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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES



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'Rockshield' enters battle

New lobby group to save under-threat school

CAMPAIGN group, 'Rockshield' says it is confident it can save former Oban primary school Rockfield from demolition, writes Louise Lee.

The group has collected more than 700 signatures for its petition and says it has received 'overwhelming' support for plans to build a cultural hub in the derelict school building.

Meanwhile Argyll and Bute council is pushing ahead with plans to sell the building and has set a closing date of August 8.

Two groups have been formed since it was revealed in *The Oban Times* that the property was to be sold for £1.

Rockshield wants to save the building from demolition, while Oban Communities Trust aims to promote the building as a major community resource.

Rockshield has contacted Audit Scotland and Historic Scotland about the proposed sale of the building.

However, Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) still wants to knock down the school

to build 37 one-bed roomed flats. Alastair MacGregor, ACHA chief executive, said: 'ACHA's proposals would deliver new homes for the next hundred years and desperately needed affordable housing for future generations.'

'The time for paralysis by analysis is over, we need to move forward on the basis of what is achievable. Our proposals offer that.' Mr MacGregor also thanked Oban community council for its support for ACHA's affordable housing plan.

Gordon MacNab, one of the leading figures in both Rockfield campaigns, said: 'We are setting up Oban Communities Trust in order to save this building.'

'People are crying out for space. There is nowhere in town that displays Oban's cultural history - for instance, where is the Argyll collection? Or where can locals sit and enjoy the day. We have lost the railway station, Ganavan, Argyll Hotel and so on.'

Fiona Campbell-Smith, chairwoman of the newly formed Rockshield

group, said she was overwhelmed with the level of public support.

She said: 'It is ridiculous to suggest the council put a closing date of August 8 on this building. They need to think again. This is a beautiful old building that does not need to be pulled down. We don't care what goes into it - as long as it is saved.'

'There are precious few buildings left - let's not lose another one. I am extremely confident that if we work together we can save this building.'

An Argyll and Bute spokeswoman said: 'We have contacted everyone who previously expressed interest in the property. There has been more interest in the property.'

'All offers received will be evaluated by officers who will prepare a report with recommendations for members to consider.'

'We anticipate that a report will go to the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee when it meets again in August.'

BEN CARRIES THE HOPES OF A NATION



HELPING HANDS: There was a fitting handover of the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton at Oban's McCaig's Tower, as Kyle Dods, a Commonwealth Games competitor from Delhi in 2010, passed the relay baton to aspiring athlete Ben Coates. The 15-year-old athlete has won Scottish junior titles in sprint hurdles and has ambitions to compete at a future Commonwealth Games. The baton came to Argyll on Sunday and was taken on a 175-mile route from Appin to Dunoon. For more, see pages 6, 7 and 21.

Billy home soon - girlfriend

CONNEL seaman Billy Irving, detained in an Indian cell for five months, could soon be back home after charges against him and his fellow crew were quashed, according to his girlfriend, writes Euan Paterson.

The 33-year-old sailor spent months locked up in squalid conditions after being detained along with crew from the merchant ship MV Seaman Guard Ohio, owned by US security firm Advanfort.

It had been alleged the craft had illegally procured diesel and was carrying arms and ammunition without the required documentation.

But the charges have always been strongly denied and some of the crew, including Billy, were granted bail in March.



HOMEWARD BOUND: Billy Irving

On Thursday morning, Billy's girlfriend Yvonne MacHugh told *The Oban Times* her partner had been freed.

She said: 'This morning all the charges were quashed and all going well Billy should be home very soon. I am the happiest girl in the world right now. It is such a relief.'

Billy's father Jim, a former policeman in Appin, and Yvonne have visited Billy in Puzhal jail in Chennai.

They were joined by Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid at Downing Street earlier this year to hand in a petition with more than 147,000 signatures calling for the release of the six former British soldiers on the crew.

Billy's family had hoped to have

him freed on Boxing Day last year but bail was opposed at the time by police in India.

A spokesman for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said it was aware of reports stating the men had been freed but was seeking clarification as *The Oban Times* went to press.

He added: 'We are aware of reports of a court decision to quash the charges against the six British nationals. We are urgently seeking official clarification. We continue to offer consular support to the individuals concerned and their families.'

'We are grateful to the governments of India and of Tamil Nadu and the local state authorities for the support they have given our colleagues.'

Full steam ahead for Costa coffee

COSTA Coffee will be up and running in Oban by the end of August.

Moving into the former Whisky Shop in Station Square, the national coffee chain will have both an inside and outside seating area with a capacity for more than 50 customers.

Oban community council initially refused to back plans for the shop, which led to a lively Facebook campaign by townsfolk to bring the popular chain to Oban.

Despite more than 20 objections to the premises - Argyll and Bute council approved the plans.

In a statement from Costa Coffee, a spokeswoman confirmed: 'Our new store in Oban will be opening at the

end of August and will create eight new jobs for local people.

'Whenever we open in a new location we do all we can to integrate ourselves with the community, getting involved with events; and providing the store as a meeting space and helping with fundraising.'

'With this in mind, we are also pleased to announce that we are looking to partner with various community groups and charities in the town.'

It is understood Costa have already contacted a number of groups to offer their premises for a meeting space and to look at supporting organisations financially.

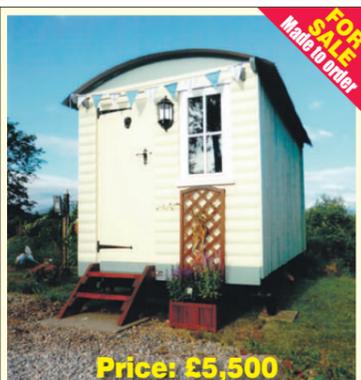
Golfer set to make Olympic history

A TEENAGE golfer from Oban is to become one of the first golfers to represent Great Britain at an Olympic Games for more than 100 years.

Glenruitten Golf Club member Robert MacIntyre will next month join up with Team GB for the Youth Olympics in Nanjing, China from August 16 - 28.

The 17-year-old player is one of only two golfers in the under-18 squad, alongside Wentworth's Anabel Dimmock.

For more see the sports pages.



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Positive support for hotel

HOTEL chain Travelodge says its plans for a hotel in Oban has met with a positive response with more than four businesses coming forward with possible locations.

A Travelodge spokesman said the 120-bedroom venture would ideally be located in the town centre, but the company will consider all the options.

He also confirmed they had spoken to a pro-active local councillor who had asked them to consider a site at Dunbeg.

Speculation also grew about a possible Oban seafront location, with two possible sites being the former Argyll Hotel or the White Church, which is currently up for sale.

Alan MacLeod, who owns the site of the former Argyll Hotel on the town's Esplanade, said that the location was 'not for sale.' He

continued: 'Selling to a hotel chain is not my plan.' Owners of the White Church were unavailable for comment.

Travelodge said it had been overwhelmed by the positive response from both councillors and the community. At this stage it was unable to confirm an opening date, but was keen to get moving with its investment as soon as possible.

A spokesman for Travelodge said: 'Oban seems like a really forward moving place with lots going for it. We are looking forward to being part of the business community in the town.'

Facebook was alive with comments about the proposed move. Christine MacDonald said: 'Is the old bowling building big enough? Very central and next to ferries and railway and bus stations. While Catherine Anne Macleod said: 'You guys don't need a travel lodge. Why take

away business from your fabulous self catering and B&Bs?'

However, Melissa Rarity said: 'This is exactly what Oban needs. I would love to visit more, but accommodation is just too expensive. I think where the bowling alley was or Rockfield would be great location.'

Angus Telfer posted: 'It would be ideal in the Dunbeg area. But I think we are not looking until a decade away until further expansion in that area is actually needed.'

While Alec Walker, with tongue firmly in cheek, suggests: 'What about Leeds? That's close enough.'

It is understood that Premier Inn, who are also considering moving to Oban, are already working with architects on developing a plan for a specific site in the town.

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NEW UNIT TO CRACK DOWN ON DANGEROUS DRIVERS



DRIVING FORCE: Inspector Adam MacKenzie and chief inspector Marlene Baillie launched the new road policing team in Oban which includes, from left, police constables Colin May, Andrew Barron and Stuart Campbell

Police team hits the roads

A DEDICATED road policing team for Argyll and Bute has been launched in a bid to reduce the number of serious and fatal accidents on the county's roads, writes Euan Paterson.

Every division in Police Scotland has one road policing team but the introduction of the new Argyll unit gives L Division (Argyll and West Dunbartonshire) a second team.

The move has come in response to public concern over driver behaviour in the area and the number of fatal and serious road crashes on the A85 and A83, in particular.

Inspector Adam MacKenzie, who will head up the new unit, said: 'Although last year's was not the worst figure on record, there were

still too many fatal and serious road crashes in Argyll.

'The issue of road safety is very high on the community agenda and the best way to tackle that is through the road policing team.

'The major work is preventative but we can also get officers to the scene of a crash more quickly.

'This is better for the families of the people involved and for gathering evidence in order to get roads reopened as quickly as possible.'

The Argyll team will comprise 12 police constables and two sergeants, with one of the sergeants and seven constables covering the areas of Oban, Lorn and the Isles, Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay. Priorities for the

officers will be increasing patrols throughout the district and working in and around schools.

Road safety campaigner Andy Elkerton, whose friend was killed in a car crash on the A85 outside Oban in May this year, welcomed the move, saying: 'I am really pleased to see the police making this positive move. It is a sign, if any more were needed, that further action needs to be taken by the other relevant authorities.'

The unit will be supported by trunk road patrol groups at Glasgow and Fort William. It will also work closely with BEAR Scotland, Transport Scotland, Argyll and Bute council and the fire service.

Chief inspector Marlene Baillie,

whose command area covers Oban and Lorn, Mid Argyll and Kintray, said: 'I want to prevent people losing their lives or being seriously injured on our roads and I also want to minimise the impact that any such road crash has on our local communities.'

'Having our own dedicated road policing unit is a positive step towards achieving this.'

Inspector MacKenzie added: 'I would like to ask the people of Oban and Argyll to work with us in this road safety measure. All too often it is local people being hurt on our roads. Please drive according to the conditions, within the speed limits and help reduce the number of crashes occurring in Argyll.'

Clocked at 99mph

IN THE week a new road policing team was launched in Oban, three motorists on the A85 were charged within 16 minutes of each other for speeding.

Police officers set up a speed trap at the Arrivain straights between Dalnally and Tyndrum on Sunday afternoon.

At around 12.45pm, a 49-year-old motorcyclist was clocked at 99mph.

Just 15 minutes before that, police stopped a 67-year-old motorcyclist from Linlithgow who was travelling at 87mph.

One minute after the 67-year-old biker was stopped, a car driver from England was recorded travelling at 86mph.

Outside influence

MOTORISTS continue to flout speed restrictions in the village of Lochawe - but offenders are often motorists outside of Argyll, say police.

Last Friday police officers spotted two drivers speeding through the village at 50mph.

The speed limit is 30mph.

Both drivers were visitors to the area.

Connel roadworks

A SKID resistant road surface will be laid on the A85 between Connel and Saulmore as part of a £120,000 project.

Transport Scotland said the work comes after an investigation it carried out revealed a new surface would reduce the number of road accidents.

The work, which begins on Tuesday, will cover a 710-metre section of road and will last for two days. It is scheduled to be carried out between the hours of 7am and 7pm.

Temporary traffic lights and a 10mph convoy system will be in operation for both days.

Outwith working hours, traffic management will be removed, but a 30mph speed limit will remain in place.

Bypass best cure for chronic congestion, says roads boss

A TOWN centre bypass is the only viable solution to the gridlock that chokes Oban's main thoroughfare, writes Louise Lee.

That is the view of councillors and agencies who want to call a halt to the chronic congestion that brings town centre traffic to a grinding standstill.

But the council has argued that building a bypass or development road from the Halfway House garage to Oban high school at an estimated cost of between £10-15million is too expensive.

However, councillor Duncan MacIntyre, who holds the roads portfolio for Argyll and Bute council, says the town will suffer if the development road is not built.

The councillor for Oban North and Lorn, said: 'There are major developments on their way that will bring more traffic to the town.'

'When road equivalent tariff (RET) is introduced for the Mull ferry in 2015 and a second vessel introduced in 2016, alongside the major development in Dunbeg that is now under way, we seriously need to start thinking about the future.'

'The development road is a solution



CONGESTION CHAOS: traffic backs up along Oban's Esplanade

that was put on the back burner - but it is now something that seriously needs to be considered.'

The plan for the development road was abandoned by the SNP administration in 2012 saying it would have been too expensive.

However, concerns have now been raised about community safety, particularly in light of a recent accident on the A85 outside Oban, which effectively cut off the town

for almost nine hours. Paul Connelly, area manager of Argyll and Bute Fire and Rescue Service, said he would be delighted to see the development road back on the agenda.

He said: 'Anything that makes our communities safer, and by that I mean the wider community, or our crew safer would be welcome.'

'When people get caught up in an accident or in congestion they often think they can make up time by

speeding. One thing often compounds another.

'Oban is congested - no two ways about it. To resolve that we must think about freeing up areas through the town.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'The Oban development road is still an aspiration of the council and we are taking a phased approach to its delivery.'

'As part of our significant investment in Oban through the TIF (Tax Incremental Funding) scheme, we will be looking at the internal operations of the town as a first phase - working to improve traffic flow and to ease congestion.'

'The recent introduction of decriminalised parking enforcement should also go some way towards easing traffic congestion by increasing the turnover of parking spaces.'

'The road itself will require a significant funding package and can only be delivered through a partnership approach between the council and its key partners - the Scottish Government, Highland transport (HITRANS) and the development industry.'



Planting a bright idea for children

NURSERY schoolchildren in Ballachulish now have their own sunflowers to look after, thanks to a donation from a local garden centre.

Pupils at St Bride's and Ballachulish nurseries were given the colourful plants by Karen Campbell and Allan Dickie, owners of The Cabin Cafe and Garden Centre as a memento of their visit to the popular venue.

The green-fingered children will grow the flowers at home and have the opportunity to show them at Caol gardening show on August 16.

An enthusiastic Karen Campbell explained: 'We're sponsoring one of the categories at the Caol gardening show.'

'We decided this would be a great way to get a new generation of young children interested in plants and flowers.'

Karen continued: 'Hopefully this visit will spark something in the children and they'll want to grow and cultivate flowers as they get older.'

LITTLE GREEN SHOOTS: Karen Campbell, of The Cabin Cafe and Garden Centre, with the Ballachulish youngsters proudly showing off their sunflowers

MULLines



COME ONBOARD: Mull Otter Group's Jane Stevens unveils the first otter information board

MOG up on island otters

THE FIRST of a series of information boards creating awareness of the conservation needs of otters on the Isle of Mull has been installed in the south of the island.

The project, initiated by Mull Otter Group (MOG), plans to erect a further four information panels at strategic sites throughout the island in the near future.

These information boards highlight the role otters play in the everyday life of a healthy and vibrant island ecosystem and the responsibility that local people and visitors have in ensuring this symbolic animal's future well-being.

Jane Stevens, MOG chairwoman, commented: 'Large numbers of visitors are attracted to the Isle of Mull every year in the hope of seeing an otter. This helps generate much-needed income for the island's economy, but can also increase the risk of disturbance to local otters and their territories.'

'By providing suitable and topical information about otters, Mull Otter Group hope to work with the wider community to help promote a greater understanding of otters and the way humans impact on their lives.'

Mull Otter Group has been seeking external funding and permission from landowners for this ongoing project in recent months. Individuals, groups and businesses are being encouraged to sponsor these boards.

The first information board, sponsored by Holiday Mull and Iona, has been erected at Loch Scridain. This is an area that attracts many visitors and is a well-known location where otters may be observed.



GLASS ACT: Neil Morrison behind the bar at Macgochans in Tobermory

The toast of the awards

MACGOCHANS in Tobermory has scooped the Tennent's Quality Award at this year's annual DRAM Scottish Licensed Trade Awards, held on Monday July 7 at Glasgow's Grand Central Hotel.

Macgochans faced stiff competition from the other finalists, Clarks on Lindsay Street in Dundee, The Dean Tavern in Newtongrange and The Commercial Bar in Wishaw.

The judges in this category were looking for a pub that showed a commitment to quality, excellent customer service, great beer and a good range of products.

In this category quality was crucial and the judges, who included Tennent's quality control expert Stephen Dickson, went over the cellar with a fine tooth comb.

The judges said of Macgochans: 'This outlet surprised us. Its cellar was first class and the owners clearly pride themselves on everything to do with quality.'

'From the temperature of the beer, to the cleanliness of its lines, this pub offered the perfect service and a delightful environment too.'

The awards, dubbed the licensed trade 'Oscars', are organised by licensed trade magazine DRAM.

This was their 19th awards ceremony, and they are the longest-established awards of their kind in Scotland, recognising excellence in Scotland's bar, restaurant and hospitality industries.



Stellar show for Texans

VISITORS and staff at Duart Castle were treated to a concert by the Mull Gaelic Choir last Saturday.

The concert was one of a regular series of recitals that the choir performs at the castle.

Tourists Dan and Mindy McLaury from Texas expressed the delight at being part of the audience: 'A Scottish scotch and a Gaelic choir. Our friends won't believe us.'

Sir Lauchlan and Lady MacLean were delighted to invite the choir to their castle home.

MULL SPEAKS OUT ABOUT THE IMPACT OF NEW FERRY CHARGES

Cost of living crisis looms for islands



Duncan Swinbanks, who owns Tobermory Tackle and Books, said: 'CalMac blames the government, the government blames CalMac, and nobody gets anything done.'



Ronnie Campbell, a community councillor who has lived on Mull for over 70 years, said: 'This is a very big issue. It's putting hundreds of pounds on to some deliveries - it's absolutely crazy. One of the guys had to take a half bag of potatoes off his van because it was over weight - was that really going to make a difference?'



Neil Morrison runs Macgochans pub in Tobermory and grew up on the island: 'If prices go up, there will be a knock-on effect to customers. We are already paying a premium anyway for all products. Any increases won't help matters.'



Fiona MacInnes lives on Mull where her husband is a builder and joiner. She said: 'I think this will have an effect, but I know it's something the suppliers have to do. This certainly is a bone of contention but you can't blame the suppliers.'



Mull resident Ron Blacoe said: 'The weighing of vehicles happened almost overnight. I wouldn't say there's been a lot of complaints but it is definitely a big talking point on the island.'

THE prospect of a cost of living crisis is weighing heavily on island communities following ferry operator CalMac's decision to charge overweight vans, writes Steven Rae.

The charges, which had not been enforced for two years, were applied two weeks ago to vehicles classed as 'light goods vans'. Vans weighing under 3.5 tonnes pay a greatly reduced rate, whereas heavy trucks and lorries are charged a commercial levy, which is significantly more expensive.

The weight restriction has been law since 2012, but has only been imposed by the ferry company since July 1 this year following concerns about safety and pressure from HGV operators.

CalMac is now weighing all commercial vehicles before they are allowed to board, which some passengers claim is causing delays and late arrivals.

Many islanders believe the small vans provide a valuable service and help keep costs under control. They fear the new fares will price the vans out of business and spark a hike in household shopping bills.

Islanders are hoping that Transport Scotland, the body responsible for reviewing ferry fares, will take a sympathetic view by subsidising ferry costs.

A spokeswoman for Transport Scotland said: 'Operational issues are a matter for Caledonian MacBrayne. Ferry safety is the top priority for both Transport Scotland and Caledonian

MacBrayne, and we support any measures that make services safer for passengers and crews.

'On the grounds of vessel safety, the operator has begun to more robustly enforce the arrangements that have been in place since 2012.'

Mike Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, backed the islanders' call for additional financial help to offset any rise in prices caused by the newly enforced levy: 'I have already raised this issue as a matter of urgency with the transport minister and CalMac and I will continue to push for a speedy resolution.'

'Whilst there are safety issues involved in any overweight loading, it is vital that the company considers any knock-on costs that may result and ensure that islanders are not penalised.'

'CalMac has no right to increase fares by stealth and must not do so. The company and the Scottish government have a duty to protect and support island communities and that must be a paramount consideration at all times.'

Westminster MP Alan Reid joined his Holyrood counterpart in calling for action from the Scottish government and CalMac over the new ferry charges.

He said: 'Islanders are in despair at the increase in the cost of living caused by CalMac's decision. This is a completely unacceptable situation. Islanders simply cannot pay the higher prices.'

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Steve Mitchell and Bobby Watson were on their first holiday to Tobermory, but were well aware of the issue. Bobby said: 'We've met lots of small vans delivering on the islands. Firms will need to pass on the cost regardless and people will be the ones who are stung.'



Bob Boswick, who runs the Spar shop in Salen with wife Linda, said: 'If the government looks at it, it will need to look at some sort of subsidy. Because of the weight of some deliveries, vans are having to make four runs rather than three runs.'



Nikki Clark and daughter Rebekah were travelling to Oban from Mull on Friday to meet a connecting train to Glasgow, but missed it due to a delay on the ferry leaving Mull. Nikki said: 'We run the Information Centre in Tobermory, and we sell bus and ferry timetables. People are coming in and they're missing ferries more often recently. We also own a B&B and a lot of people have had to stay overnight because the ferries are delayed.'

A tide of anger on Lismore as operator looks for a solution

ISLANDERS on Lismore say they have run out of patience with CalMac over their ferry service from Oban after years of disrupted service.

The MV Isle of Eigg, which has been the mainstay of the Oban - Lismore run, is now the oldest in the ferry fleet.

The Eigg and the MV Isle of Raasay, which is also used on the run, have been labelled as outdated by islanders, who have complained about strict weight limits and lack of disabled access.

However, the ferry company says it is doing all it can to help islanders while it seeks a permanent solution.

The larger loch class ferry, the MV Loch Striven, has also been used on the run but it can only be used at certain tides because of the slipway design in Oban.

Now frustrated islanders are demanding that CalMac and Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL), which owns the ferry fleet, find a solution.

Lismore resident Beth Campbell said: 'There are three boats allocated to the island but none of them can provide a comprehensive service. The Eigg and the Raasay were both brought into commission over 40 years ago and at that time they were going to be in place for 15 - 20 years.'

'CalMac conceded over 10 years ago that the Eigg was outdated and would be replaced. The Loch Striven was brought onto the route this year but cannot ply at low tides.'

The Eigg has weight restrictions, no drive-on access, no disabled access for passengers, no view out of the windows and no facilities other than one toilet, which was OK for the 1970s but not much fun in 2014.

'Runs are being cancelled, bookings cancelled, lorries refused and costs are soaring as the loads are having to be split up for two sailings.'

A CalMac spokesman said: 'We have given a commitment to the Lismore community to introduce a loch class vessel on the Oban to Lismore service whenever practicable.'

'We have encountered unexpected challenges with the port infrastructure in Oban which has led to tidal restrictions being placed on the use of a loch class vessel on this service, so are having to operate a two-ship service.'

'We recognise this is far from ideal and share everyone's frustration that the deployment of the larger vessel is not as simple as originally envisaged, but the community can be assured we are working hard behind the scenes to do everything we can.'

'In the meantime, we are working with islanders to address their individual needs as we have always done and are grateful for their patience.'

Flying off the handle over flag

COMMONWEALTH BANNER TAKES PRIDE OF PLACE

NATIONALISTS are feeling a bit blue about the council's decision not to fly the Saltire flag, writes Louise Lee.

But it will be all white on the night of the referendum as nothing will be flown in its place, says Argyll and Bute council.

Councillor James Robb, a former leader of Argyll and Bute council, says the Saltire should be flown on council flag poles if it is not a special day such as the Queen's Birthday, in line with a council decision made in 2008.

Mr Robb claims that 'pressure from the Better Together campaign and the political administration of the council have decided that the Scottish flag will not be flown in the

run up to the independence referendum'.

Calling the council a 'laughing stock', he said: 'The Scottish flag is not owned exclusively by the 'Yes' or the 'No' campaigns and both take equal pride in it. It has flown at council buildings for six years without complaint and indeed with general approval.'

However, an Argyll and Bute spokeswoman said it wasn't the referendum dictating the lack of a Saltire - but an ages old council policy.

She explained: 'It is not the case that the council has taken a decision to stop flying the Saltire. Our flags policy, which has been in place for a number of years, specifies a

number of designated civic flag poles and particular days in each year when either the Saltire or the Union flag will be flown on them.'

'At the moment, the Commonwealth flag is flying on our civic flag poles.'

'This will remain in place until the conclusion of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.'

The next date identified, in the policy, for flags to be flown on civic flag poles is November and until then there will be no flags in place on these poles.'

However, the policy decision taken by the council in August 2008 states: 'This council instructs the Director of Corporate Services

to arrange for the St Andrew's flag (Scottish Saltire) to be flown on all other days of the year outwith those specified occasions allocated for the flying of Council or Union flags as identified in the existing policy.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish thought the whole issue was in danger of flying in the face of common sense.

He said: 'I have much more pressing matters to deal with than what flag flies, and from where.'

'I really don't have the time for this - it is well down my list of priorities for the people of Argyll and Bute.'

'I am sure the majority of people in Argyll and Bute feel exactly the same.'

Islands lose overnight GP service

SHOCKWAVES have been felt throughout the islands of Mull and Iona after GPs announced they will no longer provide out-of-hours emergency medical cover on the island.

This places a resident population of more than 3,000 people without access to emergency medical care from 6pm until 8am.

Doctors in Tobermory will no longer provide the service after October.

Councillor Alastair MacDougall was shocked when heard from The Oban Times about the withdrawal of the service.

He said he had not received prior notice of the GPs' decision.

Councillor MacDougall is the

chairman of the community planning partnership, which work with NHS Highland.

Councillor MacDougall said: 'It is frightening and a sad day for the islands of Mull and Iona that our doctors have pulled out of providing the service.'

'We have a doctor leaving the Ross of Mull in September and the NHS don't seem to be bothering one bit.'

'Unless you are fit to see a doctor during the day, then this is a very bad situation that cannot be accepted.'

NHS Highland has said it is in negotiation with the Ambulance Service and NHS24 to continue to provide a service to the communi-

ties. But it didn't say this would mean the restoration of a GP out-of-hours service for the island.

A spokesman for NHS Highland said: 'We have a statutory obligation to provide alternative out-of-hours arrangements for patients served by this practice and is therefore working closely with partner organisations such as the Scottish Ambulance Service and NHS 24 to ensure that appropriate alternative provision is put in place.'

'NHS Highland believes that it is important to consult with the communities affected by this decision and to involve them in the discussion and arrangements for an alternative service.'

Veronica Kennedy, acting locality manager for Oban, Lorn and the Isles, said: 'The aim of NHS Highland is to ensure that local communities continue to receive a safe, sustainable, high quality, local service and to work closely with communities to meet the needs of the local population.'

'We will be arranging public drop-in sessions in August for those areas served by this practice so that we can make the local community aware of the situation and how we are planning to put alternative arrangements in place.'

'We are currently finalising the details for these sessions and they will be widely advertised nearer the time.'

Filling the gap in Oban's dental access centre

THE search for a lease-holder for the dental access centre in Oban is almost over, ending months of aching disappointment for NHS Highland.

While a formal agreement has yet to be signed, the Scottish government has agreed that a one-

year fixed term lease for an extra dentist can also be made.

A spokesman for NHS Highland said: 'Following our decision in May to advertise the lease for the Oban dental access centre, we held interviews this week and have selected a potential lease-

holder and we will be starting discussions with them in the near future.'

'This is good news for the provision of dental services in Oban and will resolve the recent issues that have been facing the provision of dental services in the town.'

'We have received the Scottish government's approval to appoint a dentist for a fixed-term contract of one year.'

'This additional post, which will be based in the dental access centre, will help us protect the service.'



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Miniature train venture back on track for Argyll

A PLAN for a miniature railway may be back on track after four people have come forward to offer land for the mile-long track and engines.

Simon Clarke, who worked in the Middle East oil industry for years, revealed to The Oban Times last week that he had not had a single offer of a suitable site for his business opportunity - in spite of the fact he was not looking for any financial investment from local backers.

He said he was being forced to look outside Argyll to continue his business venture.

Since then, four people have now come forward from Oban, Taynuilt and Loch Awe.

Simon will be visiting the locations to assess their feasibility for his miniature railway plans. The entrepreneur has also visited a potential site in Campbelltown.

To contact Simon for more information, phone 07789 616 288 or email simon.clarke@lineone.net.

Fears over pupil support cuts dismissed

CONCERNS that children are missing out on support in school have been dismissed by Argyll and Bute council.

But parents say reductions in support may cause problems for children with complex needs spending a full day in class.

One mum, who did not want to be named, said her son needed support every hour he was in school, but a recent assessment cut his hours to just four supervised hours a day.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'Education, social work and health services across Argyll and Bute follow the national Getting It Right for Every Child practice model guidelines to assess the additional support needs of children and young people. Depending on individual circumstances, this process may involve one or more agencies. Following this, a plan may be put in place, outlining appropriate outcomes linked to specific needs. This plan will inform the level of support and how that is provided; support in turn is linked to the outcomes set out in the plan.'

Sleeper service contract secured

A 15-YEAR contract for the sleeper train service between the Highlands and London will secure the service, says Highland MP Charles Kennedy.

The award of the franchise to public service specialist Serco was announced in last week's transport questions to Stephen Hammond MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport. A consultation on the line will now be conducted by Serco.

Mr Kennedy said: 'The serious point here is that after decades of campaigning we have, at last, a modern and secured sleeper service for decades to come.'

'Having seen Serco's initial ideas, it does offer the prospect of an exciting, comfortable and safe service way into the 21st century.'

'I do encourage as many users and other interested parties as possible to take part in Serco's consultation process so that these new age sleepers are as consumer-friendly as possible. In the interim, I want to see more emphasis on marketing of the sleeper services and the online reservation system which accompanies it.'

Chainsaw warning

ARGYLL and Bute council's trading standards team is warning people about potentially unsafe chainsaws and generators being sold in communities across the area.

The team has been working with local police following reports of men selling petrol chainsaws and generators from vans in towns throughout Argyll and Bute.

The chainsaws do not carry the CE mark which means their safety for use can't be guaranteed.

It is understood there are up to six vehicles operating across the area, visiting local businesses and inviting passers-by to look at the chainsaws and generators stored in the van.

The council has warned that while it can be tempting to buy these items at what seems like a bargain price, the potential cost to personal safety far outweighs this.

People offered these goods or who sees anyone attempting to sell items in this way should contact Police Scotland on 101. Anyone who has bought one of the chainsaws or generators should contact Argyll and Bute council's trading standards team on 01546 604287.

OBAN RESIDENT VOICES CONCERN OVER UNCUT ROADSIDE VERGES



OVERGROWN: Shaun MacIntyre, who is five foot 10 inches tall, showing the length of the grass verges at a commonly-used crossing point 07_128grass01

Long grass putting pupils' lives at risk

THE LIVES of children are at risk at a primary school, according to an Oban man.

Shaun McIntyre, a member of Soroba community association, says the grass verges across from Oban Primary School Campus have not been cut this year, causing a dangerous blind spot for drivers.

Shaun said: 'It's just an accident waiting to happen. The lives of children are at risk with the verges this long. I've seen the kids use paths through the verges as a shortcut and even though I was only travelling at 20mph, I've had a few heart-in-mouth moments.'

'They just appear in front of you out of nowhere and have no road sense when they're that young.'

Argyll and Bute council has said it does not own the land and is therefore not responsible for its upkeep.

Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'The verges are, and have been in the past, an absolute disgrace.'

'I've tried asking the council, I've tried asking Argyll Community Housing Association and I've tried asking the community payback team and they have all denied it's their responsibility.'

'No-one seems to be taking responsibility because if they cut

them once they're expected then to carry on cutting them.'

Shaun said he personally contacted individual councillors in the past to get the verges cut.

'Two years ago I emailed former councillor Fred Hall and he managed to get the verges cut. Last year I contacted councillor Mary-Jean Devon and she managed to get them cut, so this year I contacted councillor Roddy McCuish,' said Shaun.

'Roddy has tried his best but seems to be getting nowhere.'

The concern about the verges comes only months after a young girl was struck by a car outside the school.

The seven-year-old suffered minor injuries in March, when she was hit after school, on the opposite side of the road from the verges.

Following this incident, the council pledged to extend safety barriers on McCaig Road and make improvements to the footpath at the Willowview entrance to the campus, with a council spokesperson confirming the work would be carried out during the school holiday, to minimise disruption.

The council road safety team will also be working with pupils in the new term on an awareness and education programme on pedestrian safety.



READY FOR BUSINESS: the Dragon's Glen judges are excited about what Lochaber has to offer. From left: Angus MacDonald, Anja Baak, Finlay Finlayson and Alasdair Ferguson

Budding Lochaber entrepreneurs gear up to enter Dragons' Glen

BUDDING entrepreneurs in Lochaber will be put through their paces for the chance to win a cash prize in a regional competition.

'Dragons' Glen, inspired by popular television programme Dragons' Den, is offering anyone with an idea to start up or develop a business to present their plans to judges, with the potential to start up their company if they win. Finalists will be probed and scrutinised by a panel of Highland entrepreneurs

during the competition, run by Lochaber Chamber of Commerce and the Lochaber Ideas Week team, and the winner will be offered £7,500 to develop their project, as well as £1,000 worth of web design support and a one-year membership to the chamber of commerce.

Lesley Benfield, chamber chief executive officer, said: 'We continuously support entrepreneurship in Lochaber and we are looking forward to seeing

the business ideas pitched. The market place is ripe for new businesses and Lochaber has an admirable track record for recognising the opportunity that entrepreneurship and self-employment presents. I would urge anyone that is looking to either take their first steps to a permanent business base or is looking to expand to enter the competition.'

Anyone over 16 with a business idea can enter Dragons' Glen at <http://www.ideasweek.co.uk>.

New aircraft for remote routes

PASSENGERS from Glasgow to Campbeltown, Barra and Tiree will soon be flying on a government plane after it signalled its intention to buy two aircraft last week.

The flights operated under the Public Service Obligation (PSO) routes have entered the formal tendering phase.

The Invitation to Tender document is available from Highlands and Islands Airports Limited (HIAL) from today and the tender process will run until August 22.

Transport minister Keith Brown MSP said: 'The current planes operating on the routes are owned by Loganair, so purchasing our own aircraft will also encourage more competition when the contract for the PSO routes comes up for renewal.'

'We will also be engaging with

passengers, local businesses and other interests on the specifications for the next contract period so we can consider what enhancements can be made to these services, making best use of the new aircraft.'

Inglis Lyon, managing director of airport operator HIAL, said: 'The new aircraft will ensure that some of Scotland's most remote communities remain well connected to the mainland.'

'The principle reason for purchasing these aircraft is to encourage more entrants into the PSO process and hopefully drive efficiencies, as the operators will not be responsible for ongoing leasing and financing costs.'

'In the long term, this is a good investment for the communities of Campbeltown, Barra and Tiree.'

Record numbers set to board Oban raft race

THIS year's Oban Bay Raft Race is heading for a record entry, with 20 teams signed up with three weeks to go.

The fourth annual raft race, organised by Oban and Lorn Lions Club, is being held on Saturday August 9 and will start from the George Street beach.

This community event is open to any club, group, school or individuals

who want to team-up, get dressed up in fancy dress and raise cash for charity.

There must be a minimum crew of two per raft and a rule change this year means all crew members must sit on the raft, not in it.

For entry forms and conditions contact Brian on 07712 667542, Alistair on 01631 564249, or Alex on 07796 891676.

Station assistant retires



FOND FAREWELL: firefighters at Oban Community Fire Station gathered last week to mark the retirement of station assistant Elizabeth MacGillivray. Station commander Martin Hill said Elizabeth, who has supported officers and overseen administration duties at the station for the past for eight years, would be missed by everyone at the station

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Broadband fund will improve service in Argyll

A PROJECT to get broadband into rural areas could see superfast internet speeds in place over the new few years.

The Westminster Government's £10m innovation fund was welcomed by Alan Reid MP.

During Question Time in the House of Commons the Argyll and Bute MP questioned Sajid Javid, secretary of state culture, media and sport, on the subject and stressed the importance of bringing superfast broadband as quickly as possible to remote areas of Scotland that fibre-optic cables cannot reach.

Sajid Javid MP replied: 'These pilots began in June, so they are very recent and it will take a number of months before any results are known.'

'We have deliberately picked a number of different companies with different types of technology to ensure that we learn as much as we can. I envisage that we will have more information in six months.'

Speaking afterwards Alan Reid said: 'The Government has given BT millions of pounds to upgrade their network to bring superfast broadband to many parts of Argyll and Bute over the next two years. However it will still leave many homes and businesses too far from the exchange to get superfast broadband through their telephone line.'

'The solution for these premises is likely to be wireless or satellite. I'm pleased that several companies will be using this £10 million innovation fund to identify the best technologies to use.'

'It is vitally important that all premises can receive superfast broadband within the next few years.'

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ALL IN A DAY'S WORK: Catriona Hoon, right, after an afternoon snorkelling with colleague Euan Larter

Catriona dives into dream job

A YOUNG North Connel woman is working in her 'dream job' snorkelling in the Sound of Mull.

Catriona Hoon embarked on the unusual career path when Lochaline Diving Centre on the Morvern peninsula recently began offering snorkelling trips.

The 24-year-old spends her days exploring the Highlands' waters with locals and tourists, getting up close and personal with basking sharks and dolphins in their natural habitat.

The Edinburgh Napier University graduate said: 'I've been diving for a few years.'

'I started while I was at university then I took a course in snorkelling when I was offered this job. It's been really good and I'm loving it. You could say it's the dream job.'

Experience in snorkelling could take Miss Hoon all over the world, but she insisted she is happy in the Highlands for now.

She added: 'Right now I'm just happy to be here and enjoying the location.'

'It's such a beautiful part of the world and divers come from all over the world to experience it so I'm so lucky to be a part of it!'

GANG HARVESTS SHELLFISH DESPITE BAN OVER HIGH TOXIN LEVELS Cockle pickers spotted on Etive

BYSTANDERS say a gang of cockle pickers working in Lorn may be a disaster waiting to happen, after groups have been seen working in the area, writes Louise Lee.

The workers have been spotted by residents on Mull, Coll, at Loch Etive, Loch Creran, Loch Feochan and off the coast at Arduaine.

Witnesses say the gangs are collecting the potentially toxic shellfish in orange string bags.

One witness, who did not want to be named, told *The Oban Times* she had seen the same group return to a slightly different part of Loch Etive over a number of days.

She said the group of 10-12 people had children, including a baby in arms.

She said: 'These people turn up in a van to collect cockles and mussels and then leave.'

'No one seems to wear a life jacket, no one seems to be looking out for them. I am frightened that it will end in a serious incident.'

Guidelines produced after the Morecombe Bay disaster, where 21 Chinese people were killed by rising tide, say people should be wearing high visibility clothing, have equipment that would help with fog and quicksand, tell a responsible agency when they are going out and coming back, wear life jackets and a raft should be available to workers.

It is understood that environmental health officers are aware of the situation and are monitoring it closely. While Argyll and Bute council was unable to comment on the specific case - it is known that it was recently involved in a major haul of illegal shellfish from the islands.

An Argyll and Bute council spokeswoman said: 'If you are offered shellfish from an unknown source, think carefully before purchasing it or consuming it.'

'What may seem like a bargain could pose a risk to your health, especially



UNPREPARED: Cockle pickers on the shore at Loch Etive - an area closed to cockle pickers due to raised levels of toxins

15_129cockles1

if the shellfish have come from an area where harvesting is postponed.

'Anyone who sees people gathering shellfish in an area known to be closed can contact our environmental health team on 01546 605519.

'Environmental health officers have enforcement powers that are used to stop any unfit food entering the food chain.'

'These powers include all aspects of shellfish harvesting.'

'Environmental health officers can seize and destroy shellfish taken from areas that are not safe, and close businesses involved in the trading of these shellfish.'

'As this is a criminal matter, officers

can also report those who gather, distribute and process shellfish to the procurator fiscal.'

'Eating bivalve shellfish such as cockles, mussels, oysters or razor fish from areas where there are higher

levels of these toxins could pose a health risk for the public.'

'Where there is a closure notice in place, people are clearly advised not to harvest or eat shellfish from the area until further notice.'

Coaches named for top awards

ON THE day the Queen's Baton Relay came to Argyll, the county named its sports volunteers of the year.

Helen Waddell from Toward received the Sports Volunteer of the Year award, while William MacKinnon from Campbeltown has been named Young Sports Volunteer of the Year.

Argyll and Bute council and sportscotland held the awards in the year of the Glasgow Commonwealth Games to recognise and thank local volunteer coaches for their work in communities across the area.

Helen won her award for her lifetime contribution to sport. She has been coaching tennis and badminton in Toward and Dunoon for 40 years.

Over the past two years William has been a committed sports leader, dedicating 10 hours of his own time each week at after-school clubs, festivals and sports clubs.

Hotel theft took place elsewhere

The Oban Times has been asked to clarify that the alleged theft of a ring from a premises on Iona was not from the St Columba hotel, as reported last week.

Golden day for Les and an historic one for crew

A LONG-serving Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) volunteer in Oban has been rewarded for his efforts in the same week the town's lifeboat attended its 2,000th 'shout'.

Connell man Les Stewart, who has been treasurer of RNLI Oban for 25 years, has been awarded the charity's gold badge for his dedication.

The former bank manager said: 'I was surprised when I got the gold badge but I am constantly surprised at the generosity of people. I think Oban is a really generous place for all charities.'

Mr Stewart, who is also secretary of Connell community council, played a lead role in a recent project to bottle a hogshead of malt whisky, donated to the lifeboat by Oban Distillery in the 1990s for a future fundraising venture. Sales of the rare whisky have raised almost £40,000.

In what has been a week to remember for Oban Lifeboat Station, the crew attended its 2,000th call last Saturday when it rescued a diver who was believed to be suffering from the bends between Oban and Easdale Island.

Oban lifeboat was founded in 1972 and in 42 years, Oban lifeboats have covered a total of 36,700 miles on service and consumed 363,000 litres of diesel oil.

Over the years a number of crew members have received awards for their efforts and in 2009 even helped deliver a baby, as Van Harris Wilson was born on board the lifeboat.

Oban's lifeboat service began with an 18-foot MacLachlan inshore lifeboat. The present boat is a 14-metre Trent class lifeboat, the Mora Edith MacDonald.



SOLID GOLD: RNLI Oban treasurer Les Stewart has received the charity's gold badge award for his 25 years of sterling service

Witness plea over taxi driver assault

POLICE are seeking witnesses to the assault of a taxi driver in Oban's Deanery Brae.

The driver stopped on the street last Saturday (July 12) at around 11.50pm when a man opened the door of the taxi and assaulted him.

The man is described as being six foot tall and of medium, build. He wore a dark top and was carrying a dark-coloured bag at the time.

Anyone with any information can contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510500 or telephone Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, where anonymity can be maintained.

Thefts spark alert for Lorn residents

TWO THEFTS from separate areas of North Lorn have prompted police to issue a warning to residents to remain vigilant.

Between Friday and Saturday last week, three bikes were stolen from North Ledaig house and there was also the theft of fishing rods from a boat in Benderloch.

Police said there was as yet no evidence to connect the two thefts, but were keen to hear from anyone who may have witnessed any suspicious activity in the area.

£2.5M earmarked for broadband

A FURTHER £2.5million is to be spent on bringing broadband to remote rural communities.

The Scottish government is investing the money into the Community Broadband Scotland (CBS) programme.

This new funding is targeted at the areas least likely to benefit from the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband programme.

It will extend the CBS programme to at least March 2018.

No plans to close schools say council

PARENTS and pupils have been assured that there are no plans to close their local primary school.

The village of Connell was rife with speculation that the school at Achaleven would close due to lack of numbers.

However, a spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'The council has no plans to draw up a list of schools for closure, nor are we planning any consultations on school closures.'

Sombre reflection as lights go out

A VETERANS' charity is calling for households in Scotland to join the rest of the UK in taking part in LIGHTS OUT, an initiative to commemorate the centenary of the First World War.

PoppyScotland is asking people to switch off their lights between 10pm and 11pm on August 4, the date Britain entered the war 100 years ago, and illuminate their homes with a single candle or light.

Oban man faces diazepam charge

A 44-YEAR-old man faces a drugs charge after police found 84 diazepam tablets in his possession.

The man was stopped and searched by police officers in Oban last Friday (July 11).

Roddy gets to the 'art' of the matter



CUBIST CRITIQUE: Councillor Roddy McCuish seems perplexed by the sculpture

A WORK of art has proved to be a real head-turner, after people thought it was an illegally parked vehicle.

The green trailer, situated near to Station Square in Oban, is a sculpture, titled: Trailer with powder coated aluminium.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, who modestly described himself as self-confessed philistine, said: 'I was

brought to my attention by constituents that it was illegally parked.

'On closer examination, I discovered it is actually a £30,000 piece of art.'

'With the greatest respect to the artist, I can't believe that someone got £30,000 for a trailer, and labelled it art.'

Information attached to the trailer explains that it is one of three works

installed at different locations around Scotland this summer, as part of a project called New Weather Coming by Glasgow-based artist Jacqueline Donachie. It refers to the texture and tone of our landscape and leisure.

The art is commissioned in a partnership between the National Galleries of Scotland, Glasgow Life and Creative Scotland.

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A kiss for games mascot Clyde from Mull's Babs Whyte at Atlantis Lesuire. 16_t29baton06



Young athlete Ben Coates took the baton at McCaig's Tower.



Four of the baton bearers in Benderloch, from left: Richard Henderson, John Campbell, Dee Bradbury and Davy Paterson. Photo: Campbell Cameron

A rally for the crowds greet

IT WAS a chance to say, "I was there". Thousands lined the streets of Argyll and Lochaber and attended events in towns and villages along the baton relay route as the Commonwealth Games came to the west Highlands last weekend.

Of the Lochaber community had the honour of carrying the baton from Glenfinnan to Fort William, on the famous Jacobite steam train. With 130 nominations, David Sedgewick, who has retired as a consultant surgeon from the Belford Hospital after 21 years, was by far Scotland's most popular candidate for participating in the Queen's Baton Relay.

On Saturday the baton left Inverness for Drumadrochit, Fort Augustus, Spean Bridge and Fort William, where a good crowd gathered at the leisure centre despite the dreary conditions.

He said: "I felt a real sense of privilege and honour to do this on behalf of staff and patients in Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh."

On Sunday morning the baton was handed over to Argyll for the longest journey - 175 miles - in a single day. Starting out in Appin at 7am, the baton ended its Argyll journey in Dunoon at around 7pm.

"I've loved my 21 years as a surgeon in Fort William, so it's great to be a part of the Fort William baton relay."

Members of the community were selected to carry the baton and among them in Lochaber was Betty MacLachlan, who retired earlier this month from Spean Bridge primary school, after a 40-year career both at the school and its predecessor, Kilmonivaig Primary. Another pillar

of the Lochaber community had the honour of carrying the baton from Glenfinnan to Fort William, on the famous Jacobite steam train. With 130 nominations, David Sedgewick, who has retired as a consultant surgeon from the Belford Hospital after 21 years, was by far Scotland's most popular candidate for participating in the Queen's Baton Relay.



Highland councillor Bren Gormley and Fort William athlete Alasdair Strange hand over the baton to Argyll and Bute councillor Alistair MacDougall.



Nursery teacher Caroline MacInnes carried the baton along Oban's Esplanade.



The first Argyll baton bearer was Appin girl Amanda MacNeill, a keen cyclist.



Oban High School janitor Davie Ferguson carried the baton through the town. 16_t29baton08



Former Oban High School PE teacher and Oban Hockey Club secretary Tara Pollock, left, with Active Schools co-ordinator Karen MacCorquodale, who helped organise the relay in Argyll. Karen carried the baton in Appin before Tara carried it through Oban's Combie Street. 16_t29baton13



Oban's Dante Lopez was joined by members of his family before embarking on his run along Soroba Road. 16_t29baton11



Jackie Kersley, Appin, was the second baton bearer in Argyll.

relay as the Queen's baton

his bike was hit by a vehicle on the outskirts of Fort William while on a training run in 2008.

Morgan's mum Caroline said: 'Her dad was a Commonwealth athlete so this is a great honour for her to be doing this for her dad. It's an emotional day.'

The final part of the day was at Lochaber Leisure Centre, when the baton was officially handed over by Highland councillor Bren Gormley to Argyll and Bute councillor Alistair MacDougall.

Appin had the honour of being the first Argyll villager to host an event and organiser Karen MacCorquodale, an Active School co-ordinator who is from the village, carried the baton and followed it all the way to Dunoon.

The baton went on to Oban - via stops in Benderloch and Dunbeg - and was fittingly exchanged at McCaig's Tower between Oban's Kyle Dods, who competed in the Commonwealth Games in Delhi in 2010,

and Kilmore's Ben Coates, a young athlete with ambition to compete at the games in the future.

Ben said: 'It was a great honour to hold the baton. It is an experience that will stay with me for the rest of my life.'

Sports volunteer Jillian Gibson had the pleasure of running into Atlantis Leisure, where a large crowd gathered to cheer her on.

'It was overwhelming to see so many people,' said Jillian. 'It's great to see so many people here, especially children because they are the legacy of this event. They will remember the day they touched the baton, or they saw the baton in Oban.'

After being taken through the town, the baton then went south to Lochgilphead and Inveraray before going onto Cowal.

At the Royal Burgh, a mini Highland games was held at Inveraray Castle before the baton was taken to Cowal and passed over to Inverclyde. For more pictures see page 21.



Oban's Spotlight Musical Theatre Group entertained the crowd at Atlantis Leisure, Oban. 16_129baton07



Ian Adams carried the baton in Fort William.



Lochaber Pipe Band play the baton down Fort William High Street.



Lyndsay Foster poses with some young Highland dancers before carrying the baton through Benderloch.



All smiles from baton bearer Jillian Gibson as she meets the crowd at Atlantis Leisure. 16_129baton05



Teenager Morgan MacIntyre, from Banavie, was a popular baton bearer in Fort William. 129baton18



The Duke and Duchess of Argyll, Torquhil and Eleanor Campbell, and their three children welcomed the Queen's Baton to Inveraray Castle. 06_29bat47



Baton bearer David Sedgewick.



Baton bearer Jack McLean in Fort William.



Baton bearer Fiona McEwan at Spean Bridge.



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LISMORE

DR PAVEL Iosad and Dr Michael Ramsamy from the Department of Linguistics and English Language at the University of Edinburgh visited Lismore on July 7.

They were carrying out research as part of a study on Gaelic phonetics.

Lismore Gaelic was studied 50 years ago in a similar way.

This time the concentration was on a selection of words and the way they are pronounced in contrast to other Gaelic speaking islands.

Islanders were visited and recorded in their homes and in the island's heritage centre.

It is hoped the researchers will return later in the year to share the results of their work.

Gaelic singer and broadcaster Mary Ann Kennedy brought her show - Aiseag (The Ferryboat) to Lismore.

The public hall was filled on June 30 with an enthusiastic

audience which enjoyed an excellent and varied show.

The evening included a showing of 'The Bridge Rising', a film showing the building of the Skye bridge.

Mary Ann was joined on stage by Scott MacMillan and Colin Grant. The trio combine music from Cape Breton to the Highlands.

Mary Ann, who lives in Ardgour, used to travel on the ferries to Treen and Skye, the homes of her parents, and when she was given the opportunity to co-create a new work celebrating Commonwealth connections her choice was that subject.

'I was inspired by the idea of the network of little ferries that ply their trade on the Highland west coast and over in Nova Scotia, especially on Cape Breton Island,' she said.

'For many folk, ferries are a tourist novelty, a quirky and somewhat anachronistic mode of transport, but for me they are, and always have been, far more than that.'



Banavie pupils' trouser day fun boosts charity

CLOWNING AROUND: Banavie Primary School pupils arrived in some weird and wonderful attire during the last week of term. The children donned tutus, pyjamas and braces for 'wrong trousers day' and raised £200 for charity. Prizes were awarded to the pupil in the funniest clothes from each class and the money was donated to the Wallace and Gromit charity for sick children. Above: winners of Banavie's wrong trousers day 20_129banavie01

PORT APPIN

A PORT Appin woman has set herself a challenge to raise money for a cause close to her heart.

Karen MacDonald, who works at the Specsavers store in Oban, has organised a sponsored skydive, with the money raised going to the Beatson cancer centre in Glasgow.

Karen said: 'This is a cause very close to my heart. Most people have been affected by cancer in some way so it means a lot to me to be able to help in the fight against it. The Beatson is where many people in Oban go for treatment and I've had a few family members who have visited recently.'

'The charity helps thousands of people in what is often the biggest fight of their lives so the skydive feels like the least I can do to help.'

The skydive will take place on Sunday July 20 in Fife.

CRINAN

A SILENT auction of 25 outstanding pieces of art by world-renowned Argyll painters is taking place this weekend.

The Crinan Hotel coffee shop will open its doors on July 15 for five days, 9am until 9pm, to raise cash for three charities: cancer support charity Rainbow Valley, vasculitis awareness charity Lauren Currie Twilight Foundation and the multiple sclerosis centre in Lochgilphead.

On show will be a Jolomo amongst other Mid Argyll artists, in a bid to raise £12,000 for the charity.

Buyers can access the online bidding through eBay from July 15 www.dunrunetrekters.org. The final bids will be announced from 5pm to 7pm on Saturday July 19.

CONNEL

POPPIES Garden Centre, near Connel, has won a prize at this year's Greatest Garden Awards. The business was highly commended in the Greatest Garden Centre Catering Team section.

GLENCOE

GLENCOE Boat Club is set for improvements thanks to a national group pledging support.

The club was picked as one of just 20 in Scotland to receive 'focused support' from The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) including the help of a development officer to improve links with other sporting



SUCCESS: Oban and Mull support assistants with their certificates - Emma Denovan, Dervaig Primary School; Beata Povey, St Columba's Primary School; Jenny McFarlane, SQA co-ordinator; and Claire Haddow, Dervaig Primary School

Oban and Mull school staff top the class with development awards

TWENTY Argyll and Bute council support assistants received Professional Development Award (PDA) certificates in Education Support Assistance at a ceremony in the Loch Fyne Hotel, Inveraray.

Roslyn Redpath, principal educational psychologist, presented the certificates on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council and congratulated the candidates on their hard work and commitment.

The assistants all contribute to the care and welfare of pupils across Argyll and Bute and have

recently finished nearly two years of accredited training including practical work in schools, closed book assessments and personal study.

The Professional Development Award supports classroom assistants and additional support needs assistants to develop their role in schools and in gaining a wider range of knowledge and skills in relation to pupils with additional support needs.

This year's group consisted of candidates from Oban, Campbeltown, Mull, Islay, Helensburgh and Cowal.

partnerships and improve facilities.

Glencoe club commodore Robert Watt said: 'We worked hard to convince the RYA that we were worthy of such support. I understand there was serious competition for assistance.'

'We already run a significant community sailing programme for young people in the area. We plan to develop this and also our weekly club racing events.'

'We're not necessarily looking for experts and we can offer appropriate training at all levels.'

OBAN

A FORMER Oban man is celebrating after winning an award from the Scottish Executive.

Michael McCuish, 26, won the Scottish Executive award for going above and beyond the call of duty in his role with VisitScotland.

Michael, who works in international consumer PR in North America, started off his

career with VisitScotland in the Oban visitors centre in 2011. He was announced as a winner in June after his work for Scotland Week, the annual celebration of all things Scottish in North America and Canada.

Michael explained: 'The award is given every six months for going above and beyond the call of duty.'

'I was working in North America in April and we were in Canada for the Queen's Baton Relay in Nova Scotia and Toronto.'

'We've been working on the Scottish Homecoming, which is running alongside the Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup, so it's been a busy time for us.'

'I'm really excited to have won and pleased for the whole team.'

'Without them I really couldn't have done this.'

'They've provided me with so much encouragement and support.'

'It all started in Oban for me in the visitor centre. I really enjoyed it there.'

'I've been lucky to move on to working in PR nationally then internationally. I really love what I do.'

'I love travelling to North America and Canada, and I can see myself working for VisitScotland for a long time to come.'

The awards ceremony is to be held in November at the VisitScotland headquarters in Edinburgh.

ISLAY

THE ROYAL Navy's largest ship has been formally named - with a bottle of Bowmore malt whisky replacing the traditional champagne.

HM The Queen smashed a bottle of the whisky against the HMS Queen Elizabeth at a recent ceremony in Rosyth, where the 65,000-tonne aircraft carrier has been assembled and fitted out.

According to the Scotland Office, Bowmore Distillery was the first distillery the Queen visited in an official capacity.

MORVERN lines

IT'S AMAZING how we are all bound up together in the bundle of life.

Who would imagine that a torch would unite so many of the threads that weave together the warp and the weft of a Highland parish, a rocky island and a distant continent?

Everyone knows that when St Kilda was evacuated on August 29 1930, 36 men, women and children landed in Morvern to begin a new life on the Scottish mainland. Less well known is that in 1852, 36 of their relatives and kinsmen emigrated to Australia.

The decision by the organisers to take the Queen's Commonwealth Games baton to lonely St Kilda following its visit to Australia last year was pure genius. It has revived an important old link and awakened many memories in Morvern and among descendants of the early settlers in Australia.

Modern communication is a remarkable thing. Since Her Majesty The Queen sent the Glasgow 2014 Queen's Baton Relay off on its global journey from Buckingham Palace last year, the baton has travelled to 70 nations and territories of the Commonwealth covering a distance of more than 100,000 miles.

But you know the old St Kildans also knew a thing or two about communication. In times of hardship and famine they would launch a model wooden boat containing a message, usually sealed in a cocoa tin and kept afloat by a sheep's bladder, requesting assistance from wherever it came ashore.

After the evacuation, when the men who worked in Finlary Forest were divided into different work parties, they would keep in touch during the day by semaphore - a skill they acquired from sailors who

lived amongst them during the First World War when the Admiralty established a signal station on Hirta to monitor shipping in the North Atlantic.

There are, as far as I am aware, only three places in the world called St Kilda. Bill Cameron, traveller, photographer, runner and clan historian from Inverloch who lives for the after-dinner story and St Kilda, visited it the day before the arrival of the Queen's baton and is now on his way to see the others.

Before setting off on his long journey Mr Cameron came to Morvern to photograph Lochaline Pier where the St Kildans landed in 1930 and the places they lived and worked.

Mr Cameron said: 'From my first visit I have been fascinated by St Kilda's history. I have been fortunate over the years to have had many conversations with Mrs Nancy MacDonald, formerly of Glen Nevis, whose late husband, Lachie, was one of the last to leave. Mrs MacDonald's reminiscences and the photographs I have taken led to an exhibition in the West Highland Museum in 2013 which is now on permanent display there. Having arrived back from the Hebrides I am now packing for a trip to St Kilda in Melbourne which takes its name from a yacht of that name. 'The Lady St Kilda' was a British schooner built in Dartmouth originally to carry fruit from the Mediterranean to London. She was bought in 1834 by Sir Thomas Acland to commemorate a visit to the island by his wife, Lydia, in 1810. Lady Acland was interested in another peeress, the fervent Jacobite Lady Erskine Grange, who was imprisoned there. The 'Lady of St Kilda' was shipwrecked off Tahiti after sailing from Sydney shortly after 1843. There are still descendants of the original St Kildans who arrived in Port Phillip in 1852 living in Melbourne whom I hope to meet.'

Mr Cameron continued: 'From Australia I will travel on to New Zealand to visit St Kilda on South Island. This now densely populated suburb of Dunedin was named by an early property developer called George Scott who came across from Australia in 1862. I am not aware Scott had any connection with the Hebrides or the islanders after they arrived in Australia, but I expect there is one. This is something I hope to find out when I am in New Zealand.'

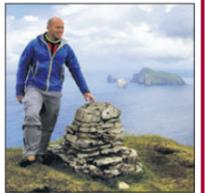
When the St Kildans came ashore at Lochaline in 1930 their arrival caused a sensation. The late Harry MacIntyre, who was a boy living in Lochaline at the time, told me that upwards of 300 folk, including many press photographers and journalists from Glasgow and London, came to watch them land.

Mr MacIntyre said: 'About a quarter to seven we saw the 'Harebell', coming down the Sound from the Tobermory direction. She didn't tie up at the pier but anchored half a mile away off Ardness Point. The St Kildans had to transfer to a smaller vessel called 'The Princess Louise' brought specially from Oban to do the job. As the 'Louise' came alongside no-one spoke, but when the first man stepped ashore we gave them a cheer. Then the friend who was with me said 'Let's away home, they are just like ourselves!'

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TRAVELLING: Bill Cameron on top of Conachair, St Kilda, before leaving for St Kilda in Australia and New Zealand



SCENIC: St Kilda

Iain Thornber iain.thornber@btinternet.com



SHOW TIME: Mary Ann Kennedy makes her way to the island aboard the Lismore ferry

A ROAD through Connel has been adopted by the local authority following a 36-year campaign by residents.

The previously unclassified Achaleven Road was adopted by Argyll and Bute Council last week following the completion of repairs costing the council £56,328.

Councillors agreed in September last year to adopt the road - a lifeline route for the 37 households in Achaleven - on completion of the work.

Connel Community Council minutes from its second meeting in 1977 show an agenda item calling for the adoption of the unclassified Achaleven Road, from Achaleven Farm to the railway level crossing shouldering the A85 through Connel.

According to community councillor Harry Powell, who has served the community for the entirety of the campaign, the issue would be raised any time a new council was formed.

Following the announcement last September that the road

ACHALEVEN

would be adopted, Connel Community Council chairman Sandy Dunlop described it as the community council's 'greatest achievement'.

At the official re-opening of the road last Monday, residents met with councillors Duncan MacIntyre and Elaine Robertson and the ceremonial ribbon was cut by Claire Grierson, who has been involved in the campaign to have the road adopted from the beginning.

John Twort, on behalf of the community, thanked the Argyll and Bute councillors, Connel Community Council, the council's roads department and Brecon plc, which helped to maintain the road during its 'unadopted' years.

The route is a vital link for the local community as it is the only way in which the fire service and refuse lorries can access houses at Achaleven.



LONG WAIT: councillors Elaine Robertson and Duncan MacIntyre join residents at the re-opening of the newly-adopted Achaleven road as Claire Grierson cuts the ribbon



LAST DAY: primary seven pupils and prizewinners on their last day at Lochnell primary school on Friday June 27

FORT AUGUSTUS

KILCHUIMEN Primary School pupils were recognised for their hard work and achievements and at an end of term prizegiving.

Cameron Bremner and Rachel Allan were named sports champions of the Fort Augustus school and the leaving primary sevens were wished well by teachers and fellow pupils.

Head teacher Wendy Scollay also received a presentation and fond goodbyes as she left to take up a new position at Sanday Community School in Orkney.



PRAISED: Kilchuimen primary school pupils were praised for their hard work this year

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AWARD: primary seven pupils Connor MacCallum and Erin MacAulay with Margaret Tooth of Blythwood Care holding the award and certificates of achievement

Enterprise success at Park primary school

PARK primary school, Oban, opened a stationery shop and raised £400 for charity.

The Blythwood Enterprise competition saw pupils at the school raise money to provide fire engines in Eastern Europe.

The class had four weeks to make this money grow so they decided to create a moustache themed stationery shop and raised £400.24.

The class gained a place in the

final of the competition which celebrated the top six businesses in Scottish schools.

Margaret Tooth, of Blythwood Care, presented the class with the award for Greatest Community Involvement as they took their business to schools and shops in the area.

The class thanks Lochnell and Dunbeg primary schools for their support.



FAREWELL: the primary seven class at Dunbeg primary school, wearing their leavers jumpers and holding their prizes 07_127dunbeg2



WINNERS: Dunbeg primary four and five prizewinners. From left: Jack Watson, who won a prize for his work on the school newspaper, Becky MacAulay, Emily MacIntyre and Rachel Sinclair who won the gardening cup, and Holly Bryce who won the swimming shield 07_127dunbeg3

Fond farewell to pupils

DUNBEG primary school said a fond farewell to their primary seven pupils at their school leavers service.

The departing pupils wore their leavers jumpers at the ceremony at Dunbeg church on Friday June 27, where prizes for the school year were also awarded.

The audience was treated to a slideshow of pictures of the leavers before being piped out of the church by Ailie Munro, with Adam MacLean on drums.

TEACHER BETTY'S BATON HONOUR



HONOUR: Betty MacLachlan was selected to carry the Queen's Baton in Spean Bridge ahead of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow next week. Betty, who retired earlier this month from Spean Bridge primary school after a 40-year teaching career, was one of four baton bearers in the village, as the baton made its way towards Fort William on Saturday. For full baton relay coverage, see pages 6, 7 and 21. 129baton14

Fury over height of new school

RESIDENTS of a Lochaber village are outraged at the height of a new Gaelic school being built just metres from pensioners' houses.

Work has started on the building and adjoining sports hall in Caol but those living in the houses behind the site are furious at the height of the two-story building, saying it will block all sunlight and their view of Ben Nevis.

More than 40 angry residents appeared at the site on Tuesday and told *The Oban Times* they didn't think they were properly consulted before planning was approved last year.

Cathie Lamont has lived in one of the houses behind the new school for 28 years.

She said: 'It's a monstrosity. I'm completely losing the beautiful view I have of Ben Nevis as well as all of the natural light. If I get ice in my garden in the winter it will be there all winter because I won't have the sun shining in to melt it. It could be quite dangerous.'

'I'm not against the school at all, I thought it would be lovely to have a Gaelic school here but I had no idea it was going to be this height and I didn't know the public consultation was happening last year so I couldn't go and see for myself or complain.'

Caol Community Council chairman Sandy Watson said he attended the consultation but he thought the plan looked single-story and 'nowhere near' as tall as the structure is now.

He added: 'They've raised the ground level by about eight feet because of flood risks so that's just made it even higher than it was already going to be.'

'A lot of people feel like they weren't properly informed about the plans or the consultation and now they're taking advantage of the fact that nobody complained. We feel that if the councillors had been properly representing us this would never have been approved, they must have known there's no way we would have been happy about this.'



Caol residents are furious at the height of the new Gaelic school's sport centre. 20_129caol01

Caol and Mallaig Highland councillor Bill Clark defended the decision to approve the school, but added if he had been told residents were unhappy he would have represented them.

He said: 'I truly wish I had known how they feel. If anyone had come to me and complained I would have done something about it but nobody did and this is all happening after the event.'

'No-one complained during the consultation period, I know they're saying they didn't know but there was an advert in the local papers and I have a list of 22 addresses that received neighbour notifications.'

Councillor Clark's colleague Allan Henderson said he 'strongly opposed' the site.

He added: 'I was in favour of the much larger and unrestricted Blar Mor site, close to the facilities of Lochaber High school. Already extra money has been spent raising the footprint of the school to alleviate the perceived flooding risk problem with the result that previously much heralded spectacular views and light will be denied to

the residents of Birch Road and the surrounding houses. I have been in Birch Road and can see the clear outline of Ben Nevis through the new steel frame which will eventually become a

light blocking wall.'

Councillor Clark refuted the statement and said it was the height of the building which upset residents, rather than the location itself.



NEW VIEW: Cathie Lamont's view of Ben Nevis will be replaced by one side of a sports hall.



CAMPAIGNER: David Gallant took on First ScotRail on a matter of principle and now intends to campaign against other disability discrimination matters. 15_129gallant1

Fares fair as ScotRail pays compensation

AN OBAN man has been paid a substantial sum in compensation by First ScotRail after he claimed he was overcharged by more than £13 on his £18.90 fare as a disabled passenger.

After five hearings in Oban Sheriff Court, ScotRail paid a settlement to David Gallant and considered the issue resolved.

ScotRail said it was keen to work with the disabilities campaigner to look at other ways to improve its service.

Last year, David had to buy a journey ticket between Oban and Glasgow at a higher cost than individual tickets between stations. This was in contravention of the National Rail Conditions

of Carriage 19 (b). A spokesman for ScotRail confirmed the case had been formally discharged of any liability, but would not confirm the amount of compensation paid.

David, an Oban community councillor, said he fought a battle with ScotRail not for himself - but for the rights of disabled people everywhere.

After his success, the disabilities campaigner, says he wants to take other shops and organisations to task for not being disabled friendly.

Mr Gallant is a public transport enthusiast and is a mine of information when it comes to timetables for buses and trains - and associated fares.

Speed cut plans in spotlight

PROPOSALS to reduce the speed limit in Oban streets to 20mph were up for public discussion last week.

Residents and businesses were given the opportunity to participate in the public consultation on the proposals for the A85 George Street, A816 Soroba Road, and adjacent side roads within the town centre. Representatives from Transport Scotland, Argyll and Bute Council, and BEAR Scotland asked questions on at the consultation, held at the Caledonian Hotel.

Bill Weston, Traffic Development Manager for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The reaction has been mixed, there has been some support and some against it.'

'One person used the term "using a sledgehammer to crack a nut", but generally it's been pretty good.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish has previously said that getting up to 20mph in Oban would be an achievement in itself, particularly in the summer months.

There was similar bemusement from users of Facebook when the consultation was first announced.

Margaret McLellan said: 'Who dreams up the like of this? It's almost impossible to do 20mph in Oban in the first place.'

'Are the folks who come up



From left: Callum Stalker, Transport Scotland; Jamie Carson, Transport Scotland; Bill Weston, Argyll and Bute Council and John Smith, BEAR Scotland, with a map showing the streets proposed for the reduced limit. 17_129speed01

with this actually living in a virtual world?'

John Kerr said: 'I agree, Oban's roads are a shambles, I usually race a woman and her

pram when driving down the town and the pram always wins. Fix the pot holes first.'

However, John Smith, who is Bear Scotland's Road Safety

Manager for the north west unit said felt that the consultation had been worthwhile, saying: 'People who came in were curious, and once we explained the rationale

behind this, we've had some very positive comments. If it reduces the number of accidents, or even prevents one injury, then it's been worthwhile.'

Honour for marine science president

THE PRESIDENT of the Dunstaffnage-based Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) has been given a Royal honour for his work on glaciology.

Professor Geoffrey Boulton, described as one of the most influential glacial scientists of his generation, has been awarded the Royal Geographical Society's gold medal.

Approved by HM the Queen, the society's Royal medals are among the highest awards of their kind in the world and are presented annually in recognition of excellence and outstanding achievements in geographical research and fieldwork, teaching and public engagement.

Previous recipients of the award include David Livingstone and Sir David Attenborough.

SAMS director Professor Laurence Mee said: 'We are delighted that Geoffrey has been honoured with the



AWARD: Professor Boulton received his medal at the Royal Geographical Society's annual general meeting in London

Royal Medal. The founder of SAMS, the pioneering oceanographer Sir

John Murray, was honoured with the medal in 1895 and it is wonderful to see that medal awarded to our president on the centenary of Murray's death.'

Professor Boulton, who is also Regius Professor of Geology Emeritus and former vice-principal of the University of Edinburgh, has led research that has been integral to the improved understanding of glacial sediments, the development of ice sheets and quantitative theories of erosion and deposition. He has published more than 150 research papers.

RGS President Professor Dame Judith Rees said: 'Within the field of glacial science, Professor Boulton is one of the most influential practitioners of his generation.'

'Current generations follow and test concepts set out by him. Even in retirement he is still pushing frontiers.'

Inveraray pipe band eyes up world top spot

INVERARAY and District Pipe Band is hoping to follow up its maiden major competition win by taking top spot at next month's World Pipe Band Championships.

The band previously won three world titles in a row as it worked its way up the ranks to grade one and will return to Glasgow Green on Saturday August 16 with the intention of picking up more silverware.

The band recently won its first grade one major at the European Pipe Band Championships in Forres.

More than 200 bands and 8,000 pipers from all over the world will flock to Glasgow for what is always the biggest event in the piping calendar.

Inveraray and District was founded as a novice juvenile band in 2005 and was named world champions just two years later.

The following year, the band stepped up to the juvenile category and won the world title again. In 2009, the band competed in the adult grade two category for the first time, and were crowned world champions again.

Band secretary Jim McMillan said: 'For us, The Worlds is the pinnacle of the season. It is obviously the most important championship of them all, attracting bands from all over and we always aim to play at our very best when the competition comes around.'

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care in

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If you are having problems selecting or securing community care services, you should consult people with experience to help you through the process, or indeed if you have services already that you want to change.

Or perhaps you are someone who can provide support to others and want to see what opportunities are out there for you.

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Community care services, or care in the community can be arranged to help you carry on living in your home and keep as much independence as possible. Or perhaps you want to get help or offer services to other people.

You may need community care services because of your age or because you are disabled or physically or mentally ill - or because you need a little bit of help

with getting on with day-to-day life.

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If you need long-term care, and you can't manage in your own home anymore, one option may be moving into a care home.

All care homes can provide personal care if you need it.

This could include help with washing, dressing or going to the toilet. Some care homes can also provide nursing care.

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Home care services generally mean help with personal tasks, for example, bathing and washing, getting up and going to bed, shopping and managing finances.

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We have an outreach service supporting carers in rural and remote areas with regular visits and activities organised for carers across the area.

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SHE WAS ELDERLY, LIVED ALONE...

...WE DID EVERYTHING WE COULD.

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CALL 0800 0731 999
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E-mail: info@abrc.org.uk
www.ab-rc.org.uk

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woman to woman
Jen Fitton
confidential counselling for women

www.womantowoman-counselling.co.uk
Phone: (01831) 710403
email: jen.womantowoman@virgin.net



the community

Major adaptations could include, for example, the installation of a stair lift or downstairs lavatory or the lowering of work tops in the kitchen.

Minor adaptations would include, for example, hand rails in the bathroom.

Meals

The provision of meals as a community care service could mean a daily delivery of a meal or, in some areas, the delivery of a weekly or monthly supply of frozen food.

It could also mean providing meals at a day centre or lunch club.

Recreational and occupational activities

The local authority social services department can provide a range of recreational, occupational, educational and cultural

activities, for example, at a day centre.

These activities could include lectures, games, outings, and help with living skills and budgeting.

The local authority social services department may also be able to provide radio, televisions or visiting library services.

Paying for community care services

The rules about which community care services must be paid for, and how much can be charged, are complicated. If you want information on this, you should consult an experienced adviser, for example, at a Citizens

Advice Bureau.

The local authority social services department can charge for providing some community care services.

If you live in Scotland, aged 65 or over, and get personal care or personal support care at home, you should get this free.

Direct payments

Direct payments are payments of money a local authority social services department makes to people to arrange their own community care services, instead of the local authority arranging the services.

If you're entitled to get community care services, your local authority social services department must give you the option of getting direct payments, as long as you are able to manage a direct payment.

In Scotland, the local authority must also offer you other options for choosing and arranging the support that will best meet your needs. This is called self-directed support. The other options are:

- you tell the local authority what support you would like and they arrange it and hold and manage the budget
- you ask the local authority to choose and arrange the support that it thinks is right for you
- you choose a mix of the other options.

Other help

If you need community care services because you are disabled, make sure that you are also claiming all the benefits you are entitled to. There may be other support available, for example, travel concessions.

In Scotland, Care Information Scotland provides a telephone and website service which gives information about community care services for

A NEW APPROACH TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING

"As well as offering advice on tackling each problem, Christine helped with nutritional and dietary support, which made an enormous difference to my mood and energy"

Miss A Glasgow

"I had to address my serious phobia of insects. Since seeing Christine I am much more relaxed and able to work happily without fear"

Miss C Inverness. (Working in Belize jungle)

"I used to suffer from severe panic attacks - unable to eat in public or have friends round for dinner. Since my appointment with Christine I am able to socialise fully once again."

Mrs C Fife

"..... I couldn't cook or clean or garden and at times struggled to feed myself. I then contacted Christine Lauritsen, initially about diet.....but we also talked about my emotional problems. She suggested the 'rewind technique'..... as the session was ending I felt a smile on my face. I felt as if a massive burden had disappeared..."

Mrs C Wales

These are just a few of the many testimonies about the work that Christine Lauritsen is doing from her busy clinics in Glasgow and Edinburgh. If you are one of the many people who suffer from anxiety, depression, anger, the ef-

fects of trauma, addictions, behavioural problems, chronic physical conditions especially digestive complaints and fatigue disorders then you should consider getting in touch and taking that first step towards change.

Starting her career as an NHS and then Private Physiotherapist, Christine became more and more interested in the dramatic affects of nutritional therapy, firstly on her own health and then on the health of others. Following her training as a Nutritional Therapist and a Life Coach she studied with the Human Givens College to become a member of the

Human Givens Institute. She is a highly experienced practitioner, who takes a functional and holistic approach to her work and focuses on the mind/body connection including the affects of food and behaviour especially in children on the autistic spectrum. She is a registered GAPS Practitioner. (www.GAPS.me)

Christine also works with the charity PTSD Resolution helping serving and military veterans by using the highly effective "rewind technique" for trauma (www.ptsdresolution.org)

Christine is happy to see clients who are looking

primarily for Nutritional Therapy or for Human Givens Counselling/Psychotherapy or simply for Life Coaching but is also delighted to see those wishing to take a complete look at their life and well-being.

As Christine Lauritsen told me "Many of the answers to our health and emotional problems lie in our own hands."

You can take those problems into your own hands too, by getting in touch today. For further information call Christine on 07872480389 or look at her website www.healthandwholeness.com.

Christine does person to

person consultations in her Edinburgh and Glasgow Clinics, phone and Skype appointments. Home visits can also be arranged if necessary. Christine is also available to give talks and presentations and runs individually designed retreats from her home in Argyll.

Christine Lauritsen is a registered member of the British Association of Applied Nutrition and Nutritional Therapy, the Human Givens Institute and the Complimentary and Natural Healthcare Council. She is the Regional Co-Ordinator for BANT in Scotland and an HG Peer Group Leader.

LOCHABER WOMEN'S AID

Lochaber Women's Aid has been providing support to women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse for over ten years. Our experienced staff are able to offer sensitive support for physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse. In addition to our support to women, we also provide support to children and young people

who may be affected by domestic abuse or dating abuse.

We can help with a variety of practical issues such as benefits, housing and legal issues. As we also work in partnership with other local agencies such as the Police, Social Work and Health and Housing professionals, we are also able to help arrange ap-

pointments for you.

Through 1-2-1 support and group work, we can help you rebuild your self-esteem and confidence. We can meet you at home, our offices or at any convenient place which suits.

Don't feel isolated or threatened, contact Lochaber Women's Aid for sensitive, specialist support.



Registered charity no: 214779
Scotland SC009259

Oban Salvation Army Community Church Centre

Tel: 01631 563652 or 07501 655 954

Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons drop-in from 12 to 4pm for "Tools and Tea" in The Shed - our free community workshop.

Friday afternoons 2-4pm we have Stitch'n Time; an opportunity to learn new craft skills or share your expertise with others. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays from 12-2pm, Oban AA Afternoon Group.

Tuesdays 7.30 to 8.30pm and Fridays 11am to 1pm - Inside Out; a support group for anyone affected by imprisonment.

Sundays at 11am, worship and fellowship in the hall.

We usually keep a supply of sleeping bags and tinned food and welcome donations of tents and tins to help us support those sleeping rough.

Concerned about a relative living alone?

Abbeyfield Carradale provides supported living accommodation for older people where they can continue to live as they want in an atmosphere that's safe, reassuring, supportive and friendly.

Short term (RESPIRE) stays available

Abbeyfield Carradale

Abbeyfield Carradale & District Society Ltd, SC006765 Phone: 01583-431278

OASIS

Oban Addiction Support and Information Service



OASIS (Oban Addiction Support and Information Service) is a community based rehabilitation project which helps those affected by substance misuse, providing confidential and non judgemental support and advice.

The aim of the organisation is to assist substance misusers lead ordinary lives, access mainstream services and develop positive relationships.

We offer a range of services to individuals and families currently or previously affected by substance misuse.

OASIS also provides a specialised youth addiction service (OASIS4YOUTH) for young people age 12 - 21 who are affected by their own or another's use of substances.

The service is free of charge and strictly confidential.

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 4.00pm

The project is run on an appointment based system but we do operate an open door policy for any service user to drop in.

Evening appointments can be arranged where necessary

11 Stafford Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NJ

Tel: 01631 571348 Fax: 01631 565613

Email: mail@oasis-oban.org.uk

Scottish Charity No SC031814

VISITATION AT TAYNUILT

Prayer Group Meetings

7pm Wednesdays

Craig Lodge, Dalmally

Visitation Catholic Church, Taynuilt.



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Responding to the needs of those affected by the loss of a baby.

Support meetings 7-9pm
Last Friday of the month
Regent Hotel, Oban
Group and one to one support



If you or someone you know is being abused

Don't be scared tell someone

Lochaber Women's Aid

provide confidential, sensitive support and advice during and after crisis to women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse. We have specialist workers who will understand your concerns and help you.

Contact us on: 01397 705734

3 Belford Road, Fort William, PH33 6BT
E-mail: lwa@lochaberwomensaid.org
www.lochaberwomensaid.org

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Freshly prepared two course home-made cuisine

Every day: Monday - Friday

Arrive for 12.30pm

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Come along and enjoy our open friendly manner at Caol Community Centre

All ages welcome

L.A.D.'s fully accessible transport available on request.

Give us a call on 01397 701171 and ask for Laura or just turn up and give us a try!

COMMUNITY CAFE

(You can find us opposite Caol Post Office, Glenloy Street, Caol)

Monday - Friday 9.30 - 3.00pm - Saturday 9.30 - 12.30pm

Chef's Special

Homemade Soup, Toastie and a cup of tea / coffee £3.80

Afternoon Special

Homemade scone and a cup of tea / Coffee £2.10

Hot or Cold Roll and Drink of your choice

(1 filling) £2.70, (2 fillings) £3.00

Dochas Carers Centre

Bringing together people who care



Offering carers support, information and guidance

Counselling Skills Service

Supported by Macmillan Cancer Support

For more information or to make an appointment contact the Dochas Centre, Lochgilphead or telephone on 01546 605261/600022

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Call 01631 563297
www.argyllcouplecounselling.org
SCO23995

Christine Lauritsen

NTDd HGDip.P
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Christine is an award-winning Nutritional Therapist, Counsellor and Coach, offering fast, effective and practical help. Achieving maximum health, vitality, emotional balance, happiness and success doesn't just happen by chance. Feel better today and take the first step on the Pathway. A Pathway created individually for you and giving you the knowledge you need to move forward in your journey to change.

For further information or to make an appointment contact:

Health and Wholeness Mulberry House 21 Manor Place Edinburgh EH3 7DX	Health and Wholeness Woodside House 20-23 Woodside Place Glasgow G3 7QF
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Tel: 0131 225 2012 for Edinburgh appointments or mobile: 07872480389 for Glasgow appointments or general enquiries.
www.healthandwholeness.com




The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Who says island life is easy?

MANY will hold a stereotypical view of an islander, enjoying a life not shackled by deadlines or red tape. These seemingly idyllic retreats are apparently sought by those escaping the rat race, those seeking a sense of community and tranquility.

But what is the real cost of this unique way of life? With the recent enforcement of overweight vehicles coming into force, we might just get the answer.

Few would question CalMac's justification for enforcing weight restrictions in a bid to prevent illegal loads boarding its ferries. After all, the company is just enforcing a law that's already there, a law designed to keep us all safe.

The knock-on effect to the islands, however, is not an issue that should be overlooked. The already significant cost of living on these islands may rise as a result of delivery companies having to provide extra vehicles, because they can no longer get away with being a bit on the heavy side.

Do we then face the prospect of the 'island' clearances? The powers that be would do well to look on closely.

GLASGOW LETTER

Festival 2014

GAELIC culture is to reach a new international audience as part of the Festival 2014 programme, with celebrations taking place across the city.

With 15 days of events, exhibitions and performance, the festival will bring together some of Scotland's leading Gaelic artists including Kathleen MacInnes, Breabach, the Mischa MacPherson Trio and Manran.

Celebrations kick off at 9am on July 21 at Sgoil Ghaidhlig Glaschu where the Queen's Baton will pay a visit. Everyone is welcome to go along and enjoy a Commonwealth party.

Kicking off the Gaelic presence at Glasgow Green will be Ceolas from South Uist, highlighting their links with musicians from Cape Breton in a music and dance celebration. Following this, Boomerang, fresh from the Heb Celt Festival in Stornoway, will explore indigenous relationships between Australia and New Zealand. And Feisan nan Gaidheal will showcase a collaboration between upcoming and leading traditional musicians connected with the Feis movement.

'Children and the Smoke' will tell the story of the dispersion of the Gaels worldwide and there will also be the chance to celebrate Gaelic, the Commonwealth and community connections in a traditional ceilidh hosted by some of the city's local associations.

Winners of the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards 2014, the Mischa MacPherson Trio, will collaborate with Pakistani classical musicians in a performance which harnesses the fantastic musical pedigree of different backgrounds.

The Gaelic Arts hub Aire 11 will provide a base for all things Gaelic at 127 Saltmarket and at the same location Calgaeal will also run a cafe daily.

Each morning Proiseact nan Eilean, the National Gaelic Arts Agency, in collaboration with Glasgow Life and other Gaelic arts organisations, will host breakfast workshops between 9.30am and 10.30am and every afternoon there will be the chance to listen to some of the country's best traditional musicians.

Performers from all over the globe will put on a vibrant programme at the Old Fruitmarket in association with Celtic Connections.

In the west end Gaelic arts will take centre stage at the beautifully restored Kelvingrove Bandstand for 12 days.

On Wednesday July 30, there will be a line up of folk talent. Breabach will be followed by John McCusker, Michael McGoldrick and John Doyle and the following afternoon Misha MacPherson and her trio will repeat the

show described above. On Saturday August 2, a day of world music will host the orchestra of Sgoil Ghaidhlig Glaschu in the morning while in the evening Willie Campbell will perform songs from his recently acclaimed CD *Dalma*.

For youngsters there will be morning activities including storytelling at the bandstand. To mark the Commonwealth Games, a Gaelic map of Glasgow will profile the city and hopefully encourage people to explore their own Gaelic Glasgow.

The full programme is available at www.glasgowlife.org.uk/gaelic-arts

Pipe Band Championships

LEVENGROVE Park, Dumbarton, will once again host the Scottish Pipe Band Championships on Saturday July 26 from 9am.

Prize for composers

SUBMISSIONS are now invited for the competition, which is named in honour of the late composer and multi-instrumentalist Martyn Bennet.

It is organised by the Traditional Music Forum and the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, with funding from Creative Scotland. Entrants must be aged 16 or over and be based in Scotland with work and practice influenced by Scottish traditional music. The new composition must be between five and 10 minutes duration and should be submitted by 5pm on Monday September 1 in audio file or manuscript form.

There will be a finalist concert on Tuesday October 14 in Queen's Hall with the shortlist being announced on September 16. The winner will receive £2,000 and the runner-up £1,000.

Diary dates

Tuesday July 22: Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72a Waterloo Street, 8pm, Sinshen - Barbara Dymock and Christine Kydd.

Wednesday July 23: Tolbooth, Stirling, Summer Family Ceilidh, 8pm.

Wednesday July 30: World War I Concert 2, College of Piping, Ottago Street, 7.30pm. Full details next week.

Pub scene

DEOCH 'n Dorus which recently released their third CD *A'Bhanais Taighe* (The House Wedding) will be playing in the Park Bar on Saturday with Martainn Skene there on Friday with Sunday still to be arranged.

In the Islay Inn this weekend, it will be Parting Glass on Friday and Penny Dogs on Saturday. Neil Murray, Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.



Oban High School, Class 4B, 1951

This week's flashback photograph was submitted by Mary Pollock of Dunoon and features Oban High School's Class 4B of 1951. Prints or emails of flashback photos should be accompanied by a caption, name, address, and telephone number. Anyone wishing prints returned must supply a stamped, addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
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www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

CalMac right to weigh vehicles

Sir, I have been following the saga of vehicles being weighed prior to boarding Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) ferries and the apparent dismay this is causing drivers and island residents.

However, in their selfishness, no-one appears to have mentioned the danger to the public this blatant and habitual flouting of the law is causing.

Vehicle maximum loaded weights are there for a purpose - to prevent overloaded and potentially unsafe vehicles from using the public highway and causing danger to road users as a result of ineffective brakes, suspension and tyres.

Do the companies, drivers and customers involved not realise that should there be an accident any insurance or MOT cover would be void? This is as bad as driving without insurance or MOT in the first place.

The thought these vehicles are not only being driven on the islands, where there has always been a bit of leeway and a blind eye to the law, but on mainland roads to and from the central belt appals me.

CalMac is being correct in its stance and I look forward to the day when traffic police officers are present at vehicle check-in.

Would it not be a good idea to impose ferry fares according to overall weight? After all, most freight is charged in this manner. Every commercial vehicle could be weighed and charged accordingly and then it would be fair to everyone.

In addition, if it is obvious that any particular vehicle is overweight, simply refuse carriage. A call to the police station would, hopefully, ensure a fine and three penalty points in the interests of road safety. Chris Sutton, via email.

Weight restriction consequences will be serious

Sir, I write in reference to Steven Rae's front page article regarding change to the enforcement of weight restrictions on light goods vans boarding CalMac ferries.

What will the end result be for the smaller carriers and the people who live on islands served by CalMac?

There will be some serious consequences and this I thought out, knee-jerk reaction is bound to be regretted by everyone concerned.

A few observations: Who stands to benefit from this new practice? Mr Rae points out the enforcement came following complaints from larger hauliers.

How reassuring that human greed may be behind this change, not any real concern about safety or the law.

Would *The Oban Times* or CalMac kindly tell us which of the larger hauliers made the complaint and saved us from the dangers of overloaded vans so that we can send letters of thanks?

Also was the complaint made to CalMac or the police?

It would be interesting to see the CalMac log of all the on-ferry serious incidents and

accidents over the last ten years resulting from overloaded light goods vans.

The article continues: 'A CalMac spokesperson said they had no option but to impose the legal restrictions on vehicles'.

Logically this new imposition means all heavy and light goods vehicles must be weighed and passed as within restrictions before safe boarding of the ferries can be achieved but there are no weighing facilities on any of the islands concerned so CalMac cannot meet their own new requirements.

There is 'anecdotal evidence' that many lorries and vans leave our islands laden so CalMac must now go to the expense of installing HGV weighing facilities at all ports or be found in breach of safe practice.

The current freight cost of having six bags of dog food - purchase price £60 - delivered from Oban to Coll is £45 since the SNP-led Scottish government failed to deliver the Road Equivalent Tariff on freight. That may double under these ill-conceived new restrictions.

Island incomes run on average £5,000 lower than the mainland so can anyone think why island populations continue to decline in spite of massive infrastructure investment?

CalMac might have been generally well advised to ignore the complaining and carry on with the harmless minor illegalities of the past many decades which somehow I find it difficult to believe they were completely unaware of. Going back to the old way is still an option, of course, and no-one would be any the poorer, not even the 'larger hauliers'. Peter Isaacson, Coll.

Back at square one over Rockfield?

Sir, In the interests of balance could I respond through your columns to the two letters on the former Rockfield Primary School building and its future which appeared in last week's *Oban Times*.

Mr and Mrs McNab indicate that Rockfield should be not just for the next two years but for the next 100 years and should be for future generations. That is exactly what Argyll Community Housing Association's (ACHA) proposals would deliver; new homes for the next 100 years and desperately needed affordable housing for future generations.

I also agree with Mr and Mrs McNab about the need for town centre regeneration. ACHA's proposals, if accepted, will be about town centre regeneration replacing a site which has lain empty for seven years with a vibrant development providing homes for Oban's people.

With respect to Mr and Mrs McNab's analysis that we will never get this back if it's used for housing, ACHA is taking nothing away. The association is a not-for-profit charity run by its £1 shareholder voluntary members which will invest in this site to provide homes for some of the 659 people who currently need a home in Oban.

With respect to Sarah Swain-Nisbet's analysis that this site is being provided to ACHA for free, if the association's proposals are accepted by Argyll and Bute Council the organisation will

invest £5million in the site, providing 37 new homes, 15 of which we are willing to make available to the local authority for specific care of the elderly in the centre of Oban. ACHA's proposals are a genuine offer and we are not getting the site for nothing.

We appear to be in danger of going full circle again regards Rockfield. I understand around six years ago the council was asked to stop marketing the building to allow a community facility to be developed. I understand that came to nothing.

Seven years after the closure of Rockfield are we back at square one or do we move forward with investment, houses and jobs for Oban?

Alastair MacGregor, Chief Executive, Argyll Community Housing Association.

Mull should have national park status

Sir, We have just holidayed on Mull for the first time and Oban for the second time.

We come from Somerset and are astounded that Mull and other islands are not protected as a national park. We have Exmoor local to us and the rangers and farmers do a great job promoting and preserving our natural heritage.

Mull and Iona are a wonderful national treasure for Scotland so why are they not protected and the wildlife conserved to benefit the livelihoods of locals and future generations?

We cannot believe Scotland can ignore such a fragile jewel and not develop a strategy to benefit and protect its people and wildlife. Your west coast and islands have natural riches in abundance which surpass anything in other areas of the UK.

Please promote national park status which will give some level of protection so that the tourism industry can develop in a sustainable and managed way in tune with the wishes of residents. Stephen J Lewis, Taunton, Somerset.

Looking forward to retirement

Sir, Through your paper may I express my thanks to all the people from Spean Bridge and further afield who sent me good wishes and gave me lovely retirement gifts.

Special thanks to all the staff and pupils who entertained me and two fellow teachers who were leaving, but not retiring, on Thursday July 3 at Spean Bridge Primary School.

After 40 years of hard work I am glad to forget the paperwork and start a new, hopefully more relaxed, chapter in my life.

I loved teaching and I am grateful to my own teachers, particularly Miss Lorna MacDonald and Miss Elsie MacDougall, both now no longer with us, but both of these primary school teachers gave me a solid foundation in my own primary education.

My aim was to do the same for the recent generation of pupils in Spean Bridge Primary School. The great support from colleagues, parents and friends

of Spean Bridge Primary School made my job for four years in Caol primary and 36 years in Spean Bridge more interesting and more enjoyable than if I had had to work without their support. I wish all my former colleagues and pupils a safe and enjoyable summer holiday.

Finally, thanks to those who nominated me to carry the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton through part of our village on July 12.

Betty MacLachlan, Spean Bridge.

One way system for Oban traffic

Sir, Why do drivers have to join a long queue of traffic to visit supermarkets, except the Co-op, and other retail outlets in Lochavulin Estate, at the traffic lights at Oban High School on Soroba Road?

Would it not be better to have traffic turning right from Combie Street past Kwik Fit and the old entrance into Tesco?

As we go from Combie Street into Soroba Road could the traffic going to Lochavulin not turn right before the Co-op and cross the new Black Lynn Bridge on a one way system to other prominent stores?

Richard Bingham, Ganavan.

Orwell Society thanks

Sir, As patron of the Orwell Society, I would like to thank everyone who made our visit to Jura and Barnhill such a memorable occasion.

I would like to single out the Barnhill Estate for their hospitality, the Jura Hotel for a warm welcome and comfortable stay, the Jura passenger ferries for their patience and good humour, Jura Lives for making available the recordings that have so painstakingly been put together over the past two years and last, but not least, the excellent dinner we enjoyed at the Antlers.

The result is the society has expressed a wish to repeat this visit in two years.

Richard Blair, Barnhill, Ardfern.

Search for Army Youth Team colleague

Sir, I am trying to trace an old colleague of mine who I served with in the Army Youth Team in Manchester, back in 1969-71.

His name is Alec Duncan who is married to Susan and had a son who I believe was called Alistair. Last known abode was somewhere in Oban.

Should you read this Alec or anyone know his contact details please respond to m.taylor1648@gmail.com.

We already have four ex-members linked up. Here's hoping. M D Taylor.

Hunt for patterns

Sir, Does anyone have any crochet or knitting patterns they don't use any more as my daughter is learning to knit and crochet and we are finding these really hard to find. Thank you.

Mrs Fisher 1 Hillcrest Thirsk North Yorks, YO7 4JJ.



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

NUAIR a thòisich riaghaltas na Co-bhanntachd a' cur an sàs nan gearraidhean mòra ann an airgead poblach, chaidh rabhadh gun toireadh fìor bhuaidh an fhàsaidh sin ùine a' ruigheachd a' mhòr-shluaigh.

Tha dearbhadh againn a-nise gun robh an rabhadh sin ceart agus tha ceannardan an aonaidh UNISON ag ràdh gum bheil na buill aca san air na ceud de lùghdachadh fhaicinn nan tuarastail ann an ceithir bliadhna. A bharrachd air sin tha cosgais tighinn beò air èirigh faisg air a' chòigeamh pàirt san aon ùine agus ma chuirear na h-àireamhan sin còmhla, chithear gum faodadh gum bheil cuid suas ri trian nas miosa dheth na bha tad mu chòig bliadhna air ais.

Dha cosnaich a bha mar-thà air tuarastail gu math iseal 's e buille uabhasach a tha sin, agus chanadh cuid gur e iongnadh a th' ann nach do nochd stailcean fada roimhe seo! Saoilidh mi gun robh caochladh adhbharan gun do lean an t-sith.

Bha daoine a' tuigsinn gun robh ionmhas na dùthcha ann an droch staid agus bha an cuid eòlais phearsanta ag innse dhaibh gum feumte caomhnadh ma bhathas dol a chur cùisean ceart. Bhathas a' tuigsinn gun tigeadh teannachadh agus tha fulang ri fhaicinn am measg dhaoine aig am bheil cosnadh, ged nach biodh ann ach na bheil an sàs ann a dhà neo tri obraichean gun gu leòr a chosnadh na chumas a' dol iad.

Agus ma tha cùisean doirbh dhan fheadhainn a tha ann an cosnadh, càite bheil sin a' fàgail dhaoine a tha às aonais obrach agus a tha an eisimeil shochairrean sòisealta?

Nuair a tha ainmhidh sam bhith a' fulang acras ri linn gort air choreigin, thig e beò air a chuid saill rè ùine, agus tha an ùine sin an crochadh air an ìre aig an robh e nuair a thòisich a chuid acrais.

Tha caonamaidh dachaigh an aon rud agus gu ìre tha sinn a-nise a' faicinn mòran dhaoine a th' air na bh' aca mu seach a chosg agus an Riaghaltas ag innse dhaibh gum bheil co-dhù ri bliadhna eile den aon seòrsa suidheachadh tuarastail romha.

Chan iongnadh ged a spreadhadh a' ghucag ann an leithid de shuidheachadh, agus ged nach eile na annas a bhith a' faicinn Mhinistearan Riaghaltas a' càineadh luchd an aonaidh, saoilidh mi gur e mearachd mhòr da-riiribh a th' ann dhaibh a bhith ag ràdh nach eil adhbhar airson na stail!

THE MINISTERIAL response of 'no justification' to the recent public sector workers' strike was insensitive and insulting.

It demonstrated a lack of understanding of what it is like to be totally dependent on a weekly or monthly pay cheque.

Of course economies are necessary to balance the country's books.

But there is a limit to the level of income erosion which workers can survive, and when the best offer from government is another three years of the same, industrial action would seem inevitable. Ministers might stick to their guns but their 'ship' might sink beneath them.

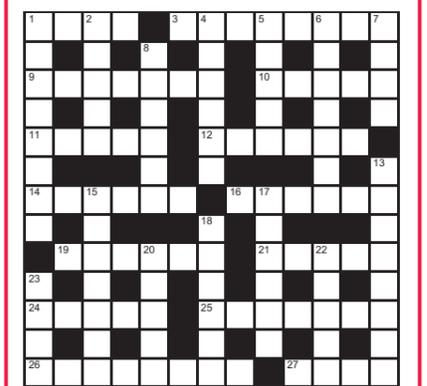
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LAST week's SOLUTION

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Porridge powers Arisaig's Jemima to 100th birthday

A BOWL of porridge every morning is the key to a long and healthy life, according to an Arisaig centenarian.

Jemima Gillies celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by family at an afternoon tea in the village and told relatives working hard on the family farm at Kinloids kept her fit over the years.

Mrs Gillies was presented with a basket of flowers by Highland councillor Allan Henderson and received a telegram from the Queen.

Her daughter, Ann McMillan, said: 'Mum always says a bowl of porridge is her secret to a long life. She has lots of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even great-great-grandchildren so she's been very lucky to be able to see them all.'



CELEBRATIONS: Jemima Gillies was all smiles on her 100th birthday

Police appeal

POLICE are appealing for information regarding the following incidents in Fort William:

□ Sometime between 4.45pm on July 6 and 7am on July 7 two cars parked in Argyll Road were damaged. Damage to the blue Nissan x-trail and black Audi A4 consisted of deep scratches and graffiti on the paintwork.

□ Sometime between 3 and 4am on Sunday July 6 a window in a North Road guest house was smashed with stones.

□ A watch was stolen from inside a bedroom at the Travelodge hotel soemtime between 8am and 8pm on Monday July 7.

Local police can be contacted on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800555111.

Games honour for North Uist singer

Gaelic singer Julie Fowles is to perform in front of 40,000 people at Celtic Park on July 23 for the opening ceremony of Glasgow's Commonwealth Games.

And the North Uist vocalist will fly the flag for Gaelic after announcing she plans to sing a Gaelic song from her home island during the ceremony.

Announcing the news to her Facebook followers she said: 'After months of secrecy, I am delighted (and more than a little terrified) to formally announce that I'll be taking part in the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games official opening ceremony.'

In announcing her plan to sing a Gaelic song, Julie wrote: 'Agus - anns a' chuirim-fhosglaidh tha mi a' dol a sheinn òran à Uibhist a Tuath. Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig!'

Rod Stewart will headline the concert, with other acts confirmed as Susan Boyle, Amy MacDonald and Nicola Benedetti.

Work starts on A830 bridges

IMPROVEMENTS have begun on one of Lochaber's most scenic routes as part of a £10m scheme.

Nine bridges on the A830 Fort William to Mallaig road will be replaced over the next few years with work by BEAR Scotland already underway.

Dearg Bridge, four miles west of Glenfinnan on the 'road to the isles', is the first to be affected when it is replaced with a new wider structure.

Traffic lights and a diversion using a temporary bridge will be in place to reduce disruption but concerns have been raised about delays on the popular tourist route in the peak of summer. Caol and Mallaig Highland councillor Bill Clark said: 'Delays are a big concern, particularly in terms of local people who use the road every day and it's going to be busier because it's summer but what can you do? It's a lot easier to do the work in the summer and it needs to be done.'

A BEAR Scotland spokeswoman said no major delays were expected. She added: 'The temporary traffic lights will cause some delay so some extra time should be allowed for journeys.'

Lifboat rescues unwell lone sailor

A LONE sailor had to be rescued when he became unwell onboard his yacht.

The volunteer crew of Kyle of Lochalsh Lifboat had to administer oxygen to the man on his boat, moored outside Plockton harbour, just after 2.30 on Friday morning. The casualty was then transferred to an ambulance waiting on the main pier and the rescue crew returned to Kyle.

Just three days later the volunteers were out on a routine training exercise when their skills were put to the test during another rescue.

The team was flagged down by a group of five on board a 35-foot yacht as its anchor was caught on a mooring. After assessing the situation the lifboat crew towed the boat clear of the mooring, untied the anchor and completed the rescue in an hour.

SPATE OF SIX ACCIDENTS ON BEN NEVIS PROMPTS LOCHABER GROUP TO ISSUE SAFETY MESSAGE

Rescue team's 'stay safe' appeal

A SPATE of accidents over the weekend has urged a mountain rescue leader to ask climbers to stay safe.

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team was called out six times between Saturday and Sunday to help walkers on Ben Nevis and on Friday night the Glencoe team was called to the rescue of a man who had a heart attack on Creise.

John Stevenson, Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team leader, said: 'Luckily the worst injury we had was a broken

shoulder and the rest of the rescues were caused by twisted ankles and exhaustion. It's easily done on the Ben.

'We were already out on Saturday when we got a call about two boys who were stuck on Tower Ridge [on Ben Nevis].

'We had a couple of RAF guys with us who were a great help so they went to check it out.

'The pair weren't in any immediate danger and the weather was quite bad

so we decided to leave them until daylight, it's much safer that way. We had to lower guys down to the climbers and get them down that way so it would have been much harder in the dark and miserable weather.

'There's not really a lot I can say except try to stay safe. The Ben is hard work for a lot of people but remember even if you don't feel too bad on the way up you've still got to get back down.'

John Grieve, Glencoe Mountain

Rescue Team leader, added: 'If you or someone in your party falls ill when you're up on a hill ask for police and mountain rescue when you call emergency services, not an ambulance. On Saturday the group of four asked for an ambulance but the staff couldn't get to them. It can save a lot of time if you ask for us straight away.'

'The RAF team were out in Fort William so thankfully they managed to get their helicopter to the man and take him straight to Belford hospital.'



HELP AT HAND: Lochaber Mountain Rescue team going to the aid of climbers on Ben Nevis at the weekend

Elderly care on Skye 'second to none'

CARE of the elderly on Skye is second to none according to a recent report and investigation into one home.

An Acarsaid in Broadford received top marks in all categories reviewed by the Care Inspectorate and staff at the NHS Highland facility are said to be 'delighted'.

The home's manager Catherine Smith added that the findings reflect the 'dedication and commitment' of the carers. The NHS Highland

centre, which provides residential care for up to 10 people, impressed inspectors in terms of the quality of care and support it offers, as well as the quality of its environment, staffing, management and leadership, according to the report produced after an unannounced visit earlier this year.

Kate Earnshaw, NHS district manager for Skye and Lochalsh, said: 'These are fantastic results for a great care home and it's the best possible report on the home. When it was last inspected in August

2012 the home achieved straight fives in four categories and a four in another. To have bettered that this time is a real credit to the management and staff and reflects our commitment to drive up quality and deliver high-quality care.'

An Acarsaid staff and residents will be celebrating the success at an open day next Thursday (July 24) from 2-4pm with Highland Hospice and Parkinson's information stands and live music.

Community group in bid to buy forest land

FOREST land popular with families and walkers in Lochaline could soon be owned by a community company.

Morvern Community Woodlands has applied to the National Forest Land Scheme to buy eight hectares of land at Achana on the Morvern peninsula.

The group has managed the land in conjunction with Forestry Commission Scotland for 10 years but the purchase would allow members to apply for grants to develop the site.

Veronique Walraven, one of Morvern Community Woodlands' directors, said: 'The woodland is well used in the community and if we own it we can look into improving it. We don't want

to change things too much because we don't want to make it too commercial but we would like to put in a small play park and maintain the woodland as much as we can. We have a lot of ideas and owning the land will mean we can follow them through.'

The community company has lodged an application for money through the Scottish Land Fund, which could provide up to 95 per cent of the £40,000 needed to buy the forest.

Before the sale is granted, a consultation is required and public comments are welcome until July 29. Details are available at www.forestry.gov.uk/nlfs



End of term fun and games

ACTIVITY DAY: it was fun and games at Upper Achintore Primary School at the end of term as teachers planned a full day of activities. Instead of a school trip, the pupils enjoyed face painting, a climbing frame, zorb balls and a bouncy castle, all at school. Pictured are children of the P1-2 class enjoying 'messy' play. 20_129upper01

Scottish Field
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what's on

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FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY 17TH JULY	
Appin Art Society Exhibition, Port Appin Hall, 10.30-6pm	
Gaelic Woolfeis, Kintaline Farm, Benderloch, 10am	
Soup Lunch, Every Tuesday and Thursday, Church Hall, Connel, 12-2pm	
West Highland Yachting Week, 12th-18th July, Craobh, Oban, Tobermory, All day	
Ramblers Association Guided Walk, Beinn Trilleachan, Glen Etive	
FRIDAY 18TH JULY	
Appin Art Society Exhibition, Port Appin Hall, 10.30-6pm	
Gaelic Woolfeis, Victory Hall, Benderloch, 10.30am	
Riding for the Disabled Open Day, Achnalarig Stables, Glencruitten Road, Oban	
West Highland Yachting Week, 12th-18th July, Craobh, Oban, Tobermory, All day	
SATURDAY 19TH JULY	
Appin Art Society Exhibition, Port Appin Hall, 10.30-6pm	
Gaelic Woolfeis, Victory Hall, Benderloch, 10.30am	
SIMBA Table Top Sale & Coffee Morning, Glencruitten Church, Oban, 10am-12pm	
National Collective Cafe Sessions, Skipinnish Ceilidh House, Oban, 3-4.30pm	
Fasnacloch Gun Club Open Shoot, 12pm	
Taynuilt Highland Games, Sportsfield, Taynuilt, March at 1pm	
Lochcarron Highland Games, Attadale Estate, Lochcarron	
Scottish Show at the Royal Hotel, Oban, 8.30-10.30pm	
SUNDAY 20TH JULY	
Appin Art Society Exhibition, Port Appin Hall, 10.30-6pm	
Rosneath Highland Gathering, Howie Park, Rosneath, Parade at 12 noon	
Ramblers Association Guided Walk, Peanmeanach Village and Beach, Lochailort	
Afternoon Tea, Oban Sensory Garden, Corran Esplanade, 2-4pm	
Craft Fayre, Every Sunday, Creagan Inn Appin, 12-5pm	
MONDAY 21ST JULY	
Appin Art Society Exhibition, Port Appin Hall, 10.30-6pm	
Charity Shop in aid of Anthony Nolan, Oban Youth Cafe, 10am-4pm	
TUESDAY 22ND JULY	
Charity Shop in aid of Anthony Nolan, Oban Youth Cafe, 10am-4pm	
Appin Art Society Exhibition, Port Appin Hall, 10.30-6pm	
Soup Lunch, Every Tuesday and Thursday, Church Hall, Connel, 12-2pm	
Inveraray Games, Castle Grounds, Inveraray, Parade at 10.45am	
Crop Circles, UFOs & Masters of Wisdom, Regent Hotel, Oban, 7.30pm	
Scottish Show at the Royal Hotel, Oban, 8.30-10.30pm	
WEDNESDAY 23RD JULY	
Charity Shop in aid of Anthony Nolan, Oban Youth Cafe, 10am-4pm	
Appin Art Society Exhibition, Port Appin Hall, 10.30-6pm	
Cairndow Clay Trap Club, 50dtl Open Shoot, 6pm	
Argyll Ceilidh Trail, Ceilidh Dance, Argyllshire Gathering, Oban, 7.30pm	
Live music with Basel at the Royal Hotel, Oban, 8.30-10.30pm	
THURSDAY 24TH JULY	
Charity Shop in aid of Anthony Nolan, Oban Youth Cafe, 10am-4pm	
Appin Art Society Exhibition, Port Appin Hall, 10.30-6pm	
Soup Lunch, Every Tuesday and Thursday, Church Hall, Connel, 12-2pm	
Mull Highland Games, Erry Park, Tobermory, 10am	
Ramblers Association Guided Walk, Ben Nevis by CMD Arete, Fort William	
Summer Ceilidh, Every Thursday, Taynuilt Village Hall, 8pm	
FRIDAY 25TH JULY	
Charity Shop in aid of Anthony Nolan, Oban Youth Cafe, 10am-4pm	
Appin Art Society Exhibition, Port Appin Hall, 10.30-6pm	
Tiree Show, Rural Centre, Isle of Tiree	
SATURDAY 26TH JULY	
Charity Shop in aid of Anthony Nolan, Oban Youth Cafe, 10am-4pm	
Appin Art Society Exhibition, Port Appin Hall, 10.30-4.30pm	
Southend Highland Games, Southend Playing Field, 5.30pm	
Email details of your event to whatson@obantimes.co.uk .	

World caber set for Inveraray

COMPETITORS will come from all over the world to say they are the caber champion - but will they thrash up and coming talent?

That's the question on the lips of heavyweight competitors as they prepare for the Inveraray games next Tuesday, July 22.

And the competition is heating up with the highest calibre of athletes attending the event.

This is a highly prestigious event on the games calendar and attracts the highest calibre of athletes from all over the world.

Organisers said competitors this year would come from Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, Poland - not forgetting our own home grown talent.

Local athletes include Lorne Colthart - who is in with a shout if his current form is anything to go by.

The winner is presented with the Scottish Games Association medal.

The caber is a true test of skill and physical prowess as the caber at the World Championships is one of the biggest, if not the biggest on the circuit, measuring over 20 feet and weighing in at more than 140lbs.

With its beautiful location at the head of Loch Fyne, the Inveraray Highland Games is held in the grounds of Inveraray Castle, where they are opened by the Duke of Argyll, Chief of the Clan Campbell.

Vibrant and friendly, these traditional Highland games offer an exciting and memorable day.

The games celebrates our rich Highland culture and the one-day event showcases all the traditional Highland Games, harking back to the warrior clan days.

There is the usual mix of track and heavy events, for the sports-minded, and both Scottish dancing and bagpiping, solo and team, for those with a more artistic bent.

The pipe bands of Inveraray and district, grade one and juvenile, led by His Grace the Duke of Argyll will parade through the town at 10.45am with the main event commencing shortly afterwards.



It took five men to lift the caber at last year's games, in preparation for the heavy weight competitor to throw. Not an easy task.

Midsummer Munro challenge completed

OBAN farmer Jamie Mellor has successfully completed the task of scaling some of Scotland's highest peaks for charity.

Mr Mellor and fellow farmer Jamie Howard aimed to climb as many Munros as necessary to reach the equivalent height of Mount Everest, which is 29,029ft.

The challenge, called the Midsummer Munro Mission, was in aid of local charity The Roses Charitable Trust and Community Action Nepal.

The pair were joined by friends and family for several legs of the walk, with friends Susan Houston and Emily Hunter completing the full challenge with them.

The group started at Grey Mare's Tail car park, near Kinlochleven, on Friday, June 28, with the final day's walk on Tuesday, July 1, finishing up at Ben Alder.

In total, the group climbed 30,192ft across 22 Munros, raising more than £2,000 for the two charities.

Mr Mellor said: 'For the four of us who finished what was a very tough challenge, it turned out to be a very pleasant and rewarding experience on many levels.'

Jane Sayer from the Roses Charitable Trust said: 'This is an amazing accomplishment, both as a physical achievement and the amount of money raised.'

'We are absolutely delighted and thank everyone involved from the very bottom of our hearts.'

The climbers also paid tribute to their support team of Angus MacDonald and Morag Mellor who set up camps, fed them and took their packs on to the next camps.



Jamie Howard, Susan Houston, Emily Hunter and Jamie Mellor at the peak of Ben Alder.

Mull castle promotes wildlife photography



A GALLERY at Glengorm Castle on the Isle of Mull will be showing some of the best work from a natural history photography workshop from the luxury of Glengorm Castle, making the most of Mull's outstanding wildlife.

This will include a marine photography charter with legendary whale watching enterprise Sea Life Surveys.



Musicians on this year's Argyll Ceilidh Trail.

Young musicians prepare for Argyll Ceilidh Trail

EIGHT young, talented traditional musicians from Argyll take to the road this summer representing Argyll Ceilidh Trail.

Organised by Feis Latharna, the Argyll Ceilidh Trail has a packed schedule of 18 performances in the space of a month throughout July and August.

The group is attending Feis Alba in Plockton this week, to rehearse and collaborate with the other groups in preparation for their tour, which kicks off in Arrochar on Monday.

The band will perform two dates in Oban, on July 23 and August at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Island performances on Iona, Luing, Gigha, Islay and Arran follow, as well as concerts in Lochgilphead, Carradale, Taynuilt, Dalmally, Tayvallich, Dunoon and Inveraray.

The group will also perform as part of the Commonwealth Games celebrations at Glasgow Green on July 28.

Argyll Ceilidh Trail is selected through an audition process, and this year's members are: Kimberley Campbell, Lochawe; Hannah Gillies, North Connel; Niamh MacKaveny, Tarbert; and Oban musicians Merle Harbron, Kirsty Campbell, Anna Garvin, James MacPherson and Rebekah MacPherson, with a line-up featuring fiddle, accordion, piano, flute, whistle, pipes and guitar.

Established by Feisean nan Gàidheal in 1999 to help teenage musicians develop their performance skills and to create a vibrant traditional music entertainment programme in the Highlands, the project has proved to be an overwhelming success, with seven ceilidh trail groups in 2014.

Ewen MacPherson, Feis Latharna treasurer, said: 'This is a tremendous opportunity for these talented young folk to develop further their musicianship and performance skills. Their journey from the early days of learning instruments to presenting music of a very professional standard today is amazing.'



Society cheque presentations encourage

Oban Horticultural Society made four donations to charities with connections to Oban and the surrounding area. Argyll Animal Aid cheque for £100. The money was raised from the hard working group's annual horticultural show. 15_t29cheques1

Discovering the hidden heart of the Isle of Iona

BOOK REVIEW

FOR centuries, the tiny Scottish island of Iona has been a place of spiritual pilgrimage and, although the island's population is 120, more than 130,000 people visit every year.

Acclaimed poet Kenneth Steven has a life-long love of the island, and in his new book *Iona: The Other Island*, he teams up with renowned photographer Iain Sarjeant to create a beautiful tribute to those hidden coves, remote landscapes and majestic beaches that so few visitors get the opportunity to really see.

The authors share their joy in the undiscovered parts of Iona and they capture the special atmosphere, unique light, deep peace and the real spiritual essence of the island - which are so often missed by the thousands of day visitors, who are ferried in.

Through poetry, stunning photography and short stories about ancient legends, the island is brought to life in its entirety, revealing the true wonder of Iona.

Kenneth Steven explains more: 'I have loved Iona for a very long time and it holds wonderful childhood memories.

'It's a place that has continued to inspire me throughout my life and remains my spiritual retreat.

'The things I feel are most special about Iona, the tranquillity, peace and atmosphere are difficult to capture on a brief visit round the tourist attractions.

'I have let Iona get under my skin and Iain and I have gone off the beaten track to uncover the true beauty and wonder of the place and I'm delighted to be able to share this through my new book.'

This book is an inspiring and enlightening companion for those visiting the island for the first time, those who have been many times - and for those who wish they were there now.

Gaelic Woolfeis weekend begins

THE FOURTH annual Feis Cothlam, a Gaelic Woolfeis at Benderloch takes place this weekend July 17-19. Organisers are delighted to have people coming from all over Scotland with their produce and skills, as well as celebrating our local raw materials and talents. The theme this year is Traditional Skills - Ancient and Modern an update of some of the attractions, activities and events happening over the three days can be found <http://lorr.org.uk/woolfeis2014/> Of particular note is the Full Waulking on Thursday of a new piece of tweed that has been woven especially by Sam Goates. Her new weaving business, Woven in the Bone, is based at Buckie Harbour. The very popular Gaelic singers of Sgioba Luaidh Inverluaidh will be undertaking the hard physical labour of beating the soaked wet fabric into a usable state. This process does not happen often, maybe only once a year in the country. People are welcome to join in on the festival.



All the musicians on Coll pier.

Chamber music on Coll

MUSIC REVIEW
TEN days of chamber music on the Isle of Coll will inspire generations to come, organisers hope. An island more familiar with ceilidh and folk music, the event was supported by The Tunnell Trust - a charity that supports opportunities for young musicians. The trust also seeks 'to provide support for local arts and educational organisations, often situated within isolated communities.' Coll is a unique setting for the now annual event and it is hoped by engaging the whole community in the event that young people may also be inspired by the world class music. Healthy numbers attended, with many in the audience unfamiliar with classical music concerts. Daytime performances, aimed specifically at children and parents, were genuinely interactive occasions. Moved One member of the community who popped in on the Friday found herself so moved by the experience that she came to each of the successive concerts. Her reaction to the music is shared by many - even the more experienced concert-goers: the sheer proximity of the instrumentalists, the great acoustics; the contrast between exceptional performance and low-key, friendly venue; and the fact that the performers become familiar faces within the community over the 10 days. These factors make for a unique and truly accessible musical experience. Island children as young as eight sat through the evening performances, mesmerised by technical virtuosity on the fiddle - an instrument they play at school. One mother explained that her little boys were particularly inspired because the musicians were such 'young, cool guys,' referring to the fabulous Maxwell Quartet. Other daytime performances, aimed specifically at children and parents, were genuinely interactive occasions. The Tunnell family has a long-standing relationship with Coll. The late John and Wendy Tunnell, founders of the trust and professional musicians themselves, bought a croft house in the 1970s and kindled a family connection with the island.

Cancer patient would like wind quintet to play in Oban

A CANCER patient was so moved by a wind quintet who played at The Beatson Clinic in Glasgow that he wants them to come to the west coast to play. John Muir, of Ardrishaig, has been undergoing a course of treatment for prostate cancer, when Sirocco Winds played for patients on level four. Mr Muir would like the quintet to play in Oban, and hopes that someone might help to make this happen for him. Their music, he said: 'Was out of this world.' To arrange a concert please contact llee@obantimes.co.uk for details of the wind quintet and Mr Muir.

Daydreams and Departures

SCOTTISH musicians Corran Raa will be performing music from their CD Daydreams and Departures including original compositions and some traditional songs in Colonsay Hall, July 24 and Iona Village Hall on July 26.

Pop-up charity shop

A POP-UP Charity shop in Oban Youth Cafe will raise cash for the Anthony Nolan charity. The shop will be open from July 21 -26. This is the charity's 40th year and the 20th year of Oban fundraising for the bone marrow donor charity.

Oban Sensory Garden

AFTERNOON tea at the Oban Community Sensory Garden Sunday July 20, 2pm until 4pm. The garden is in front of the Christ Church on the Corran Esplanade.



charities to grow

id, Oban Sea Cadets, Mary's Meals and The Lord's Larder received a



The Sequence Ladies Choir with conductor Janet Fergusson.

Taynuilt's summer ceilidhs off to a great start

A TALENTED young musician who plays no fewer than six different instruments opened proceedings at last Thursday's summer ceilidh in Taynuilt. But Bronwen Davies only brought her pipes on this occasion as she played a good selection of tunes. The six Isla Sinclair dancers who then gave excellent

displays of Highland dancing were Isla Buchanan, Mairi MacCorquodale, Eva Joss, Abi MacIntyre, Rachael Steward and Fiona Cruickshank. Young soloist Molly Gregory performed well and even teamed up with her tutor Janet Fergusson for a lovely duet. Janet also conducted the

Sequence Ladies Choir who performed some beautiful choral singing. Peter Sinclair provided further enjoyable solo singing and cric, accompanied by Rosie Stevenson (keyboard) and Neil Angus (accordion). Rosie switched to the fiddle and she and Neil played some popular tunes

which had toes tapping in the audience. The pair were joined in the second half by Stretch McFadyen, a first class mandolin player. Fear an Taighe for the evening was Danny MacRae who kept the evening flowing smoothly. The next Taynuilt summer ceilidh will be held on Thursday, July 24.



The Isla Sinclair Dancers, from left: Isla Buchanan, Fiona Cruickshank, Rachael Steward and Mairi MacCorquodale.

Traditional music delights audience in restored chapel

AN AUDIENCE of more than 50 people attended a concert in the former St Columba's Chapel in Drimmin last week, enjoying traditional, rock and pop musical arrangements. The performance, on Friday, July 11, was by acclaimed Scottish harp, guitar and vocalists Martin Henry and Gillian Fleetwood. Martin, described by Sound-Scotland as one of Scotland's finest songwriters, is noted as the front man of the rock band De Rosa. His first solo album The Other Half of Everything was released in the UK in 2011. Gillian began her musical career at Balnain House, Inverness before attending the National Centre for Excellence in Traditional Music in Plockton as a clarsach player and singer. Since graduating in Applied Music from Strathclyde University, Gillian has performed in live-settings, and on television and radio across the UK, Europe, Mexico, Brazil and North America. The duo had been staying at Drimmin House as guests of Mr and Mrs Derek Lewis, who have been encouraging the arts in Morvern since they purchased the

estate in 2002. St Columba's chapel, which had become a ruin since the last Mass was said there in November 1944, was erected in 1838 by the laird, Sir Charles Gordon, for his family and other Catholics in the district. When it closed the furnishings were removed to St Columba's Cathedral in Oban. The chapel was beautifully restored by the Lewis family in 2012 and formally opened that year by His Royal Highness Prince Edward Earl of Wessex. On a stunning west Highland evening with the reflection of the waters of the Sound of Mull illuminating the walls of the chapel from below and fine music wafting over the adjacent fields and woodlands from the open windows, it would be difficult to find a finer spot anywhere in the British Isles to be entertained. The concert, billed as having a distinctly 'woodland feel', was opened by young mod winner Finlay Cameron from nearby Mungosdail who sang an old, traditional Gaelic song accompanied by Gillian on the harp. No charge was made for admission or the hospitality which was available during the performance. Donations at the door went to the St Columba Chapel Trust for the upkeep of the building. There are a further two concerts planned for later in the year.

Pictured: Martin Henry and Gillian Fleetwood, during their performance at St. Columba's Chapel.

Cowal Hill Race opens to entrants

RUNNERS across Argyll are being urged to sign up for one of the most challenging 5km races in the country. The Cowal Hill Race may only be in its second year, but it's already an integral and very popular part of the Cowal Highland Gathering. The race takes place on Saturday, August 30. Runners will set off from Duonoon town centre before scaling the 616ft 'Camel's Hump' (Tom Odhar) and then finishing in the stadium. Entrants should register at cowalgathering.com

Island appeal

YORKSHIRE man Richard Clubley has written a compilation of more than 40 island experiences. His book, Scotland's Islands, paints an intriguing picture of life on the islands from a passionate outsider's perspective. Compiling a lifetime of travel into his book the author explores the Scottish islands with enthusiasm and love, as he meets the locals, embraces the weather and admires the natural beauty of various islands. Covering a huge range of islands from Ailsa Craig to Shetland, Clubley combines his heart-warming anecdotes with a more serious look at contemporary problems facing islanders. As he says: 'So, what is the appeal of islands? They are framed and delineated by the sea. They start and finish in a most definite way, in a way that a mainland city, county or parish does not. They are finite. You can be alone, with a tent, for a week and experience true solitude - like Robinson Crusoe. You can learn a lot about yourself that way.' Featuring a foreword by Mairi Hedderwick and illustrations by Liz Thomson, this book will appeal to anyone interested in travel, island life and the Scottish landscape.

Oban Phoenix Cinema

How to Train Your Dragon 2
Thurs 17th 15.30 3D
Sat 19th 13.00, 16.00 (screen 2)
Mon 21st 13.00, 16.00 (screen 2)
Wed 23rd 13.00, 16.00 (screen 2)

Mrs. Brown's Boys D'Movie
Thurs 17th 13.30 (screen 2)

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: Skylight
Thurs 17th 19.00

Maleficent
Fri 18th 13.00 (screen 2), 15.30, 18.30 3D, 21.30
Sat 19th 13.00 (screen 2), 15.30 3D, 18.30, 21.30 3D
Sun 20th 13.00 (screen 2), 15.30, 21.00
Mon 21st 13.00 (screen 2), 15.30 3D, 18.30, 21.30 3D
Tues 22nd 13.00 (screen 2), 15.30, 18.30 3D, 21.30
Wed 23rd 13.00 (screen 2), 15.30 3D, 18.30, 21.30 3D
Thurs 24th 13.00 (screen 2), 15.30, 18.30 3D, 21.30

Monty Python Live (Almost)
Sun 20th 19.00

Walking On Sunshine
Fri 18th 18.30 (screen 2), 21.00 (screen 2)
Sat 19th 18.30 (screen 2), 21.00 (screen 2)
Sun 20th 18.30 (screen 2)
Mon 21st 18.30 (screen 2), 21.00 (screen 2)
Tues 22nd 18.30 (screen 2), 21.00 (screen 2)
Wednesday 23rd July - 21.00 (Screen 2)
Thursday 24th July - 18.30 (Screen 2), 21.00 (Screen 2)

How to Train Your Dragon 2
The thrilling second chapter of the epic How to Train Your Dragon trilogy returns to the fantastical world of the heroic Viking Hiccup and his faithful dragon Toothless. The inseparable duo must protect the peace - and save the future of men and dragons from the power-hungry dragon.

Mrs. Brown's Boys D'Movie (15)
When Moore Street market-trader Agnes Brown finds her livelihood under threat from a ruthless developer, she and her family embark on a campaign to save her stall, aided as only the Browns will be by a motley troop of blind trainee Ninjas, an alcoholic solicitor, and a barrister with Tourette's Syndrome.

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE Skylight
Bill Nighy and Carey Mulligan feature in David Hare's Skylight, directed by Stephen Daldry, broadcast live from the West End by National Theatre Live. On a bitterly cold London evening, a growing notion of genetically evolved apes led by Caesar is threatened by a band of human survivors of the devastating virus unleashed a decade earlier. They reach a fragile peace, but

visit from her former lover. As the evening progresses, the two attempt to rekindle their once passionate relationship only to find themselves locked in a dangerous battle of opposing ideologies and mutual desires.

Maleficent (PG)
The untold story of Disney's most iconic villain from the classic Sleeping Beauty. Maleficent has an idyllic life growing up in a peaceful forest kingdom, until one day an invading army threatens the harmony of the land. Maleficent rises to be a fierce protector, but ultimately suffers a ruthless betrayal - an act that begins to turn her pure heart to stone. Bent on revenge, Maleficent fuses an epic battle with the invading king's successor and places a curse upon his newborn infant Aurora.

Down of the Planet Of The Apes (12A)
A growing notion of genetically evolved apes led by Caesar is threatened by a band of human survivors of the devastating virus unleashed a decade earlier. They reach a fragile peace, but it proves short-lived, as both sides are brought to the brink of a war that will determine who will emerge as Earth's dominant species.

Monty Python Live (Almost)
Monty Python hold a place amongst the world's finest ever comedians, influencing a generation and revolutionising comedy. They are set to fly again for a final reunion, which will be broadcast live in cinemas across the world. John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones and Michael Palin will perform live on stage together for the first time, since performing at the Hollywood Bowl on 13 September 1980.

Walking On Sunshine (12A)
Set to the music of popular hit songs from the 1980s. A beautiful coastal village, present day Italy. After a whirlwind romance, Maddie is preparing to marry gorgeous Italian Raf, and has invited her sister Taylor to the wedding. Unbeknownst to Maddie, however, Raf is Taylor's ex-boyfriend flame, and the love of her life.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £15.71 (plus VAT)
This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number. All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page. Please ask for details.

FASNACLOICH GUN CLUB
Open shoot
Saturday 19th July 12.00pm start

An Comunn Gàidhealach CRUACHAN BRANCH
Thursday 17th July
As Taynuilt Village Hall is used as a polling station for Local Elections there will be **NO SUMMER CEILIDH** on this date

ARGYLL CÈILIDH TRAIL
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50dtl Open Shoot
Wednesday July 23rd 2014 6pm Prompt

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Vicky Lyon 01546 603281
David Murray 01546 605284

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Saturday 19th July 3 - 4.30pm
Musicians: Ingrid Henderson, Iain MacFarlane
Writer/Storyteller: Jess Smith
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Ceann-latha	Aite	Tachartas	Uair
Monday 21st July	Three Villages Community Hall	Arrochar	Cèilidh Dance 7.30 pm
Tuesday 22nd July	Iona Village Hall	Isle of Iona	Cèilidh Dance 7.30 pm
Wednesday 23rd July	Argyllshire Gathering Hall	Oban	Licensed Cèilidh Dance 7.30 pm
Thursday 24th July	The George Hotel	Inveraray	Session 9.30 pm
Friday 25th July	Cullipool Hall	Isle of Luing	Cèilidh Dance 8.00 pm
Saturday 26th July	Tayvallich Hall	Tayvallich	Licensed Cèilidh Dance 8.00 pm
Monday 28th July	Commonwealth Games	Glasgow Green	Session Tent 4.00 pm
Wednesday 30th July	The George Hotel	Inveraray	Session 9.30 pm
Thursday 31st July	Gigha Hall	Isle of Gigha	Cèilidh Dance 8.00 pm
Friday 1st August	Lochranna Village Hall	Isle of Arran	Licensed Cèilidh Dance 7.30 pm
Saturday 2nd August	Carradale Village Hall	Carradale	Licensed Cèilidh Dance 8.00 pm
Sunday 3rd August	Lochgilphead Parish Hall	Lochgilphead	Concert 2.00 pm
Wednesday 6th August	Port Charlotte Hotel	Isle of Islay	Session 7.30 pm
Thursday 7th August	Port Charlotte Hotel	Isle of Islay	Session 7.30 pm
Friday 8th August	Argyllshire Gathering Hall	Oban	Licensed Cèilidh Dance 8.00 pm
Saturday 9th August	Dalmally Village Hall	Dalmally	Licensed Cèilidh Dance 8.00 pm
Thursday 14th August	Taynuilt Village Hall	Taynuilt	Taynuilt Cèilidh 7.30 pm
Saturday 31st August	Cowal Gathering	Dunoon	Session Tent Daytime

Tuilleadh fiosrachaidh www.feisean.org/ceilidh for further information




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Sweet smell of success for Poppies

A WEST Highland garden centre has the recipe for success and a certificate to prove it. Poppies Garden Centre, near Oban, was one of ten finalists vying for the coveted prize of greatest garden centre catering team in the UK.

The husband and wife team from Poppies - Marion and Gary MacPherson - made the trip to Birmingham last week to compete in the hotly-contested final.

Pipped at the post for the top spot, the independent garden centre team were still delighted to have made it to the prestigious final. And the icing on the cake for owners Marion and Gary was to be presented with a certificate for their efforts.

Marion MacPherson said: 'We were delighted to be at the event in Birmingham. We had a lovely night and it was good to be in the company of other garden centre owners.'

HOT STUFF:
Marion and Gary MacPherson with their top ten certificate
15_t29poppies1



Online auctions come to Lochavullin

AUCTIONS will be returning to Lochavullin in Oban for the first time in 21 years, thanks to an Oban-based businessman.

Online auction site Argyll Auctions is the brainchild of The Landscape Centre's Ruaraidh Neish, supported by his father, Brian.

Ruaraidh felt there was a need for a more localised auction website after hearing complaints about the cost of delivering items purchased on sites such as ebay.

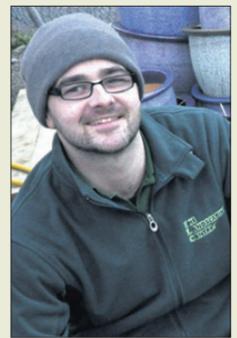
And the website, which took eight months to construct, will be administered from The Landscape Centre's Lochavullin premises next to Tesco, where the former West Highland Auction Mart once stood.

Ruaraidh said: 'The website is similar to an ebay but customers will be able to view items at our premises before they make a bid and we have monthly auctions, instead of timed auctions.'

'For example, this month we have a closing date of July 23 and people can bid until the auction comes to an end on that date.'

Crucial to Ruaraidh's business plan is reducing cost to island and rural based bidders.

He said: 'As part of our site we have a delivery section and I have contacted local delivery compa-



NEW BID:
Ruaraidh Neish of Argyll Auctions
t29neish01

nies who want to be included in this. If someone needs an item taken to Mull, for example, they can go onto the website and get a quote from each of the companies and decide who they want to deliver it.'

So far, the site has listed a good number of boats and cars with buyers and sellers from as far as Strachur and Spean Bridge.

Joined-up thinking led to new venture

TWO OBAN joiners, who worked for recruitment agencies, became so frustrated at the lack of opportunities for workers in their town that they started their own agency.

Calum Fox and Sean Ford have been building up their client database since March this year and launched Argyll Recruitment Solutions in May.

Calum and Sean say Oban is the perfect base for a recruitment agency, as there are plenty of willing workers looking for a job and because of the seasonal peaks in employment.

Calum said: 'In Oban there is always a demand for workers in care, hospitality and construction

but we have found a lot of businesses are using Glasgow-based recruitment firms at rates we thought were extortionate.

'Our motivation is to help get unemployed people into work, as well as helping professionals already in a job.'

'There are a lot of skilled, unemployed people in Oban and we get emails from locals who have a lot of bar experience or hospitality experience and live locally.'

Sean added: 'There is construction going on in Oban, in places like Soroba where labourers are coming in from Glasgow.'

'There are boys in Soroba who can carry out basic labouring if they are given the chance.'

From the high school to the bright lights

A FORMER Oban man and his business partner have won Scottish Design Agency of the Year and scooped three other gongs at the Scottish Design awards.

The annual event, which was held in Glasgow last month, saw Glasgow-based design consultancy Freytag Anderson win the Chairman's Award, Corporate Identity and Packaging

DESIGNS ON SUCCESS:
Daniel Freytag (left) and Greig Anderson receiving their Design Agency of the Year award
t29freytag1no

accolades, along with Agency of the Year.

Daniel Freytag, creative director with the agency, moved to Oban at the age of 12 from Germany and was a pupil at Oban high school.

After studying graphic design and photography in Aberdeen, Daniel worked as a designer in London, New York, Sydney and Dubai, before forming Glasgow-based Freytag Anderson with Greig Anderson in July 2013.

Daniel said: 'To win after just one year of being open is great. We really didn't expect it. We're still a new studio and trying to do our best, so

obviously this is incredible. We work with some great clients both locally and internationally and have a good international profile.'

'After the awards the hangover took a few days to pass, but it was more than worth it.'

Daniel currently lives in Glasgow's west end with his wife Lorna and two children. The event, held in the Radisson Blu on June 5, was judged by an expert panel including Dan Germain from Innocent Drinks, Lewis Moberly's Mary Lewis, Stephen Royale of The Chase and Smith and Milton's Steven Anderson.



Business opportunity to join the best in the west

COMPANIES in Argyll and Bute will have the opportunity to showcase their products to thousands of festival-goers, thanks to a unique competition run by Business Gateway.

Argyll and Bute council's Business Gateway is sponsoring the popular craft tent at the *Best of the West* festival in Inveraray on Saturday and Sunday September 13 and 14.

The tent will feature a range of businesses who will be selling their products and Business Gateway is giving four local companies the chance to join them for one day of the festival.

The competition winners will be able to sell their goods from a trade stand within the tent, with more than 5000 visitors expected over

the weekend. As well as selling on the day, it will give the winners the chance to expand their customer reach and let people see and feel their products.

Hugh Lightbody, chief officer of the Business Gateway National Unit, said: 'The Business Gateway team is committed to supporting local companies and providing them with the best possible advice to suit their business needs.'

'The *Best of the West* festival is one of the highlights in the region's calendar and the craft tent has become one of the most popular areas throughout the weekend. This competition is the perfect way to help demonstrate the range of creative and inspirational businesses in the area.'

'The Business Gateway team

has worked with hundreds of local firms, giving them support and advice through every stage of their business.'

'This competition underlines their dedication to the development of local enterprise in Argyll and Bute.'

Festival host, the Duchess of Argyll, said: '*Best of the West* celebrates all things great about the west of Scotland, with a huge focus on food and drink.'

'The fresh, local produce available at the festival brings people from all over the country to Inveraray, so we make sure only the finest fare from local producers is available.'

'We are thrilled to be working with Business Gateway to bring more of the best local businesses to

the festival and we're sure the winners will make a great addition to an already exciting array of stalls.'

To enter, businesses have to explain in no more than 250 words why they represent the best in the west, either by email to business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk or by post to The Enterprise Centre, Kilmory, Lochgilphead PA31 8SH.

The closing date is Thursday, July 31.

Over 70 musicians, ranging from modern trad bands to Gaelic singers, will perform at *Best of the West*, creating the perfect soundtrack to accompany the picturesque backdrop of Inveraray Castle.

The festival has a strong food and drink theme with fresh, local produce available, including Mull

cheddars, Loch Fyne oysters and Bute jams, while over 20 whisky distilleries are on hand to match dish to dram.

There is also a fun-packed programme of activities for children, such as a climbing wall, face painting, laser blast and an art area, which should ensure a truly memorable family day out.

With live music until 6.30pm and regular coaches, the festival is perfect for day-trippers.

For more information about *Best of the West* festival and to buy tickets, visit the website www.bowfest.co.uk.

To find out more about how Business Gateway can help and develop businesses, call 01546 604 555 or visit www.bgateway.com/local-offices/argyll-and-bute.

Is your business

Best of the West

Win a trade stand for the day at the Best of the West Festival with Business Gateway!

Business Gateway is searching for four Argyll and Bute based businesses to join us and showcase their products at the Best of the West Festival in Inveraray on 13 and 14 September 2014.

The winning businesses will have the opportunity to sell their goods from a trade stand within the Business Gateway sponsored Craft Tent for one day.

With 5,000 visitors expected over the weekend this is a great opportunity for local businesses to reach a wider customer base.

To enter, please tell us in no more than 250 words why your business, and the products you sell, represent the best of the West.

Entries should be submitted either by email to: business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk or by post to Business Gateway, The Enterprise Centre, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8SH.

Closing date 31 July 2014.



Terms and conditions:
1. Businesses must be based in Argyll and Bute. 2. Entrants must be available to attend for the full day allocated, which will be either 13 or 14 September 2014. 3. No fresh food products. 4. No service based businesses. 5. Only the named business can attend, the prize is non-transferrable. 6. Businesses must meet all current legislative regulations relevant to their business. 7. Entrants must live in the UK. 8. No cash alternative. 9. The judges decision is final. 10. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity. 11. The prize is as stated. 12. This competition is not open to Business Gateway employees and their families.

Tartan trip aims to be visitors' high spot

AN OBAN businessman is offering visitors a whistle-stop trip to one of Oban's most famous attractions.

Gordon MacGillivray is starting a shuttle service called Tartan Tours, which will take sightseers to and from McCaig's Tower from the Railway Pier.

Gordon explained the thinking behind his new venture: 'The tower is one of the biggest assets Oban has. Both young and old people are very keen to see it.'

'Too many tourists walk away asking each other what the tower is, but never find out or visit it. They are not sure how to get up there.'

'They want to know the history around the tower too, so I've included a information booklet.'

Gordon, who also owns MacGillivray's Seafood eatery, has taken on two members of staff for the tour, which will run seven days a week.

Tourists will be able to spend as long as they want at the tower, with one driver leaving the tower as the other leaves the pier in a constant cycle throughout the day.

'It's always been a niche that hasn't been explored,' said Gordon.

He continued: 'People are here to take photographs, and from the tower you can take beautiful pictures of Oban Bay as the sun sets.'

TOURIST ATTRACTION:
Gordon and his new Tartan Tour vehicle, with McCaig's Tower in the background.
07_t26tartantour1



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Dealers sign up to standards set to champion quality of franchise offering on used cars.

The NFDA (National Franchised Dealers Association) launches a new set of standards designed to champion the high levels of service and care associated with the franchised dealer used car offering. Over 3,000 NFDA member dealerships have already signed up to the new standards, which govern member service levels across core areas including mileage checking, warranties and service levels. The standards are the first to unify a customer service pledge from the UK's network of franchise dealers which in turn, enables members to offer complete peace of mind to consumers when purchasing a used car. The Standards are the result of an extensive consultation process between the NFDA and its members

after recognising the need for a more robust set of guidelines to improve the safety and customer experience for British used car buyers. They were spearheaded by the NFDA's used car working group and were created by dealers for dealers. According to research of 1,000 car owners commissioned by the NFDA, more than 75% said they would be more likely to choose a dealer that has signed up to an industry set of standards. Sue Robinson, Director of the NFDA, said: 'The launch of the Used Car Standards represents an important step for both consumers and the retail motor industry. Not only do the twelve standards safeguard consumers by setting out requirements for high quality customer service, stringent

vehicle checks and a detailed vehicle handover, but they also highlight the benefits of purchasing from a franchised dealer. 'We've had an overwhelmingly positive response from our members who are true advocates of the standards and their role in making used car buying a safer and more enjoyable experience.' Following the launch, the standards will be promoted heavily to consumers by the NFDA's consumer facing portal, Trusted Dealers. In addition to the Used Car Standards, the NFDA in partnership with Trusted Dealers has a dedicated Conciliation and Arbitration Service helpline for anyone experiencing problems with a used car purchase. The helpline provides a legally binding solution for both the dealer and the buyer to

ensure complete peace of mind and is open to anyone purchasing a used car from Trusted Dealers or NFDA members. To find an NFDA member go to www.nfda-car.co.uk. The NFDA Used Car Standards cover the following twelve areas:

- Staff training, communication and conduct
- Vehicle checks
- Vehicle mileage checks
- Vehicle condition
- Test drives
- Part exchange
- Vehicle sales process
- Deposits and cash handling
- Warranty
- Finance and insurance
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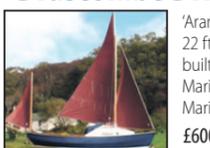


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Demand remains strong in Scottish housing market

RICS (the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) UK Residential Market Survey, June 2014

House price gains in June remained positive across Scotland, as demand for property continues to grow across the country, according to the latest RICS UK Residential Market Survey.

Demand continued to outstrip supply, with a net balance of 32 per cent of chartered surveyor reporting a growth in new buyer enquiries, with just 1 per cent reporting an increase in new instructions during June. Continued demand was also reflected in the newly agreed sales balance – a good indicator of market activity – which has shown a steady pace of growth since February 2013.

In the month that saw the Bank of England introduce a 15 per cent cap on high (4.5 times and above) mortgages, respondents also perceived banks to be lending less, with average Loan to Value (LTV) ratios among first time buyers dropping for the second consecutive month in Scotland to 85.4 per cent down from 88 per cent in April.

Scottish house prices, however, remained stable, as a net balance of 57 per cent of respondents reported an increase in prices in June, from 34 per cent in May. Looking ahead, the number of

respondents expecting prices to rise, rather than fall over the next three months remained steady at 40 per cent from 44 per cent in May.

The Bank of England's recent introduction of a ceiling on high loan to income lending and a 3 per cent interest rate stress test is unlikely on its own to have an immediate influence on the market. However, rhetoric from key officials at the bank, including Mark Carney alongside the consequences of the introduction of the MMR (Mortgage Market Review) is already slowing momentum, particularly in London.

Sarah Speirs, Director RICS Scotland said: 'In Scotland we continue to see demand exceeding supply and this has a direct impact on prices. While we do expect this to level out as summer months continue, the lack of supply is a key factor driving the Scottish market and one which will be addressed within the Scottish Housing Commission's recommendations published later this month.'

Andrew Hitchen of J & E Shepherd, Stirling commented: 'New buyer enquiries and completed transactions remain high, however, new vendor instructions have dipped as expected and the lack of supply continues to suppress the market.'

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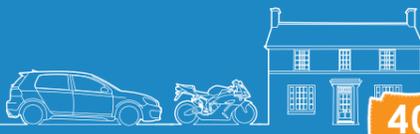
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Ref Number: QC/TECH/07

Cairndow, Argyll (Salary dependant on experience)

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- Assisting the Technical Department in the maintenance and development of the Wise Quality database and associated hardware and software.
- Assisting the Technical Department to maintain a regular system of Compliance Monitoring of the QA/QC systems to the requirements of customers and certifying authorities.
- To perform residue sampling in accordance with company, customer and legislative requirements.
- Collecting samples or swabs of product and prepare same for internal or external analysis as required.
- Supporting the Quality CO-ordinator with hygiene monitoring and to provide regular reports on Hygiene performance.
- Supporting the Technical Department with all request for trend monitoring analyses.
- Assisting in the collection of occasional samples from the Harvest operations.
- Assisting the H&S Department in the maintenance of all Technical related H&S matters.

The ideal candidate would have previous Technical experience & understanding of a Food Safety related qualification. Intermediate Excel, Word and Microsoft Outlook skills are essential.

The role requires the successful candidate to be self-motivated and well organised with a flexible attitude. In addition to being detail oriented and able to communicate daily with other departments - building relationships across the whole business by phone and email, in addition to liaising with external agencies. The ideal applicants will hold an Intermediate Food Hygiene Certification and Elementary HACCP - however training will be provided if required. A full driving licence is essential for the role. Working on a guaranteed paid 30 hour per week contract, 08.00am to 03.00pm, Monday to Friday. Additional out of normal hours working may be required to meet the needs of the business.

For an application form and job description for the above post, contact: Angela Gibson, HR Officer, The Scottish Salmon Company, Arkinglas Estate, Cairndow, PA26 8BH Tel. No. 01499 600 430 Email: angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com Closing date for applications: Friday, the 1st August 2014 Visit our website: www.scottishsalmon.com

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Renewables Now is an established provider of renewable heat and energy solutions, services and equipment to both the commercial and domestic sectors across the west coast and islands. An expanding client base means the company is poised for rapid growth resulting in the need to attract exceptional individuals to the business.

The first of these key appointments is for an office administrator capable of delivering the same levels of customer service and business efficiencies as the existing team with the skills and experience to multi-task across a broad range of administrative functions and provides a significant opportunity to build a long term career with a professional and customer oriented company.

The role includes responsibility for the management of a busy office, customer and supplier contact and support, scheduling and organisation of employees, the ongoing maintenance of company and industry documented procedures and processes, updating the invoice & purchase ledgers and various data bases, ordering of materials, management of company vehicles etc.

The successful applicant will have experience of working in a dynamic office environment, the ability to work to deadlines, a working knowledge of MS packages (especially Excel) and ideally experience with finance software e.g. Sage. With strong interpersonal, verbal and written communication skills they will have the ability to work individually and as part of a team. A relevant administration qualification would be desirable but not essential if sufficient experience is demonstrable

Full time position
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Glenfinnan

Salary £17,978 - £22,808 plus overtime

We are currently looking for a Temporary Farm Technician to work at our freshwater farm at Glenfinnan.

This interesting and varied role is focused upon all aspects of successful smolt production from the fry stage, prior to their transportation to our sea water farms. Applications would be particularly welcome from individuals who have some experience in freshwater farming operations but this is not essential as full training and support will be provided.

The position is based on a 40 hour week on any five out of seven days and the post holder would be expected to undertake over-time as required in order to accommodate the needs of the business. A full, clean driving licence is also essential.

If you would like to be considered for this role, please submit an application in writing with details of relevant experience, no later than Friday 25 July 2014 to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 7PT.



CRERAR
HOTELS WITH HEART & SOUL

The Glencoe Inn and Gathering in Glencoe Village is just a few miles off the West Highland Way. The Glencoe Inn is already a well-established good quality favorite accommodation venue and its new standalone Gathering is in its second year and has a growing reputation as a great place to eat and to socialise. The focus is on quality modern "fast food" and dishes range from "lobster and chips to char grilled steaks" right the way through to "superb ice cream sundaes and frothy coffees". This busy restaurant serves in the region of 1000 covers per week alongside a busy and vibrant bar trade with great live music.

OPERATIONS MANAGER

An ambitious and dynamic full-time Operations Manager is required to help drive the sales and standards in this great and vibrant restaurant and bar. The right individual will be expected to focus on driving sales and service in all aspects of the Gathering's food and bar operation.

BASIC SALARY: £20,000 plus incentive opportunity in the region of £5,000
Both negotiable and subject to experience.

CHEF

A full-time permanent Chef is required to join the existing team, the Gathering operates a simple fresh produce based menu designed to give customers the best flavours of Scotland with a modern delivery from a theatre style kitchen. Chef will have full dish and supplier input with management and directors at each point of menu refresh and is expected to input into the service style. The right individual will play a lead part in the restaurants development and be expected to contribute fully to the business management.

BASIC SALARY: £25,000 plus opportunity to participate in profit based incentive scheme

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We are looking to recruit confident individuals who possess a high standard of communication and customer service skills with the ability to work within a team.

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In Tarbert Area

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James 07768 716 574



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Working with the Farm Manager you will help to look after our suckler beef herd and our sheep flock on the Hebridean island of Islay.

We would expect you to have:

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Closing date: 6 August 2014. Interview date: 8 September 2014.

For further information and to download an application form please visit our website at

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Argyll Voluntary Action seeks to recruit an organised and motivated individual to become our 'Third Sector and Volunteering Support Officer' for the Oban, Lorn & the Isles area and a 'Link Club Co-ordinator' to establish a Link Club in Oban.

This is a combined post which encompasses support to third sector organisations at all levels, support to volunteer involving organisations and support people with mental health concerns as well as working closely with professionals to encourage people to access support.

35 hours per week. Salary: £20,020.00 per annum
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Closing date: 31st July 2014

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We are widely recognised locally as an organisation which provides high quality care, tailored to the needs of each individual.

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We offer good hourly rates, flexible hours, mileage payment, travel time and great training opportunities
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Please phone us 01631 562277 or email northargyllcrossroads@hotmail.com for an application form.

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Snipefield Industrial Estate, Campbeltown

SITUATIONS VACANT
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Applicants must have good phone and people skills & be able to work to your own initiative.

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For more information about Stramash visit www.stramash.org.uk or call 01631 566080.
Stramash is a registered Scottish Charity SC040538

HOME ENERGY SCOTLAND ADVICE CENTRE HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS



Changeworks operates the Home Energy Scotland advice centre for the Highlands & Islands, and is seeking a:

Home Energy Officer (based in Oban)

Salary (£20,931 - £22,968) plus 8% pension contribution

We are looking for a home energy officer with the drive and experience to provide independent and impartial advice to householders interested in installing home renewables and energy efficiency measures in hard-to-heat homes. You will advise on the options they have and the steps to successfully install. You will also advise householders in fuel poverty to help them make their homes warmer and save money on their fuel bills.

You will have experience working in a customer facing organisation and have a good knowledge of energy use in the home. Your excellent communication skills will enable you to convey technical information to a non-technical audience. You should also have the skills and experience to allow you to engage effectively with householders in their homes. You will be numerate with good IT skills and be comfortable surveying a house.

You will need to be self-motivated to deliver results with minimal supervision and enjoy working as part of a team that offers strong peer support.

This opportunity offers a challenging and stimulating position in the environmental and charity sector.

The application pack can be downloaded on our website www.changeworks.org.uk or email recruitment@changeworks.org.uk quoting the role and reference HE0-AB.
Interview date: Thursday 21 August 2014 in Oban
Home Energy Scotland is funded by the Scottish Government and managed by Energy Saving Trust.



YOUR LOCAL PAPER

Regional & local press advertising gets the job done.

Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2009

Regional Press
closer to home

Queen's baton comes to Argyll



Alison MacVicar from Oban



A dog enjoys the baton relay from the comfort of his owners basket in Inveraray



Rhona MacPhee smiles as she carries the baton through Furness



James McLoughlin (right) hands the baton over to Bill MacCallum atop Dunadd Fort.



Willie Young sails with the baton down the Crinan canal



Rebecca MacKinnon (left) hands the baton to Jillian Gibson

public notices

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*Source: WARC (Advertising Statistics Yearbook 2009). Paid and free newspapers.
**Source: The Wanted Ads STAGE 1. GFK NOP Base: all adults

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION

Mr E D MacDonald
Brolas Croft 4, Ardchattan & Muckairn
0.28 ha - Site for a dwelling house
4.86.49173

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.
Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

Miss T G MacDiarmid & Miss K M MacDiarmid
53 Ormsaigbeg, Ardnamurchan & Sunart
0.122 ha - Site for a dwelling house
4.86.39063

Conditions: 2 (sites must be sold within 12 months of the date of the Direction), 3(b) & 4

Miss T G MacDiarmid & Miss K M MacDiarmid
53 Ormsaigbeg, Ardnamurchan & Sunart
0.087 ha - Site for a dwelling house
4.86.38192

Conditions: 2 (sites must be sold within 12 months of the date of the Direction), 3(b) & 4

Conditions
(2) To provide a site for a dwelling house
(3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:
(b) the proposed development completion
(4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Dr and Mrs I McKee have registered their croft, 51 Ormsaigbeg, Ardnamurchan and Sunart, 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 12th March 2015.
Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The Croft registration number is C195.

The Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984 ACQUISITION OF LAND (AUTHORISATION PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1947 THE A830 TRUNK ROAD (UTHA BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2014

Notice is hereby given that the Scottish Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred by the above mentioned Acts, on 4 July 2014 prepared a Compulsory Purchase Order entitled "A830 Trunk Road (Utha Bridge Improvement) Compulsory Purchase Order 2014" which affects the land described in the Schedule hereto for the purpose of improving the A830 Fort William Mallaig Trunk Road at Utha Bridge in the vicinity of Glenfinnan Inverness-shire.

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 Order and of the map referred to therein have been deposited at the following locations and may be seen there without payment of fee at the times specified:

The offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF between 8.30am - 5.00pm (Monday to Thursday), 8.30am - 4.30pm (Friday); the Highland Council Service Point, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William PH33 6EL between 9.00am to 5.00pm (Monday to Friday) and Glenfinnan Post Office, Glenfinnan, Inverness-shire PH37 4LT between the hours of 10.00 am - 1.00 pm (Monday to Saturday), and may be seen there without payment of fee. Any objections to the Order must be made in writing stating the title of the Order and the grounds of objection and addressed to the Director of Trunk Roads and Bus Operations, c/o Stephanie Johnstone, Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF quoting reference NW/A830/UTHA. Any objection must be received on or before 1 August 2014.

R BRANNEN
A member of staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF.
4 July 2014

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION A830 UTHA BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT 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 existing Utha Bridge with an in-situ reinforced concrete portal structure with associated wing walls parallel to the road and training walls to the watercourses associated with the A830 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.

R BRANNEN
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Trunk Roads and Bus Operations,
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF
4 July 2014

www.highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://www.highland.gov.uk>
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
14/02342/FUL	Land at Innis A Bhorbain, Glenfinnan	Erect dwelling house
14/02387/FUL	Land 100m West of Downey Birch House, Arisaig	Erection of dwelling house and garage/holiday let
14/02545/FUL	Winburg, Mallaig	Conversion of annex to form studio apartment and cladding of external walls
14/02567/FUL	Land 70m NE of Lidl Good Store, Camanachd Crescent, Fort William	Erection of 40 bed student accommodation with ancillary services & storage
14/02618/FUL	Sunart View, Kilchoan, Acharacle	Renewal of Planning Permission 11/00966/PPP - erection of dwelling house
14/01913/FUL	55M North West of Unit 9 Annat Point Industrial Estate Corpach, Fort William	Proposed extension to storage building

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: epanning@highland.gov.uk

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/01032/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of biocidic sewage treatment plant	Land North East of Barran Brae Barranrioch Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
14/01265/PP	Formation of vehicular access	A816 Land North West of Glenfochan House Kilmore Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 40R	Oban Area Office
14/01523/PP	Renewal of planning permission 09/00681/DET (Proposed erection of single storey detached dwelling house and garage - change of house design of house at plot 1 as previously approved under planning permission ref 06/02179/DET).	Scalladh A' Chaol (Plot 1) Betts Field Ardnamurchan Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA72 6JS	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
14/01525/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Plot 2 Land South East of Letterwatton Lodge Benderloch Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig
14/01617/PP	Demolition of existing storage building and gantry and erection of new steel framed storage building	Depot Glenshellach Road Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
14/01646/PP	Demolition of existing dwellinghouse, erection of replacement dwellinghouse and workshop/ garage and installation of septic tank	Creebeg North Connell Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1RD	Sub Post Office Ledaig
14/01666/PP	Erection of 2 single storey semi detached houses, formation of new shared access, installation of septic tank and solar roof panels	Land South of Eorabus House Bunnass Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA67 6DH	Sub Post Office Bunnass Isle of Mull
14/01680/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 10/01233/PPP (Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse)	Land East of Seabank Cottage Benderloch Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig
14/01687/PP	Installation of ground mounted solar panel array (retrospective)	Culinish Fannore Ulva Ferry Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA73 6LX	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgilhead Brae 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. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/01642/PP	Erection of workshop/office (relative to planning permission 13/02461/PP). Amendment to building location and extension to curtilage.	Ardnamurchan Craig House Isle of Jura Argyll and Bute PA60 7XZ	Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura
14/01665/PPP	Site for the erection of 3 dwellinghouses, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North of Glenmachrie Gienegedale Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA42 7AQ	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
14/01668/PP	Erection of craft workshop (retrospective).	Christine's Den Scalasaig Isle of Colonsay Argyll and Bute PA61 7WV	Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/01606/PP	Proposed replacement of windows and doors and stonework pointing	Taigh Na Laimhrige The Square Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7JP	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>
The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilhead PA31 8RD.
A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.
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.

ARGYLL AND BUTE BY-ELECTION

OBAN SOUTH AND THE ISLES WARD 22 MAY 2014 RETURNS AND DECLARATIONS AS TO CANDIDATES' EXPENSES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Returns and Declarations as to Candidates' Election Expenses, including the accompanying documents, in respect of the above Election held on 22 May 2014 may be inspected at Argyll and Bute Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilhead, Argyll PA31 8RT, between the hours of 10am and 4pm (Monday to Friday). The fee payable for a copy of any such Return, Declaration or document shall be at the rate of 20p for each side of each page.
SALLY LOUDON, Returning Officer, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilhead, Argyll PA31 8RT.
July 2014

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

Farming

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Market reports

United Auctions - Stirling

STIRLING - United Auctions, Wednesday July 9, sold 468 store cattle and young bulls, also 123 cast cows and forward cattle.

Bullocks (206) - averaged 211.20p (-9.39p) to 267.90p per kg for a 252kg CHX from Escart and £1260 for a 669kg CHX from Ladylands.

B & W Bullocks (9) - averaged 151.39p (+1.25p) to 157.20p per kg for a 509kg HFX from Gatehead and £800 for a 509kg HFX from Gatehead.

Heifers (176) - averaged 207.15p (-2.29p) to 252.00p per kg for a 250kg CHX from Escart and £1200 for a 628kg CHX from Low Boydston.

Young Bulls (77) - averaged 130.03p to 230.20p per kg for a 291kg SimX from Nether Pratis and £1090 for a 582kg SimX from Hole O Clean.

Forward Cattle (37) - averaged 157.67p to 198.30p per kg for a BRBX from Gateside and £1170 for a BRBX from Gateside.

Cast Cows (123) - averaged 125.46p to 185.60p per kg for a HEX from Drumboy and £1330 for a LimX from Upper Spittalton.

Bullocks; Up to 250kgs-Escart £530, 252.40p 251-300kgs- Duirland £700, Escart 267.90p 301-350kgs- South Common £830, 250.80p 351-400kgs- South Common £960, 263.70p 401-450kgs- Mains of Boquapple £1080, 240.00p 451-500kgs- Flanders £1040, Ardgate 220.80p 501-550kgs- Mains of Boquapple £1080, 240.00p 551-600kgs- Gatehead £1100, 198.60p 601-650kgs- Ladylands £1260, 188.30p. Heifers; Up to 250kgs- Escart £630, 252.00p 251-300kgs- Escart £695, 246.50p 301-350kgs- South Common £730, 216.00p 351-400kgs- Laigh Park £890, 231.80p 401-450kgs- Handaxwood £930, Laighpark 224.70p 451-500kgs- Handaxwood £960, Cheeklaw 207.90p 501-550kgs- Low Boydston £1150, 210.20p; 551-600kgs- Low Boydston £1160, 200.70p 601-650kgs- Low Boydston £1200, 191.10p.

Young Bulls; 251-300kgs- Nether Pratis £670, 230.20p 301-350kg- Duirland £510, 162.40p 351-400kgs- Coalheugh Glen £810, 203.50p 401-450kgs- St Johns Kirk £880, Nether Pratis 210.90p 451-500kgs- East Banknock £950, Nether Birkwood 209.30p 501-550kgs- Hole O clean £1010, 193.70p 551-600kgs- Hole o Clean £1090, 187.30p. OTM Cows - Upper Spittalton (Lim) £1330, 175.00p; St Johns Kirk (BRB) £1190, Lochfield 157.70p; Lochfield (AA) £1150, Little Ardoch 141.10p; Drumboy (He) £1130, 185.60p; Snaudon (CH) £1050, 133.20p.

OTM Bulls - Nether Dalkeith (Lim) £1450, 133.80p; Stuck (CH) £1350, 123.60p.

United Auctions also had forward 74 Breeding cattle.

Heifers & Calves; LimX hfr & BCF, £1600, Laverockhill; LimX hfr & HCF £1300 Laverockhill; LimX hfr & HCF £1200.

Cows & calves; Luing Cow & Luing BCF, £1550, St Johns Kirk; Luing Cow & Luing HCF, £1450, St Johns Kirk Bulls; St Johns Kirk (Luing) £1280; St Johns Kirk (Luing) £1220.

STIRLING - United Auctions, Thursday July 10, sold 2,803 Prime Sheep including 1411 lambs and 1392 ewes and rams.

Lambs (1411) - West Park (TexX) £109; Hardieston (TexX) £98; Lathockar Mains (Suff) £92; Hardieston (BTex) £81.50; Meadows of Ballied (Char) £75.50; Macharioch (BFL) £72.50; Cockerstone (Chev) £65; Dalmahoy (BF) £59.

Lambs (1411) - West park (Tex) 208p; Hardieston (Tex) 200p; Drochil Castle (Suff) 185p; Northfield (BTex) 182p; Blackcastle (Char) 178p; Macharioch (BFL) 173p; Dalmahoy (BF) 173p; Blackcastle (Chev) 165p.

171p; Blackcastle (Chev) 165p.

Ewes (1392) - Connachan (Tex) £134.50; Barbarfield (Suff) £98.50; Overton (BFL) £94.50; Hoprig (Chev) £90.50; Hoprig (BTex) £88.50; Ballycock (Chev) £83.50; Ballycock (X) £83.50; Fulfordlees (Mule) £78.50; Dalmahoy (BF) £71.50; Grantsbanks (Jac) £55.50.

Rams - Glenfermate (Tex) £137.50; Netherton (Char) £106.50; Glenfermate (Chev) £101.50; Glenfermate (Hamp) £95.50; Clement Cottage (Suff) £94.50; Braelenny (BF) £78.50.

Caledonian Marts, Stirling

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 269 Live Cattle at their weekly Primestock Sale on Thursday July 10 comprising 109 Bullocks and Heifers, 19 Young Bulls, 2 otm clean and 137 Cast Cows and Bulls.

53 Bullocks averaged 208p per kg and sold to 246p per kg, 572kg Limousin

From W Young Towncroft Farm, Houston or to £1640 per head 768kg Limousin Seggars-dean Farm, Haddington.

10 Holstein/Friesian Bullocks averaged 157.5p per kg and sold to 184.5p per kg or £1266 per head from Shields Farm, Larbert. 46 Heifers averaged 205.5p per kg and sold to 241.5p per kg 634kg Limousin Mains of Cultmalundie Farm, Perth or to £1532 per head for the same animal

22 Butchers cattle sold in excess of 220p per kg to average 225p per kg selling to 234.5p per kg 560kg Limousin Heifer, Learielaw Farm, Broxburn.

19 Young bulls sold to 223.5p and 214.5p Blondes from Easterton Farm, Kirkintilloch and to 208.5p per kg British Blue from Baldastard, Leven.

Also forward 137 cast cows, bulls and OTM cattle. Friesian cow to £925 from Barr Farm, Meldrum, Stirling. Simmental cows sold to £1125 from M/s Harper, Rathhillet Farm.

Leading Prices: Cows: Lim- £1165 Pathhead, £1075 Meadowen; Sim- £1125 Rathhillet; AA- £1075 Gelvan View; Gall-£885 Carrabus; Fr-£815 Carscallan, £865 Carneil, £925 Meldrum; Hol- £795 Park

Cast Bull- SH- £1365 Parbroath, Sim- £1115 Dail, £1015 Mollinhillhead Calves and Stirks: Frie - £110, 100 Mull Ayr- £70 Mull

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) sold 188 Store Cattle and 7 young bulls on Monday July 14.

Bullocks 92 averaged 214p per kilo to 249p per kilo for two 350kg Charolais from M & J Lamont, Shutterflat, Beith and to £990 for a 480kg British Blue from R Hamilton, Coldwakening, Strathaven.

Heifers 86 averaged 208p per kg to 235p for six 340kg Charolais from M & J Lamont, Shutterflat, Beith and to £970 for a 465kg Hereford from A Scott, Finch Cottage, Port of Menteth.

Bulls 7 averaged 183p per kg to 219p per kg for a 260kg Limousin from B Mundell, Kilchamaig, Whitehouse, by Tarbert and to £580 from the same farm.

10 Black and White Bullocks averaged 148p per kg to 152p per kg for five Ayrshires from R Hamilton, Coldwakening, Strathaven and to £700 for the same pen.

Leading Prices - Bullocks - pence per kg Sim - 240p & 223p Langholm, Campbeltown; AA - 230p Auchenthothie Farms and Ifferdale; AA - 228p Garelwood; Shorthorn - 222p Homeston, Campbeltown; Sim x - 223p Mossywood; Luing - 213p Graystale;

Heifers Sim - 220p & 219p Auchenthothie Farms; AA - 219p Pottalloch, 207p Ifferdale, Campbeltown; Hereford - 208p Finch Cottage; Sim x - 205p Rhoim, Campbeltown.

MAINLAND ARGYLL CROFTERS AND FARMERS MAKE UP MAJORITY OF JUDGES



SHOW TIME: Allan MacKellar, of Seaview, Benderloch, will judge the pure-bred sheep. 16_t29allan01

Attractions galore at Tiree Agricultural Show 2014

MAINLAND Argyll crofters and farmers will make up the majority of judges at next week's Tiree Agricultural Show.

Held on Friday July 25, Argyll judges Ewen MacGillivray (junior), Barcdaniel, will place the cattle along with Allan MacKellar, Benderloch, for the pure bred sheep and Angus Dickie, Kilmore, for the Blackface and cross bred sheep.

Billy Neilson, Taynuilt, will judge the popular section in its

second year running and Claire Cameron, Ardgour, will judge both Clydesdale and horse and pony sections.

This year Elite Falconry from Fife is bringing its birds of prey show across to give two fantastic flying demonstrations as the main ring attraction.

Other attractions include Tiree Young Farmers Club's Baked Bean Challenge, the popular pet show, crafts, funfair, tractors and

the home industries marquee with classes for both islanders and visitors.

The day will round off dancing to the popular Oban-based ceilidh band Ceol an Aire in An Talla.

The return of the tractor road run on Saturday will see tractor enthusiasts leave the rural centre at 3pm and travel to the Tiree sports field at Cornaig.

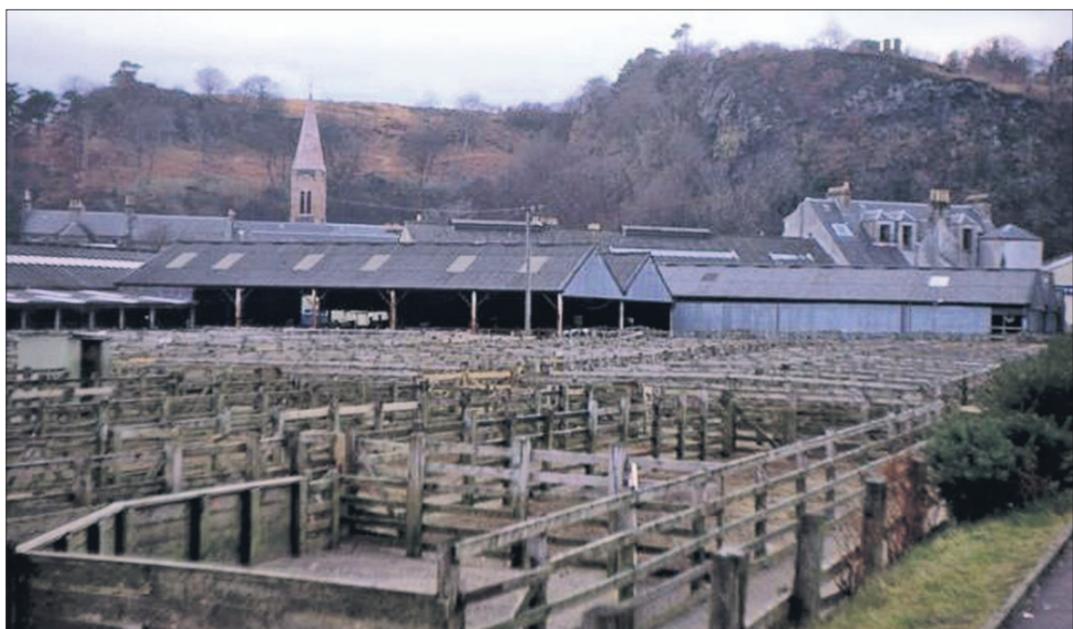
Climate scheme cash for farmers

A SCHEME to develop climate-friendly farming methods is to benefit from government funding.

Rural affairs secretary Richard Lochhead has announced another £100,000 for the Scottish Government's Farming for a Better Climate programme which has resulted in lower carbon footprints and cash savings for the first farm to take part.

Kilfinan Community Forest Company won the Promoting Viable Livelihoods award which recognises projects involving individual communities. The awards were presented at this year's Royal Highland Show by environment and climate change minister Paul Wheelhouse MSP.

Two sides to Oban's auction mart in 1992



LOOK BACK IN TIME: John Hay was interested to see last week's flashback photo of Corson's Auction Mart in 1992 and thought readers might want to see what was on the other side! John said: 'It's hard to imagine the mart was near enough in the centre of Oban back then.'

Sunart & District Agricultural Society Show & Family Fun Day Out

Saturday 9th August 2014
Strontian Showfield
Judging Commences 9.30am

Sheep, Cattle, Dog show
Local Crafts, Highland Dancing
Steam & Vintage Engines
Riders of the Storm Horse Stunt Show
Open to public by Pipe Band at 12.30pm
Adults £3, Children £2 Family Conc £12.

Award-winning woodlands

TWO WOODLAND areas, in Glen Orchy, near Dalmally, and at Kilfinan, Tighnabraich, have picked up accolades at Scotland's Finest Woods Awards.

The Forestry Commission Scotland and UPM Tilhill's project at Glen Orchy picked up the James Jones Trophy for New Commercial Woods and was also highly commended in the New Native Woodland category for their 100 hectares of mixed Scots pine, oak, ash and birch.

Kilfinan Community Forest Company won the Promoting Viable Livelihoods award which recognises projects involving individual communities. The awards were presented at this year's Royal Highland Show by environment and climate change minister Paul Wheelhouse MSP.

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40 on 19th July 2014
Happy big birthday,
Gerry Jenkins!
With lots of love from all your family and friends.
Toknabout xx

Turnbull
Carol Turnbull and family are delighted to announce the arrival of their newest member, Jacob (Jake) Archie Turnbull. Born on May 19, 2014 in Glasgow to proud parents Ross and Helen. A special wee cousin for Karina.

THANK YOU
Huge thank you from Catherine Allan to her fantastic kids, grandkids, family and friends for birthday celebrations and gifts you are all "Simply the best"

MARRIAGE

MACDONALD - At Glengorm Castle, on June 21, 2014, by Rev Iain MacLeay, Malcolm, youngest son of Archie and Janet, CnocnaSgillinn, Tobermory, to Leanne, daughter of Angus and Pamela, Sealladhna Mara, Glengorm. A great day was had by all.

DEATHS

BELL - (Invergordon). Peacefully, in his own home, on Sunday July 13, 2014. Ian (Dinger) aged 69 years, beloved husband of Liz, dearest father of Shona, Ian and Catherine, a loving father-in-law and grandad. Funeral service will be held in Invergordon Church of Scotland on Friday, July 18, 2014, commencing at 11 a.m., thereafter to Rosskeen Cemetery. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, but a donation, if so desired, may be made at the service for Local District Nurses (Highland Health Board). Enquiries to Mairi Russell Funeral Services. Tel: 01349 880901

GILLIES - (MacDermid) - Peacefully at Munro Court, Glasgow, on July 11, 2014. Rachel, formerly of Fiscavaig, Skye. Devoted wife of the late Ian Gillies, treasured mother of Jessie, Donnie and the late Joan and much loved grandmother to Iain, Craig, Shona and Lynne. Also a dear mother-in-law. Sorely missed.

MACLEAN - Peacefully at Belford Hospital on July 15, 2014 Ray MacLean (née Elliot), aged 91 years. Loving wife of the late Alistair, 22 Lorn Drive, Glencoe. Funeral on Monday July 21 at 2.00pm, Church of Scotland, Ballachulish.

MORRIS - After a short illness William Henry (Bill) aged 92, died in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, South Wales on July 7, 2014. Dear husband of Mairi, (née Nicholson), for 67 years. Darling dad of Ann, Gwyneth and Robert. Father-in-law of Jim and Richard, grandfather of Nick and Richard and loving grandpa Bill to Jackson and Mia Fhion. Bill and Mairi lived at 17 Corran Brae and Bill worked at the Western Garage.

SKINNER - (Stornoway). Suddenly but very peacefully at Dun Eisdan Care Home, Stornoway on Thursday, July 11, 2014. David Iain Skinner, MRCVS, aged 90 years, beloved husband of Jessie for 59 years, son of the late John and Agnes Skinner of Roseneath and George Street, Oban, brother to the late Alastair and Hughie, loving father of Catriona, Duncan and the late and sorely missed Angus, dear father-in-law to Bill, Jackie and Mairi, adored grandfather to Melissa, Naomi, Seamus, Andrew, Ceit and Anna and GREAT great grandfather to Oakley, Ben and Phoebe. Dearly loved and sorely missed.

THOMSON - Peacefully at Henderson House Care Home, Dalgety Bay on July 10, 2014, Mysie (née McTaggart) aged 86. Funeral service at Linn Crematorium, Glasgow on Wednesday, July 23, at 1.00pm. Family flowers only.

WILSON - On July 10, 2014, peacefully at home, with all her family by her side, Catherine (Cathie) Wilson, née McTaggart, (formerly of Portsonachan), in her 85th year, beloved wife of the late Robert (Bobby) Wilson, much loved mother of David, Jane, Michael, Robert, Catherine and Margaret, a dearly loved granny and great-granny, and a dear aunt. Funeral service at Glenorchy Church, Dalmlally, on Friday, July 18 at 12.00 noon, interment thereafter at Glenorchy Cemetery. Flowers welcome, donations if desired for Macmillan Cancer Support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACDONALD - Jackie, Catherine, Ronald, Donna and all the family would like to thank friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, numerous cards, letters, telephone calls and flowers in their recent sad loss of their mum, Helen (Nell) Ross MacDonald (née MacLeod), 10 Altour Road, Spean Bridge. Special thanks to Dr Arnott and Dr Douglas of Tweeddale Medical Practice for their support over the last 10 years also Lochaber Day and Night Owl Service for their care. Thanks also to Mike McFall for the funeral arrangements, The Bridge Café, Spean Bridge for providing refreshments and thank you to all who attended at the church and the graveside.

FORREST-MACKINNON - At Three Parish Church, Isle of Tiree on June 28, 2014, Carrie daughter of Robert and Anne Forrest, Beith, to Niall, son of Iain and Anne Mackinnon, Tiree. A memorable and happy day.

EMMA AINSLEY, daughter of David & Jean, graduated from Glasgow University with a First Class Honours Degree in Law. Emma is a former pupil of Easdale Primary, Oban High School and Lomond School.

McNIVEN - Laura, Ronald, Gordon, Caroline and family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for kind expressions of sympathy sent to them on the sad loss of Walter and the many cards and flowers sent to us. Special thanks to Lorn Medical Centre and Lorn and Islands Hospital for care of Walter in his final days. To Donald MacKinnon for excellent service at Church and Graveside and Falls of Lora for the lovely buffet, to Hamish Hoey and Son and Catriona for excellent funeral arrangements. £750 was collected for Cancer Research.

MELLISH - The family of the late Fraser Mellish, would like to thank everyone most sincerely, for the many kind expressions of sympathy, cards, letters and flowers, received in their recent sad loss. Special thanks to Staff at Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital, and district nurses for all the compassionate care and attention given to Fraser and the family. Thanks also to Rev Thomas Bryson for a most comforting service, Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for professional services, Anchor Hotel for an excellent purvey and to all who paid their last respects at church and graveside. The collection for Macmillan Cancer Support raised £700.

MEMORIAMS

MACKINNON - 5th Anniversary - In loving memory of Jean our dear mother, mother-in-law and granny who died on July 19, 2009. Sorely missed. Also remembering with love our father, father in law and granda, Don (Wee Dan) who died January, 19 2006. The hands of time keep turning And years may slip away But memories are the keepsake No one can take away. Always remembered and loved forever - John and family

MACPHERSON - Allan. 14.9.33 to 20.7.12. Treasured and wonderful memories of a much loved dad and gaga. You were our world and it's so lonely without you. - Lynda, Mark, Sean and Morgan xxxxx.

McMILLAN - In everlasting memory of my dear husband Neil who died on July 18, 1996. I picture a beautiful garden And by the gate you stand One day that gate will open And you will take my hand - Your loving wife Zena, Port Ellen, Islay.

MORREN - In loving memory of a dear sister-in-law and aunt, Morag, who died July 19, 2005. Always remembered. - Ellen and family and Ron.

PROSSER - In loving memory of George, our dearly loved dad, granddad and great-granddad who died July 13, 2002. Someone very special Forever loved and missed Always in our thoughts - Betty and all the family

SIMPSON - In loving memory of a devoted husband and father Archie who died July 18, 2006. You left a place no-one can fill I miss you now and always will. - Ever loving son Archie

SMITH - In loving memory of our dear mother, Morag, who died on July 14, 2007 and our dear father, Jimmy, who died on August 1, 2012. Loved and remembered every day. - Violet and Theresa.

THOMSON - Loving memories of Irene, who died July 16, 1966 aged 3 years. You should have had so many years To watch your life unfold And in the midst of this Watch me your mum grow old Now with dad. - Mum and Frankie.

TRAYNOR - In loving memory of our very dear mother and nannie who passed away July 16, 2013. She was a mother so very rare Content in her home and always there On earth she toiled, in heaven she rests God bless you mother, you were the best. Loved always - Violet, Iain, Janette and families.

TRAYNOR - Cherished memories of a loving nannie Jessie, who passed away July 16, 2013. In our hearts your memory lingers Always tender fond and true There's not a day dear nannie Kentallen We do not think of you. - Tony, Janice and William.

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Poppies give life to cancer campaign



(Left to right) David Ayling, Marion and Gary MacPherson, Peter Logie and Margaret Ayling celebrate a donation to CLIC Sergent cancer charity. 15_129popycle1

A YOUNG man who battled a rare cancer touched the hearts of two business owners so much that they held a fundraiser for the charity that helped him. Dave Ayling was struck with rhabdomyosarcoma, a cancer of the neck and soft palate, aged only 18. His treatment went on for some six years until it went into remission six years ago. Dave's story touched the hearts of Marion and Gary MacPherson who run Poppies Coffee Shop - and they also decided to do some fundraising for CLIC Sergent. Marion explained the charity keep their money locally and she has seen what an incredible difference the charity made to young

Dave's life. Raising a life changing £2,410 the money was presented to Peter Logie, area fundraising manager for CLIC Sergent. Dave's inspirational story does not stop there. The incredible battler is now taking his fundraising campaign to the Champs Elysees, followed by a very proud mum, Margaret, dad, Richard, and girlfriend Melanie. His family have a right to be proud. Dave missed out on many of the things that other young people his age were doing. But he is making up for that now - by setting himself a very ambitious target of £5,000 to give something back to CLIC Sergent. To donate see the web page <https://www.justgiving.com/davidayling/>.

Village festival a blossoming success

A VILLAGE flower festival has been hailed as a celebration of the community as it raised more than £1,000. The Duror Flower Festival made a return to the village's parish church last weekend after an absence of 14 years. It was organised by village resident Rena Cameron and her friend Lillian McKenzie, from Glasgow. Rena said: 'It has not just been a church event, the whole community has come to see the displays or help out in another way. It's been a village event. 'Everyone has been great and it has been such a happy time for the village.' Rena and Lillian decided to bring the festival back to Duror after attending similar events elsewhere. Although the friends made the majority of the displays, volunteers from around the village helped create the window displays and garlands, made home baking and served tea to guests, helping to take £1,195 in donations for church funds. Rena said: 'We are not a huge congregation but we have a lot of support in this community.'



Villager Rena Cameron, left, and her friend Lillian McKenzie brought back the Duror Flower Festival after a 14-year absence. 16_129flower01

Obituary

Roddy 'Stalin' MacKinnon November 14, 1942 - July 3, 2014

RODERICK William Mackinnon, a son of Glendale, was born at Poloskin, Glendale on November 14, 1942 to William and Dolina. William came from a long line of Dallachs whist Dolina hailed from Ballachulish. Roddy's father, like his father before him, Peter MacKinnon, had a long and distinguished military career. Roddy's parents married in Glendale in 1938 when his father was 63. William was 67 when Roddy was born in 1942. William had advertised in the Skye page of The Oban Times for a housekeeper. Dolina applied for and became the housekeeper, before becoming betrothed to William. Roddy grew up speaking Gaelic and he remained a strong supporter of the language and the fight for its survival. Having spent his early years in Poloskin, Roddy and the family then moved to the croft that William bought at 10 Lower Milovaga. The family were regular and faithful church-goers and Roddy himself, had a strong faith. Peter MacKinnon, who had been an adherent of the Free Church, had been instrumental in the establishment of the Free Presbyterian church in Glendale in 1893, the Church that his son William Mor also attended. In more recent years Roddy was a regular worshipper at the Free Church and he certainly felt at home there. When we think of Roddy, we think of someone who was a son of the soil of Glendale but also a master of the sea with a fishing knowledge that was second to none. Roddy would go down to Meanish as a young boy and ask to be taken out on one of the many boats that would have operated from the harbour. On many an occasion when he could not be taken, he would be in tears at the Pier. The sea was Roddy's passion. Roddy could be a great charmer and his character is well known not just in Glendale but throughout Skye and further afield. Roddy was also well known far and wide for his CB radio broadcasts. He would take to the airwaves with the call sign Blue Whale. He turned his hands to many jobs. We all know about his fishing skills, but he was also a first class shepherd. He was one of the last to stay in the shepherd's cottage at Lorgill. He was also a builder, carrying out various trades, and a driver. Many will know that although he was a good driver, he never passed a test. Despite this, Roddy was taken on by Sutherland's garage in Broadford when they took on the Rootes dealership and with other Skye men was dispatched to Linwood to pick up the new Hillman Imp off the production line. The Duke of Edinburgh drove the first car off the production line, it was said that the Duke of Glendale drove the second one. Roddy enjoyed company and for anyone passing, his door was always open. He was generous to a fault. Although the sea was his playground, Roddy could not swim and on more than one occasion unfortunately ended up over board. Luckily this always seemed to happen at Meanish. He would sink to the seabed and rather unbelievably, simply walk out of the water. We all knew over the last few months Roddy was not keeping well. Despite this he would not complain. He carried his pain and suffering in his own way with a quiet dignity. No doubt his strong faith helped him. We mark the passing of a link to Glendale's past. A light has truly gone out in the Glen.

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WEDDING



FORREST-MACKINNON
At Three Parish Church, Isle of Tiree on June 28, 2014, Carrie daughter of Robert and Anne Forrest, Beith, to Niall, son of Iain and Anne Mackinnon, Tiree. A memorable and happy day.

GRADUATION



EMMA AINSLEY, daughter of David & Jean, graduated from Glasgow University with a First Class Honours Degree in Law. Emma is a former pupil of Easdale Primary, Oban High School and Lomond School.

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Glencruitten

THE SECOND round of the club championship was held on Saturday when David McCuish scored 61.

Combined with a 65 from the first round, this gives him a total of 126 at the halfway stage. Arvid Fagerbold is second with 62 + 68 = 130 and in third place is Alastair MacVicar and Phillip Murphy on 132. Arvid also leads the George Smith Trophy with a score of 122. Alastair MacVicar and Phillip Murphy are second with scores of 130.

John and Mary Plunkett won the mixed open on Sunday with a score of 39 points. Scott Jordan and Helen Pearson were second with 35 points. Also on Sunday, Aidan McCuish won the junior championship with a score of 63.

He scored 74, 71 and 63 in his earlier rounds, giving him a total of 271.

In the ladies section, Angela McLaughlan won the Iona Plate with scores of 29 + 33 = 62 points. Diane Colewell was second with 30 + 31 = 61 points. In third place was Mary Plunkett with 25 + 30 = 55 points. The Ginty Trophy, Wilson Cup and Monthly Medal take place on Saturday.

Tobermory

AFTER a hiatus of nearly three years, Tobermory Golf Club has a new sponsor for its open tournament next month.

Local builders D&W Brown are donating a sum which will allow the club to devote the bulk of this year's entry fee to maintaining equipment and keeping the club running, instead of going straight back into prize money.

Club secretary Gordon Chalmers said: 'Company owner Donald Brown is a past club captain and champion and his gesture is greatly appreciated in an ever more challenging financial climate.'

The 36-hole tournament runs over two days on August 2 and 3.

On offer are two trophies, one donated originally by David MacBrayne Limited for scratch players.

Results: Highland Games Cup - 1 Tom Nunn, 36 points; 2 Ewan MacCrone, 35 points; 3 William MacCrone, 35 points; 1 Lady - Olive Brown, 33 points.

Junior section, second round summer challenge - 1 William MacCrone, 64-05-59; 2 Scott Paterson, 82-19-63; 3 Ross MacCrone, 75-11-64.

Ladies nine hole stableford - 1 Kathy McAdam, 21 points; 2 Jennifer Jack, 12 points; 3 Doris Hargreaves, 11 points.

Islay

RESULT: S W Morrison played Friday July 11 and Sunday July 13 - 1 R MacIntyre, 68+69 = 137; 2 D Johnston, 74+67 = 141; 3 G Hamilton, 71+71 = 142.

Taynuilt

LADIES: ARC Shield played July 8 - 1 Moira MacVicar, 35 points (28); 2 Anne S Mac-Calman, 34 points (18); 3 Carol MacLarty, 31 points (20).

Mixed: British Heart Foundation played July 9 - 1 Mairread Sim and Hugh Nicolson, 39 points; 2 Anne S MacCalman and Andrew Diggory, 34 points; 3 Anne Urwin and Jeremy Church, 32 points.

Trevor Allen Open Mixed Scramble played July 13 - 1 A Weavind, M Grant, R Bergant 52 (11); 2 C MacLarty, R MacLarty, A Stewart 53 (08); 3 J Stewart, P Walton, C Munro 53 (08). All Taynuilt Golf Club.

Longest drive: ladies - Carole Kelly (Blairmore & Strone GC). Gents - Robbie MacLarty, Taynuilt Golf Club.

Nearest the pin: Ladies - Wilma Frew, Glencruitten Golf Club; gents: Phil Monteith, Glencruitten Golf Club.

The Angus Ferguson Memorial Trophy took place on June 28 - 1 R Gordon; 2 D Campbell; 3 J Pearson.

The annual tournament is organised by Lodge St Modan 985.

Susie gets a second chance as she gears up for Hockenheim

'It was out of my hands and that type of thing can happen - that's racing'

YOU HAVE to admire Susie Wolff's determination.

As she left the safety and security of the Williams team garage at Silverstone, it seemed the eyes of the world were on the first female driver in 22 years to take part in a Formula 1 race weekend.

But just 20 minutes later her dream was in tatters as her practice lap was prematurely ended by engine failure.

A wall of excited photographers, in front of thousands of

expectant spectators, had waited to see how the 31-year-old would perform in motorsport's premier series. She knew the track - one of her favourite circuits in the world - and had prepared for this moment all her career.

While athletes of a weaker constitution might dwell on their misfortune over the fortnight that has passed, the iron-willed Obanite was instantly looking forward to her second drive in Hockenheim this weekend.

'It was a special day for me,'

MOTOR RACING

Susie told *The Oban Times*: 'So that moment when the engine stopped was soul destroying. It was all over before it had started.'

'I was so convinced I would have success at Silverstone, so it was a surprise to me. I thought, 'that isn't meant to happen'.'

'There was huge disappointment in the garage. It was a missed opportunity but no-one



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: the world's media wait for Susie to leave the Williams garage at Silverstone

was angry with anyone. That's racing, that's sport. You always get good days and bad days.'

'As much as it was really bad luck, I am out in the car next week and have another chance at the German Grand Prix.'

'It was out of my hands and that type of thing can happen - that's racing. You just need to keep your head up and keep fighting.'

Susie was supposed to take out Valtteri Bottas' car for the 90-minute free practice one (FP1) session. But with the engine replaced, Bottas took the same car out for the following practice sessions and went on to finish the grand prix in second place - his best ever result.

'I am the development driver for the team,' said Susie, 'so my job satisfaction comes from the team doing well.'

'You have to remember it was Valtteri's car, he gave it to me. 'Nothing makes up for my disappointment, because it's a personal disappointment in not being able to achieve what I set out to do but there is a sense of achievement for the team.'

As a standard bearer for female drivers, being in the media spotlight is something Susie has had to adjust to.

'Within the paddock, she is just another driver striving to reach their goal of competing in Formula 1.'

But out on the track and within the media circus that surrounds her she accepts that her gender is 'a big issue'.

'I feel at home in the team and in the paddock, so I don't feel that it's much of a story,' she said.

'I do understand why the female thing is such a big media story, because there hasn't been a female driver in Formula 1 for so long and people want to see it happen.'

'But as a driver I am working towards my goal. I'm not out to show what a woman can do, I'm out to prove what Susie Wolff can do.'

'It is not going to be easy to get into Formula 1 but I am in that fight and need to prove myself every step of the way.'

This global scrutiny is a far cry from her early karting days when her team consisted mainly of parents, John and Sally Stoddart, who took her all over the country to compete with some of the best budding drivers, including one Lewis Hamilton.



ON TRACK: Susie in her karting days where she took on the likes of Lewis Hamilton who went on to become Formula One world champion in 2008

Training the name of the game for Oban Lorne if they are to progress up the leagues

EX-SCOTLAND captain Jason White has tipped Oban Lorne to have a successful season, as long as they can consistently field a strong team.

The former Sale Sharks and Clermont player held three training sessions in Oban while a guest of the club.

Putting the team through their paces on Tuesday and Wednesday, he also took an open session on Saturday when players of all ages took part.

The 36-year-old, who has won 77 caps for his country, reckoned he had seen enough to believe the team can be competing at a

level higher than West Division Two.

He said: 'There is lots of ability here but the key at this level is getting numbers to attend training regularly.'

RUGBY

Same issue

'I am coaching Watsonians just now and it is the same issue. It is hard when guys have work and family commitments.'

'But there is great ambition at this club and I am impressed with the level of play and how keen the players are to represent Oban.'

Mr White was joined by his wife and three children during

a week's stay in Oban. He said: 'The hospitality of the club, as well as staff at the Columba and Regent hotels, has shown, has been outstanding.'

'It is our first trip to Oban but the family has had an absolutely great time.'

WELCOME GUEST: Jason White, back row, left, held an open training session at Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club 16_129rugby02



Taynuilt dad inspired by nine-year-old son

THE SUCCESS of his medal-winning nine-year-old son has inspired a Taynuilt man to enter his first triathlon.

Teacher Stephen Teape is in training to enter his first competition, concentrating on improving his swimming, so he can follow in his son Daniel's footsteps.

Daniel, who goes to Taynuilt primary school, has won a haul of trophies and medals for running, cycling and swimming, the three events in a triathlon.

The youngster came third at the Triathlon Scotland Youth Championships last month, his second triathlon.

Daniel said: 'My dad encouraged me when he noticed I was good at running.'

'I swim with Oban Otters and cycle a lot too, but the running is my favourite out of the three.'

Stephen also has another keen athlete in the family keeping him on his toes.

Daughter Hannah, 12, who will be competing in an 800m swim in August at Loch Lomond, already runs and cycles at events with Stephen and Daniel.

Stephen explained: 'The kids have always really enjoyed cycling and running with me and going for a swim. The competitions just came as a consequence

of them getting better. Part of Daniel's motivation to start competing was to beat me.'

'I'm not as good as Daniel though, he has amazing endurance for someone so young.'

'I'm planning to do a triathlon myself, once I am up to speed with my swimming and Daniel has inspired me to do that.'

Daniel achieved his target of beating his dad at a 5k run in August 2013 at Fernoch, not long after his ninth birthday.

Previously, Daniel had competed in both duatlons and aquathlons, which involve two out of the three triathlon events, before doing a full triathlon for

the first time in June, coming second. The bronze medal win at the Scottish Youth Championships was his latest competition and he was pleased to get a place on the podium.

The championships, held at Glasgow's Bellahouston Park, involved a 150m swim, a 3.2k cycle and a 1,200m run in Daniel's 9-10 boys age group.

Stephen said that although Daniel has the chance to be very successful, the key thing is that he enjoys competing.

'It's something good for him and Hannah to do to keep fit and enjoy,' he said.

As well as triathlon events, the

TRIATHLON

children also play badminton and go to ballet classes once a week.

Stephen also paid tribute to athletics coach Bill McCallum, who has encouraged the children to compete in various events.

Bill coaches at Mid Argyll Athletics Club and has been a driving force in keeping the family up-to-date with competitions.

Daniel is currently preparing for his next competition, the Glasgow Triathlon club Autumn Aquathlon, on August 24 in Bearsden.



COME ON DAD: Stephen being put through his paces by Hannah and Daniel 07_129teape02



WINNER: Daniel with some of the medals and trophies he's won this year 07_129teape01

South area residential shinty camp success

SHINTY

This year's south area residential camp took place over two days earlier this month at Mossfield Stadium, Oban, and included 27 players from Aberdeen to Ballachullish.

With players arriving at 1pm, it was straight into a group warm up and skills analysis led by coaches Les Kinivig and Robert Dunning.

Once this was completed there was time for nine-a-side games before heading off to the hostel to check in and then back down to Oban for dinner at the Olive Garden restaurant.

Tuesday was going to be a long day particularly with the sun splitting the sky. The coaches had another opportunity to assess the players, this time it was their attacking and defensive abilities that were under scrutiny with plenty of water breaks to ensure there was enough en-

ergy left for the evening match against Oban Camanachd.

With the end of the camp approaching, the players had the opportunity to showcase the skills they had developed over the two days against a strong Oban Camanachd U14 team.

This gave the camp coaches an opportunity to play different teams in the 4x20 minute format and the coaches were extremely happy with how the players performed on the evening.

Argyll and Bute Shinty Development officer Euan Macmurdoo said: 'Thanks go to the coaches Les and Robert for helping teach the players over the two days, the parents and carers for taking the kids to the camp and not least the players who gave a massive amount of effort over the two days'.



SUCCESS: Winners of the Trevor Allen Open Mixed Scramble at Taynuilt Golf Club



CUP WINNERS: a jubilant Hamilton Accies squad celebrate with the D&K Cup

Accies retain D&K Cup

Good crowd turns up despite inclement weather

THE ANNUAL Oban Saints football tournament came off age last Saturday with the 21st running of the D&K Cup played at Mossfield Stadium and Glen-cruitten Park.

Although weather conditions were a bit showery, the usual band of loyal supporters from the five participating clubs showed up and they were treated to some first class football.

The first games kicked off at 11am with Hamilton Accies, who took their first team squad to Oban, proving too strong for a young Dundee United team winning 3-0.

Glen-cruitten hosted the game between St Johnstone and Alloa Athletic with the Wasps winning by the odd goal in three.

Host club Oban Saints played their first game when they took

on Alloa in the next game at Mossfield and the local side were unlucky to lose a close game 2-1. Netting for Saints was David Beaton after a pin-point cross into the box from new signing Dean Smith.

The next game saw Accies defeat a young St Johnstone side 1-0 then the Saints from Perth took on the Saints from Oban with the game ending in a 1-1 draw with Martin Bonar heading home a Craig MacEwan cross for the Oban goal.

Dundee United then took on Alloa Athletic with the championship side winning by the only goal of the game.

Next up saw Dundee United net three goals against the Perth Saints without reply.

The best game of the day saw Oban Saints take on a strong

Hamilton Accies side. Saints took the lead through Scott Maitland. Accies equalised through Craig Watson. The Oban side went 2-1 ahead with a Craig MacEwan header but then the experience of the SPL side took over with goals from Darren Lyon, Andy Ryan, a penalty from Mickael Antoine Curier and two superb free kicks from Grant Gillespie making the final score 6-2.

Saints, who had played four games on the bounce, then took on Dundee United with the Tayside team winning with the only goal of the game.

The last match at Mossfield was between Hamilton Accies and Alloa Athletic with Alloa needing a win with a draw good enough for the Accies. The game ended in a 1-1 draw which saw Accies retain the handsome

trophy by virtue of a better goal difference than Alloa.

At the end of the competition organiser David Buchanan thanked Argyll and Bute Council ground staff for the excellent condition of both pitches, the nine match officials who had done a sterling job and all the helpers who made the day such a success. He then called on Kathleen Lafferty of sponsors D&K Lafferty Contractors to hand over the cup and medals to the victorious Hamilton squad.

Saints manager Iain Jackson was happy with the performance of his squad at the tournament.

He said: 'I thought we played well against top class opposition considering we had seven new players making their debuts.

'I was pleased with the way they played and can see the

makings of a good squad for the coming season.

'We were a bit unlucky against Alloa, losing two poor goals from corner kicks which is not good enough. The game against St Johnstone was evenly matched but we had chances to win it.

'Our game against Hamilton was a cracker and to score two goals against an SPL side was tremendous. By the time we played Dundee United I could see the boys were tiring, but again we gave a good account of ourselves. We will continue training hard and playing friendlies over the next few weeks so the boys will be ready for the SAFL league programme which starts in August.'

FOOTBALL



ALL SMILES: Hamilton skipper Mikey Devlin holds the cup aloft

Joe Toal Sixes on Sunday

SHINTY

LOCHABER Camanachd Club is holding the Joe Toal Sixes this Sunday.

In 1982, Joe Toal was playing for Lochaber Camanachd against Fort William when he died suddenly during the game at the age of just 22.

Each year Lochaber Camanachd Club holds a six-a-side tournament in his honour.

Lochaber has invited clubs to put forward a team or two for the 2014 tournament, which will take place at Lochaber shinty pitch on Sunday starting at 12 noon.

For more information contact Aileen Campbell at aileenrecampbell@hotmail.co.uk or on 07760 155313.

Oban Athletic back in training

FOOTBALL

OBAN Athletic start its pre-season training tonight at 7pm prompt on the bottom rugby pitch.

New players with a commitment to travel home and away during the season will be made welcome.

A number of friendlies have been arranged:

July 19, away to Campbeltown Pupils, sponsored by D & K Lafferty; July 26, TBC; August 2, home at rugby pitch v Thorn Athletic, sponsored by the Woodside Bar; August 9, home on school astro pitch v Myre Athletic, sponsored by Argyll and Bute health and wellbeing.

The season should start on August 16 but this has still to be confirmed.

Inverness Sixes - Saturday July 27

SHINTY

ENTRIES are now being accepted for Inverness Shinty Club's annual six-a-side tournament at Bught Park on Sunday July 27.

For more information, contact Peter Gow at peter@gows.go-plus.net or on 07957 864093 or visit website www.inverness6s.co.uk

Pre-season games for Oban Saints

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints has organised three attractive pre-season friendlies.

On Saturday July 26 they play old rivals Greenock HSFP on the rugby pitch at Glen-cruitten.

The following Saturday, August 2, they take on Central Scottish League side Ashvale Victoria at Glen 2 and on Saturday August 9 play high-flying Tynecastle, who have former Rangers star Charlie Miller and Aberdeen's Robbie Winters in their ranks, also on Glen 2.

All games kick-off at 2pm.



NEW KIT: the Oban Saints squad that took part in the tournament in their new D&K Lafferty-sponsored playing kit 16_129cup13



DEBUT GOAL: Saints new signing Scott Maitland marked his debut for the club with a goal against Hamilton. He is pictured taking on Accies Spanish defender Julen Torres 07_129cup09



PRESENTATION: Kathleen Lafferty hands out the medals. Next in line is Darian MacKinnon who is no stranger to Oban as he used to play for Dumbarton amateur side St Pat's FP when they were in the Scottish Amateur League Premier Division Photo: Scott Struthers



ACTION: Saints skipper Marc MacCallum shields the ball from Mickael Antoine Curier 07_129cup05



GOAL: Accies Grant Gillespie fires the second of his free kicks round the Saints wall and into the net 07_129cup04

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

COMPETITION

WIN £1400

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

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.

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.

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.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

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This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

M Forgieve, Dalrigh, Oban & G W Campbell, Craignure, Isle of Mull

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) 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

Please tape your £1 coin here

Name

Address

..... Tel No.



Fixtures

Saturday 19 July
Orion Group Premiership
 Glenurquhart v Kingussie
 Deek Cameron
 Lochaber v Kyles Athletic
 Billy Wotherspoon - 3pm
 Kinlochshiel v Lovat
 John Angus Gillies - 3pm

Marine Harvest National Division
 Beaulieu v Bute
 Daniel MacRae
 Fort William v Caberfeidh
 Lachie Wood - 12pm
 Oban Cam v Glasgow MA
 Robert Baxter
 Kilmallie v Glenorchy
 Innes Wood

Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Kingussie v Beaulieu
 Evan MacRae
 Newtonmore v Inverness
 Graham Cameron
 Skye v Lovat
 Ron Kennedy
 Strathglass v Glenurquhart
 Archie Ritchie

Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Ballachulish v Strachur
 David Stafford
 Kilmory v Kyles Athletic
 Ted McDonald

Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Fort William v Skye
 John MacGregor - 12pm
 Kinlochshiel v Glengarry
 Calum Girvan - 12pm
 Lochaber v Aberdeen Uni
 John Mathieson - 12pm

Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Aberdeen v Col Glen
 Duncan Freshwater
 Bute v Glenorchy
 Ronnie Campbell

Marine Harvest North Division 3
 Caberfeidh v Strathspey
 Martin MacLean
 Inverness v Lochbroom
 Andy MacLean

(All throw-ups 2.30 pm unless stated)

Results

Wednesday 9 July
Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Tayforth 5 - 2 Aberdeen

Saturday 12 July
Balliemore Cup Final
 Skye 3 - 2 Ballachulish

Orion Group Premiership
 Kinlochshiel 2 - 3 Newtonmore
 Kyles Athletic 5 - 1 Kingussie
 Lovat 1 - 1 Glenurquhart

Marine Harvest National Division
 Bute 0 - 5 Fort William
 Caberfeidh 2 - 3 Kilmallie
 Glenorchy 1 - 3 Glasgow MA

Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Beaulieu 6 - 0 Strathglass
 Glenurquhart P - P Kingussie
 Kingussie unable to field a team, tie to be rescheduled
 Inverness 0 - 7 Lovat

Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Aberdeen 2 - 1 Oban Celtic
 Kilmory 2 - 3 Lochside Rovers
 Kyles Athletic 1 - 2 Strachur

Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Fort William 1 - 2 Glengarry
 Kinlochshiel 1 - 1 Aberdeen U
 Lochcarron 2 - 0 Boleskine

Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Col Glen P - P Inveraray
 Col Glen unable to field a team, points to Inveraray

Marine Harvest North Division 3
 Inverness 2 - 2 Caberfeidh
 Lewis 1 - 1 Lochbroom

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Skye triumph in Balliemore final after extra time

SKYE Camanachd won the Balliemore Cup for the second time last Saturday when they beat Ballachulish 3-2 at the Sports Field, Taynuilt.

Skye took the lead after five minutes when Shockie MacLennan gathered possession from Will Cowie and tucked the ball into the corner of the net.

Balla' keeper David MacPhee then made a magnificent save, turning away a Danny Morrison rocket-shot just under his crossbar.

Ballachulish came much more into the game in the second half and they deservedly equalised through Alan Clark who had

started in defence. With no further scoring, referee Lachie Wood took the final into extra-time.

Danny Morrison put Skye back in front when he slotted the ball low through a couple of defenders and past keeper MacPhee.

Touch of fortune
 Ballachulish's second equaliser had a touch of fortune about it. The heavy rain was making for difficult playing conditions and a miss-hit goal hit on 108 minutes fell straight to Alan Clark and he made no mistake dispatching the ball into the net to the delight of the home support.

With just three minutes remaining and

penalties looking likely, Jordan Murchison gathered the ball following a Skye move down the right and dribbled the ball across goal before playing it low into the net to make it 3-2.

Skye Captain Gilleasbuig MacDonald and the injured Kenny Campbell both went up to receive the Balliemore Cup from Camanachd Association President Archie Robertson.

This weekend Skye are at home to Lovat and Ballachulish host Strachur

SHINTY



WINNERS: Skye skipper Gilleasbuig MacDonald shows off the Balliemore Cup after this team's 3-2 extra time win over Ballachulish Photos: Donald Cameron

Orion Group Premiership

GLEURQUHART will play hosts to Kingussie this Saturday in the Orion Group Premiership, in a vital game for both sides.

The teams sit level on 13 points each from 11 games, with Glenurquhart in third place in the league and Kingussie in fourth.

Glenurquhart took a point on Saturday away to Lovat, a Billy Urquhart strike levelling the game with 13 minutes to go.

The game will throw-up at 2.30pm.

KINGUSSIE will be looking for full points this weekend away to Glenurquhart, following a disappointing result against Kyles.

The side lost 5-1, with manager Russell Jones describing the performance as 'dismal'.

'I was disappointed, it was a pretty dismal display from us,' he said.

'All credit to Kyles, but we were never really in the game. We were five players short, and the younger boys that came in never really performed.'

Jones has the five players back this week, but is missing four other players through holidays and other commitments.

'We'll try and produce a better performance and will be looking for something from the game, but I know it will be difficult.'

Saturday's game has a throw-up time of 2.30pm.

LOCHABER will be looking for their first points of the season, as they play hosts to Kyles Athletic on Saturday.

The side go into the game fresh, having had no fixture at the weekend, while Kyles managed to put five past Kingussie in their match.

The Orion Group Premiership game will throw up at 3pm.

KYLES ATHLETIC are hoping to continue their climb out of the bottom half of the Orion Group Premiership by getting two points at Lochaber this Saturday.

The Tighnabraich men have been carrying bucket-loads of belief since beating Inveraray to lift the AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup and last week had an impressive 5-1 home win over Kingussie thanks to goals from Thomas Whyte, Robbie MacLeod (2), Leighton Reid and Roberto Zavaroni.

KINLOCHSHIEL will play hosts to Lovat this Saturday in the Orion Group Premiership.

The side go into the match having lost 3-2 to Newtonmore at the weekend, but despite the loss, manager Colin Fraser was pleased with the performance.

Fraser said: 'I was disappointed with the scoreline but pleased with how the lads performed. It was a big improvement from last week.'

'I thought we were unlucky not to come away with a draw or even a win to be honest. It really could have went either way.'

Looking to Saturday's tie with Lovat, Fraser said: 'It'll be another tough game, Lovat are chasing the league too.'

'I think it will be an interesting game, but hopefully we take something from the game and use the home advantage.'

Kinlochshiel currently sit second bottom of the league with two wins from ten games.

The match starts at 2.30pm.

LOVAT will face Kinlochshiel this Saturday in the Orion Group Premiership, and will be hoping to close the gap at the top of the table.

Allan MacRae's side sit second, three points behind Newtonmore but with a game in hand.

The team go into the game having drawn with Glenurquhart on Saturday, Calum MacAulay's opener being cancelled out by a Billy Urquhart strike in the second half for Glenurquhart.

With only six points separating the top four sides in the league, Lovat will be well aware of the importance of Saturday's game, which has a throw-up time of 2.30pm.

NEWTONMORE have a free week this weekend, giving P J Mackintosh's men a chance to rest.

The side, which sits top of the Orion Group Premiership, will take on Lovat in the Macaulay Cup semi-final on July 26.

They defeated Kinlochshiel away from home on Saturday, a Steven MacDonald penalty and an Evan Menzies brace enough to take the points in a 3-2 victory.

The Macaulay Cup semi will be played at Braeview Park in Beaulieu, with a throw-up time of 3pm.

National Division
OBAN CAMANACHD manager Gus Campbell says two points against Glasgow Mid Argyll this Saturday are essential if his team are to be serious title contenders.

With the top teams in the National Division starting to break away, Campbell says the team's aim is the championship and promotion to shinty's top tier.

Ahead of the home game he said: 'We have got to take the two points this Saturday and as I say to the boys every week, it doesn't matter who we are playing, we have to play every game like it's our last.'

'Everyone in this league is capable of beating each other. GMA were 2-1 up when we played them in Glasgow and we were lucky to come away with a 3-2 win.'

Campbell expects to make some changes this week with a few players unavailable, most notably full back Craig MacMillan, who is out with a thigh injury.

Campbell said: 'Craig has been a real general for us at the back, so we will miss him, but I have players I can bring in who are desperate to play.'

Mackintosh's men a chance to rest.

The side, which sits top of the Orion Group Premiership, will take on Lovat in the Macaulay Cup semi-final on July 26.

They defeated Kinlochshiel away from home on Saturday, a Steven MacDonald penalty and an Evan Menzies brace enough to take the points in a 3-2 victory.

The Macaulay Cup semi will be played at Braeview Park in Beaulieu, with a throw-up time of 3pm.

CONTROL: Duncan MacDonald from Ballachulish controls the ball with Skye's Neil MacVicar closing in

made his debut for the first team and played the full match.

'To be fair, I know they were missing a few players too, but it was still a great performance.'

Saturday's game has a throw-up time of 2.30pm.

BUTE travel to Beaulieu this weekend, hoping to secure their



CONTROL: Duncan MacDonald from Ballachulish controls the ball with Skye's Neil MacVicar closing in

The side lost 5-1 at home to Fort William on Saturday.

The match with Beaulieu starts at 2.30pm.

FORT WILLIAM will face Caberfeidh on Saturday, and will be looking to continue their form.

Victor Smith's men travelled

to Bute on Saturday, coming away with the points in a 5-0 victory.

Fort William took a 1-0 lead through Gary Innes in the 12th minute, and the score remained the same until the 59th minute, when Bute scored an own goal.

This was the start of a remarkable two minutes for Fort William, who managed to score another two goals through an Arran MacPhee double, taking the game to 3-0 by the 61st minute.

A Daniel Stewart goal in the 72nd minute sealed the win for Fort William, who sit fourth in the league, with five wins from six games and at least two games in hand on all the other teams in the league.

The side will face Caberfeidh on Saturday in the league, with a throw-up time of 3pm at Fort William.

South Division One
LOCHSIDE ROVERS manager Iain MacIntyre said he had a few choice words for his team after they let a two-goal lead slip in a lacklustre first half at Kilmory last week.

The away side eventually left Lochgilphead with both points after an improved second half saw them win 3-2.

The Oban side were 2-0 up within 12 minutes thanks to a brace from Jonathon Will.

But Kilmory were allowed to impose themselves on the game and had levelled the tie by half time.

MacIntyre said: 'For the first time since I took over I noticed the boys getting complacent and I had a few harsh words for them at half time.'

'They responded well - they looked a different team in the second half - and Alex Dunning's got our third goal.'

'We should have scored more but their goalkeeper made some outstanding saves.'

Lochside are not scheduled to have a game this weekend.

KILMORY'S troubles in the league continued on Saturday as the team was defeated by Lochside Rovers.

The Mid Argyll men managed to put two past the Oban side but it wasn't enough to secure a win against a team that has been sitting at the top of the South Division One League table for some weeks.

Alister MacArthur secured both Kilmory's goals in the away game, while Rovers' goals came from Jonathon Will (2) and Alex Dunning's.

Kilmory return to league duty tomorrow for another difficult encounter as they take on Kyles Athletic at home.

OBAN CELTIC have no fixture



CHAMPIONS: Skye Camanachd with the Balliemore Cup

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	11	9	1	1	30	12	19
Lovat	10	7	2	1	25	11	16
Glenurquhart	11	5	3	3	18	12	13
Kingussie	11	6	1	4	25	23	13
Inveraray	11	3	3	5	17	23	9
Kyles Athletic	9	3	2	4	13	26	8
Kinlochshiel	10	2	0	8	15	25	4
Lochaber	11	0	2	9	12	33	2

Marine Harvest National Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Camanachd	8	7	0	1	24	5	14
Beaulieu	11	6	1	4	23	18	13
Kilmallie	8	6	0	2	31	14	12
Fort William	6	5	1	0	26	7	11
Glasgow MA	8	4	0	4	19	18	8
Caberfeidh	10	3	1	4	21	29	7
Glenorchy	10	2	1	7	12	32	5
Bute	9	0	0	9	5	38	-2

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skye	6	6	0	0	21	1	12
Newtonmore	9	5	1	3	25	10	11
Strathglass	10	5	1	4	26	25	11
Beaulieu	9	4	1	4	20	22	9
Glenurquhart	7	3	2	2	16	14	8
Kingussie	8	3	1	4	18	23	7
Lovat	8	2	0	6	14	28	4
Inverness	9	1	2	6	17	34	4

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochside Rovers	11	5	3	3	30	29	13
Kyles Athletic	9	5	2	2	30	12	12
Aberdour	8	5	2	1	23	14	12
Ballachulish	7	4	3	0	23	10	11
Oban Celtic	9	2	3	4	10	25	7
Strachur	8	2	2	4	10	17	6
Kilmory	10	2	1	7	13	20	5
Taynuilt	8	1	2	5	19	31	4

Marine Harvest North Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glengarry	11	8	1	2	22	18	17
Fort William	9	7	0	2	33	16	14
Lochcarron	9	5	1	3	22	22	11
Boleskine	13	5	0	8	29	41	10
Lochaber	10	4	1	5	28	25	9
Kinlochshiel	11	3	3	5	21	24	7
Aberdeen Uni	11	2	3	6	22	29	7
Skye	8	2	1	5	17	18	5

Marine Harvest South Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tayforth	12	10	1	1	44	9	21
Inveraray	10	8	2	0	35	7	18
Col Glen	10	5	2	3	36	13	12
Glasgow MA	10	5	1	4	33	21	11
Bute	9	4	1	4	17	21	9
Ballachulish	11	4	0	7	19	36	8
Glenorchy	10	2	0	8	12	29	4
Aberdour	12	0	1	11	9	69	1

Marine Harvest North Division 3							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caberfeidh	10	7	2	1	38	14	16
Lochbroom	10	3	4	3	17	20	10
Lewis	10	4	2	4	20	23	10
Strathspey	10	5	1	4	26	29	10
Kilmallie	10	4	2	4	36	21	9
Inverness	10	1	0	9	11	41	3

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New race a sparkling success at West Highland Yachting Week

Excellent day's sailing at Loch Melfort

THE FIRST day's racing at this year's West Highland Yachting Week (WHYW) was also a first for the new Loch Melfort Race run by the Joint Regatta Committee with the fleet circumnavigating the island of Shuna off Craobh Marina.

With marks off the top and bottom end of the island, the course left Shuna to starboard in the westerly breeze giving an excellent day's racing on all points of sail.

And it was a fitting first for the major sponsor of WHYW, Boyd Tunnock CBE, who took a convincing win in Class 5 by over two minutes on corrected time in his Moody 38 *Lemercac* from Craig Anderson's *Cool Bandit 2* and Harper and Robertson's *Sigma 33 Leaky Roof II*.

An amalgamation of classes saw Class 0 and 1 come together with WHYW stalwarts Allan Jeffrey and Paul Scutt taking their First 36.7 *Carmen II* to win the combined class. Local Richard Shellcock and team on their Prism 28 *Thrust* finished second with Ian McNair's *First by Farr* third.

A slowly building breeze over the 19-mile race made for an exciting sail with sunshine adding a sparkle to the day.

In restricted sail Class 2 it was Danny Sinclair's Hanse 400 *Keeley* which took the honours from the Lindsay's *Dufour 44 Ionara* and Scott and Nicola

SAILING

Chalmers' *Sunrise*. Class 3 saw the 'Skye' boys from Portree 'storm' through in their Westery Typhoon *Stoirm Mhor* to lift the silverware from Brian Robertson's *Celtic Spirit* and Graham Anderson's Hanse 371 *Lucky Ned Pepper*.

Steve Williams and team on *Mystic Sun* won white sail Class 4 from Campbeltown's Owen McManus with the X332 *Jochr* that replaces his former Albin Ballad of the same name and *Alchemist*, the new Sweden Yachts 37 of Stevie Andrews replacing *Pandanova*, finishing third.

Seonaid Reid's *Malindi of Lorne* took another convincing win in Class 6 restricted sail after this class was combined with Class 9 with George Scrivener's *Joint Venture* second and Murray McLaren's *Sigmatic* third. In Class 8 it was *Hot Toddy* which won by only six seconds from Marian Austin's *Scintilla of the Sea* with Ian Fyfe's *Contessa 25 Popcorn* third.

The decision to stay two nights in Craobh has proved popular with an excellent atmosphere at the marina boosted by the entertainment provided by the Lord of the Isles.

The first day's racing made up for a frustrating feeder for the series from Oban when only three of the 25-fleet of starters



OUT IN FRONT: Boyd Tunnock's *Lemercac*, winner of the Loch Melfort race during West Highland Yachting Week. Photo: www.yachtimages.co.uk

finished. James Hardie's Grand Soleil 40 *Taz* from Oban won from Ken Andrew's *Argento* on corrected time by over 14 minutes. Graham Anderson, also of

Oban, finished third in *Lucky Ned Pepper*. The remainder of the fleet lost wind only a few miles into the race and with an increasingly adverse tide

struggled to make progress and by Fladda it was all over with most yachts going backwards. After eight hours of racing, the remainder of the fleet retired

to punch the tide under engine although *Scintilla* and *Cherry Pye* took the civilised option to drop the hook for a late lunch and await more favourable tidal

conditions. Monday's racing saw the fleet head to Oban with the Craobh to Oban feeder race. All results on www.whyw.co.uk

Highland games season in full swing

HIGHLAND GAMES

THE HIGHLAND games season is in full swing in Argyll with the Lorne Games in Oban and Luss already held in late June and early July.

Taynuilt is this Saturday and Inveraray on Tuesday will be followed by Mull two days later on Thursday July 24.

Southend Games in Kintyre is on the Saturday evening of July 26 and finally Oban Highland Games - the Argyllshire Gathering - takes place on Thursday August 28.

Several junior track and field events are being held to encourage more local young athletes to take part.

Junior events will be held at Inveraray, Mull and Oban and are jointly sponsored by Mull Athletic Club, Mid Argyll Athletic Club and Argyll and Bute Local Athletics Partnership.

There will be separate events for boys and girls between the age of 11 and 15 years, who were under 16 on July 22 2013, in 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 three games.

There is a full programme of senior events 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 SHGA for the day or for the season.

For more information on the junior events at Inveraray and Mull contact Bill MacCallum on 01546 602664.

Seventh place finish for John McPhee



MOTORCYCLING

THE GERMAN Grand Prix at Sachsenring saw John McPhee carve his way through the field from 27th on the starting grid to seventh across the finish line.

John did well in practice but was unlucky when the weather deteriorated and he was unable to put in properly competitive laps during qualifying.

In some previous races, starting from further down the grid has seen John's race compromised by midfield battles and skirmishes - getting caught up with other riders and preventing him from showing true pace. But this race proved very different.

John was quick off the start and by lap two was already up to twentieth place. With 23 laps of the 27 lap race left to go, John had made his way right through to twelfth place and was running nose to tail with teammate Efrén Vazquez.

Soon on the back of the main pack, chasing for sixth place, John spent the middle of the race swapping places with Isaac

Viñales and was in tenth with 15 laps remaining.

As the race headed into its final ten laps, John was able to move away from Aspar's Juanfran Guevara - and was able to take advantage of a crash between Karel Hanika and Miguel Oliveira to move even further up.

Battling with the pack continued right up to the line, and John crossed the line in seventh, deservedly happy with an excellent and spirited ride.

John McPhee said: 'There were no real nerves at the start because, starting that far back, I didn't really think I had a chance of getting into the top ten - so I was just calm and got on with it.'

'I'm really over the moon with the result. It's more points on the board and another step forward.'

Moto3 now takes its summer break, returning with the Indianapolis GP on August 10.

Oban golfer picked for the Olympics

GOLF

OBAN teenager Robert MacIntyre will become one of the first golfers to represent Great Britain in an Olympics since 1900 when he joins the Great Britain youth team.

The Glencruitten Golf Club member is one of only two golfers - alongside Wentworth's Annabel Dimmock - to be chosen for Team GB at the Youth Olympics, which will take place in Nanjing, China, from August 16 - 28.

Robert revealed he found out about his call up two weeks ago but had to remain tight-lipped until the team was formally announced last week.

The 17-year-old said: 'It's going to be something different, something special.'

'It will be another great experience for me but I'm going into it with the attitude of it being another major tournament.'

Uniform fitting

Robert admits he does not know what to expect from his Olympic adventure and is leaving home on August 10 for his team uniform fitting before flying out to China.

'Everything is still to be thrown at me,' he said.

This year's games come four years after Britain claimed nine medals at the inaugural summer

Youth Olympics in Singapore.

The 2014 team, all aged between 15 - 18, will compete in 14 of the 28 scheduled sports.

GB athletes will take inspiration from taekwondo fighter Jade Jones who won youth gold in 2010 before her senior success at the London Olympics.

The Team GB announcement came during a week when Robert helped the Scotland boys team win bronze at the European Championships by beating England in third/fourth place playoff, a result Robert described as 'awesome'.

And as *The Oban Times* went to press he was sitting in second

place in the Scottish Youth Championship strokeplay, a title he won last year.

Asked how he has coped with his hectic week, the composed youngster replied: 'I just do what I do - play golf.'

Team GB squad for Nanjing 2014:

Archery - Bryony Pitman, Bradley Denny; Boxing - Muhammad Ali, Peter McGrail, Viddal Riley; Canoeing - Paul Sunderland, Victoria Murray; Equestrian - Jake Sawwell; Golf - Annabel Dimmock, Robert MacIntyre; Gymnastics - Ellie Downie, Giarnni Regini-Moran; Trampoline - Zachary Sheridan, Zainub Akbar; Judo - Peter Miles, Lulu Piovesana; Modern Pentathlon - Henry Choong, Francesca Summers; Rowing - Chris Lawrie, Anna Thornton; Sailing - Hanna Brant; Swimming - Martyn Walton, Duncan Scott, Miles Munro, Luke Greenbank, Charlotte Atkinson, Amelia Maughan, Jessica Fullalove, Georgina Evans; Taekwondo - Abigail Stones, Christian McNeish; Triathlon - Ben Dijkstra, Sian Rainsley.



SELECTED: Robert MacIntyre - chosen for the Youth Olympics in Nanjing, China

Ladies only race at Inveraray Games

FOR THE first time in the history of Inveraray Highland Games, it is hoped to hold a ladies only race.

The distance is likely to be over 1,600 metres and handicapped with starts given according to age and ability.

Mid Argyll Athletics Club coach Bill MacCallum said: 'With many ladies in Argyll presently running and jogging to keep fit and improve their health, it is hoped some of

HIGHLAND GAMES

the more competitive runners will support this new event at Inveraray games next Tuesday, July 22, at Winterton Park.'

Inform

The organisers have asked Jog Scotland leaders in Argyll to inform their female members of this new event at Inveraray, which will be held at around 2pm.

Got a story for The Oban Times? Call our sports desks on 01631 568000 01397 703003

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WEATHER

Thursday Sunny
Winds light south south westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 18°C

Friday Sunshine and showers
Winds moderate east south easterly
Temperatures 16°C to 21°C.

Weekend Outlook Sunshine and showers on Saturday
Sunshine and showers on Sunday
Winds light south easterly
Temperatures 15°C to 20°C.

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, July 17, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm		
Thur	03.11	0.7	08.55	3.5	15.28	0.7
Fri	04.01	0.9	09.43	3.2	16.19	0.9
Sat	04.55	1.2	10.40	3.0	17.17	1.2
Sun	05.54	1.4	11.59	2.9	18.22	1.4
Mon	01.02	3.0	07.01	1.5	13.28	2.9
Tues	02.26	3.0	08.14	1.6	14.40	3.0
Wed	03.32	3.1	09.20	1.5	15.33	3.1

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

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TEACHER BETTY'S BATON HONOUR



HONOUR: Betty MacLachlan was selected to carry the Queen's Baton in Spean Bridge ahead of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow next week. Betty, who retired earlier this month from Spean Bridge primary school after a 40-year teaching career, was one of four baton bearers in the village, as the baton made its way towards Fort William on Saturday. For full baton relay coverage, see pages 6, 7 and 21. ©29baton14

Fury over height of new school

RESIDENTS of a Lochaber village are outraged at the height of a new Gaelic school being built just metres from pensioners' houses.

Work has started on the building and adjoining sports hall in Caol but those living in the houses behind the site are furious at the height of the two-story building, saying it will block all sunlight and their view of Ben Nevis.

More than 40 angry residents appeared at the site on Tuesday and told *The Oban Times* they didn't think they were properly consulted before planning was approved last year.

Cathie Lamont has lived in one of the houses behind the new school for 28 years.

She said: 'It's a monstrosity. I'm completely losing the beautiful view I have of Ben Nevis as well as all of the natural light. If I get ice in my garden in the winter it will be there all winter because I won't have the sun shining in to melt it. It could be quite dangerous.'

'I'm not against the school at all, I thought it would be lovely to have a Gaelic school here but I had no idea it was going to be this height and I didn't know the public consultation was happening last year so I couldn't go and see for myself or complain.'

Caol Community Council chairman Sandy Watson said he attended the consultation but he thought the plan looked single-story and 'nowhere near' as tall as the structure is now.

He added: 'They've raised the ground level by about eight feet because of flood risks so that's just made it even higher than it was already going to be.'

'A lot of people feel like they weren't properly informed about the plans or the consultation and now they're taking advantage of the fact that nobody complained. We feel that if the councillors had been properly representing us this would never have been approved, they must have known there's no way we would have been happy about this.'



Caol residents are furious at the height of the new Gaelic school's sports centre. 20_129caol01

Caol and Mallaig Highland councillor Bill Clark defended the decision to approve the school, but added if he had been told residents were unhappy he would have represented them.

He said: 'I truly wish I had known how they feel. If anyone had come to me and complained I would have done something about it but nobody did and this is all happening after the event.'

'No-one complained during the consultation period, I know they're saying they didn't know but there was an advert in the local papers and I have a list of 22 addresses that received neighbour notifications.'

Councillor Clark's colleague Allan Henderson said he 'strongly opposed' the site.

He added: 'I was in favour of the much larger and unrestricted Blar Mor site, close to the facilities of Lochaber High school. Already extra money has been spent raising the footprint of the school to alleviate the perceived flooding risk problem with the result that previously much heralded spectacular views and light will be denied to

the residents of Birch Road and the surrounding houses. I have been in Birch Road and can see the clear outline of Ben Nevis through the new steel frame which will eventually become a

light blocking wall.' Councillor Clark refuted the statement and said it was the height of the building which upset residents, rather than the location itself.



NEW VIEW: Cathie Lamont's view of Ben Nevis will be replaced by one side of a sports hall.



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Probe under way into neglect claim

ELDERLY residents of a care home in Lochaber have been moved out as an investigation into allegations of neglect gets under way.

The Mackintosh Centre in Mallaig has been temporarily closed and residents transferred to Invernevis House in Fort William after staff were suspended following allegations of 'institutional abuse'.

An NHS Highland spokesman said: 'All residents were moved on Thursday. Staff from the MacKintosh Centre will be going with them, apart from those who man the day care facilities which will continue at the MacKintosh Centre. This is a temporary transfer of services to Invernevis House for four to six weeks which will allow us to implement our action plan. It is clear we will need a robust staffing structure in order to move the residents in safely.'

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Centre on course with new training

FORT William's Underwater Centre is hosting a training course for remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), the first of its kind in the world.

Students have started the new five-week course, which will, according to the centre, change the way industry recruits and trains staff. The world class ROV operations course is the first to be delivered by an independent training provider. Further courses have been scheduled for the rest of the year to cope with the huge demand for ROV operators which has been forecast by the industry.

Steve Ham, general manager of the Underwater Centre, said: 'This new course aims to reduce the time needed to train personnel, therefore reducing the cost of getting staff into more senior roles.'

Plans lodged for new college digs

STUDENTS at West Highland College UHI in Fort William are to benefit from new accommodation near the campus - if planning is approved.

Architects lodged an application with Highland Council this week to build a 40-bed facility on land near Camanachd Crescent in the town.

This is part of a wider plan by University of the Highlands and Islands to provide 725 residence spaces across the region.

A spokeswoman for the West Highland College said the area could be used for extra teaching space in the future.

She added: 'These planning applications show that we are planning ahead for a future of continued growth within West Highland College UHI. It is our aim to attract even more students to Fort William and to continue to contribute to the economic and cultural growth of the area.'

THE TAVERN

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Porridge powers Arisaig's Jemima to 100th birthday

A BOWL of porridge every morning is the key to a long and healthy life, according to an Arisaig centenarian.

Jemima Gillies celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by family at an afternoon tea in the village and told relatives working hard on the family farm at Kinloids kept her fit over the years.

Mrs Gillies was presented with a basket of flowers by Highland councillor Allan Henderson and received a telegram from the Queen.

Her daughter, Ann McMillan, said: 'Mum always says a bowl of porridge is her secret to a long life. She has lots of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even great-great-grandchildren so she's been very lucky to be able to see them all.'



CELEBRATIONS: Jemima Gillies was all smiles on her 100th birthday

Police appeal

POLICE are appealing for information regarding the following incidents in Fort William:

□ Sometime between 4.45pm on July 6 and 7am on July 7 two cars parked in Argyll Road were damaged. Damage to the blue Nissan x-trail and black Audi A4 consisted of deep scratches and graffiti on the paintwork.

□ Sometime between 3 and 4am on Sunday July 6 a window in a North Road guest house was smashed with stones.

□ A watch was stolen from inside a bedroom at the Travelodge hotel sometime between 8am and 8pm on Monday July 7.

Local police can be contacted on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800555111.

Games honour for North Uist singer

GAELIC singer Julie Fowles is to perform in front of 40,000 people at Celtic Park on July 23 for the opening ceremony of Glasgow's Commonwealth Games.

And the North Uist vocalist will fly the flag for Gaelic after announcing she plans to sing a Gaelic song from her home island during the ceremony.

Announcing the news to her Facebook followers she said: 'After months of secrecy, I am delighted (and more than a little terrified) to formally announce that I'll be taking part in the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games official opening ceremony.'

In announcing her plan to sing a Gaelic song, Julie wrote: 'Agus - anns a' chuir-fhosglaidh tha mi a' dol a sheinn òran à Uibhist a Tuath. Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig!'

Rod Stewart will headline the concert, with other acts confirmed as Susan Boyle, Amy MacDonal and Nicola Benedetti.

Work starts on A830 bridges

IMPROVEMENTS have begun on one of Lochaber's most scenic routes as part of a £10m scheme.

Nine bridges on the A830 Fort William to Mallaig road will be replaced over the next few years with work by BEAR Scotland already underway.

Dearg Bridge, four miles west of Glenfinnan on the 'road to the isles', is the first to be affected when it is replaced with a new wider structure.

Traffic lights and a diversion using a temporary bridge will be in place to reduce disruption but concerns have been raised about delays on the popular tourist route in the peak of summer. Caol and Mallaig Highland councillor Bill Clark said: 'Delays are a big concern, particularly in terms of local people who use the road every day and it's going to be busier because it's summer but what can you do? It's a lot easier to do the work in the summer and it needs to be done.'

A BEAR Scotland spokeswoman said no major delays were expected. She added: 'The temporary traffic lights will cause some delay so some extra time should be allowed for journeys.'

Lifeboat rescues unwell lone sailor

A LONE sailor had to be rescued when he became unwell onboard his yacht.

The volunteer crew of Kyle of Lochalsh Lifeboat had to administer oxygen to the man on his boat, moored outside Plockton harbour, just after 2.30 on Friday morning. The casualty was then transferred to an ambulance waiting on the main pier and the rescue crew returned to Kyle.

Just three days later the volunteers were out on a routine training exercise when their skills were put to the test during another rescue.

The team was flagged down by a group of five on board a 35-foot yacht as its anchor was caught on a mooring. After assessing the situation the lifeboat crew towed the boat clear of the mooring, untied the anchor and completed the rescue in an hour.

SPATE OF SIX ACCIDENTS ON BEN NEVIS PROMPTS LOCHABER GROUP TO ISSUE SAFETY MESSAGE

Rescue team's 'stay safe' appeal

A SPATE of accidents over the weekend has urged a mountain rescue leader to ask climbers to stay safe.

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team was called out six times between Saturday and Sunday to help walkers on Ben Nevis and on Friday night the Glencoe team was called to the rescue of a man who had a heart attack on Creise.

John Stevenson, Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team leader, said: 'Luckily the worst injury we had was a broken

shoulder and the rest of the rescues were caused by twisted ankles and exhaustion. It's easily done on the Ben.

'We were already out on Saturday when we got a call about two boys who were stuck on Tower Ridge [on Ben Nevis].

'We had a couple of RAF guys with us who were a great help so they went to check it out.

'The pair weren't in any immediate danger and the weather was quite bad

so we decided to leave them until daylight, it's much safer that way. We had to lower guys down to the climbers and get them down that way so it would have been much harder in the dark and miserable weather.

'There's not really a lot I can say except try to stay safe. The Ben is hard work for a lot of people but remember even if you don't feel too bad on the way up you've still got to get back down.'

John Grieve, Glencoe Mountain

Rescue Team leader, added: 'If you or someone in your party falls ill when you're up on a hill ask for police and mountain rescue when you call emergency services, not an ambulance. On Saturday the group of four asked for an ambulance but the staff couldn't get to them. It can save a lot of time if you ask for us straight away.'

'The RAF team were out in Fort William so thankfully they managed to get their helicopter to the man and take him straight to Belford hospital.'



HELP AT HAND: Lochaber Mountain Rescue team going to the aid of climbers on Ben Nevis at the weekend

Elderly care on Skye 'second to none'

CARE of the elderly on Skye is second to none according to a recent report and investigation into one home.

An Acarsaid in Broadford received top marks in all categories reviewed by the Care Inspectorate and staff at the NHS Highland facility are said to be 'delighted'.

The home's manager Catherine Smith added that the findings reflect the 'dedication and commitment' of the carers. The NHS Highland

centre, which provides residential care for up to 10 people, impressed inspectors in terms of the quality of care and support it offers, as well as the quality of its environment, staffing, management and leadership, according to the report produced after an unannounced visit earlier this year.

Kate Earnshaw, NHS district manager for Skye and Lochalsh, said: 'These are fantastic results for a great care home and it's the best possible report on the home. When it was last inspected in August

2012 the home achieved straight fives in four categories and a four in another. To have bettered that this time is a real credit to the management and staff and reflects our commitment to drive up quality and deliver high-quality care.'

An Acarsaid staff and residents will be celebrating the success at an open day next Thursday (July 24) from 2-4pm with Highland Hospice and Parkinson's information stands and live music.

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Community group in bid to buy forest land

FOREST land popular with families and walkers in Lochalsh could soon be owned by a community company.

Morvern Community Woodlands has applied to the National Forest Land Scheme to buy eight hectares of land at Achana on the Morvern peninsula.

The group has managed the land in conjunction with Forestry Commission Scotland for 10 years but the purchase would allow members to apply for grants to develop the site.

Veronique Walraven, one of Morvern Community Woodlands' directors, said: 'The woodland is well used in the community and if we own it we can look into improving it. We don't want

to change things too much because we don't want to make it too commercial but we would like to put in a small play park and maintain the woodland as much as we can. We have a lot of ideas and owning the land will mean we can follow them through.'

The community company has lodged an application for money through the Scottish Land Fund, which could provide up to 95 per cent of the £40,000 needed to buy the forest.

Before the sale is granted, a consultation is required and public comments are welcome until July 29. Details are available at www.forestry.gov.uk/nfls



End of term fun and games

ACTIVITY DAY: it was fun and games at Upper Achintore Primary School at the end of term as teachers planned a full day of activities. Instead of a school trip, the pupils enjoyed face painting, a climbing frame, zorb balls and a bouncy castle, all at school. Pictured are children of the P1-2 class enjoying 'messy' play. 20_129upper01

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'Rockshield' enters battle

New lobby group to save under-threat school

CAMPAIGN group, 'Rockshield' says it is confident it can save former Oban primary school Rockfield from demolition, writes Euan Paterson.

The group has collected more than 700 signatures for its petition and says it has received "overwhelming" support for plans to build a cultural hub in the derelict school building.

Meanwhile Argyll and Bute council is pushing ahead with plans to sell the building and has set a closing date of August 8.

Two groups have been formed since it was revealed in *The Oban Times* that the property was to be sold for £1.

Rockshield wants to save the building from demolition, while Oban Communities Trust aims to promote the building as a major community resource.

Rockshield has contacted Audit Scotland and Historic Scotland about the proposed sale of the building.

However, Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) still wants to knock down the school

to build 37 one-bed roomed flats. Alastair MacGregor, ACHA chief executive, said: 'ACHA's proposals would deliver new homes for the next hundred years and desperately needed affordable housing for future generations.'

'The time for paralysis by analysis is over, we need to move forward on the basis of what is achievable. Our proposals offer that.' Mr MacGregor also thanked Oban community council for its support for ACHA's affordable housing plan.

Gordon MacNab, one of the leading figures in both Rockfield campaigns, said: 'We are setting up Oban Communities Trust in order to save this building.'

'People are crying out for space. There is nowhere in town that displays Oban's cultural history - for instance, where is the Argyll collection? Or where can locals sit and enjoy the day. We have lost the railway station, Ganavan, Argyll Hotel and so on.'

Fiona Campbell-Smith, chairwoman of the newly formed Rockshield

group, said she was overwhelmed with the level of public support.

She said: 'It is ridiculous to suggest the council put a closing date of August 8 on this building. They need to think again. This is a beautiful old building that does not need to be pulled down. We don't care what goes into it - as long as it is saved.'

'There are precious few buildings left - let's not lose another one.'

'I am extremely confident that if we work together we can save this building.'

An Argyll and Bute spokeswoman said: 'We have contacted everyone who previously expressed interest in the property. There has been more interest in the property.'

'All offers received will be evaluated by officers who will prepare a report with recommendations for members to consider.'

'We anticipate that a report will go to the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee when it meets again in August.'

BEN CARRIES THE HOPES OF A NATION



HELPING HANDS: There was a fitting handover of the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton at Oban's McCaig's Tower, as Kyle Dods, a Commonwealth Games competitor from Delhi in 2010, passed the relay baton to aspiring athlete Ben Coates. The 15-year-old athlete has won Scottish junior titles in sprint hurdles and has ambitions to compete at a future Commonwealth Games. The baton came to Argyll on Sunday and was taken on a 175-mile route from Appin to Dunoon. For more, see pages 6, 7 and 21.

Billy home soon - girlfriend

CONNEL seaman Billy Irving, detained in an Indian cell for five months, could soon be back home after charges against him and his fellow crew were quashed, according to his girlfriend, writes Euan Paterson.

The 33-year-old sailor spent months locked up in squalid conditions after being detained along with crew from the merchant ship MV Seaman Guard Ohio, owned by US security firm Adanfort.

It had been alleged the craft had illegally procured diesel and was carrying arms and ammunition without the required documentation.

But the charges have always been strongly denied and some of the crew, including Billy, were granted bail in March.



HOMEWARD BOUND: Billy Irving

On Thursday morning, Billy's girlfriend Yvonne MacHugh told *The Oban Times* her partner had been freed.

She said: 'This morning all the charges were quashed and all going well Billy should be home very soon. I am the happiest girl in the world right now. It is such a relief.'

Billy's father Jim, a former policeman in Appin, and Yvonne have visited Billy in Puzhal jail in Chennai.

They were joined by Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid at Downing Street earlier this year to hand in a petition with more than 147,000 signatures calling for the release of the six former British soldiers on the crew.

Billy's family had hoped to have

him freed on Boxing Day last year but bail was opposed at the time by police in India.

A spokesman for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said it was aware of reports stating the men had been freed but was seeking clarification as *The Oban Times* went to press.

He added: 'We are aware of reports of a court decision to quash the charges against the six British nationals. We are urgently seeking official clarification. We continue to offer consular support to the individuals concerned and their families.'

'We are grateful to the governments of India and of Tamil Nadu and the local state authorities for the support they have given our colleagues.'

Full steam ahead for Costa coffee

COSTA Coffee will be up and running in Oban by the end of August. Moving into the former Whisky Shop in Station Square, the national coffee chain will have both an inside and outside seating area with a capacity for more than 50 customers.

Oban community council initially refused to back plans for the shop, which led to a lively Facebook campaign by townsfolk to bring the popular chain to Oban.

Despite more than 20 objections to the premises - Argyll and Bute council approved the plans.

In a statement from Costa Coffee, a spokesman confirmed: 'Our new store in Oban will be opening at the

end of August and will create eight new jobs for local people.

'Whenever we open in a new location we do all we can to integrate ourselves with the community, getting involved with events; and providing the store as a meeting space and helping with fundraising.'

'With this in mind, we are also pleased to announce that we are looking to partner with various community groups and charities in the town.'

It is understood Costa have already contacted a number of groups to offer their premises for a meeting space and to look at supporting organisations financially.

Golfer set to make Olympic history

A TEENAGE golfer from Oban is to become one of the first golfers to represent Great Britain at an Olympic Games for more than 100 years.

Gleneruitten Golf Club member Robert MacIntyre will next month join up with Team GB for the Youth Olympics in Nanjing, China from August 16 - 28.

The 17-year-old player is one of only two golfers in the under-18 squad, alongside Wentworth's Anabel Dimmock.

For more see the sports pages.



CAMPAIGNER: David Gallant took on First ScotRail on a matter of principle and now intends to campaign against other disability discrimination matters. 15_129gallant1

Fares fair as ScotRail pays compensation

AN OBAN man has been paid a substantial sum in compensation by First ScotRail after he claimed he was overcharged by more than £13 on his £18.90 fare as a disabled passenger.

After five hearings in Oban Sheriff Court, ScotRail paid a settlement to David Gallant and considered the issue resolved.

ScotRail said it was keen to work with the disabilities campaigner to look at other ways to improve its service.

Last year, David had to buy a journey ticket between Oban and Glasgow at a higher cost than individual tickets between stations. This was in contravention of the National Rail Conditions

Speed cut plans in spotlight

PROPOSALS to reduce the speed limit in Oban streets to 20mph were up for public discussion last week.

Residents and businesses were given the opportunity to participate in the public consultation on the proposals for the A85 George Street, A816 Soroba Road, and adjacent side roads within the town centre.

Representatives from Transport Scotland, Argyll and Bute Council, and BEAR Scotland asked questions on at the consultation, held at the Caledonian Hotel.

Bill Weston, Traffic Development Manager for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The reaction has been mixed, there has been some support and some against it.'

'One person used the term "using a sledgehammer to crack a nut", but generally it's been pretty good.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish has previously said that getting up to 20mph in Oban would be an achievement in itself, particularly in the summer months.

There was similar bemusement from users of Facebook when the consultation was first announced.

Margaret McLellan said: 'Who dreams up the like of this? It's almost impossible to do 20mph in Oban in the first place.'

'Are the folks who come up



From left: Callum Stalker, Transport Scotland; Jamie Carson, Transport Scotland; Bill Weston, Argyll and Bute Council and John Smith, BEAR Scotland, with a map showing the streets proposed for the reduced limit. 17_129speed01

with this actually living in a virtual world?'

John Kerr said: 'I agree, Oban's roads are a shambles, I usually race a woman and her

pram when driving down the town and the pram always wins. Fix the pot holes first.'

However, John Smith, who is Bear Scotland's Road Safety

Manager for the north west unit said felt that the consultation had been worthwhile, saying: 'People who came in were curious, and once we explained the rationale

behind this, we've had some very positive comments. If it reduces the number of accidents, or even prevents one injury, then it's been worthwhile.'

Honour for marine science president

THE PRESIDENT of the Dunstaffnage-based Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) has been given a Royal Honour for his work on glaciology.

Professor Geoffrey Boulton, described as one of the most influential glacial scientists of his generation, has been awarded the Royal Geographical Society's gold medal.

Approved by HM the Queen, the society's Royal medals are among the highest awards of their kind in the world and are presented annually in recognition of excellence and outstanding achievements in geographical research and fieldwork, teaching and public engagement.

Previous recipients of the award include David Livingstone and Sir David Attenborough.

SAMS director Professor Laurence Mee said: 'We are delighted that Geoffrey has been honoured with the



AWARD: Professor Boulton received his medal at the Royal Geographical Society's annual general meeting in London

John Murray, was honoured with the medal in 1895 and it is wonderful to see that medal awarded to our president on the centenary of Murray's death.'

Professor Boulton, who is also Regius Professor of Geology Emeritus and former vice-principal of the University of Edinburgh, has led research that has been integral to the improved understanding of glacial sediments, the development of ice sheets and quantitative theories of erosion and deposition. He has published more than 150 research papers.

RGS President Professor Dame Judith Rees said: 'Within the field of glacial science, Professor Boulton is one of the most influential practitioners of his generation.'

'Current generations follow and test concepts set out by him. Even in retirement he is still pushing frontiers.'

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MULL SPEAKS OUT ABOUT THE IMPACT OF NEW FERRY CHARGES

Cost of living crisis looms for islands



Duncan Swinbanks, who owns Tobermory Tackle and Books, said: 'CalMac blames the government, the government blames CalMac, and nobody gets anything done.'



Ronnie Campbell, a community councillor who has lived on Mull for over 70 years, said: 'This is a very big issue. It's putting hundreds of pounds on to some deliveries - it's absolutely crazy. One of the guys had to take a half bag of potatoes off his van because it was over weight - was that really going to make a difference?'



Neil Morrison runs Macgochans pub in Tobermory and grew up on the island: 'If prices go up, there will be a knock-on effect to customers. We are already paying a premium anyway for all products. Any increases won't help matters.'



Fiona MacInnes lives on Mull where her husband is a builder and joiner. She said: 'I think this will have an effect, but I know it's something the suppliers have to do. This certainly is a bone of contention but you can't blame the suppliers.'



Mull resident Ron Blacoe said: 'The weighing of vehicles happened almost overnight. I wouldn't say there's been a lot of complaints but it is definitely a big talking point on the island.'

THE prospect of a cost of living crisis is weighing heavily on island communities following ferry operator CalMac's decision to charge overweight vans, writes Steven Rae.

The charges, which had not been enforced for two years, were applied two weeks ago to vehicles classed as 'light goods vans'.

Vans weighing under 3.5 tonnes pay a greatly reduced rate, whereas heavy trucks and lorries are charged a commercial levy, which is significantly more expensive.

The weight restriction has been law since 2012, but has only been imposed by the ferry company since July 1 this year following concerns about safety and pressure from HGV operators. CalMac is now weighing all

commercial vehicles before they are allowed to board, which some passengers claim is causing delays and late arrivals.

Many islanders believe the small vans provide a valuable service and help keep costs under control. They fear the new fares will price the vans out of business and spark a hike in household shopping bills.

Islanders are hoping that Transport Scotland, the body responsible for reviewing ferry fares, will take a sympathetic view by subsidising ferry costs.

A spokeswoman for Transport Scotland said: 'Operational issues are a matter for Caledonian MacBrayne. Ferry safety is the top priority for both Transport Scotland and Caledonian

MacBrayne, and we support any measures that make services safer for passengers and crews.'

'On the grounds of vessel safety, the operator has begun to more robustly enforce the arrangements that have been in place since 2012.'

Mike Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, backed the islanders' call for additional financial help to offset any rise in prices caused by the newly enforced levy: 'I have already raised this issue as a matter of urgency with the transport minister and CalMac and I will continue to push for a speedy resolution.'

'Whilst there are safety issues involved in any overweight loading, it is vital that the company considers any knock-on costs that may result

and ensure that islanders are not penalised.'

'CalMac has no right to increase fares by stealth and must not do so. The company and the Scottish government have a duty to protect and support island communities and that must be a paramount consideration at all times.'

Westminster MP Alan Reid joined his Holyrood counterpart in calling for action from the Scottish government and CalMac over the new ferry charges.

He said: 'Islanders are in despair at the increase in the cost of living caused by CalMac's decision. This is a completely unacceptable situation.'

'Islanders simply cannot pay the higher prices.'



Steve Mitchell and Bobby Watson were on their first holiday to Tobermory, but were well aware of the issue. Bobby said: 'We've met lots of small vans delivering on the islands. Firms will need to pass on the cost regardless and people will be the ones who are stung.'



Bob Boswick, who runs the Spar shop in Salen with wife Linda, said: 'If the government looks at it, it will need to look at some sort of subsidy. Because of the weight of some deliveries, vans are having to make four runs rather than three runs.'



Nikki Clark and daughter Rebekah were travelling to Oban from Mull on Friday to meet a connecting train to Glasgow, but missed it due to a delay on the ferry leaving Mull. Nikki said: 'We run the Information Centre in Tobermory, and we sell bus and ferry timetables. People are coming in and they're missing ferries more often recently. We also own a B&B and a lot of people have had to stay overnight because the ferries are delayed.'

A tide of anger on Lismore as operator looks for a solution

ISLANDERS on Lismore say they have run out of patience with CalMac over their ferry service from Oban after years of disrupted service.

The MV Isle of Eigg, which has been the mainstay of the Oban - Lismore run, is now the oldest in the ferry fleet.

The Eigg and the MV Isle of Raasay, which is also used on the run, have been labelled as outdated by islanders, who have complained about strict weight limits and lack of disabled access.

However, the ferry company says it is doing all it can to help islanders while it seeks a permanent solution.

The larger loch class ferry, the MV Loch Striven, has also been used on the run but it can only be used at certain tides because of the slipway design in Oban.

Now frustrated islanders are demanding that CalMac and Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL), which owns the ferry fleet, find a solution.

Lismore resident Beth Campbell said: 'There are three boats allocated to the island but none of them can provide a comprehensive service. The Eigg and the Raasay were both brought into commission over 40 years ago and at that time they were going to be in place for 15 - 20 years.'

'CalMac conceded over 10 years ago that the Eigg was outdated and would be replaced. The Loch Striven was brought onto the route this year but cannot ply at low tides.'

The Eigg has weight restrictions, no drive-on access, no disabled access for passengers, no view out of the windows and no facilities other than one toilet, which was OK for the 1970s but not much fun in 2014.

'Runs are being cancelled, bookings cancelled, lorries refused and costs are soaring as the loads are having to be split up for two sailings.'

A CalMac spokesman said: 'We have given a commitment to the Lismore community to introduce a loch class vessel on the Oban to Lismore service whenever practicable.'

'We have encountered unexpected challenges with the port infrastructure in Oban which has led to tidal restrictions being placed on the use of a loch class vessel on this service, so are having to operate a two-ship service.'

'We recognise this is far from ideal and share everyone's frustration that the deployment of the larger vessel is not as simple as originally envisaged, but the community can be assured we are working hard behind the scenes to do everything we can.'

'In the meantime, we are working with islanders to address their individual needs as we have always done and are grateful for their patience.'

Flying off the handle over flag

COMMONWEALTH BANNER TAKES PRIDE OF PLACE

NATIONALISTS are feeling a bit blue about the council's decision not to fly the Saltire flag, writes Louise Lee.

But it will be all white on the night of the referendum as nothing will be flown in its place, says Argyll and Bute council.

Councillor James Robb, a former leader of Argyll and Bute council, says the Saltire should be flown on council flag poles if it is not a special day such as the Queen's Birthday, in keep with a council decision made in 2008.

Mr Robb claims that 'pressure from the Better Together campaign and the political administration of the council have decided that the Scottish flag will not be flown in the

run up to the independence referendum'.

Calling the council a 'laughing stock', he said: 'The Scottish flag is not owned exclusively by the 'Yes' or the 'No' campaigns and both take equal pride in it. It has flown at council buildings for six years without complaint and indeed with general approval.'

However, an Argyll and Bute spokeswoman said it wasn't the referendum dictating the lack of a Saltire - but an ages old council policy.

She explained: 'It is not the case that the council has taken a decision to stop flying the Saltire. Our flags policy, which has been in place for a number of years, specifies a

number of designated civic flag poles and particular days in each year when either the Saltire or the Union flag will be flown on them.'

'At the moment, the Commonwealth flag is flying on our civic flag poles.'

'This will remain in place until the conclusion of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.'

'The next date identified, in the policy, for flags to be flown on civic flag poles is November and until then there will be no flags in place on these poles.'

However, the policy decision taken by the council in August 2008 states: 'This council instructs the Director of Corporate Services

to arrange for the St Andrew's flag (Scottish Saltire) to be flown on all other days of the year outwith those specified occasions allocated for the flying of Council or Union flags as identified in the existing policy.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish thought the whole issue was in danger of flying in the face of common sense.

He said: 'I have much more pressing matters to deal with than what flag files, and from where.'

'I really don't have the time for this - it is well down my list of priorities for the people of Argyll and Bute.'

'I am sure the majority of people in Argyll and Bute feel exactly the same.'

Islands lose overnight GP service

SHOCKWAVES have been felt throughout the islands of Mull and Iona after GPs announced they will no longer provide out-of-hours emergency medical cover on the island.

This places a resident population of more than 3,000 people without access to emergency medical care from 6pm until 8am.

Doctors in Tobermory will no longer provide the service after October.

Councillor Alastair MacDougall was shocked when heard from The Oban Times about the withdrawal of the service.

He said he had not received prior notice of the GPs' decision.

Councillor MacDougall is the

chairman of the community planning partnership, which work with NHS Highland.

Councillor MacDougall said: 'It is frightening and a sad day for the islands of Mull and Iona that our doctors have pulled out of providing the service.'

'We have a doctor leaving the Ross of Mull in September and the NHS don't seem to be bothering one bit.'

'Unless you are fit to see a doctor during the day, then this is a very bad situation that cannot be accepted.'

NHS Highland has said it is in negotiation with the Ambulance Service and NHS24 to continue to provide a service to the communi-

ties. But it didn't say this would mean the restoration of a GP out-of-hours service for the island.

A spokesman for NHS Highland said: 'We have a statutory obligation to provide alternative out-of-hours arrangements for patients served by this practice and is therefore working closely with partner organisations such as the Scottish Ambulance Service and NHS 24 to ensure that appropriate alternative provision is put in place.'

'NHS Highland believes that it is important to consult with the communities affected by this decision and to involve them in the discussion and arrangements for an alternative service.'

Veronica Kennedy, acting locality manager for Oban, Lorn and the Isles, said: 'The aim of NHS Highland is to ensure that local communities continue to receive a safe, sustainable, high quality, local service and to work closely with communities to meet the needs of the local population.'

'We will be arranging public drop-in sessions in August for those areas served by this practice so that we can make the local community aware of the situation and how we are planning to put alternative arrangements in place.'

'We are currently finalising the details for these sessions and they will be widely advertised nearer the time.'

Filling the gap in Oban's dental access centre

THE search for a lease-holder for the dental access centre in Oban is almost over, ending months of aching disappointment for NHS Highland.

While a formal agreement has yet to be signed, the Scottish government has agreed that a one-

year fixed term lease for an extra dentist can also be made.

A spokesman for NHS Highland said: 'Following our decision in May to advertise the lease for the Oban dental access centre, we held interviews this week and have selected a potential lease-

holder and we will be starting discussions with them in the near future.'

'This is good news for the provision of dental services in Oban and will resolve the recent issues that have been facing the provision of dental services in the town.'

'We have received the Scottish government's approval to appoint a dentist for a fixed-term contract of one year.'

'This additional post, which will be based in the dental access centre, will help us protect the service.'

Scottish Field AUGUST ISSUE OUT NOW

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Miniature train venture back on track for Argyll

A PLAN for a miniature railway may be back on track after four people have come forward to offer land for the mile-long track and engines.

Simon Clarke, who worked in the Middle East oil industry for years, revealed to The Oban Times last week that he had not had a single offer of a suitable site for his business opportunity - in spite of the fact he was not looking for any financial investment from local backers.

He said he was being forced to look outside Argyll to continue his business venture.

Since then, four people have now come forward from Oban, Taynuilt and Loch Awe.

Simon will be visiting the locations to assess their feasibility for his miniature railway plans. The entrepreneur has also visited a potential site in Campbelltown.

To contact Simon for more information, phone 07789 616 288 or email simon.clarke@lineone.net.

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Pupils team up with Ballachulish



Shinty fans at St Bride's Primary School were thrilled to spend a day with members of the Ballachulish shinty club. The Onich pupils questioned coach Iain Brown and player David Campbell and thanked them for the recent donation of shinty sticks and balls. Keeping with the sports theme, Lewis Moran, P6, was presented with the Annie Cairns Memorial Cup for his continuing progress in shinty.

100-mile cycle round Ardnamurchan

CYCLING

ATHLETES from Lochaber and beyond are gearing up for a 100-mile cycle round Ardnamurchan in September. The charity event, Lochaber 100, is now in its third year and set for September 6. Starting from Kilmallie Hall, Corpach the scenic route includes Lochailort, Salen, Strontian, Corran, Lochelside and finishes back at the community hall, with shorter finish alternatives available at Strontian and Corran. Money raised will be split between poverty relief charity Tear Fund and the Fort William Baptist Church building extension. Register for the cycle at <http://www.entrycentral.com/lochaber100>.

Returns from Fort William Golf Club

GOLF

FORT William Golf Club results. The MacIver cup played on July 12 and 13: 1 Steven Jamieson 134 (68+66); 2 Jimmy Ross 139 bh (67+72); 3 Rusty Duncan 139 (64+75). The E Howie trophy round three played on July 8: 1 Iona Cameron 74 (91-17); 2 Hazel Cameron 75 (92-17); 3 Kim Topping 81 (97-16). The May Medal (previously cancelled) played on July 13: 1 Rosemary MacIntyre 67 (79-12); 2 Kay Jerram 73 (97-24); 3 Iona Cameron 77 (94-17).

Tigh at the top in welfare league

WELFARE FOOTBALL

MARINE Harvest welfare league results - Ballachulish 4, Lundavra 0; Inverloch 5, Nevis Range, 4.

Marine Harvest Welfare League standings

Team	Pts
1 Caol United	16
2 Caol Cosmos	16
3 Lundavra	16
4 Mallaig	15
5 Ballachulish	13
6 Lochaber	10
7 Inverloch	4
8 Nevis Range	0

Sligachan Scramble on Skye

GOLF

RESULT of the Sligachan Scramble played on Saturday July 12: 1 Stuart McLaren, Chris Hanley Kenny MacLeod and Mike Williams 51.0; 2 Danny Steele, Euan Forrest, John Urquhart and Ally Grant 53.1; 3 John Allan MacLeod, Ian Marr, Alec Munro and Martin Bird 54.9.

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Action from Fort William's clash with the Lochaber Welfare league select side. 20.129football01

Fort William continue pre-season build up

FORT WILLIAM FC continued their pre-season build up last week, with a match against Inverness Caledonian Thistle on Saturday.

The match ended 6-2 to the Premier Division team, with Iain MacLellan and Michael Ellis scoring for Fort William.

There was a better result for Fort William the Wednesday before, however, when they managed a 5-3 win against a select side from the Lochaber Welfare league.

Fort manager Calum MacLean said: 'We won 5-3 against the amateur select, and I was pleased with the performance.'

'It was a very competitive game, and got a bit feisty near the end, but, to be honest, that was

FOOTBALL

what we were needing.' MacLean's men will meet Inverness Clachnacuddin this Friday, then play Ross County reserves on Monday night, in what has been a busy pre-season schedule, which MacLean has used to look at many possible new signings.

'By the time Monday's game is played, we'll have had 20 trialists, so it'll be a case of deciding who's going to be with us going forward,' said MacLean.

'We're aiming to get off the bottom of the league and have a decent season,' he added.

Women's Scotland squad announced

FOLLOWING a series of three open training sessions which took place over May, June and July; Scotland Women's Shinty Coach Stuart Reid has announced his 2014 squad. The training sessions took place at venues across the country and were open to each and every player to come along and participate to put themselves in the running for 2014 selection. The final open session took place last Sunday 6th July at Strathallan School, incorporated into a very successful development camp weekend.

The 2014 coaching team remains the same as that which guided the 2013 squad to victory over Dublin in Inverness. The team will be headed up by Stuart Reid of Glenurquhart Shinty Club and he will be joined by Yvonne Connaughton, Scott Campbell Eoghan Stewart. Members of the coaching team also attended several league matches across the country in the lead-up to the squad selection in order to view players in a match environment and giving all players the chance to demonstrate their skills, fitness and team work qualities.

The 2014 Women's Squad will travel to Newry in Northern Ireland along with the Men's Senior and U/21 Squads on the weekend of 25th/26th October to face Irish Camogie opposition and look to continue their 2013 success. 2014 Women's Scotland Squad: Elizabeth McGregor, Badenoch & Strathspey; Rachel McCafferty, GMA; Laura McCafferty, GMA; Kirsty Delaney, Lochaber; Jeanette McGregor, Badenoch & Strathspey; Vicki Henderson, Aberdeen; Kathleen Cameron, Lochaber; Caitlin

WOMEN'S SHINTY

Maclean, Skye; Kirsty Deans, Badenoch & Strathspey; Kirsten Munro, GMA; Niamh Donnelly, Aberdeen; Alannah Savage, GMA; Katy Smith, Aberdeen; Katie Drain, GMA; Lorna MacRae, Skye; Laura Gallacher, Lovat; Lisa Norman, GMA; Rhona McIntyre, Badenoch & Strathspey; Katie Booth, Aberdeen; Kirsty MacDonald, Lochaber. Reserves: Taryn Neilson, Aberdeen; Hazel Hunter, Strathglass; Kirsty Gray, GMA.

Oban golfer picked for Youth Olympics in China

OBAN teenager Robert MacIntyre will become one of the first golfers to represent Great Britain in an Olympics since 1900 when he joins up with the Great Britain youth team.

The Glencruitten Golf Club member is one of only two golfers - alongside Wentworth's Annabel Dimmock - to be chosen for Team GB at the Youth Olympics, which will take place in Nanjing, China from August 16 - 28.

Robert revealed he found out about his call up two weeks ago

but had to remain tight-lipped until the team was formally announced last week.

The 17 year old said: 'It's going to be something different, something special.'

'It will be another great experience for me but I'm going into it with the attitude of it being another major tournament.'

Robert admits he does not know what to expect from his Olympic adventure and is leaving home on August 10 for his team uniform fitting before flying out to China.

'Everything is still to be thrown at me,' he said.

This year's games come four years after Britain claimed nine medals at the inaugural summer Youth Olympics in Singapore.

The 2014 team, all aged between 15 - 18, will compete in 14 of the 28 scheduled sports.

Inspiration

GB athletes will take inspiration from taekwondo fighter Jade Jones who won youth gold in 2010 before her senior success at the London Olympics. The Team GB announcement

came during a week when Robert helped the Scotland boys team win bronze at the European Championships by beating England in third/fourth place playoff, a result Robert described as 'awesome'.

And as The Oban Times went to press he was sitting in second place in the Scottish Youth Championship strokeplay, a title he won last year.

Asked how he has coped with his hectic week, the composed youngster replied: 'I just do what I do - play golf.'



FORT William Railway Bowling Club held the Alisdair Young balloted pairs competition. Winners Allan MacDonald (left) and Tam Rogers and runners up Lynne Donald and Eddie Downs received prizes from Alisdair Young.

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WEATHER

Thursday Sunny
Winds light south south westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 18°C

Friday Sunshine and showers
Winds moderate east south easterly
Temperatures 16°C to 21°C.

Weekend Outlook Sunshine and showers on Saturday
Sunshine and showers on Sunday
Winds light south easterly
Temperatures 15°C to 20°C.

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, July 17, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	03.11	0.7	08.55	3.5	15.28	0.7	21.27	3.6
Fri	04.01	0.9	09.43	3.2	16.19	0.9	22.20	3.4
Sat	04.55	1.2	10.40	3.0	17.17	1.2	23.29	3.1
Sun	05.54	1.4	11.59	2.9	18.22	1.4	** **	**
Mon	01.02	3.0	07.01	1.5	13.28	2.9	19.41	1.6
Tues	02.26	3.0	08.14	1.6	14.40	3.0	21.09	1.6
Wed	03.32	3.1	09.20	1.5	15.33	3.1	22.13	1.5

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate