunn.

Service users may be adults, children or young people, the elderly, people with learning difficulties or those experiencing mental health issues.

She added: 'Through Advocacy they have someone there

who is loyal to them and ensures they're listened to, their rights are explored and upheld and they are included in decisions about them.'

'Service users always say that, for someone who is vulnerable and feels isolated, you can't put a value on it.'

'The feedback we get is tremendous.'

Advocacy deal with between 600 and 1,000 cases a year, from the Butt to Barra.

Donald John MacSween, Point and Sandwick Trust (PST)

general manager, said they were delighted to help. Advocacy Western Isles is one of four charities we aim to support - along with Foyer, Hebrides Alpha and Western Isles Association for Mental Health - because they provide a valuable service to people who are often forgotten about.

'These services - as well as the people who use the services - are often forgotten about or neglected and deserve more support than they get.'

The trust can help because the

wind farm at Beinn Ghrìdeag is 100 per cent community-owned. Previous donations by Point and Sandwick Trust include £2,500 to the Western Isles Association for Mental Health and £15,000 to Western Isles Foyer and the Hebrides Alpha Project earlier this year, the first instalments of an annual £30,000 pledged to both organisations.

Point and Sandwick Trust's biggest beneficiary is Bethesda Care Home and Hospice, which will receive £55,000 for 25 years - the lifetime of the wind farm.

Visitors urged to plan ahead

VISITORS to the Western Isles are being advised to book their transport well in advance this summer.

Ferry operator CalMac has announced foot passengers require a booking from Sunday July 16 to Monday July 24 because of the high volume of passengers expected on ferries for the Hebridean Celtic Festival.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Police Scotland and the Stornoway Port Authority are encouraging travellers to make bus and ferry bookings well in advance of travel.

Councillor Uisdean Robertson, chairman of the transportation and infrastructure committee at the Western Isles Council, said: 'We are delighted so many people are coming to visit the Western Isles over the summer and we are thoroughly looking forward to welcoming them.'

'The week of the Hebridean Celtic Festival will be a particularly busy time, with Ullapool to Stornoway and other ferry services likely to be at full capacity and we are keen to avoid unnecessary congestion and delays. We would urge passengers travelling by car and by foot to make sure they make bookings well in advance and also check in early at the ferry terminals.'

'It is also essential for those intending to use the bus service between Ullapool and Inverness to pre-book with Scottish Citylink on their website or call 0141 352 4444 at least 48 hours prior to travel.'

Free bike repair workshop encourages cyclists to get back in the saddle

MEMBERS of the Lochaber community were offered a free bike repair class to encourage them to take care of their bikes and use them more around Lochaber.

The event was held at Off Beat Bikes in High Street, with mechanics helping participants spruce up their bikes and get them running smoothly again.

The bike repair class was organised by Lochaber Environmental Group as part of its Lochaber Energy and Waste Project, which was awarded a grant of £99,965 from the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund.

The Lochaber Energy and Waste project offers free support to Lochaber householders and businesses to help them reduce their carbon footprint by helping people save energy, reduce waste and repair items as well as supplying information on recycling and climate change.

The Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) is a Scottish Government grant programme, managed and administered by Keep Scotland Beautiful. The CCF

provides funding and support for community groups to help tackle climate change by running projects that reduce local carbon emissions.

Jamie Maxwell, Off Beat Bikes shop manager, said: 'The team at Off Beat Bikes ran an introductory course on bike maintenance to help people become more confident about keeping their bikes on the road.'

'Guided by shop mechanics Jon and Calum, participants covered subjects including brake/gear adjustments, cleaning and repairing punctures. The evening was well received by everyone and we look forward to running more courses on both basic and more advanced aspects of bicycle maintenance.'

Cara Mackay, energy and waste officer, said: 'It is great to see so many people want to learn how to look after their bike. Cycling has so many benefits. It reduces your carbon footprint, benefits your health and saves you money. Hopefully, after our class, we will have more people in Lochaber cycling around on their newly-repaired bikes.'



Off Beat Bikes ran the popular repair workshop.

Public opinion sought for proposed islands bill

Public opinion is being sought by the Scottish Government on proposed legislation to give islands more power.

The historic Islands Bill aims to protect the interest of island communities and offer local authorities greater powers.

The bill is due to be examined by the Scottish Parliament's rural economy and connectivity committee, which will gather the public's views as well as take evidence at Holyrood over the next six months.

The Highland Council and Western Isles Council welcomed the government announcement, made by Islands Minister Humza Yousaf last month.

Committee convener Edward Mountain said this

is an opportunity for people with an experience of living, working and voting on the islands to influence their future.

'The Scottish Government's bill covers significant issues such as helping ensure that whenever new legislation is introduced, the economic growth and sustainability of Scotland's islands will be an important factor and providing a power for Scottish Ministers to create a marine licensing scheme for coastal waters.'

'Its ambitious aim is to provide a more strategic approach that enables Scotland's islands to continue to flourish. It is crucial the committee thoroughly scrutinises these proposals to ensure they fully meet the needs of island communities.'

He added: 'Over the next six months we hope to hear opinions from across the country.'

'As well as taking evidence at Holyrood, the committee will visit campaigners and individuals on the islands for views on the bill's proposals.'

'It's crucial the valuable knowledge, experience and expertise of everyone in Scotland with an interest in the future of our islands feed into our work wherever possible.'

The deadline for submitting evidence to the rural economy and connectivity committee is Monday September 25.

The committee will produce a report on the Scottish Government's Islands Bill at stage one after it has concluded taking evidence in autumn.



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Official opening of new Sleat centre

A NEW £1.8m community hub was officially opened in the south of Skye on Saturday with an afternoon of ceremony and celebration.

An Crùbh in Sleat, which is owned and run by Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative (CDI), was declared open by pupils of Bunscoil Shléite.

The afternoon began with a procession led by piper Derek Forrest. Inside visitors enjoyed drinks before the family fun activities began. The afternoon was spent tasting food prepared by An Crùbh's chef Lawrence Millot as well as fayre stocked in the shop. Games and crafts kept the children happy, while information displays and a chat entertained adults.

In the evening, a cèilidh and barbecue rounded off the day with music from the Malin Lewis Band.

CDI chairman Mark Wringe said: 'We are very pleased with how the afternoon went and the evening cèilidh was well-attended, with fabulous food prepared by our chef and assistant. The afternoon food and drink tastings were provided by suppliers to the shop.'

The hub boasts a licensed shop and café, post office, community hall, meeting room, exhibition space, toilets and showers and spectacular views over the Sound of Sleat.

Situated just above the A851 near Duisdale and Camuscross, the building was completed on December 23 2016 and run by the local community. Funding from the National Lottery was secured for the build while the community's continuing fundraising efforts are taking the business side forward.

Residents urged to back plans to expand West Highland Museum

ELLIE FORBES
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

THE WEST Highland Museum has unveiled plans to expand the popular tourist attraction by 2022.

The Fort William museum hopes the project will bring it into the 21st century and provide additional space to extend current exhibitions and bring in new ones.

The museum owns land behind the building at Monzie Square which is where it hopes to extend to.

Jackie Wright, a trustee and chairwoman of the management committee told the *Lochaber*

Times: 'In the last three years, we have been looking at what we could do with the museum. The museum is very compact and it would be good to have more space to expand current collections and bring in new ones.'

'We would be looking at applying for stage one funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. But before we do anything we want to engage with the community and put a survey together to see what people want, so this is the very early stages.'

'We can't just do nothing because it's not sustainable for the museum. We have so many people in July and August, it's scary sometimes. We would

hope to have everything in place and up and running ideally by 2022 before the centenary anniversary of the museum.'

One of the most important heritage resources for researchers around the world, the museum is one of the most popular visitors attractions in Lochaber, attracting around 50,000 visitors a year.

The museum has a renowned collection relating to Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobite cause, but it also holds a wealth of curious and fascinating displays and objects on less well-known aspects of the lives of the people of the West Highlands.

Founded in 1922, the museum

moved into its current home in 1926 following a fundraising appeal to buy the former bank building.

John Hutchison, chairman of the museum trustees, said: 'The trustees are keen to make sure it plays a full part in local life and builds on its growing popularity as a visitor attraction.'

'With more people coming into the building and with the growth of our collections, we want to make sure we are doing all we can to present the Lochaber heritage to best effect.'

'We want to revitalise the museum, make sure we are telling the stories local people see as important and make sure we

are telling them in the best way.' The governance of the museum is also being reconsidered, with hopes it can one day be owned by the Lochaber community.

Mr Hutchison said: 'We want to make sure the people of Lochaber have ownership of the museum, so as well as looking at the building and how it displays our heritage, we're looking at moving from a trust to a community company which everyone in the area can join.'

To guide its plans, the museum needs the views and support of Lochaber residents. It has designed a short survey which will run to mid August in the museum and online from the

museum website www.westhighlandmuseum.org.uk.

The survey will look at the building, themes and stories of the museum, what it could be doing better, what support there is for the expansion to the rear and/or taking in adjoining buildings and whether people want to become a member of the new community company.

Mr Hutchison added: 'We're being supported by the Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, as well as the Scottish Land Fund and Museum Galleries Scotland. We are really looking forward to getting the views and feedback of local people and visitors.'



Dogs and owners line up before the show. Photograph: Iain Ferguson The Write Image: F28 Dog Show 01 IF

Lochaber dog show success

LOCHABER and District Canine Society held its annual dog show on Tuesday July 4.

Nearly 40 dogs and their owners went along to join in the fun.

Classes for pedigree dogs included a special beginners class for dogs and handlers who have never won at a Kennel Club show to encourage newcomers.

The novelty classes are always highly popular and with 21 dogs entering the best condition class, it was a difficult job for the judges. There was also a puppy walk for those too young to take part and a best trick competition.

This year's chosen charity was Canine Partners and a representative from the charity was at the event.

Fiona Barcenas, and Barnum the dog, were happy to tell owners about the work of the charity and Fiona judged the best trick

competition. Fiona said: 'Thank you so much for the lovely evening. It was a breath of fresh air, so light-hearted and upbeat. At the same time it was so well-organised and professional. It was an honour for Barnum and I to judge the dog trick section.'

Sarah Holroyd, show secretary, said: 'Once again I'm overwhelmed by the generosity of people in support of our companion dog show. We raised more than £587.79 for Canine Partners. Well done and thanks to everyone who gave generously of their time and money, to all those who helped in the organisation, set-up and running of the show and to all those who came along and took part. I hope you all enjoyed your night.'

See www.lochabertimes.co.uk for results.



Scott Bellwood and Nev the nine month Bearded Collie from Inverloch who won the overall Best Novelty Class category.

One head teacher for two schools

SPEAN Bridge Primary School has a new head teacher.

Kim Bentley, current head teacher at Invergarry Primary School will now also manage Spean Bridge after money-saving proposals, which will see head teachers manage several schools at once, were approved by Highland Council.

The changes will now see Spean Bridge and Invergarry primaries served by a single cluster head teacher and three principal teachers.

Kate McGillvery, who was associate head teacher at Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge primary schools, left her post at the end of the school session. The drastic shake-up of management in Highland schools was voted through in January.

Tanning salons in the spotlight

THE HIGHLAND Council, one of several local authorities in Scotland which licenses UV tanning salons, will be conducting an audit on all licensed premises in Highland to verify compliance with EU safety standards regarding the output of ultra violet (UV) radiation.

Environmental health officers have become increasingly aware of concerns nationally whereby the UV bulb strength has been found to exceed the standard for such equipment.

The use of any UV tanning equipment can expose staff and customers to UV radiation. UV radiation can cause injuries in the short term, sunburnt skin or conjunctivitis, and ill health in the long term, premature skin ageing, skin cancer and cataracts.

Man dies in Ben Nevis fall

A MAN in his 50s has died after falling 50 metres from Tower Ridge, Ben Nevis, on Saturday July 8.

A spokesman for Lochaber Mountain Rescue (LMR) team said: 'We are sad to report that a call-out on July 8 was to a climber who suffered fatal injuries sustained in a fall while climbing Tower Ridge. Our thoughts and condolences go to his family and friends.'

'A big thank you to R951 who did a fantastic job to make the recovery from a very difficult location and all the climbers who assisted and brought down the climber's friend. A sad day.'

John Stevenson, leader of the team, told the *Lochaber Times*: 'The man had just started to climb Tower Ridge. He was just at the bottom end when he slipped and fell into the gully. The helicopter went straight in and did a fantastic lift, but there was nothing anyone could do. He was pronounced dead at the scene.'

A police spokesperson said: 'At 11.30am on Saturday July 8, police received a report of a male in his 50s having fallen during a climb on Ben Nevis' Tower Ridge. Police, Lochaber Mountain Rescue team and R951 were immediately deployed, however, on arrival the man was found to be dead. The death is not being treated as suspicious.'

'Next of kin have been informed and the family ask that their privacy be respected at this time.'

The team was called out again at 8pm on Sunday to help a woman who had



Lochaber Mountain Rescue team members on the summit of Ben Nevis during a rescue.

fallen and damaged her leg on the Steall, Glen Nevis.

Earlier in the week, the team carried out a challenging rescue involving three climbers who were cragfast on Long Climb on the Orion Face of Ben Nevis.

LMR found the climbers about 200 metres below the top of the route. A team member was lowered down during the 'difficult technical rescue'.

A team spokesperson said: 'It was safer and easier to lead them back to summit. Conditions were poor during the rescue with rain and low cloud.'

Mr Stevenson told the *Lochaber Times*: 'It had been a quiet summer up until last week, and then we had some difficult rescues, along with the usual summer slips and falls.'

He added the team, which has 45 volunteers, relies on employers to let members away from work to help with rescues.

Warning issued over new scam

A HIGHLAND man has been cheated out of a substantial sum of money after falling victim to a new scam.

Highland Council Trading Standards officers have reported a conman posing as a reputable property landlord used the man's mobile number to collect personal information from his Facebook account.

David MacKenzie, Highland Council's trading standards manager, explained: 'We received an inquiry from a Highland student who had placed a 'flat wanted' advert in an online classified ads website.'

'His advert had only his mobile number, no name or other identification details. He received a call from a man who seemed plausible and who name-checked people and places the student knew.'

After allegedly 'carrying out checks', the caller got back in touch and offered a room in a flat in return for a holding deposit.

The student was keen to secure the flat and sent the deposit by bank transfer. Unfortunately, there was no flat and it was a scam.

Mr MacKenzie continued: 'There was little we could do to help the consumer. A bank transfer is a bit like handing over cash and there is little chance of recovering the money. Plus the crime here is fraud rather than a Trading Standards matter so we passed the information to the police.'

'We examined the case to determine how the scammer knew so much about the student from just a telephone number and no name.'

'It turned out the information was gleaned from the student's Facebook account, despite the fact he thought his Facebook profile was set to not disclose his mobile number.'

'There are two key settings on Facebook dealing with your mobile phone number:

who can see your mobile number and who can look you up by your mobile. Most people understand the first setting but we suspect many people don't realise the potential implications of anyone being able to find your identity from just your mobile number.'

The council is urging consumers to make sure their Facebook settings are what they want them to be.

The council officer added: 'If a scammer has only your mobile number but not your name and no other identifying information, they can still search Facebook to see if you're listed.'

'We are advising consumers that if you don't want people to find your Facebook profile by using your mobile number, to change the privacy setting on 'Who can look me up'. For example, change that from the default setting of 'Everyone' to just your friends.'

Memorial benches and so much more from Fusion Marine recycled plastic outdoor furniture range

A memorial bench is a perfect tribute to a loved one sadly lost, providing benefit to the community and a lasting remembrance for that special person.



Fusion Marine recycled plastic benches are ideal for this role because of their long-life and low maintenance. Environmentally friendly and so very tough, these memorial benches really do offer the perfect remembrance that will last much longer than traditional wooden benches.



Engraved metal plates are easily mounted onto the benches and their natural coloration means they fit well into a variety of surroundings.

The Fusion Marine recycled plastic range includes a wide variety of durable outdoor products, including picnic tables and benches, decking, fencing and boardwalks, which are ideal for private users or for commercial operators such as holiday parks, nature reserves, visitor centres and other outdoor areas. The

tables and benches are available in colours that blend in naturally with the environment.

- Better chemical resistance
- Will not leach chemicals into the soil.

Decking planks are also supplied, forming the ideal material to ensure your garden decking lasts for a very long time with no need for tiresome and costly frequent treatments to preserve the wood or constant cleaning to prevent the build-up of slippery algae.

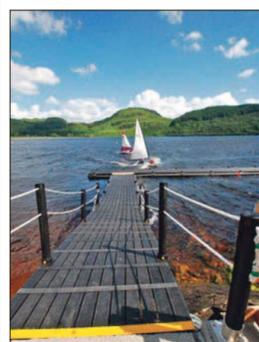
Fusion Marine also manufactures marine pontoons that provide convenient access for small craft. These pontoons are incredibly versatile as they can be sited on tidal shores, providing convenient round-the-clock marine access.

The advantages of recycled plastic for such outdoor products include:

- Tough and durable
- Decay resistant
- Low maintenance
- Environmentally friendly
- Slip-resistant surfaces
- Will not crack or split
- Non-toxic and inert
- Weather resistant
- Impervious to water
- Resistant to micro-organisms

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

www.fusionrecycledplastic.com



FW

WHAT'S ON

STAFF and volunteers from Lochaber Sensory Care (LSC) for sight and hearing support will visit Abbeyfield Care Home, Ballachulish, on Monday July 17.

From 10.30am to 12.30pm the Caol-based team will offer help and advice to residents and members of the public living with hearing or sight loss. The LSC representatives will also supply NHS hearing aid batteries and re-tube and maintain hearing aids.

ALEXANDER McCall Smith will be opening the Highland Bookshop on Fort William High Street tomorrow, Friday July 14. He will be there from 1pm signing books and talking to customers until 2.15pm. Head along to 60 High Street, Fort William, for the opening.

LOCHABER Old Time Dance will be held in Kilmallie Community Centre, Corpach, on Saturday (August 12) from 8pm to midnight. Music will be by Bruce Lindsay and his Scottish dance band. Tickets are £7.

MEMBERS of St Andrew's Church, Colyton, Devon, will be coming to Fort William later this month to complete the Three Peaks Challenge.

They will also sing at a service in a church in each area. The group is tackling Ben Nevis on Tuesday July 25 and singing in Duncansburgh Macintosh Church at 2pm that day. They are raising money for Young Minds. The service will include an anthem specially written for the occasion, *Walk with me, O Lord*, which highlights physical challenges and mental health issues.

THE LATEST gig from not-for-profit community events group CREEL will see Colonsay singer, songwriter and guitarist Donald MacNeill playing in concert with guitarist Roberto Diana, from Sardinia.

The duo, together with Jen MacNeill and Giulia Cartasagna, are touring and performing their latest album, *Timeline*. CREEL is delighted Caol is one of the stops on their tour. They will be at the community centre on Friday July 21 at 7.30pm for 8pm. Tickets are £9. For more information about CREEL and to book tickets, email creelevents@gmail.com.

Kyleakin summer gala fun

FUN-LOVING families turned out in force on Saturday to enjoy an afternoon of entertainment at Kyleakin's summer gala, writes Sara Bain.

Now in its 20th year, the annual event was again an enormous hit with everyone enjoying a diverse array of activities.

Festivities kicked off with the Skye Bridge Road Race at noon. Forty runners took part and race winners were Steven Worsley, Inverness, and Ellie Buchan, Aberdeen.

The gala fun began on the Corran at 1pm and a packed programme of entertainment included music from Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band and displays by Char's Stars Zumba Dancers and Highland dancers.

Children enjoyed the climbing wall, bouncy castles, giant games, face painting, tug-of-war, target sports, wheel of fortune and a spot of Sumo wrestling. Let's Circus, brought to the gala by Sleaf events promoters SEALL, delighted the crowds with their juggling, acrobatics and circus skills.

Representatives of the emergency services gave out

information and stalls selling burgers, candyfloss, seafood, ice cream and refreshments went down a treat with gala-goers.

Local group The Fulltones played out the event in style at the evening gala dance.

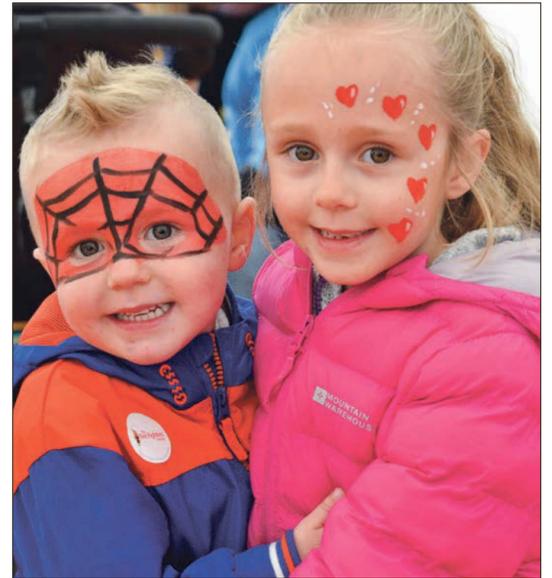
Gala committee vice chairman Vicky Nisbett said: 'It was a great day and we've had some wonderful feedback from people saying how much they enjoyed it.

'Although the sun didn't come out very often, there were only a few light showers and a constant breeze meant there were no midges, which is always a plus.

'The committee wishes to say a massive thank you to everyone who made the gala happen: the planners and organisers; those who spend days setting up and clearing away; those who give their time to run stalls and attractions, provide food and drinks; the volunteers who keep everyone safe by stewarding and all the performers. We would also like to thank everyone who came along to enjoy the gala and support our efforts to raise funds for our community minibus.'



Three young gala-goers enjoy an ice-cream. F28 Kyleakin gala 05 SB



These young siblings enjoyed the face painting. F28 Kyleakin gala 10 SB



One little girl has a go on the fire engine. F28 Kyleakin gala 03 SB



Family fun on the bouncy castle. F28 Kyleakin gala 01 SB



Up and away on the climbing wall.



Let's Circus was in town with Duncan MacInnes from SEALL. F28 Kyleakin gala 04 SB



Let's Circus at the gala. F28 Kyleakin gala 07 SB

View from the Chamber

LAST year saw Lochaber Ideas Week break its attendance figures record and featured a wide range of speakers including Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister of Scotland.

Planning is well under way for Lochaber Ideas Week in partnership with Nevis Range taking place from November 13-17 at the Moorings Hotel.

Everyone's favourite events will make a welcome return and these will be

complimented by new and exciting additions to the programme with an array of household-name speakers to motivate and inspire the business community.

Over the course of the week attendees will be hearing from former Scotland rugby captain Gavin Hastings, Dragons' Den winner Levi Roots, the Right Honourable Viscount Thurso, Caledonian MacBrayne, Bill Aulet from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology,

Digital Tourism Scotland, Scottish Tourism Alliance, VisitScotland and many more.

There will be announcements over the coming weeks and booking details will be available on Lochaber Chamber of Commerce's website.

To find out more about Lochaber Ideas Week and how you can be involved contact the chamber's office on 01397 705765.



Photographs by Sara Bain

Left: Having a purrfect time. F28 Kyleakin gala 06 SB



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Comic Con returns to Fort William

SUPERHEROES and villains will descend on Fort William again this September when the Highland Comic Con returns for a second year.

Last year Fort Con put on a colourful display of crusaders and the event, the first of its kind in the Highlands, was a sell-out.

Mums, dads, teenagers and children were kitted out in their best attire, some simply sporting a mask, while others painted their faces like animation and comic villains and heroes.

This year's guest line-up will boast some big name favourites and household heroes at the event on September 30.

'Let the challenge begin' will no doubt be heard across the Nevis Centre as James Mackenzie, best known for playing the lead role in the children's game show Raven, will make his first appearance at the event.

Star Wars actors Brian Wheeler and Rony Bridges, from *The Force Awakens*, as well as *Outlander* and *Angel's Share* star Scott Kyle are due to take part.

There are numerous Comic Cons across the UK, but Fort Con's commitment to graphic novels, ranging from amateur self-published efforts to big author favourites, has proved popular with fanatics.

Comic book guests at the 2017 event include *2000AD* and *Judge Dredd* legend Colin MacNeil, alongside both original Highland comic organisers (Hi-Ex) Richmond Clements and Vicky Stonebridge.

Italian creator Silvia Carrus and Manchester-based Ken McFarlane have also been announced.

As well as showcasing comic art, there was a range of panel discussions, art and book stalls.

'Cosplay', a shortened term for 'costume play', refers to dressing up as a character from a film, book or video game, and a roster of cosplay guests will be available for photo opportunities on the day.

A volunteer recruitment day will be held at the Nevis Centre on Sunday July 30. Anyone interested should go along between noon and 3pm.



Fresh calls for road re-think as breakdown leads to gridlock

FRESH calls for a link road or bypass in Fort William have been made following chaos in the town last week after a broken down bus on the A82 brought traffic to a standstill.

Last Wednesday July 5, a Stagecoach bus broke down heading north on the Belford Road, near the Nevis Bridge roundabout, bringing traffic to a halt during the lunchtime rush hour.

The breakdown caused long tailbacks heading north.

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times*, chairman of the A82 Partnership Brian Murphy said the incident highlighted the need for a strategic look at the transport situation in Fort William.

He said: 'We know this is a very busy tourist area and it's turned out to be busier than last year, which was incredibly busy.'

'We can't continue to ignore the fact there is no sensible diversion route unless you take a tour of Scotland.'

Mr Murphy also indicated that talks between the Highland Council and Transport Scotland are ongoing to put together a funding package to do a strategic transport appraisal of the Fort William area.

Both authorities confirmed to the *Lochaber Times* this is under way. A spokesperson for Transport Scotland confirmed it is working with the council on plans for the road. 'We understand the important part this section of the trunk road network plays in the local economy. We can confirm work is currently under way between Transport Scotland and The Highland Council to agree the scope and funding options for an appraisal of transport connections in and around the Fort William area.'

work plays in the local economy. We can confirm work is currently under way between Transport Scotland and The Highland Council to agree the scope and funding options for an appraisal of transport connections in and around the Fort William area.'

Mr Murphy said: 'It [the appraisal] would look at all the issues and all the options for the road and what might be possible to address the issues. These might look at a Caol link road,

proposals for a bypass, as well as the status quo, and any other possibilities. After looking at everything, they would come to a conclusion about what the best option would be. I am hopeful something will come out of it. It will take a bit of time to do it, but it needs to be done because we can't have this situation continue year on year.'

A spokesperson for Stagecoach North Scotland said: 'One of our vehicles developed a fault in Fort William on Wednesday July 5

before being recovered to our depot. We would welcome any proposals to improve the roads in Fort William that include bus priority which would ease the daily operational challenges our services are faced with during the busy summer tourist season.'

A Highland Council spokesperson also confirmed the local authority is looking to put together a funding package to get a strategic transport appraisal undertaken for the greater Fort William area.

Flats plan for town centre hotel Ossian's

A FORT William hotel could be transformed into 32 residential flats for people over the age of 55.

High Street hotel Ossian's has submitted planning permission to the Highland Council to convert the building into 32 one- and two-bedroom flats.

The hotel was built around 1900 and extended in the 1960s when it was bought by Wiggins Teape to provide accommodation for workmen building and operating the pulp and paper mill. It returned to being a hotel in the 1970s and has been owned and operated by Derek and Janice Wallace since 1994.

Previously described as 'Fort William's ugliest building', it currently operates around seven months of the year, with 35 bedrooms across four floors.

The existing bar/restaurant will relocate to the basement.

A supporting statement to the



View of Ossian's Hotel from Middle Street.

council said: 'One group in particular, pre-retirement, retired and elderly, frequently look for town centre accommodation which gives them easier access to public transport and services.'

'This age group is rising in numbers rapidly and is predicted to keep rising. This group has specific needs and requirements as they downsize, so the demand is for high quality, low maintenance, energy efficient and secure accommodation, which can adapt as their needs change with age.'

'This will be achieved with two lifts as well as two stair accesses, all from Middle Street, wider doorways, a solar roof, triple glazing and an entry system.'

The High Street location will reduce the reliance on private cars and increase the use of public transport.

'We acknowledge town centre car parking is restricted, but

with 32 flats replacing 35 bedrooms, possibly 75 guests, we do not see any increase to parking demands.'

'The development owns a small car park, on Middle Street, opposite the building. This is presently used by the hotel and has 10 parking bays.'

'To assist with this, reduce car running costs and reduce carbon emissions, we intend to use the present hotel car park to house a small fleet of pool cars.'

'This will most probably be three electric cars for short distance travel, and five conventional cars, but consultation with the residents' association will determine the best ratio.'

'Charging points will be placed in the dedicated parking lot. A residents' association will be set up to organise and monitor use of this fleet. The cars will be available for residents who choose to opt in to the system.'

Cash boost for roller skaters

A £500 donation to Lochaber Artistic Roller Skating Club will help the group get its skaters to competitions.

The Fort William skaters received the donation from Liberty British Aluminium.

Frieda Alexander, from the club, said: 'We would like to thank Liberty for its kind donation which will go towards the cost of travelling to competitions. The donation came as a total shock to us, but was extremely kind.'

Brian King, managing director of Lochaber operations for Liberty British Aluminium and sister energy and resources company SIMEC, said: 'We're really impressed with the work of Lochaber Artistic Roller Skating Club and the benefits it brings to a large number of local young people and adults so it's a great pleasure to help the club with the cost of travelling to competitions around the country where they can represent the area and do us proud.'

Town team gears up for bag pack

FORT William Town Team is holding a fundraising bag pack in Morrisons this weekend.

The event will take place on Saturday July 15 between 10am and 4pm.

A team spokesperson said: 'We would love to beat the total of £880 raised last year, so we need to have as many tills manned as possible.'

'The money raised last year went towards buying the plants you see around town and the compost to plant them in and paint for benches and barrels.'

Ardnamurchan High School pupil praised by Highland Council

THE HIGHLAND Council welcomed nine youngsters who have achieved their gold Duke of Edinburgh Award to its latest meeting.

Council convener Councillor Bill Lobban presented them with awards in front of family and friends at a meeting in Inverness.

The nine who attended the presentation were part of a wider group of 25 participants from the Highland area who gained their gold awards in the past 12 months.

Rubby Tilling from Ardnamurchan High School was one of nine who attended the presentation.

Before presenting them with

their awards, Mr Lobban said: 'To achieve a gold award takes a lot of hard work, time and commitment. You are credit to your families, those who have supported you through the scheme and to yourselves.'

'These awards are challenging so receipt of a gold award marks you out as having dedication, motivation and strength of character.'

'I am sure that through the varied activities each of you has undertaken, you have discovered the satisfaction of personal achievement and helping others.'

'On behalf of the whole council, I congratulate you all and wish you all a very prosperous and fulfilling future.'



Pupils at the Highland Council meeting.

Cadets host open night

THE 1st Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadet Force, Fort William, opened its doors to relatives and friends recently to demonstrate the range of activities they enjoy.

The cadets showed off shooting in their dedicated range, putting up tents to build a camp, first aid, marching and cooking. The many trophies and awards they have won over the past year were also on show.

In the middle of July the cadets head off to annual camp, which this year takes place at Barry Budden near Dundee, where they will sharpen their skills in a number of military-based competitions against other cadets from across Scotland.



Potential recruit Ty-Leigh Kitson was shown the advantages of joining the Army Cadets by Jodie Standen at the open evening.



Ian Gregor, right, and Brodie Johnstone demonstrate a range of weapons, past and present, to Davie Johnstone.

Photograph Iain Ferguson, The Write Image, F28 army cadet open night 02 IF

Council rings the changes with new parking scheme

MOTORISTS using Highland Council car parking machines will no longer have to search for change with the introduction of 'RingGo' phone parking payments across the region.

RingGo is mobile phone service which lets motorists pay for their parking with a credit or debit card, rather than using cash at a machine.

People in Fort William will be able to use the service when parking at View Forth car park.

Drivers who park their car in an area

featuring the RingGo service can contact RingGo by smartphone app, calling 01463 690 001, SMS or online, and pay for their parking by phone.

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'With RingGo, there's no need to carry change, or visit a parking machine, or receive parking tickets as parking enforcement officers check which vehicles are parked with RingGo via their handheld units.'

Drivers can pre-register with RingGo by using the RingGo smartphone app (down-

loadable free of charge either through your phone or from the relevant store) or on the internet at www.myRingGo.co.uk/register.

While pre-registering for the service, motorists will be asked to provide the number plate, colour and make of their vehicle, and their payment card details.

Drivers can also register at the same time they want to park, either by using the RingGo app or by calling the RingGo number which is 01463 690 001.

For further information on RingGo visit www.RingGo.co.uk.

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Kilmallie

BANAVIE Primary School pupils got creative in a competition to design a new logo for Kilmallie Community Centre (KCC).

Centre volunteers ran a competition for P6/7 pupils to design a logo for the KCC website.

The centre unveiled the new logo, designed by Megan Pescod, at a school assembly.

KCC treasurer Sarah Kennedy said: 'The Kilmallie Community Centre committee was delighted with the submissions from pupils from the school just up the road from the centre.'

'It was a hard decision to make but we decided on the submission from Megan Pescod. The logo brings together landmarks of the area including Ben Nevis, Loch Linnhe and the Corpach Lighthouse in the Caledonian Canal.

P6/7 teacher Clare Harley said: 'We were pleased to assist our local community centre with its request to design a logo for them. The children enjoyed the challenge.'

Everyone who took part was given a bee pencil as a thank you for their contribution and Megan was presented with two lovely cloth bags with her logo on each side and a T-shirt bearing the design.

Prizes were donated by graphic designer Armando Rodríguez Bárcenas, ARBJr Graphics and Translations, who also interpreted the original artwork for an electronic version of the logo.

The logo will now be added to the Kilmallie Community Centre letterhead and all associated documentation.



Winning design in the Kilmallie Community Centre logo competition.

Roy Bridge

A NEW bell ringing record has been set in Lochaber. Tulloch Ringing Centre near Roy Bridge saw 12 world-class ringers set a new record for the longest peal of *Spliced Maximus*.

Starting at 7.59, the band rang a challenging 11-part work composed for the occasion by Robert W Lee. The 38 methods included 20 new ones.

The group rang continuously for 12 and a half hours, generating 20,064 changes.

It used a variety of methods, some of them composed specially for the occasion.

Rules for such performances are set by The Central Council for Bellringers and required the 12 ringers to each ring their own bell unaided for the whole time. It was not a relay performance.

The previous record had been set in 1993 at Worcester when 15,840 changes were rung in 10 and a half hours.

Three ringers took part in both performances and one of them from the 1993 performance was an umpire for the event in Roy Bridge.

The umpires have to listen to the ringing and tick off every change to confirm none of the changes were the same as any other.

A group spokesperson told the Lochaber Times: 'We are thrilled Tulloch was selected as the venue for the longest peal of *Spliced Maximus* rung.'



Left to right, back row: Andrew Graham, Robin Hall, Robert Lee, John Hughes D'Aeth, Alan Reading, Michael Wilby. Front: Tom Hinks, Philip Earis, David Pipe, Simon Linford, David Brown, Stephanie Warboys.

Arisaig women enjoy centenary cream tea

ARISAIG Women's Institute celebrated its centenary with a cream tea.

The event was held on June 17 in the Land Sea and Islands Centre.

Group press secretary Yvonne MacDonald told the *Lochaber Times*: 'We owe a big thank you to Arisaig Community Trust which kindly allowed us to hold the event and ongoing exhibition until August in the Land Sea and Islands Centre.'

'In particular we wish to thank Gordon and Alison Stewart for their assistance and support. We also wish to thank all those who provided scones, pancakes, gateaux or contributed to the afternoon.'

'Unfortunately the weather was dire which meant the event was not as well attended as we would have liked. However those who attended enjoyed the event and the goodies.'



Arisaig Women's Institute members celebrate 100 years.

Schools' pipe band hitting the right notes

LOCHABER Schools' Pipe Band has enjoyed a surge in interest in drumming and now boasts a 14-strong corps.

This season, the drumming section is playing with new drums thanks to a generous £10,000 grant from the Helen and S G MacGregor Bequest Fund.

And the band has a busy season ahead.

The group has already played at various primary school and nursery fun days and at the Pre-65 motorbike trials in Kinlochleven.

The band also performs twice weekly in Fort William's High Street throughout June, July and August, only taking

a break in the first two weeks of July.

Again, the band will be in attendance at Arisaig Highland Games, Mallaig and Morar Highland Games and Lochaber Agricultural Show.

Earlier this month, the band hosted its first concert in many years at Lochaber High School.

As well as playing with the whole band, many members gave solo performances or played in small groups.

Lochaber High School's Ceilidh Band and Lochaber Gaelic Choir also took part in the concert.

Further details about all the band's activities can be found at www.lspb.co.uk or on its Facebook page.



Ardgour Primary School award winners.

Pupils celebrate awards

AS LOCHABER schools broke up for the summer holidays, there were a number of special awards ceremonies to celebrate pupils' achievements.



Pupils of St Columba's RC Primary School, Caol, at their end of term award ceremony. Highlights of the school year included winning a trophy at the Lochaber Mod and girls winning the Lochaber Netball League. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

Fort cadets remember Somme fallen

FORT William cadets took part in a First World War battlefield tour.

Cadet Lance Corporal Nicole Gray, 16, Lance Corporal Kathryn Kelly, 15, Sergeant Corran Wineberg, 16, and Sergeant Jodie Standen, 16, from 1st Battalion the Highlander's Fort William Detachment visited cemeteries, memorials and battlefields of the Somme.

Throughout the three days the cadets were in France they paid their respects at numerous cemeteries on the Somme including the Railway Hollow Cemetery and Sheffield Memorial Park.

They also visited memo-

rials remembering Scottish units who fought at the Somme, including the 51st Highland Division Memorial at Beaumont Hamel Newfound National Park and the memorial to the Cameron Highlanders at High Wood.

During the visit the cadets took part in wreath laying ceremonies at the memorial to the pipers at Longueval and the Thiepval Memorial to the Somme Missing at which Lance Corporal Kelly laid a wreath.

Lance Corporal Gray, said: 'It has made me realise how much people gave up for the freedom we have today.'



Fiona Janzen, S3, Kate Forbes MSP, Emma Vind, S3, Thomas Price, S3, James Ramsay, S3, Freya Ward, S5, Connor MacKenzie, S5, and Jiero Viray, S5.

Kinlochleven pupils enjoy visit to Scottish Parliament

KINLOCHLEVEN High School pupils were thrilled to be invited to speak at a Scottish Parliament event in support of learning for sustainability in schools.

It was a chance for pupils to speak to MSPs about the work they are doing at the school, how pupils have linked their projects to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and have used opportunities such as the Real Deal Business Challenge to highlight local issues, including litter left on the West Highland Way.

The pupils also spoke about their work with UNICEF and their journey towards becoming a Rights Respecting School.

Head teacher at Kinlochleven Rebecca

Machin said: 'It was lovely for them to get this formal recognition from Keep Scotland Beautiful and the Scottish Government.'

Kate Forbes, Lochaber MSP, gave the students a tour of the parliament after the event.

Bruce Robertson, charity trustee for Keep Scotland Beautiful and former Head of Education at Highland Council, said: 'We were thrilled pupils told MSPs about the brilliant work being done at the school.'

'My thanks to all of the pupils for the excellent contribution they made. We look forward to continuing to work with the school to ensure our young people become skilled global citizens.'

RETRO Roamer

More mid 1980s Roamer items

□ Visiting motorist kicked up blazes when he visited a filling station in the peninsula and found petrol was £1.79 a gallon.

'I get my petrol for £1.49 in London,' he raged. Filling station proprietor switched off the pump in mid flow and responded 'well, I suggest you drive back to London, sir'.

□ You can't get moving for 'towrists' in that well-known establishment in Viewforth - Ladbrokes. They're in there, day and daily, asking for change for the parking machines (when they work), for the phone, for the loo. Often they are overseas visitors who think they have to pay at Ladbrokes for the privilege of parking in Viewforth. I gather a missive is on the way to head office from local staff suggesting that, as Ladbrokes are commission agents, the company should charge a weekly fee to Highland Region, Lochaber District Council and BT.

□ A local 'legal eagle' out for a meal in Fort William at the weekend opted for a curry. Unfortunately, when it arrived, the waitress spilled a sizable amount of it down the solicitor's shirt at which, of course, the recipient got very hot under the collar. He calmed down a bit when, to curry favour, the restaurateur arranged for a taxi to take him home and back. So the lawyer didn't have to keep his shirt on after all.

□ There were several police and mountain rescue team tests at the weekend for one of these new fangled 'go anywhere' tracked vehicles. Initially it got stuck on the Caol foreshore and then became bogged down on a forestry road out Muirshearlich way. Ironically it had to be extracted by the present vehicle which is, technically, past its use-by date.

□ Local extras are flocking to see themselves on screen in *Highlander*. I gather quite a few of them are planning to charge for making guest appearances in Lochaber pubs and clubs. They're also thinking of circulating signed photos of themselves and they've been sounding out Equity for further film roles.

□ Scene - dining room of the Ben Mhor Hotel, Grantown. Principal characters - Fort William FC manager Henrick Madej and a couple of American 'towrists'. Action - Henrick, with menu in hand, goes round the tables to take the teatime orders for players and officials on the return journey from Keith. Male half of the USA duo gets up from his chair and approaches Henrick. 'Can you come over to our table in the corner when you're ready, please?' The Fort contingent, amid roars of laughter, immediately rename him Manuel and the name sticks all the way home. Henrick's brother Marek, who was in the side that day, breathed a sigh of relief when he read the team line-up in the Sunday papers which confirmed he is Marek and not Manuel.

□ First the Sunday papers credit Gary Dunlop's goal against Elgin to John Dennison. Then, last Sunday, Gary was named as the Fort scorer in the Keith game instead of Jim Jordan. A case of 'overlooking Jordan'.

Our own referees and linesmen at Claggan Park are in the news. I'm told Geordie was controlling a needle match last Monday night when he discovered, with 15 minutes to go, that he had pulled a muscle. Geordie didn't lose his gift of the gab, however, so he asked linesman Chick to take over. No doubt Geordie will be back next Saturday afternoon to give vocal support to the Fort in his capacity as their leading international fan.

□ Alister Grant was telling me about the foreign 'towrists' who have been making 'practical' use of the lay-by across the road from his house at the 30-mile limit sign down Achintore. He reckons he has had to put up with the sight of more bare bums this summer than he saw in all his years as an ambulance driver and receptionist at the Belford Hospital.

□ Meanwhile I can't wait to see the faces of our local British Telecom workforce when they receive their regulation issue of the new CIC Autumn Collection. CIC stands for 'Corporate Image Clothing' and the lads are set to be resplendent in blue breeks, sweaters and jackets. Their faces? They'll be a bright red.

Kate needed the loo - in Corpach. So she called at her cousin's house and, after attending to the urgent business, found herself being asked to sponsor the daughter of the house for £1 for this week's World Wildlife Fund Sponsored Walk. I suppose that's what you call 'In for a penny - in for a pound'.

□ Overheard in the High Street, one English lady imparting to another her knowledge of the noble sport of shinty. 'It's a bit like hockey, only very wild - and they play it on horseback', she declared. Which, of course, explains why there's been all that manure lying around lately. Indeed, it was bad enough with the underpass flooded last Thursday, but what do you think happened there the day before? It seems our four-legged friends had also 'dropped in' to the underpass and left their fertiliser behind. Yes, that's right, real horseplay was the order of the day.

□ At last I've found out why - apart from the cost - no-one plays on the putting green any more. Attached to the hut is a notice which proclaims 'No Ball Games'. Have you ever seen anyone playing putting without a ball?

□ Fishing competition last week and the anglers from the village were casting well. Bob reeled a nice three pound trout into the boat. The Inverlochites fished on but with no further luck. Then the rain came on, and, at the same time, the boat sprang a leak. Nothing for it but all hands to the baling cans. And you can guess what landed back in the water. Yes, the three pound trout. The boat didn't sink, but the trout did.



Corpach groceries - long before the Co-op.

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Fiancée says government has let down Billy Irving

LOUISE GLEN

lglen@obantimes.co.uk

ON JULY 24 Connel man Billy Irving, along with 34 other innocent men who were working aboard the anti-piracy ship Seaman Guard Ohio, will have served two years of a five-year prison sentence in India.

The men have consistently given evidence to a claim they were 'wrongly and unjustly imprisoned'.

For nearly four years now, the men and their families and friends have been fighting to bring the matter to an end.

As the second anniversary of his imprisonment nears, Yvonne MacHugh, Billy's fiancée, slammed the government and Foreign Office for their inactivity.

She said: 'Billy and the men have been caught in a political web and a justice system that has failed them and so many others. All of them have been let down by the company they worked for - Advanfort. Most importantly, they have been let down by the government.'

'They have had their freedom taken from them. Billy has missed out on the first two years of his beautiful son's life, whom he adores and loves so much. His rights to being a father and protecting his family have been taken from him.'

'He has been stuck in limbo for four years not knowing what his future holds or what will happen to him and if he will ever get his freedom back. Those 35 men have had to sit



Yvonne and William were all smiles during their flight to India in May to visit Billy in hospital.

in a Indian prison thousands of miles from home and watch as murderers, rapists and thieves arrive and leave the prison before them. Yet they still suffer daily and for what?

'They have not hurt anyone. They are not a threat to anyone. They are good men. Innocent men. Men who were out working, making a living for themselves and their families.'

'They were protecting seafarers to ensure their lives were

not at risk while they were at work. What good has come of locking our men away?

'I just want this nightmare to be over. I want to marry the man I love. I want my son to have a father. I want all 35 families to be reunited and I want justice to prevail.'

'Two years into a five-year sentence and still there is no light at the end of a very dark tunnel. More than 250 days since the appeal against their

conviction and still we have no verdict.'

'This month I urge you to do one thing. Spread the word of this injustice. Tell your friends, families and strangers about the #chennai6. Sign our petition. Write to your local MPs, celebrities or Indian politicians. Tell them we want our men home. Mothers and fathers want their sons home. Wives want their husbands home, children want to play

with their daddies again. Help us free them.'

For its part, the UK government claims to be doing everything it can to help the men. A spokesman for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said: 'We are in close contact with the men and their families, and we recognise what a difficult time this is for them as they continue to wait for a verdict on their appeal. 'We have taken significant

action on this case. The Prime Minister raised it with Indian Prime Minister Modi at the G20 in Hamburg last week, saying she hoped for news of a verdict in the case shortly. She had previously raised the case during her visit to India in November 2016.

'The Foreign Secretary [Boris Johnson] raised it with his Indian counterpart in January. 'And to underline the importance of the case, the Chancellor of the Exchequer raised it when he met the Indian Finance Minister in April.'

'The case is also raised regularly at official level both in New Delhi and Tamil Nadu. On each occasion, they stressed the importance of seeing progress.'

'Our staff in India have been providing support to all six men since their arrest and will continue to do all they can to ensure the men's welfare is protected in prison.'

The six British ex-forces personnel were on anti-piracy duties with a combined 74 years of service, were arrested in October 2013 after they were accused of entering Indian waters without permission.

The Indian High Court at first accepted the paperwork was in order and dismissed the case, but the men were unable to leave India while a lengthy appeal against the charges being dropped was considered.

This led to the men standing trial at the magistrates court, which then decided that the men had failed to prove that they were on anti-piracy duties.

Argyll trout get royal approval

TROUT from Loch Etive in Argyll was given a royal stamp of approval on Tuesday July 10 when the £3.1 million expansion of RR Spink and Sons facility in Arbroath was officially opened by the Princess Royal.

The company, which is part of Dawnfresh Seafoods, one of the UK's largest processors of seafood, uses trout farmed on sites at Loch Etive and Loch Awe to deliver the highest quality of products for top bluechip retailers such as M&S and Sainsbury's.

The 170-strong team in Arbroath still prepares every product by hand - from curing and smoking to slicing and finishing - producing around 170,000 packets of fish a week.

Dawnfresh employs more than 30 staff in Argyll to farm fish which is then sent for processing in Angus and Uddingston, as well as being exported abroad as whole fish.

The Princess Royal met Dawnfresh directors, including Stewart Hawthorn, before being shown around the facility by Alastair Salvesen CBE, chairman of the company, who described the different processes.

During her visit, the Princess Royal witnessed how products were made, from the arrival of the ingredients to the finished product being despatched to supermarkets and other outlets across the UK.

Mr Hawthorn said: 'I was delighted to be able to meet the Princess Royal in my role as farming director for Dawnfresh.'

'High quality seafood is something for which Scotland is famous around the world and much of that begins right here in Argyll.'

Argyll College UHI scoops prestigious annual awards

ADVERTORIAL

Two of the top accolades in the Highlands and Islands Students' Association's (HISA) annual awards scheme have been won by Argyll College UHI representatives.

Mo McKenna and Judi Worthington, who run the College's Arran Centre, were named 'Best Support Staff' and Dunoon student Scott Anderson won the 'Best Engagement with the Student Voice - Student' category.

A further three staff members were Highly Commended in this year's honours, which are open to nominations from all 13 different Colleges and research institutions which make up the University of the Highlands and Islands.

The announcement was welcomed by Argyll College UHI Principal Fraser Durie, who was very impressed by both the number and standard of nominations from across the area.

'It is wonderful that our students felt strongly enough about the fantastic job many of our staff and student representatives do that they took the time to nominate them for these prestigious awards,' he added.

'The Argyll College UHI nominees were up against high quality competition from an area stretching from Shetland to Elgin to Perth, so to come out with two awards and three commendations is brilliant.'

'I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate our winners in particular, but also all other nominees and other staff who together work so hard to ensure Argyll College UHI provides the best educational experience it possibly can.'

Mo and Judi, the Arran centre manager and assistant centre manager respectively, were nominated by a student who said although there were only two of them, they 'provide the support, encouragement and advice of a team of 100'.

'They are always so happy, enthusiastic and positive and work together so hard as a team to make our lives at college as smooth as possible,' the student added.

'The pair of them are true stars and it's fantastic that they've been recognised for all they have done for me and every other Arran student. They truly deserve it.'

Mo said she and Judi were both 'stunned and absolutely delighted' to have received the award.

'Supporting students through good times and bad can be one of the most challenging, but also the most rewarding, parts of our job. I know how hard all staff in University of the Highlands and Islands work to support students, so to win this is just amazing,' she added.

Scott Anderson, won the Best Engagement with the Student Voice category, and is no stranger to awards last year having won the Best Class Representative accolade in the same scheme.

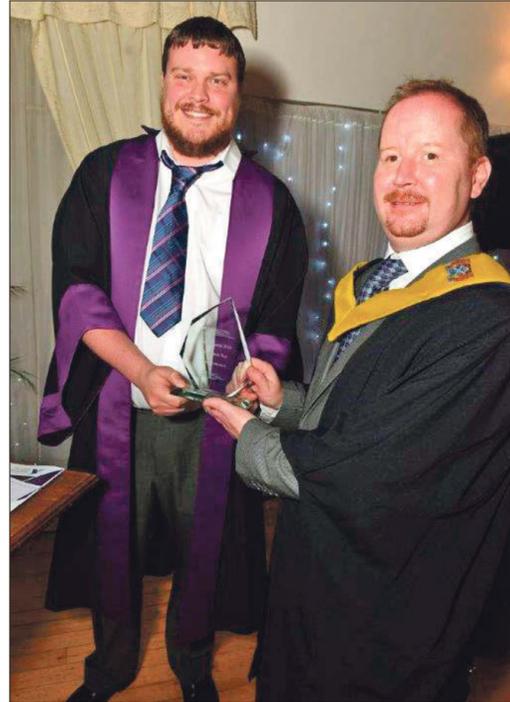
Scott spent 20 years in the catering industry before embarking on life as a student, and now juggles his studies with helping to look after his three children.

The student who nominated him states he has 'worked tirelessly always trying to engage with students across our network. He has made every effort to hear what students are saying and to act on their feedback. He has gone above and beyond in his role and his dedication should not go unnoticed.'

Scott said: 'I am genuinely shocked, honoured and humbled that people went out of their way to nominate me again! I'm really grateful to the students of Argyll College UHI and to HISA for giving me these opportunities and experiences that I have enjoyed so much over the last year.'

The three Argyll College UHI nominees who were Highly Commended were Campbelltown's Kerry McGeachy in the Most Inspiring Lecturer category, and Morag Nimmo from Dunoon and Dawn Miller from Campbeltown, both in the Most Engaging Video Conference Tutor category.

The University of the Highlands and Islands was one of the first UK institutions to



Scott Anderson and Luke Humberstone.

introduce student-led teaching awards. The initiative, now in its eighth year, recognises excellence in 14 categories, with winners coming from around the university partnership.

Dr Iain Morrison, dean of students at the university, said: 'You cannot fool a student: they know high quality learning and teaching and great student support when they see it. The fact that there was a record number of nominations, covering every part of the university, suggests that our staff continue to provide excellent teaching and support for the people whose feedback they care about most, their students. The student testimony from these awards is genuinely moving at times and anyone considering studying with us can be assured they will be in good hands.'

Holly Scrimgeour, president of the Highlands and Islands Students' Association, said:

'The HISA Awards are an excellent opportunity for our students to celebrate the people who have supported them throughout their studies and reward them for their efforts and contributions to university life.'

'Our lecturers and support staff are vital to the student experience during study and these awards allow us an insight into who is going above and beyond to positively benefit our student population.'

'The nominations are a delight to read. The HISA Awards also acknowledge our class representatives and clubs and societies ensuring that we celebrate those students who give their time and support to their classmates. It is an honour to give these awards.'

For more information on Argyll College UHI, an academic partner of the University of the Highlands and Islands, go to <https://www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk/>



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Viewpoint



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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

There has been considerable and justified focus in recent weeks on the bravery and brilliance of our emergency services, especially police and firefighters.

However, as we report today, members of the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team have been experiencing a busy few days by responding to a number of emergencies.

Tragically, among the casualties was a fatality on Ben Nevis after a climber fell some 50 metres on Saturday while on Tower Ridge.

The following days saw the team back out in Glen Nevis to bring to safety a woman who had been injured on the Steall following a fall. And earlier in the week, LMRT

had carried out what was described as a 'challenging rescue involving three climbers who were cragfast on Long Climb on the Orion Face on Ben Nevis'.

It is important to remember that the 45 members of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team are volunteers. These hardy souls put their own lives in danger every time they are called into action, taking to some of the most daunting landscapes in the Highlands, often in very poor weather conditions.

As John Stevenson, leader of the team, said this week, the volunteers have had some tough days recently. We salute the sterling work they do.



Days gone by – 1991

This week we turn the clock back to 1991 and the parade led by Lord Gray ahead of the Taysnuit games.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



From St Kilda to Stuttgart – part one

IT HAS been a long time since I travelled through and to so many varying locations in one week.

From the remote and rugged cliffs of St Kilda to the emerald glens of Antrim, to the golden wheat fields of East Yorkshire, to the bustling streets of Stuttgart, through the oyster, raw herring and champagne bars of Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, I got back to where I started under the majesty of Ben Nevis in Fort William – and all in six days.

The first three days were wonderful, the fourth a mixed bag, the fifth an array of the worst travel experiences I have ever had, and the sixth a wonderfully tranquil and relaxing journey home.

Since bringing the St Olave back down the Caledonian Canal to the sea in May, we have been waiting for the right weather conditions to coincide with a suitable time to take a voyage out to St Kilda. The forecast for last Tuesday and Wednesday was good and schedules were flexible enough to free up the time, so off we went.

On the way out to Eriskay, where we were going to fuel up and spend Tuesday night, we stopped off in

Tobermory to deliver a few birthday presents for Alasdair 'Stephoe' MacLean. He was out fishing but we left the loot with his wife Iona. With all the writing about scallops over the past month I had built up quite an appetite for them so couldn't miss the chance of a good feed in MacGochans. With its close proximity and association with Isle of Mull scallops, the quality of product served here is consistently better than any top restaurant.

Scallops are in my top three favourite foods, but in too many restaurants what you get is a tasteless mouthful of disappointment. Not so in MacGochans and a good plate full locally landed succulent, sweet amazingness was enjoyed immensely by myself and my able shipmate, Duncan Kennedy from Knoydart.

Good company and good food – a never failing combination.

As we were steaming out of the Sound we spied Steptoe himself hauling creels just to the south of us, so we swung by to wish him a happy birthday. Twenty years ago to the day, I was out on the Dawn Treader with Steptoe. I was 18 and was just having a day out before playing the box in MacGochans that night. Life is full of an infinite range of parallel timelines simultaneously moving with different perceptions of speed, length

and changes of self within each. It does not feel very long at all since that day in 1997 and neither do I feel very different.

Contrastingly, we filmed the *Alive* video shots of the Dawn Treader in almost the same location but much poorer weather only in September last year and that feels like a lifetime ago. More importantly than all that theoretical pondering was the fact that when came round on Steptoe's port side he passed over a basket of prawns. Prawns are in the same region as scallops on my favourite food list, so a feast was going to be had when we were tied up later on.

The sea was calm as we passed the Cairns of Coll then sailed onward across the Sea of the Hebrides and as we neared Eriskay, a few harbour dolphins accompanied the slowly increasing north-west wind.

The Acairsaid Mhòr in Eriskay was once home to one of the most renowned small fleets of herring ring-netters in the country, operated by the esteemed MacKinnon family and it was the history and the once thriving bustle that filled my thoughts as we tied up at the now quiet harbour.

After refuelling, we settled down to a feast of prawns and waited for the rest of the gang to arrive off the ferry from Mallaig.

To be continued ...



Social media

We asked last week for people to nominate what they think is the most beautiful part of Oban.

Kevin Keen posted: 'I like the view from the road at the top of Jacobs Ladder, looks over the distillery, the pier then over Kerrera etc. Always good place for a sunset too.'

Roy Summers said: 'The view from Eaderglyn at top of Bealach an Righ across Oban Bay. Although I don't think the yellow building improves it!'

Maggie Archer wrote: 'For me it is the Tower over looking the shore. Parsley, a Maine Coon Cat (very famous in Oban) wears a tracker when out and about. His mama takes pictures and posts

them on his FB page. You should find him and post a picture. He hangs out at The Balmoral and he loves The Tower and the local pubs. I am serious he's famous all over the world.'

John Muir suggested: 'Oban itself..I worked on the oilrigs for 27yrs..in my 2 weeks leave..I spent a lot of time going up to Oban from Ardrishaig..just love the place..great shops..friendly natives..the Ducati family ...the late Willie Kerr..John Stoddard..Kevin Burnett..just the memories of years gone by..but Obans the best town on this side of the Mississippi.'

Danni Hay offered: 'The view from the pier straight out past Dunollie castle

and the maiden Isle. Not condemned buildings or council monstrosities.'

Carine Baker posted: 'Looking across the bay to Kerrera and beyond to the majestic and beyond it to Mull. Especially in winter with its snow capped peaks.'

Siobhán Ni Rachtuir said: 'view from mccaigs tower had to be included.'

Murdo MacKenzie wrote: 'Looking up to Soroba.'

Allan Strang Jnr posted: 'The view to Mull and Morvern with Kerrera and Lismore below. Certainly not any of your pics above surely!'

Dougie Weston quipped: 'One of ma refurbished bathrooms in the Royal.'

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

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

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

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

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

Hospital provides a fabulous service

Sir,
The *Oban Times* story of the body in A&E was picked up in sensational fashion on the front page of the Daily Mail (June 30).

The effect of this is surely to undermine the morale of the colossally loyal and hard-working existing staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban, and makes it more difficult to attract new staff to come and work here. It must also have made it very distressing for the family involved.

Peter Bennie, of the BMA Scotland, said last week: 'The financial difficulties facing the NHS in Scotland, and the pressures on our clinical workforce are unrelenting. Good health services cost money, and health spending is a political choice. We want the Scottish public to be consulted on what they need from the health service, and they must be told honestly how much it will cost.'

That is the point. Your paper, along with the whole people of this area, should be highlighting and supporting the superb service this whole area receives from its hospital in Oban, despite the constant budget cuts at local level, and the unwelcome problems caused by those cuts. Funding for NHS Scotland is in the hands of the Scottish Government. We all have a say in the matter.

Your contributor, David Pollard from Mull, makes a very good point about the 'island proofing' policy. By contrast, Michael Russell MSP, in your article, reveals the real Scottish Government direction of travel – ever increasing centralisation of services.

Mr Russell refers to Oban's hospital as 'doing all the things a community hospital does best'. Oban is not a community hospital; it is one of six district general hospitals, classified as such by Nicola Sturgeon.

There is a huge difference between the two categories of provision. For Oban to be downgraded to community hospital status would mean infinitely more patient services being transferred to Glasgow or Inverness, with all the uncertainty, cost, unnecessary travel and anonymity of service that implies.

The *Oban Times* is the voice of the people of Oban, Lorne and the Isles. Please will your editorial team become the champions of the vital services that are currently provided by Oban Lorn and Islands Hospital as a district general facility.

The headline I look forward to seeing is: 'Oban Times succeeds in saving Oban hospital service.'

Mike Robertson,
Oban.

Saved from choking by superb team

Sir,
Given the adverse publicity levelled at Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban recently, I thought you might welcome a letter of appreciation.

My husband, who is a survivor of oral cancer, relies on mouth swabs to clear detritus from his mouth as he

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



BHA AN T-UISGE A' DÒRTADH is mi a' tilleadh às an Eilean Sgitheanach bho chionn ghoirid agus 's gann gun robh an traifaig a' gluasad is carbad slaodach neo dhà a' bacadh na bha air an cùlaibh.

Bho mhullach Dhruim nan Cleòch chithinn gun robh sreang de char-badan a' sineadh suas ri mìle romham agus ged nach fhaicinn fada às mo dhèidh, bha an loidhne a' leantainn an sin. Feumaidh tu foighidinn a' sibhal rathaidean na Gàidhealtachd aig àm sam bith ach tha cùisean gu sònraichte trang le luchd-turais fad an t-samhraidh agus tha mòran a ni gairdeachas ri sin is iad an eisimeil a' ghnìomhachais airson bith-beò.

'S fhada bho thòisich turasachd air buaidh a thoirt san Eilean Sgitheanach agus gu mì-fhortanach dh'fhuing cànan is cultar dualchasach an àite ri linn. Ged a tha e fìor mhath a bhith a' faicinn beagan ga dhèanamh tron Ghàidhlig ann a bhith a' tìladh agus a' toirt aoigheachd dha luchd-turais, saoilidh mi fhìn gun gabhadh mòran a bharrachd buannachd a thoirt aiste.

had no swallowing reflex. These are small sticks with a sponge tip.

One night recently at 2.30am, he woke me to say a sponge tip had lodged in his throat and he was in danger of choking. I telephoned for an ambulance but none was available.

I therefore drove him to A&E and, as we turned in, he began to choke. However, we were seen immediately by the staff, who called a clinician who was there in less than five minutes, and removed the obstruction with dexterity – and good humour.

We are indebted to the hospital staff who undoubtedly resolved a situation which could have ended in tragedy.

Susana Garland,
Kilmore.

MP seems to have selective memory

Sir,
It was gratifying to read that our newly re-elected MP Brendan O'Hara will represent all constituents in Argyll and Bute, no matter how the voted. I have always been under the impression this was the essential duty of all MPs, regardless of party.

However, I would suggest he let himself down badly by accusing Prime Minister Theresa May of calling the election in the interest of the Conservative Party rather than the country. This came from a member of a party whose leader has consistently put independence ahead of all other aspects of government and, as a result, lost 500,000 votes and 21 seats. Hypocritical in the extreme.

Mr O'Hara then criticises Mrs May's 'lame-duck' government for relying on the DUP to stay in power. It has obviously slipped his mind that his own party, the SNP, depended on the votes of six insipid Green Party members to govern – if you will pardon the expression – Scotland. The adage of people in glass houses springs to mind.

Mr O'Hara concludes by hoping the government will now see the sense of having Scottish voices in the Brexit negotiations. Again, it would appear a selective memory is an essential SNP attribute as he seems to have forgotten the 13 Conservative, six Labour and two Lib Dem MPs the Scots sent to Westminster in place of his unseated colleagues, who will be available if required.

W B Coultts,
Laurel Crescent, Oban.

Lament for the Scalpay peat-cutters

Sir,
In recent months, far from being the informative and interesting newspaper it once was, *The Oban Times* has become a highly-coloured advertising vehicle for every music festival in the Highlands, and a congratulatory broadsheet for all the swimmers, climbers, cyclists, bungee jumpers (not so much of that these days) and abseilers among us.

All very commendable but not really what I fork out my 85p for. For years I kept a scrapbook of snip-

pets from the paper, but alas it has had to be abandoned. No more gems such as 'the defence witness said he would have noticed if his friend had a meat cleaver tucked into his trousers' and 'the high jump was cancelled because campers had inadvertently burned the equipment'.

And as for the antics of the Rowan Club and the Scalpay peat-cutters – how I miss them.

Yes, you still have a few cracking columnists, but oh for the days when digital images weren't quite so easy to come by and the columns had to be filled with words.

Glimpse through some of these wonderful old papers that we had the pleasure of reading on your 150th anniversary and let's have a bit more effort at the content.

Trish Hurst,
Carradale.

Appeal for help to trace RAF skipper

Sir,
When I was a foolish 11-year-old, I gave away my father's RAF log book and medals. Now 50+ odd years later, I am trying to piece together a dossier of his six years' of serving in the RAF in the Second World War, earlier in Pathfinder Force and then for the remainder of the war, as flight sergeant, flying Lancasters, in Bomber Command 15 Squadron.

His skipper in Lancasters came from Oban and ran a garage or motor dealership. In the early sixties, my father visited him while touring Scotland.

I am hoping that one of your readers may be able to give me his skipper's name so that the historian at 15 Squadron Association can use the name to unearth my father's war records as I do not have his service number.

My email is gdroberts1@aol.com
Gordon Roberts,
via email.

Support for victims of terrorist attacks

Sir,
In recent months our country has witnessed terror attacks in Manchester and London.

In London, terrorists used knives and vehicles to kill and maim people, while in Manchester a suicide bomber killed and injured people attending a pop concert. These terror tactics were first deployed in Israel and the parallels don't stop there.

On that note I wanted to let your readers hear about one contribution that hasn't been given national media coverage but merits recognition.

Three Israelis – Rabbi Dov Benyaa-cov-Kurtzman, Professor Yori Gidron and Dr Moshe Farchi – set up trauma centres in the aftermath of the Manchester and London terror attacks. If you want to send a message of thanks to the people who helped our country via our elected politicians then follow this link www.israelbritain.org.uk/news.

Susan Wallace,
Fort William.

Ailean Caimbeul

a bhitheas i anns na coimhearsnachdan agus anns na dachaighean, dà phrìomh amas ann am Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig.

Chan e a-mhàin turasachd cultarail a dh'fheumas taic bathair agus ghoireasan, tha an aon rud fìor a thaobh gnìomhachas aoigheachd anns an fharsaingeachd, agus ged a tha na sporain poblach gann de stòras, feumar dèanamh cinnteach gum bheil seirbheasan iomchaidh agus dòigheil ma choinneamh nan daoine a tha a' tighinn nan dròbhan chun na Gàidhealtachd is dha na h-Eileanan. Meal an naidheachd air muinntir Mhìnginich san Eilean Sgitheanach a tha a' leudachadh pàirce chàraichean airson dèiligeadh ris na mìltean a tha a' tadhal air "glumagan nan sìthichean" air Allt Coir' a' Mhadaidh.

CONGRATULATIONS to Minginich community in Skye on their initiative to enlarge the car park and create new facilities for visitors to the famed Fairy Pools near Glen Brittle.

Hopefully a problem resolved with a business solution.

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

Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses

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

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

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

Hearing my son call me Daddy was just amazing

LOUISE GLEN

lglen@obantimes.co.uk

CONNEL man Billy Irving responded at length to a card sent to him by *Oban Times* chief reporter Louise Glen. Here is his reply in full.

Hi Louise, Thank you for your lovely card and your support, really means so much to me and helps me to stay strong.

The support we have had not just from the UK but all round the world has been totally amazing and overwhelming.

We receive so many letters and parcels which is such a boost to our morale.

For me, all the support and help is for my family too and that they are not alone.

I know my fiancée has been fighting non-stop since the beginning of this nightmare. During this time she went through pregnancy, moving house, working and raising our now two-and-a-half-year-old son.

Saying that I am proud seems such an understatement and doesn't give Yvonne the credit she is due.

But I am so proud of Yvonne. Not only has she done all the fighting for me, but she has put up with my complaining and moaning, listening to me and basically being my rock.

Knowing all we have been through for almost four years now and Yvonne has stood by me. I just hope I can be the man, husband Yvonne deserves.

My son William is growing up without his dad. Being denied his dad because the powers that can end this total miscarriage of justice refuse to intervene, even after evidence is clear we are innocent. Also letters from lawyers and Human Rights at Sea were given to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on request to prove violations of human rights, violations of laws and illegal detentions by India in 2014, still, to date, FCO/UK government have done zero about our complaints. Letters from lawyers and HRS (three years on) and are still allowing our human rights to be broken by Indian authorities.

This is the same country and government I served for 10 years in the army (which I am proud of serving in), doing operational tours in Northern Ireland/Iraq and Afghanistan – those places where my government sent me, where I was willing to give my life, where I have lost friends.

I did this in the knowledge that UK government would fight and protect its citizens. I now know I was wrong.

I have begged for help, I have provided proof of miscarriage of justice/laws, violations of



The visit by Yvonne and William to India gave a huge boost to Billy's morale.

human rights and yet the UK government will not step up and fight for us. They have not once condemned any of our mistreatment or injustice.

I am sorry, I go off on a tangent when I speak about our government. I get sidetracked from what I was trying to say.

My son William growing up without me, his father, breaks my heart.

When Yvonne and William surprised me on my birthday by visiting me here in prison it was out of this world.

As I walked down to the jailer's office (a guard came and said I had to see a jailer), I just got about 10 metres away and I heard: 'Daddy!' I looked up and there was Yvonne and William shouting 'Daddy' as loud as he can.

The feelings/emotions I had cannot be described. It was the first time I heard William speak. The first time I had been called daddy.

And to see the look on Yvonne's face. Such a proud mum. It was just totally amazing. I got to spend two hours with them in the five days they were allowed to see me.

I was scared William wouldn't bond with me or me to him but from the minute

he shouted daddy my worries vanished.

William was and is amazing. But being cooped up in the jailer's office (which is about three-and-a-half metres square) other people in it, the heat was outrageous (hottest month of the year, May).

I just wish we were not restricted and we could play, run about. In saying that, we did play hide and seek, ha ha.

Those two hours per day will always stay with me, hearing William talk, being called 'daddy', hearing and seeing William laugh and best of all our big family cuddle.

I've never been one for talking about my feelings or emotions, but since this fiasco I have opened up more.

My happy thoughts in here are 1. Getting to Yvonne and William and being a family, 2. Being a dad to William, 3. Marrying Yvonne (when we can do it, I just can't wait to call Yvonne my wife), 4. Being surrounded by family and friends.

Four things that seem simple and are free (well maybe not getting married that will cost, lol) also things I have taken for granted before this fiasco, by that I mean family and friends.

Other things that help me cope in here is drawing/painting and music.

I have my chanter, penny whistle, harmonica and the prison has an acoustic guitar.

I play the pipes but I just play about trying to teach the others.

I have written quite a few pipe tunes now (but I have a feeling some might be tunes I've known or heard since I was a boy, lol) and I have written three songs with guitar.

I wanted to share some things with you, feel free to put them in your story (if this gets to you on time). I do apologise for my writing and spelling but I hope it is readable. I am not the best at writing letters.

If you can, can you please put a massive thank you for everyone's support and help. It really has helped me and my family so much.

If you have any questions you'd like me to answer please, feel free to ask and I will do my best to answer them.

Thank you for your lovely card, it really brightened my day. Massive thank you to all at *The Oban Times*.

kindest regards, William (Billy) Irving.

How you can help Billy

Send a video message of support to Billy's partner Yvonne via www.facebook.com/thechennai6, simply saying: 'I support the Chennai six.' If you do not have the technology, come into *The Oban Times* office and we can record a message.

Join up at one of the four places to get information: www.chennai6.co.uk, www.facebook.com/thechennai6, www.twitter.com/chennai6 and www.change.org/6soldiers.

Write to Brendan O'Hara MP, Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and Prime Minister Theresa May at House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

Hold a fundraising event, perhaps a coffee morning or cake sale, at your work with pre-printed letters for colleagues to send to the relevant parliamentarian.

Billy will be receiving a free copy of *The Oban Times* every week from now until his release and we will run weekly messages of support to him. Send these marked 'Messages for Billy' to *The Oban Times*, Oban, PA34 4HB or email: editor@obantimes.co.uk. Or send us a photograph of your parcel.

Send a letter or a parcel to Billy or one of the other men in prison, to: Office of Superintendent, William Irving, Puzhal Prison, Puzhal 1 Central Prison, Chennai, India, 600066. A 2kg parcel costs £13-£18 to post via the post office. Signed-for deliveries could cause an issue with guards, so just use a standard service. For a list of items that can be sent, see obantimes.co.uk.

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

About 1pm on Friday June 30, in Argyll Square, Oban, near to the Clydesdale Bank, a disturbance occurred between a man who was with a woman and three other women. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

About 5.50am on Friday July 7, following a report of a man behaving in an abusive manner and assaulting a woman in a flat in Scalpay Terrace, Oban, a 30-year old-man was detained. The man was later arrested and charged with assault and abusive behaviour and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

About 11.45am on Sunday July 2, on the A828 near Benderloch, a collision occurred between a Suzuki Swift and a Nissan Micra. Subsequently, a 26-year-old man was charged with careless driving. The occupants in the Nissan Micra suffered minor injuries as a result of the collision and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

About 2.05pm on Friday July 7, within Lidl store in Oban, an unattended Samsung mobile phone was stolen. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

About 9.50am on Monday July 10, on the A828, near Barcaldine, a motorist was stopped for allegedly exceeding the speed limit. The driver, a man aged 29, was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Between 7pm on Thursday July 6 and 9.30am on Friday July 7, in Mill Lane, Oban, a Landrover Discovery had a door lock damaged and entry was gained. It is not thought that anything was stolen from the vehicle. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

Anyone with information about any of these incidents is asked to call police on on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 11.1

Find is linked to St Columba

EVIDENCE kept in a matchbox has been used to prove that a wooden hut traditionally associated with St Columba on the island of Iona dates to his lifetime in the late sixth century.

Carbon dating has led to the breakthrough, which proves samples of hazel charcoal unearthed in an excavation of a wattle and timber structure on Iona 60 years ago are from the exact period Columba lived in the Inner Hebridean monastery.

The samples were excavated in 1957 by archaeologist Professor Charles Thomas but, with radio carbon dating only just emerging at the time, they were not tested

and instead kept in matchboxes in his garage in Cornwall.

Altogether, 10 radio carbon dates were returned from samples from Prof Thomas's excavations, all dating to the early medieval period (AD 500-1100).

The 'hut' is believed to be the monk's 'cell' where he prayed and studied in isolation. Results show the hut dated back to between AD540 and AD650, while Columba died in 597. Prof Thomas died last year.

Dr Adrian Maldonado, from the University of Glasgow, described the carbon dating as vindication of his foresight in storing the samples.

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Check our website for full information about all our courses: www.whc.uhi.ac.uk

Oban volunteers give so much to the town

OBAN War and Peace Museum is one of our most treasured assets, loved by locals and visitors alike (if you haven't visited yet, you should) and it's in need of help at the moment, writes *Oban town ambassador Kay MacDonald*.

It's run by fantastic volunteers who do two-hour shifts to keep it open to the public and at the moment they're struggling to fill those shifts. If anyone has a few hours to spare, I would heartily recommend it as a worthwhile thing to do as well as being fun and entertaining.

We're very lucky in Oban to be served by so many groups run by volunteers for the benefit of those of us who live in and around the town – Oban and Lorne Lions, Rotary Club of Oban, Oban Communities Trust and Oban Phoenix Cinema to name a few – people who give of their time and talents for the community and I know that they all struggle to recruit new members to lighten the load.

If you have a few hours or a skill you think may be useful, then please think about offering your services. It's a great

way to get to know different people and be part of the wider community.

As well as being a town ambassador, which is a fantastic way to get to meet all these fabulous volunteers, I'm also a member of the Oban branch of the Scottish Women's Institute, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

So far we've celebrated with a tea party in the Guide Hall with a scrumptious afternoon tea provided by Argyll on the Pier and next the Lorn Group, which consists of all the SWI groups in the area, is having an afternoon tea in the Great Western Hotel.

One of my favourite things about the SWI is all the fabulous food but it's also about meeting like-minded ladies who enjoy crafts, cooking and a blather.

I was really saddened recently to learn that some of the groups in Lorn will be closing because of falling membership. I've gained so much through my membership of the SWI – I've made new friends, learned new skills and gained confidence.

Being part of a group like

the SWI or volunteering for one of the charities locally is something I would recommend for everyone, not only for the contribution they make to the community but also for what they can do for you personally.

The Rotary Club of Oban has a great event this weekend with the annual duck race in the Black Lynn from the bridge on Combie Street.

Ducks will be available to buy from stalls in Gibraltar Street and Station Square on

Friday and Saturday and, after all the rain recently, we should have a good burn for them to race on.

I'm really looking forward to it. Good luck, ducks.

The photo last week was just round the corner from Coast restaurant on George Street on the upper part of the building. The date is 1888 and the letters look like MAC. If anyone can enlighten me, I'd be grateful.

This weeks photo is easier to find ... if you know where to look.

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Lochaber's Finlay Wild wins Nevis hill race

LOCHABER Athletic Club held its annual Half Ben Race on July 2.

The race is part of LAC's Triple Hirlple series, including Melantee and Cow Hill.

The races are sponsored by Lochaber Embroidery And Printing and Cotswold.

There was a good turn out of 70 runners from a number of clubs as far away as Hastings.

The race starts from Claggan Park, Fort William and ascends to half way up Ben Nevis, a 670 metres ascent and 9.6km distance, by the tourist track, returning the same way.

The course has evolved in recent years to avoid erosion on the 'Grassy Bank' and new fences cut out a number of shortcuts. Cool misty conditions made

Athletics

for good running conditions. First home in the senior male category was multiple Ben Nevis Race winner Lochaber AC's Finlay Wild in a time of 52:05. Second was James Espie of Deeside Runners in 54:49. Third was the rapidly improving Steven Traill in 57:27 (LAC).

Amanda Blackhall (LAC) won the ladies and FV40 prize in 1:14:05, closely pursued by (Mrs) Sarah Macdonald (LAC). Jo Smith (LAC) was third lady.

A spokesperson for the club said: 'Thanks to the Hirlple's sponsors LEAP and Cotswold, and the many helpers and spectators.



Winner Dr Finlay Wild, No 179, as the Half Ben Race begins. Photo: Abrightside Photography.

Results from Fort William Golf Club Golf

THE LATEST results from Fort William Golf Club: On Saturday July 1 the July Medal was played with the following result: Section 1 - 1 Stephen Howden net 72 (84-12); 2 Ian Robertson net 75 (86-11) 3 Steven Jamieson net 79 (84-5).

Section 2 - 1 Graeme Worsdall net 75 (90-15); 2 Craig Jamieson net 76 (104-28); 3 Pat Cassidy net 80 (95-15)

On Sunday July 2 the Senior July Medal was played with the following result: 1 Stewart Duncan net 66 (81-15); 2 Henry MacDonald net 68 (79-11) BIH; 3 Ian Robertson net 68 (79-11)

The Campbell Homes Medal took place on Tuesday July 4 and resulted in 1 Nick Hough net 71 (80-9); 2 Gareth Lee net 73 (85-12); 3 Carl Stubbs net 81 (96-15).

Two rounds of the MacIver Cup were played over the weekend of July 8 and 9 with the following result: 1 Martin Kerr 123 (66 + 57); 2 Frank Sweeney 131 (68 + 63); 3 Graeme Worsdall 137 (71 + 66).

Ladies: On Saturday July 8 the third round of the E Cameron Trophy was played and resulted in 1 Rosemary Macintyre 35 points; 2 Iona Cameron 30 points; 3 Hazel Cameron 29 points.

The Harris Ross Charity three-person Texas Scramble takes place on Sunday July 30. To book a tee-off time contact the clubhouse on 01397 704464.

Golf Fun Week sponsored by Ben Nevis Distillery is currently taking place at Fort William Golf Club from Monday July 10 to Friday July 14 - contact the Clubhouse to enter the daily competitions.

Club lotto numbers

Lottery numbers

THERE is £1,200 up for grabs in the Ballachulish Shinty lottery draw. This week's winning numbers for the draw on Saturday July 8 were 6, 14 and 15.

The winning numbers for the Caol Regeneration lotto draw on Thursday July 6 were 5, 9 and 12. There were no winners so the jackpot is up to £300 for today's draw (Thursday July 13).

Winning numbers in the Fort William Golf Club lotto draw on Thursday July 6 were 8, 10 and 18. There were no winners so the jackpot is up to £900 for today.

Caol Community Centre lotto numbers for July 9 were 9, 10, 12. There were no winners. Next week's jackpot is £1,000.

Spean Bridge Golf Club open results

SCRATCH - Gary Martin; Handicap - 1 Alan Ritchie (Traigh); 2 Galen Dalziel; 3 Bill Mackenzie. Ladies: 1 Aileen Campbell; 2 Katherine Ann Munro.

Glengarry shinty club lift McBain Cup

GLENGARRY played Strathglass in the recent North Division two fixture which also doubled as a cup game for the McBain Cup following the Glengarry Games on Saturday July 1.

This year Strathglass were the

opponents and the game was also a scheduled north division two fixture.

The Garry boys were in fine form and were soon in front with goals from Raymond Robertson in sixth and 17th minute, Nick Dalgety in ninth

Shinty

minute, Scott Bremner in 14th and 24th, Daniel MacLennan 19th minute and just before half time Nick Dalgety made it 7-0 for the Garry.

The second half was much closer and Strathglass's defense, especially their two young wing backs, played very well.

But Glengarry added three further goals - Raymond, Nick and Daniel added one a piece to make the final score 10-0.

Captain John MacKinnon accepted the cup from Mr Anthony McBain and Daniel MacLennan won Man of the Match award.



Glengarry Shinty Club.

Fort lose to Ross County from the last ball of the match

AN EVEN contest, with some controversy, saw Fort lose to Ross County from the last ball of the match.

Batting first, Fort looked in a strong position but fell away from 115-4 to 133 all out. Ash Anjum top scored with 41 and Col Jennings made a useful 30. But after Ronnie Maclean went for 18 there was little resistance. Suggden, the County bowler was unable to complete his first over having been judged to have bowled three no-balls above waist height.

Still Fort felt they were in with a chance and the strong opening partnership of Duncan and Ross Lavin meant Ross struggled for runs. Davidson chipped in with the wicket of Bishop and Colin Lavin dismissed top scor-

ers Suggden (31) and Embleton (32). Two run outs and some tight bowling by Anjum (0-12 from 9 overs) set the scene for a close finish. However, Davidson became the second bowler to be withdrawn after his third high no-ball and Fort were unable to prevent the last Ross pair hitting the winning run from the last ball of the match.

Captain David Duncan expressed his disappointment at

coming so close. He said: 'Once again we fielded two new players and everyone did their best. It is never good to lose but we will come back from this stronger than ever.'

FWCC practice session is every Tuesday evening at the Cricket Ground by Stramash (the former BA Club) starting at 5pm.

All welcome, so head along and give cricket a go.

Jags take part in Oban tournament

SOUTH Lochaber Thistle Football Club took part in the D&K Cup tournament hosted by Oban Saints last weekend.

The Lochaber side accepted a last-minute invitation after Berwick Rangers pulled out. Other teams taking part were Hamilton Accies, Dundee United, Alloa Athletic and Oban Saints. Turn to page 28 for a full report and photographs.



The semi finalist's who took part in the Ben Nevis Distillery nominated pairs held at the Fort William Railway Bowling Club's Green at Inverloch on Saturday July 1. Despite some rain, they completed the competition having had to cancel the last two competition because of the weather. f27bowls01.

Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography



Jamie Mason presents the winners of the Jamie's Pairs evening competition at the Fort William Bowling Club Inverloch to winners Peter Black and Martin MacLeod and runners up Alan Lawrie and Helen Ross. Photo: Anthony MacMillan Photography

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

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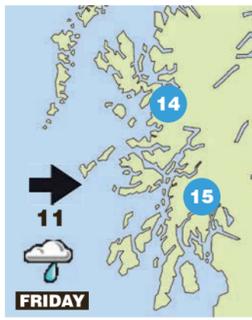
Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

WEATHER

Thursday Sunshine and showers
 Winds moderate south south westerly
 Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.

Friday Cloudy with rain in the late afternoon
 Winds moderate westerly
 Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.

Weekend Light rain on Saturday
 Outlook Sunshine and showers on Sunday
 Winds moderate west north westerly
 Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
 Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday July 13, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm										
Thur	02.14	1.2	07.59	3.5	14.19	1.1	20.25	3.7	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	02.48	1.3	08.34	3.4	14.54	1.2	21.03	3.6	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	03.29	1.3	09.15	3.3	15.38	1.3	21.48	3.5	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	04.19	1.4	12.10	3.2	16.32	1.4	22.44	3.3	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	05.23	1.5	11.06	3.1	17.38	1.5	23.58	3.2	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	06.36	1.5	12.28	3.0	18.56	1.5	***	**				
Wed	01.35	3.3	07.48	1.4	14.03	3.1	20.14	1.4				

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate