

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8311

Thursday 14 July, 2016

www.obantimes.co.uk

85 pence



Island musicians inducted into Traditional Music Hall of Fame



SPOT THE SHINTY BALL THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £3100

Prayers for Leia and Seth as Argyll mourns loss of toddlers

LOUISE GLEN
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TRIBUTES to brother and sister toddlers who died after the car they were travelling in left the road and entered the water at Loch nan Druimnean, near Kilmelford, have been sent from across the globe.

Offers of financial support to the parents of Seth and Leia McCorrisken – aged two and three – have topped more than £13,000 as people have been donating to ensure the children receive a 'beautiful send off'.

Messages of support for the children's parents, Hazel Lancaster and Neil McCorrisken, who live and run their own business on the Isle of Luing, have come from as far afield as Australia, Asia, Europe and across the UK.

Three days after the accident, friend Sarah Stopford set up a crowdfunding page online with the message: 'I set up this page as a gesture to Neil and Hazel to show that we are all thinking of them.'

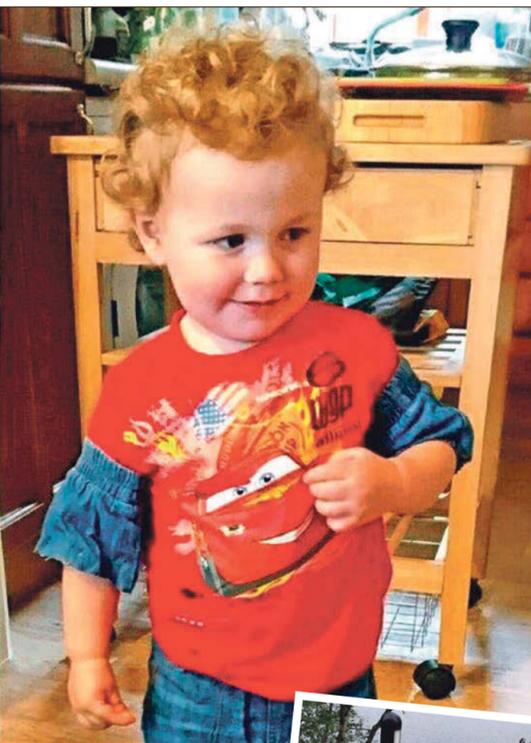
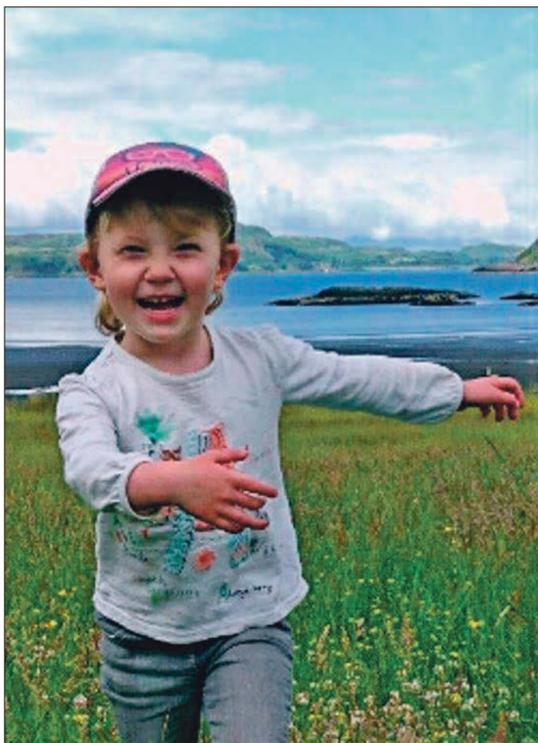
'Donating money is the least that we can do in an effort to help them at this terrible time.'

In only a few hours the page had doubled its target of £500, with children giving their pocket money and adults sending condolences to the parents and family from across the globe.

Messages have also been sent via *The Oban Times* Facebook page.

Brenda and Mick said: 'Our thoughts are with you and your family at this very sad time. We live in Cumbria now but know Kilmelford and that awful road from our time living in Oban.'

'God bless you and your beautiful children.'



Toddlers Leia and Seth died after the car they were travelling in left the road and entered the water at Loch nan Druimnean, near Kilmelford, on the A816. Tributes to the two youngsters have been left by the roadside. Photograph (right): Kevin McGlynn

From Australia, an anonymous woman said: 'Can't imagine the sadness.'

Crowdfunding donor Angela Murray said: 'My heart is broken for your loss. I am praying you will get through this and be stronger than before. Much love from our family to yours xx'

Kilmelford and Kilninver Community Council sent flow-

ers and sympathy to the family.

Cards, teddy bears and flowers have been laid by the roadside where the incident happened last Wednesday evening.

Islanders have rallied around the family offering help and support. They held a prayer service for the children and their family on Sunday.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon,

Argyll and Bute's children's champion, said: 'Along with everyone else in Argyll, our thoughts and prayers go out to these two parents on the death of their beautiful baby children.'

'No words will ever be able to express how much sadness we feel for them.'

'In the coming days, months and weeks I know the communi-



ty will gather around the family and help to support them as they try to come to terms with their most dreadful loss.

'If there is anything I can do, I hope they will be in touch with me.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell added his sympathy to the family, saying: 'I think everybody is just completely stunned. It is a horrific thing to have happened. Nothing worse could be imagined for a family.'

'I think there's a general sense of shock, both in the local community and more widely in Argyll.'

'It is a bad piece of road, it's a difficult piece of road, and the weather was very bad.'

'I do think that people are looking at this and saying it's a terrible, terrible thing to happen and looking at the conditions and wondering whether they were contributing. But we don't know any more and I think we should obviously wait to hear what the police have to say.'

The Reverend Kenneth Ross, of Luing Parish Church, said: 'The tragic accident at Loch nan Druimnean that resulted in Leia and Seth losing their lives has greatly affected many people, not only in our immediate area but far beyond.'

'Our hearts go out to their parents, wider family and friends. Leia and Seth were remembered in prayers at all the Netherlorn churches on Sunday July 10.'

A spokeswoman for Police Scotland said: 'Inquiries are continuing to establish the exact circumstances of the incident and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.'

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Divisional Road Policing Unit at Campbeltown on 101.

A Lochgilphead man was one of the first 'heroes' on the scene of the tragedy. Read his story on page three.

TIMESLINE

Caledonian Hotel sale 'imminent'

THE SALE of the Caledonian Hotel, on Oban's seafront, is 'imminent' but was not yet finalised at the time of *The Oban Times* going to press.

It is understood the 44 members of staff employed at the hotel will be required to be transferred to the employment of new owners under European legislation. Staff say they have been told their jobs may be under threat.

The hotel is likely to close for six months while a refurbishment of the 59-bedroomed premises takes place.

Lunch invitation for Beyoncé

THE world's richest singer has been given an invite to Oban's humblest abode.

A rumour that a mega yacht in Oban bay on Wednesday belongs to Beyoncé led to an open invite to Oban's soup kitchen. Founding member Jess MacDonald invited the singer saying: 'Beyonce, if you're still in Oban, we'll be open at 1pm today for some lovely homemade soup.'

'Everyone is welcome in Hope Kitchen – even pop-stars!'

Correction

IN LAST week's *Oban Times*, we ran a submitted report highlighting Oban High School's Young Achievers.

The article should have stated that The Strachan Trophy for Spanish was awarded to Julie Keen. We apologise for this error and would like to congratulate Julie on her achievement.



Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Portavadie Thu 14 July
Port Ellen Fri 15 - Sun 17 July
Gigha Mon 18 July
Tarbert Loch Fyne Tue 19 July

The Jungle Book (PG) 106 mins
A fantastic adventure story for children.

"spectacular, exciting, funny and fun." Guardian
14/07 at 5.30pm, 15/07 at 5.30pm, 16/07 at 2pm,
18/07 at 5.30pm, 19/07 at 5.30pm

Me Before You (12A) 110 mins
Adaptation of the best-selling tear-jerking novel.
"A rom-com with brains." Time Out
14/07 at 8.30pm, 16/07 at 5.30pm, 17/07 at 8.30pm,
19/07 at 8.30pm

Hamish (PG) 89 mins
Documentary of a huge figure in Scottish culture: poet, soldier, intellectual, activists and song-writer.

"Warm introduction to a man who deserves to be remembered" The List 15/07 at 8.30pm

Captain America: Civil War (12A) 147 mins
There's all-out war between Team Iron Man and Team Captain America. "Marvel Studio's finest film yet."
Empire 17/07 at 5pm

Our Kind of Traitor (15) 107 mins
Slick adaptation of John le Carré's novel. "Our kind of thriller." Sky Movies
16/07 at 8.30pm, 18/07 at 8.30pm

Book now at: www.screenmachine.co.uk. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings: Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults and £5.50 Concessions



Tributes paid to Mid Argyll teen

TRIBUTES have been pouring out for a 'polite and hardworking' young man who died at the T in the Park music festival in Perthshire on Friday afternoon.

Peter MacCallum, 17, was going into sixth year at Lochgilphead High School and was known for his love of architecture and his fine Gaelic singing voice.

To his fellow pupils he was kind and courteous and was known for 'just getting on' with his school work.

To his Gaelic choir members in Argyllshire male voice choir, Ceann an Turic, he made up the front row of three 'newbies'

who helped the choir achieve success for the first time at a Royal National Mòd in Oban last year.

Argyll and Bute Councillor Donnie MacMillan led tributes from the town, saying: 'I am really sad that a young person has passed away.'

'I don't know the circumstances but nothing will change the fact that a young person has lost their life.'

'My granddaughter was in Peter's class at school, and she tells me he was well liked by all his classmates, and got on with everyone. He was quiet and studious. My thoughts are with his parents, his community of

friends and all concerned. It is a very sad time indeed.'

Choir conductor Joy Dunlop said: 'This is tragic news. It is so awful. He was a lovely boy. He was very polite, very hardworking and very kind. He made a real effort to get to know everyone and be a member of our choir family.'

'He had a great young, warm, yet still developing voice. He had such great potential. He really enhanced us as a choir. It was lovely to have someone young and enthusiastic.'

'We are all shocked and stunned that one of our youngest choir members has died. I can't believe something

so terrible has happened. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.'

It is understood that Peter was using his summer holidays to gain experience in MacLeod Construction's architecture department.

A festival-goer from County Durham also died at the event.

While the police are treating their deaths a suspicious, Chief Superintendent Angela McLaren of Police Scotland said: 'We are following lines of inquiry, including the possibility they may be drug-related.'

The details for Peter's funeral were not available at the time of going to press.

inveraray highland games

Winterton Park, Castle Grounds. Tuesday 19th July 2016, 9.00am-5.30pm

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

Inveraray & District Pipe Band (Grade 1) will parade from Church Square led by His Grace The Duke of Argyll at 10.45am
Trade Stalls, Side Shows, Children's Activity Tent [FREE], Full Catering Facilities

Adults £8.00: Seniors £5.00 : Children £3.00 Family - £18.00 FREE PARKING
For further details: Tel: 01499 302458 www.inveraray-games.co.uk

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TIMESLINE

Newspaper set to mark anniversary

AN OUTER Hebrides newspaper is celebrating its 40-year anniversary with a programme of special events.

Launched in 1976 in Benbecula, *Am Pàipear* has gone on to win several awards.

Editor Iain Stephen Morrison, said: '*Am Pàipear* was created by the community, which still retains a very strong sense of ownership, and this is a huge part of our success.'

Alasdair Allan MSP opened an exhibition exploring the history of the publication at Museum nan Eilean on July 7.

The community is also invited to a special preview of a BBC Alba documentary about the paper.

Trusadh: Am Pàipear will be shown in Balivanich Hall on Tuesday July 19 and will be broadcast on TV on August 8.

Video aims to help keep cyclists safe

A VIDEO has been released by Police Scotland that informs cyclists on how to keep their bikes in working order.

Constable Andy Whittle, a serving policeman and keen cyclist, walks viewers through the mechanics of a bike and identifies key areas on the vehicle that need to be maintained to keep you safe while on the road. PC Whittle also provides advice on the type of clothing and emergency kit cyclists should have with them.

The video was created as part of the Police Scotland's vulnerable road users campaign and has been uploaded to the Facebook pages for Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders, Fife and Forth Valley.

Apply now for mobile scheme

MOBILE phone provider Vodafone is calling for applications from rural communities to apply to the Open Sure Signal box scheme for places without reliable mobile coverage.

If successful, Vodafone will give the community a box which will bring Vodafone indoor 3G mobile coverage to create an essential rural community hotspot for the first time.

This will bring both 3G voice and data coverage ensuring both employees and visitors to the community hubs will be able to make both calls and use data on their mobile phones or tablets.

The application process will be open until September 1, with the first communities selected being announced in the autumn.

Jorge Fernandes, from Vodafone, said: 'By installing our units, we can ensure these vital rural hotspots continue to play an important role in rural community life. We call for rural community hubs across Scotland to apply.'

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Sarah Campbell and Yorick Paine stand at the gate to their croft.

Island couple unable to secure lawyer for case

DAVID MCPHEE

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A TEXTILE artist on Lismore may have to represent her family in court after being unable to secure a lawyer, despite qualifying for legal aid.

Sarah Campbell and her family have been involved in an ongoing dispute with their neighbour for the past seven years regarding access to a path that leads to their croft.

The family of four are currently reliant on Sarah's income of around £8,000 per year as her husband, Yorick Paine, is busy building their home.

Ms Campbell said: 'We got in touch with every lawyer in Oban and had meetings with two of them and spoke on the phone at length

with another three. Even though all of them said we see where you're coming from and it does sound like you have a strong case, not one of them was prepared to take it on.'

'I think that the remuneration from the government was not going to be enough to justify them taking it on; it didn't make any sense financially.'

'When we asked a lawyer how much they thought it could cost, we were given a sum of £50,000.'

'We went to the Civil Legal Assistance Office, whose job it is to find lawyers to represent people on a legal aid basis, and it contacted every lawyer in Oban and then they put out a search nationwide for a lawyer who would be prepared to represent us. Nothing. No lawyer. Then I thought, this is a much bigger issue.

Is this happening to other people in the country?

'People who don't have the means to be able to get justice, financial means, are being completely left in the lurch.'

A spokesperson for the Scottish Legal Aid Board said: 'In 2014-15 more than 80,000 grants of civil legal aid and advice and assistance were made to help people across Scotland fight for and defend their interests.'

'However, the decision to take on a legal aid case rests entirely with an individual firm of solicitors and is usually based on their assessment of the case and available business resources.'

'There are currently six firms registered to carry out civil legal

aid work in Oban and a further two in the Argyll area. Our Civil Legal Assistance Office (CLAO) in Argyll and Bute also works to help meet unmet legal needs in the area. It does this by offering a referral service and a casework service.'

'When a client presents with a case involving a highly specialised area of law, such as crofting law, which falls outside the practicing experience of CLAO's solicitors, the referral service to firms in private practice is used to help the client. This can help put someone in contact with a firm who will represent the client using legal aid.'

'If no private firm is willing to represent the client, then other sources of possible advice and guidance are given by CLAO.'

Project urged to protect vulnerable birds

SANDY NEIL

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SEABIRD populations 'in freefall' could be protected by new Special Protection Areas around the Hebrides, according to a consultation launched on July 4.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is planning 10 new Special Protection Areas (SPAs) spread along Scotland's 11,800km coastline, from around Gigha, Coll, Tiree, Rum and the Outer Hebrides, up to Orkney and Shetland, and then down to the Moray Firth and Ythan Estuary.

The proposals are designed to help many marine bird species by pro-

tecting their foraging and roosting grounds.

Species set to benefit include sandwich terns and little terns, black-throated, great northern and red-throated divers, Slavonian grebe, velvet scoter, red-breasted merganser and European shag.

The consultation gives people the opportunity to share their views on each of the proposed designations, on topics such as the featured bird species, the scientific evidence and options for site management.

Andrew Bachell, Scottish Natural Heritage's director of policy and advice, said: 'Scotland is an incredibly important place in the world for marine birds.'

'Our seas and marine birds are a unique and exciting part of nature and attract many thousands of people to visit Scotland every year.'

'We want to protect these areas to help the marine birds, and to ensure that they are safeguarded for the benefit of generations to come.'

The RSPB welcomed the news, but called for more protection areas.

Lloyd Austin, head of conservation policy at RSPB Scotland, said: 'These sites, if well managed, will help improve the prospects of some of the world's most rare and vulnerable marine birds.'

'However, it's troubling that five sites in draft plans are missing from the consultation.'

'Cross-border and offshore protected areas in the Solway Firth, the Firth of Forth, Pentland Firth and the seas off the remote islands of St Kilda and Foula all appear to be in limbo until agreement is received from the UK government.'

'With many Scottish seabird populations in freefall we urge UK ministers to give the green light right away so effective conservation action can finally be put in place.'

The consultation will run for 12 weeks until September 26.

For detailed information about each of the proposals, and to respond to the consultation, visit the SNH website -www.snh.gov.uk/marinebirdSPAs.

MULL lines

Defibrillator for Craignure

LIFE-SAVING equipment is now available at Craignure, on the isle of Mull, after CalMac invested in heartstart defibrillator equipment.

The port manager said the new machine and trained staff could potentially help seriously-ill passengers to make a good recovery.

Craignure is the latest CalMac location to have its first-aid capability boosted with a defibrillator.

The ferry operator has the potentially lifesaving equipment available at 15 ports, harbours and slipways across its network and on all vessels.

CalMac port manager Iain Erskine said: 'We have experienced people becoming seriously-ill in the port in the past. Now we have this equipment in place, at least we know we can do all we can to help them make a good recovery.'

Port staff have been trained in the use of the equipment but it is an open resource that can also be used by members of the public in an emergency.

Defibrillation is an emergency medical technique that uses an electrical shock to reset the natural beat of the heart. Studies have found that it can dramatically increase a patient's chance of survival when suffering cardiac arrest.



CalMac port assistants Zena Henderson and Pete Morrissey show the defibrillator.

The Mull and Iona Community Trust has been working hard to develop a network of public access defibrillators around the islands and linking them into the Scottish Ambulance Service.

The trust's general manager Moray Finch said: 'Both Caledonian MacBrayne and VisitScotland are valuable partners in our aim of building a network of public access defibrillators throughout Mull and Iona.'

'By providing the defibrillator in a weather-proof cabinet in an area of very high footfall, it is very possible that someone's life might be saved one day and, on behalf of the wider community, I would like to thank Caledonian MacBrayne for its support.'

Port buildings on the islands are a popular choice to locate the equipment as they tend to be central and easily accessible within communities.

CalMac has trained hundreds of staff members in their use.

Run round Mull raises £3,500

A WOMAN from Mull has raised £3,500 by running round the island in five days.

Roz Mathews completed the 87-mile route in order to raise money for the Dervaig Sports Pitch.

She started the journey at Dervaig Primary School, where school children accompanied her on the first mile of the run.

Each day Roz was joined by local runners as well as cyclists, some on push bikes and some on electric bikes.

On the final leg of the journey, Roz was greeted by a bunch of sheep that bore the message 'Run Roz' on their fleeces.

At the end of the run, Roz said: 'Well that's it...I did it. I ran every step and thoroughly enjoyed every day.'

'Thank you so much to everyone who joined me and supported me on foot and wheels, without you all it wouldn't have been nearly as enjoyable or entertaining. It's been just brilliant and the support has been overwhelming.'



Roz Mathews received a cake at the end of her run round Mull.

Argyll's only boarding school opens doors to interested families

'At all stages of the school, children and young people are highly motivated and actively involved in their learning. They are respectful, hard-working and respond very well to the overall high-quality learning experiences.' Education Scotland

KEY FACTS

- High academic attainment
- Broad-ranging curriculum
- Extensive programme of extra-curricular and outdoor learning
- Strong focus on art, music and drama
- Purpose-built, modern facilities
- Flexi boarding e.g. weekly boarding
- Excellent transport links to the West Highlands

Argyll's only boarding school is inviting families to come and see for themselves what makes Lomond so unique.

Located in the picturesque coastal town of Helensburgh with its safe community environment and excellent transport links, Lomond School has a long tradition of boarders from the West Highlands and Islands.

As the top performing school in Argyll, Lomond offers a wide-ranging curriculum including eight National Fives at S3/S4 and the traditional five Highers in S5. The curriculum has been enhanced further with recent additions such as drama, health and food technology as well as the appointment of a head of adventure and service and head of digital strategy.

Extra-curricular activities include hockey, rugby, sailing, skiing and canoeing. In 2015 Lomond School was the top performing school in Scotland for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. The school also has a long-standing history of traditional Scottish music.

Boarders at Lomond benefit from excellent facilities, with the new Burnbrae boarding house built in 2003 offering comfortable lounges, a gym and mostly twin en-suite study bedrooms. Lomond is unique in Scotland in that it allows male and female siblings to live together in the same boarding house. Families are also offered the flexibility of weekly boarding.

Lomond School principal Johanna Urquhart said: 'Here at Lomond, we pride ourselves on taking an individual approach to the education and care of each and every pupil. Boarding provides a particularly rewarding experience thanks to our family ethos, excellent facilities and professional, dedicated staff. We are also very proud of our long-standing links to the West of Scotland and would welcome any families interested in boarding to come and see us.'

S6 pupil Kaitlin said: 'Boarding has helped me develop my self-confidence. I've made friends for life from around the world and I've really benefited from the personalised approach to my whole Lomond experience.' Families interested in boarding at Lomond are invited to a no obligation visit or free trial stay. To find out more please contact Janet Dixon at admissions on 01436 672476 or j.dixon@lomondschool.com.



Come join the
Lomond School
Family

Are you interested in boarding but not sure what to expect? Then please come along to sample life at Lomond School. We can offer you a free trial at our boarding house and day school.

- Free boarding on trial basis
- Curriculum offers 8 National Fives at S3/S4 and Five Highers in S5
- Argyll's top performing school and only boarding provision

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Argyll pays tribute to former councillor

OUTPOURINGS of grief for Councillor Duncan MacIntyre have been coming into *The Oban Times*.

Mr MacIntyre's funeral is due to take place in St Columba's Cathedral on Saturday.

The former councillor passed away on Tuesday July 5, surrounded by his family.

Leading the praise for Mr MacIntyre's work and commitment to his civic duties was Oban Community Council.

Chairwoman Marri Malloy said: 'It is with great sadness to hear of the death of Councillor Duncan MacIntyre.'

'Duncan was an excellent councillor for his constituency, and he was a true son of Oban, he will be missed greatly.'

'He was a friend, and often adviser, to Oban Community Council.'

'He was the one person that I, as convener could rely on if I needed support with community issues.'

'He worked hard for his electorate and everything he was involved in was always for the benefit of Oban and the surrounding area. In fact he had the welfare of the whole of Argyll very much at heart.'

'He was a true and honest Highland gentleman. May he rest in peace.'



Oban's youth set to benefit from Barcaldine investment

SANDY NEIL
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A NUMBER of businesses will need to be relocated from Barcaldine's Marine Resource Centre following the news that it is being redeveloped as a £35 million salmon hatchery.

However, many see the move as positive, saying it will bring new investment into the site, and will complement work to establish Oban as a university town.

Last week Scottish Sea Farms, Scotland's second largest salmon farmer, announced it had bought the marine business hub by Loch Creran, where it plans to build a new land-based RAS (re-circulating aquaculture system) freshwater facility, for rearing smolts until they are ready to transfer to sea farms, creating up to 25 permanent jobs.

Jim Gallagher, managing director of Scottish Sea Farms (SSF), said this new 'world class facility' would be important 'in securing employment for the company's 200 employees in Argyll and the 240 others across Highland, Orkney and Shetland. Feedback has been extremely positive and we are now preparing plans for a community consultation which should get underway after the summer holiday period.'

Construction work is due to begin after a series of open days and consultations on how

best to develop the site, and SSF anticipates the first fish reared in the new facility to enter the water in 2019.

Currently the campus serves a host of marine needs, including moorings, yacht coverings and business premises – some of which will need to be relocated, an SSF spokeswoman added.

'The previous owners of the site [Lithgow's Ltd] have been dealing directly with their tenants, and we are doing what we can to accommodate a number of the businesses who will continue at the site,' she said.

'Extended notice periods have been provided to some tenants and dialogue has taken place with Highlands and Islands Enterprise and [Argyll and

Bute] Council on helping these tenants to relocate within Argyll, with a number of potential locations already identified.'

Stephen Divers, managing director of Fusion Marine, which employs 17 people at the site, said: 'From our perspective, we see this as a positive development as it will bring new investment into the site that will deliver a modern facility well-placed to support the sustainable development of our vitally important aquaculture sector.'

'We have been in dialogue with SSF and are exploring options and developing a plan that will enable Fusion Marine to continue our manufacturing activities at Barcaldine.'

David Smart, head of special projects with Highlands and Islands Enterprise, which was involved in the discussions, welcomed the news.

He said: 'The aquaculture sector creates attractive high-value job opportunities, particularly for young people, in rural locations. The creation of 25 permanent posts therefore is a very welcome prospect.'

'We are now exploring with Scottish Sea Farms the potential for education, training and development opportunities linked to this project. This would complement the work that is under way to establish Oban as a university town and strengthen the area's appeal to young people.'

Lochgilphead man tells of efforts to reach tots

A LOCHGILPHEAD man 'didn't think twice' before plunging into an icy loch to try to save two young children, writes *Eala MacAlister*.

Leia McCorrisken, three, and her two-year-old brother, Seth, died when the car they were travelling in crashed into Loch nan Druimnean, near Kilmelford, at around 4pm on July 6.

Painter and decorator Jimmy McMahon came across the chaotic scene on his way back from shopping in Oban.

Mr McMahon said: 'I heard this woman screaming. It just sent a shiver up your spine. You could tell something bad had happened.'

He arrived about 10 minutes after the car had gone off the

road, plunging into the loch. A number of passers-by had already gone into the water but had been unable to reach the car, which was believed to be around 40 feet below the surface.

When Mr McMahon heard there were children trapped in the car he realised he wanted to help.

He said: 'I couldn't wait around, so I just went in. I didn't realise how deep it was.'

'I could hear the sound of the engine rattling but I couldn't see a thing. I couldn't get down more than about 12 feet.'

After about 15 minutes, Mr McMahon realised there was nothing more he could do.

'I think I went down three

times. When I came up the third time I realised there was no way I could get down that deep,' he said.

Mr McMahon is familiar with the road and frequently drives along it.

He said that the day the incident happened had been very wet, leading to treacherous road conditions.

He continued: 'I really think they should put barriers up at that part of the road. It's a slippery surface and one of the most bendy bits of the road.'

The Coastguard helicopter at the scene of the accident last Wednesday afternoon.

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn



Call for Seaside Tzar to save coastal towns

A SEASIDE tsar should be appointed to help Britain's forgotten coastal towns fight back from decades of decay, according to new research, writes *Louise Glen*.

But the report, *Creating Coastal Powerhouses*, paints a grim picture of the problems facing many coastal communities, and does not reflect Argyll and the Isles, said Arduaine's Calum Ross, a board member of VisitScotland.

From *The Oban Times* Facebook page, readers say the report is insulting and that no more gurus or tsars are needed.

Mr Ross, who runs Kilmelfort House Hotel, said: 'I am on holiday on Mull at the moment, looking around me I think I like Tobermory the way it is ... it doesn't need to become a 'coastal powerhouse'.'

'I don't think any of Argyll's seaside towns can be put in the same box as Blackpool or Brighton. But having said that, all our coastal towns would benefit from additional investment.'

'If any money is to be made available, I would like Oban to get a share of it. It should be invested in infrastructure, transport connections (especially improved roads) and improved facilities for everyone who lives here and also for those who choose to visit this wonderful part of the world.'

The report, commissioned by the British Hospitality Association (BHA), said that people living in seaside towns are more likely to be poorly

HAVE YOUR SAY on seaside tsar plans

Cecile Piveteau, 27, from Nantes, returning to Oban with Raphael Fouche, 28, after living here for a year in 2010/11, pictured right:

Cecile: 'It was nice to see some things haven't changed: restaurants are just as full five years later. Some shops have closed, but others have opened. There's still many, many tourists.'

Raphael: 'It's the most important city on the West Coast. It feels very lively, and wild.'

Anonymous couple, who live south of Oban: (Male): 'There's a lot that could be done to make it bet-



ter, such as the long-awaited pontoons. It's tragic they didn't retain old buildings. There's a struggle here to have enough economic viability for young people to stay, so there are long-term challenges. Why

within a few miles of the seaside, the coast is a fundamental part of both the Scottish economy and our livelihood.

'I welcome the BHA's report and urge the government to do all it can to support investment in one of this country's greatest assets.'

The BHA report says that the collapse of shipbuilding and fishing, the decline of the traditional annual holiday by the seaside, growing drug use, and cutbacks in budgets affecting maintenance of public places, street cleaning, tourism promotion and the provision of education have all contributed to the situation.

The BHA wants to establish coastal action groups and

investment in physical and broadband infrastructure.

David Adams McGilp, regional director VisitScotland, said: 'The seaside is always popular with visitors, but it is important that destinations offer products, services and experiences to satisfy market demand.'

'Traditional coastal industries have changed and continue to change, and the social wellbeing of communities depends on a healthy economy.'

'Tourism, recreation and leisure developments present potential growth opportunities around the marine environment, as well as improved facilities for local people.'

Fishermen say leaving EU brings opportunities

THE Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF) met with rural economy secretary Fergus Ewing last Tuesday July 4 in Glasgow, where it underlined the positive impact leaving the European Union (EU) would have on the way fisheries are managed in Scotland.

The SFF had campaigned to leave the EU and had the

resounding support of its membership to do so after a series of consultations.

Bertie Armstrong, SFF chief executive, said: 'We outlined to the minister the unanimous view of our membership of the real and positive opportunities that leaving the EU would bring to our fishing communities.'

'In effect, much in the

same way as our oil and gas sector benefits from the UK's territorial reach, it brings the opportunity of making Britain the controlling partner in the northern continental shelf where we would be able to exert a positive influence on the way that fisheries are managed, working with other nations in a partnership approach.'

'The minister listened carefully to our points of view and we both acknowledged that there was a significant divergence in our approach to EU membership.'

'However, there was also recognition from both parties of the need to maintain close dialogue and a good working relationship.'

POLICE FILES

FLAT and balding tyres on a passenger vehicle cost a driver an extra trip to the police station.

The 30-year-old man was charged and fined after being found to have defective tyres on Soroba Road on July 10.

A WOMAN spent the weekend in police cells after being charged with a serious assault.

The alleged incident took place shortly after 10pm on Friday July 8 near to High Street, Oban, when police were called.

The 26-year-old woman was detained in Oban Police Station, while a man was treated in hospital for lacerations on his left cheek.

A report has been made to the procurator fiscal.

THE THEFT of a 'five-figure' sum of cash from a caravan in Tobermory is being investigated by police.

The money was reported missing on Sunday July 17. Police Constable Sharon Carr is appealing for information and witnesses to the incident. She can be contacted on 101 or at the office in Oban.

A WOMAN who went out with a quantity of suspected cocaine has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

The 20-year-old was stopped in the early hours of Sunday on George Street.

A PRISONER released on licence on Thursday July 7 went straight back to jail after spending less than 24 hours in the community.

The man, 24, is alleged to have broken the terms of his parole licence and was back in custody on July 8.

A report has been made to the procurator fiscal.



MARK BEAUMONT AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK TO ARGYLL

Corran Halls, Oban
3rd August 2016, 7pm for 7.30pm

He cycled the world. He cycled the Americas. He cycled Africa. And on 3rd August, straight after a 10-day epic adventure across Argyll & The Isles, Mark will be hosting an evening of short films, photography and stories.

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TIMESLINE

Escape to the sun with Elixir of Love

SCOTTISH Opera's new production of Donizetti's sunny comedy *The Elixir of Love* comes to the Corran Halls in Oban on Thursday October 20, on its round-Scotland tour.

The company's musical director Stuart Stratford said: '*The Elixir of Love* is full of fantastic melodies, a witty plot and it is shot through with a bolt of Italian sunshine that permeates all of the music.'

Director Oliver Platt added: '*Elixir* offers a joyous couple of hours of escape. It is the perfect opera: boisterous, fun-filled and fast-paced, with the ideal mixture of comedy and romance.'

Kilmore club winners

KILMORE 100 club winners for June were E McColl and A Maxwell, and for July it was I Stuart.

There will be cream teas to celebrate the Queen's birthday in Kilmore Hall on Saturday July 16 from 2-4pm to which all are welcome.

This is in aid of fundraising for a new extended kitchen for the hall.

Lottery funding up for grabs

WITH £575,000 up for grabs, organisations in Argyll and Bute are being urged to apply for the Big Lottery Fund Celebrate Programme.

Applicants must either be a voluntary or community organisation with its own constitution and bank account, school, or statutory body.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'The fund will support activities that bring people together, be it to look at local history, mark the achievements of a local hero, commemorate a national or local event or bring neighbours together.'

For further information, visit www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/celebratescotland.

CalMac award for healthy choices

A 'SEA change' of healthier cooking in all 10 of CalMac's ferry canteens has been recognised by Scotland's Healthy Living Awards.

With healthier living rarely out of the headlines, CalMac's cooks and catering staff have been working away on new menu items, such as piri piri chicken and noodle pots, and making traditional favourites healthier with less salt, sugar and fat.

'We are committed to promoting a choice of healthy options for our customers,' said Gordon Smith, CalMac's retail development manager.

'Our cooks have been very enthusiastic and have thrown themselves into developing new dishes, as well as refining the way that they cook.'

Keepers hit out at trust's plans for upland changes

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

THE Scottish Wildlife Trust's call for a new approach to managing deer and grouse moors would be 'counter-productive', gamekeepers argue.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust's (SWT) report, *Living Landscapes of the Scottish Uplands*, published on July 6, recommends 10 key changes to reverse the decline of Scotland's upland habitats – 44 per cent of the country's land area – notably peatland, heather moorland and native woodland.

These include financial incentives to encourage good environmental stewardship, the re-introduction of lost species such as Eurasian beaver and Eurasian lynx, and regulations for more sustainable management of deer and upland grouse moors.

Susan Davies, SWT's director of conservation, said: 'Our uplands are currently under threat on a landscape scale from a wide range of pressures including intensive land management, invasive species and poorly-targeted public subsidies. This is bad for wildlife, bad for communities and bad for Scotland.'

'Changing our relationship with the natural environment in the uplands could reverse the decline in wildlife and habitats, and ensure the uplands can deliver a wider range of benefits, including natural flood risk management, enhanced opportunities for tourism and recreation, and high-quality sustainably produced food.'

The conservation charity plans to address these issues on its three upland reserves at Largiebaan in Kintyre, the

Rahoy Hills near Lochaline, and Ben Mor Coigach near Ullapool.

However, the Scottish Gamekeepers Association called for SWT to offer transparency on how it manages deer on its own reserves.

A spokesperson said: 'An FOI in April showed SNH has not held deer cull information for their property at Largiebaan for the last four years. Loch Ardinning, another SWT reserve, has shown no cull returns from 2012-2013 onwards. It would be fair for the public to ask how SWT are managing deer on their own holdings, or if they are?'

'The number and diversity of declining species producing young successfully on grouse moors managed by gamekeepers, each year, stands test with any land holding or nature re-

serve in Scotland whilst, at the same time, sustains thousands of full-time wages, which keep adults and their children in remote communities.'

'These communities are founded and rooted by viable employment, not remote visions.'

'With many moors already working on projects to restore peat, plant trees and improve habitat over vast areas of upland Scotland, further regulation will only be counter-productive and hinder rather than help these beneficial partnerships and combined initiatives SWT appear to be promoting.'

'It would be better for volunteer charities, and government, to work together with the economic employer industries in the uplands to achieve shared goals.'

Scottish Wildlife Trust's head

of wildlife reserves Alan Anderson responded, saying: 'The trust has made some excellent progress with bringing high deer numbers down on its wildlife reserves in recent years.'

'At Largiebaan in Kintyre, deer are actually controlled by a local stalker and I'm puzzled why the FOI showed no cull returns so we will be looking into this.'

'We are aware that on some of our 120 reserves we could be doing more and deer management will be one of the many issues we will be looking at as part of our strategic review of reserves taking place this year.'

The trust's CEO, Jonathan Hughes, added: 'The world is changing, organisations and communities are working together more than ever and we hope that SGA will embrace this trend.'

Council lobbies to site welfare agency in Argyll

ARGYLL and Bute has been put forward as a potential location for the Scottish Government's new welfare delivery agency following devolution of social security powers through the Scotland Bill, writes *Katie Carabine*.

Council Leader, Dick Walsh wrote to Deputy First Minister John Swinney earlier this year after reading about the proposal for the new agency to deliver social security payments including support for carers and those with disabilities.

Councillor Walsh is now following this up by contacting all Argyll and Bute MSPs, asking for them to lend their support for Argyll and Bute as the location for the agency.

He said: 'In Argyll and Bute we have numerous potential and ideal locations for the welfare delivery agency – all fitting the bill in terms of skills and training availability, good quality affordable housing provision, low cost property and business rates, very attractive lifestyle opportunities and much more.'

'Over the past several months we have been working positively with the Scottish Government to deliver the aspirations that we share for the people who already live, work and visit in Argyll and Bute, and to attract even more people to choose to come and live, work, learn and do business here.'

'That is crucial so that we can grow our population and our local economy, and secure a thriving, vibrant future for all our communities.'

He went on: 'Argyll and Bute has considerable potential to deliver high-quality services of this nature at a national level and we are excited by the real benefits and immense opportunities for further development that this could bring, complimented by the council's own investment in regeneration and economic growth.'

'As soon as we heard about the Scottish Government's plans for this in March, we contacted Mr Swinney to put the case for locating the agency in Argyll and Bute. Since then, we have been working on further developing and refining this, and it is now the right time to seek the support of the constituency and list MSPs who represent our area.'

He added: 'We are sure that they, too, will see the very real potential for transforming Argyll and Bute which would come from an agreement to site the welfare delivery agency in Argyll and Bute, and hope that we can count on support from as many MSPs as possible.'

'We are very encouraged by the positive response we have received so far, which reinforces that Argyll and Bute is the ideal location.'

Dunbeg pupils proudly show off their prizes



Dunbeg Primary School prize-winners kitted out in their 2016 leavers' hoodies.

DUNBEG Primary School held its annual closing service and prizegiving in Dunbeg Church on Thursday June 30, writes *Sandy Neil*.

The service was conducted and prizes presented by the Reverend George Cringles, who retires during the next school session, and he was thanked for his commitment and contribution to Dunbeg Primary throughout his many years as school chaplain.

National Inspire>Aspire Commonwealth Citizenship Awards were also presented

to two P7 pupils: Innes Munro came third out of 20,000 participants, and Noah Hwang also reached the finals.

The leavers were also thanked for all their hard work and fun with a film called *The Class of 2016*, and afterwards the pupils sang happy birthday to their head teacher, Sine MacVicar.

Primary 7 Citizenship Shield for Peer Support, CD of primary years, Dynamic Youth Award, Heartstart Certificate, In-

spire>Aspire Commonwealth Citizenship Certificates, Parent Council Leaver's Dictionary, P7 Photograph, Records of Achievement: Josh Brack, Noah Hwang, Mairi Inglis, Owen MacCorquodale, Emily MacIntyre, Aonghas MacKichan, Claire McCaskill, Innes Munro, Caitlin Salisbury, Rachel Sinclair, Finley Watson.

Primary 6 Inspire>Aspire Commonwealth Citizenship Certificates: Angus Brack, Holly

Bryce, Jason Carroll, Tilly Clark, Rosie Dairon, Beckie Jeffery, Katie MacEwan, Ross MacKay, Craig Ogilvie, Charis Simpson; The James Johnstone Quaich for Art went to Claire McCaskill; The Gordon MacPherson Memorial Shield for Best Beginner Swimmer: Kaitlin Hunter; Swimming cup: Emily MacIntyre; Gordon MacPherson Memorial Cup for Clan Football: Linnhe – presented to Innes Munro and Noah Hwang; Sport Shield: Linnhe captain, Josh Brack; Inter-School Volleyball

Shield: P4-7 volleyball players; MacLean Family Shield for Musical Achievement: Claire McCaskill and Innes Munro; HIMD Agnes Connelly Recorder group Shield: Dunbeg Primary Recorder group; HIMD Folk Group Shield: Dunbeg Primary Folk Group; Margaret Watson Cup for Gardening: Emily MacIntyre and Rachel Sinclair; Jordan Family Cup for Caring: Rosie Dairon; Mary Graham Cup for Citizenship, and the Helen Paton Cup for Endeavour: Mairi Inglis.

Connel youngsters all smiles as their hard work rewarded

YOUNG eco-warriors at Achaleven Primary in Connel are flying the flag for saving the planet, writes *Sandy Neil*.

On their last day of term pupils received their sixth green flag, the highest accolade awarded

by Eco-Schools, in recognition of their efforts to 'keep Scotland beautiful'.

Throughout the year they have picked up litter in the village, designed posters to discourage dog-fouling, and learned how to

keep Dunstaffnage beach, and others around Scotland, free from washed up rubbish.

In the same week, the children also won a Fairtrade Fair-Achiever award for hosting a fair trade breakfast.



Achaleven Primary School youngsters proudly show off their sixth green flag in recognition of their efforts to keep Scotland beautiful.

Charity cash

FOUR Argyll-based charities have received a share of £14,960 from Lloyds TSB foundation for Scotland.

The charities were Home-Start Lorn, Mid Argyll Youth Development Services, Mid Argyll Transport Volunteers and Oban Youth Café Project.

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Swinney plans to give more power to schools

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

ARGYLL schools could be given more power on funding following measures announced in a newly-published Scottish Government report.

But union representatives are already concerned at the 'centralisation' of education to the central belt.

Scottish Government education minister John Swinney announced his plans in Delivering Excellence and Equity in Scottish Education at the end of last month.

On the minister's list for Argyll and Bute is putting in place support for children of the poorest families, attainment and empowerment to individual schools.

When implemented over the next 18 months, this will mean a place for two-year-olds in every nursery and continuing focus on the home and school with an increase in the role of health visitors, the school and the child.

Employment opportunities in individual areas will be a focus of the curriculum.

Mr Swinney calls for a curriculum that delivers for the community and for the workforce required by each school and area.

The government minister has said 'more decisions' will be made by children, teachers, families and the communities around schools.

Argyll and Bute Council announced plans for cluster schools in its 2016/17 budget. But to date no plans for these have been brought before elected members.

Asked about its proposals for the future of education in light of the Scottish Government report, a spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council told *The Oban Times*: 'This is a newly-published report and as you would expect we are taking time to review its content.'

'The council is currently in recess but we will be taking appropriate action over the coming months.'

Scotland's biggest teaching union, the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), said it welcomed any measures that would 'cut bureaucracy and reduce excessive workload'. EIS general secretary Larry Flanagan said: 'If there is any suggestion of centralising control of schools and reducing the role of democratically-elected local authorities in running education, that would be a huge concern for the teaching profession.'

Families take fight to Downing Street



Yvonne MacHugh, in white dress, with family members and MP Brendan O'Hara, far right, as they deliver the petition to the Prime Minister in Downing Street. Photograph courtesy of Yvonne MacHugh.

FAMILY members of an Argyll man detained in India have delivered a petition to the Prime Minister in Downing Street.

Billy Irving was arrested along with five colleagues and the petition, Free the six British ex soldiers from Indian jail

#FREESG06, with more than 375,000 signatories, was handed over to mark 1,000 days since the men were locked up.

Handing over the petition, Mr Irving's partner, Yvonne MacHugh, said: 'We understand fully that one country cannot intervene in another's

judicial process. But when innocent men are being prosecuted for a crime they have not committed, they should have an obligation to protect the human rights and freedom of these men and have them released and brought home.

'These men devoted their

lives protecting others. They fought for the British government, now the British government must fight for them.'

MP Hugo Swire, Foreign Office minister, pledged again last week that he is doing everything he can to 'secure the men's freedom'.

Holyrood to reform planning to deliver more homes

THE SCOTTISH Government has promised to reform planning policy to help deliver more homes and speed up the planning process.

Housing and Planning minister Kevin Stewart said this week the Scottish Government had identified areas that could be tackled immediately, such as extending permitted development rights - where planning permission is not needed - to more types of development, introducing pilot simplified planning zones for housing,

so that planning permission is granted for housing up front, allowing developments to progress more quickly and flexibly.

The Scottish Government will now work with local authorities, including Argyll and Bute Council, developers and community groups to develop more detailed proposals for reform, which will be fully consulted on later this year. This will pave the way for a new Planning Bill to be brought forward to the Scottish Parliament in 2017.

MP takes 'breath test' to highlight campaign

ARGYLL and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara is supporting the British Lung Foundation's upcoming lung health awareness campaign.

Having taken part in an online 'breath test' in the houses of Parliament on July 4, Mr O'Hara is encouraging others to do the same.

The UK-wide Listen to Your Lungs campaign aims to raise awareness

that feeling out of breath doing everyday tasks could be a sign of lung disease.

The breath test allows people to check their lung health through 10 simple questions based around the Medical Research Council breathlessness scale.

It is hoped this will reassure those with healthy lungs and guide those with suspected problems to make an appointment with their GP.

Council refutes visitor claims that Mull is neglected

A REGULAR visitor to the island of Mull says the rest of Argyll and the Highlands is streets ahead when it comes to improvements and the state of the roads in particular.

Barry Turner, a retired holidaymaker, contacted *The Oban Times* to share his experience of a holiday to the area last week where he found huge differences between one area and another.

Mr Turner, who has been holidaying on Mull three times a year for the past 20 years, said: 'It seems that you can drive around Lorn, Skye, Oban, Ardnamurchan and Morvern and make use of excellent facilities. 'Mull, however, seems to be

the victim of prolonged neglect, a malaise in its attitude to visitors and a concerted will by anybody to improve anything.'

'I don't understand why. Is it because Mull as a visitor destination doesn't really need to put any effort in to welcome visitors as it gets a good income from tourism without having to?'

'Perhaps funding café culture harbour side projects in Oban to the tune of £6.5 million is more important because visitors keep going to Mull no matter what the infrastructure is, so why waste council money improving anything?'

Argyll and Bute Council has refuted Mr Turner's claims, saying his impressions could not

be further from the truth.

A council spokeswoman said: 'Over the last few years, the council has undertaken considerable investment on Mull in a wide range of projects, including an almost £3 million investment in the roads.'

'The council has also worked closely with Transport Scotland, CalMac and the local community to ensure the road equivalent tariff was delivered smoothly to Mull so the island could reap economic benefit from this enhancement connectivity.'

'Mull is a thriving community with a growing population. There are a range of award-winning businesses on the

island in a variety of different sectors, including engineering, construction, tourism and aquaculture. The council continues to assist the growth of these industries with our partners in Highlands and Islands Enterprise and is pressing for further investment in critical infrastructure for the island such as improved ferries, digital connectivity and affordable housing.'

'The local community is extremely proactive.'

'Tobermory Harbour Association is now in phase six of its developments which to date have included car park improvements and pontoons, as well as Europe's first catch-

and-release aquarium. The community has also raised the money for its own swimming pool and has an active rugby club.'

'North West Mull Woodland Company and the South of Mull Development Company are both well regarded in the local community too, with all the proceeds being put back into the local area.'

On top of this, the spokesman said: 'Mull has a highly active community and the council continues to work with them at a number of different levels to address local concerns and tackle potential barriers to growth, such as ferry capacity and tourism facilities.'

'Oban is the gateway to Mull and other islands. A major part of the visitor experience has been through the town of Oban, which has to compete with a number of other destinations for the visitor trade.'

'The new public realm, together with all the other facilities the town offers, including a range of first-class tourism businesses, will help attract people to Oban and in turn to our island communities.'

'Both Oban and Mull experience huge numbers of visitors annually who have a wonderful experience and talk highly about the tourism and business opportunities that exist in these locations in Argyll and Bute.'

Lidl to open new store in September

THE LIDL of the Future (LOF) supermarket, the first of its kind in Scotland, currently being built in Oban on Soroba Road, is on track for opening in September.

The supermarket is relocating from its current premises on Lochavullin Drive and construction is on schedule.

The company is looking to recruit a further 10 employees in full and part-time positions to add to the existing pool of current staff and those already recruited.

The supermarket will boast state-of-the-art facilities including a bakery, eight tills and 120 parking spaces.

Lidl UK's Head of Property Gordon Rafferty said: 'We would like to thank all those who have played a part to date in bringing this new Lidl store to Oban.'

'It is wonderful for us to be able to create more jobs and investment opportunities in the area, and we can't wait to open the doors to this new Lidl of the Future store and serve our multi-award winning products to the local community.'

Jura phone artefact goes on display

A MANUAL telephone exchange used on Jura from the late 1940s to the mid-1970s is among more than 3,000 objects going on display at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh as part of the opening of 10 new galleries within the museum.

From 1949 until 1974, Effie Macdougall was the only telephone operator for Jura. Effie ran the Jura exchange from the main room in her house, connecting calls made to or from the island or between subscribers on Jura.

At first, with only 20 subscribers, Effie was on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year. Her parrot, Patsy, kept her company from its cage on top of the exchange. As well as speaking Gaelic, Patsy regularly used operator phrases such as 'number please', 'hold on' and 'you are through'.

The manual exchange was replaced by an automatic system in 1974. The last call in the UK connected through a manual exchange was made on the island of Skye in October 1976.

The 10 new galleries are opening following a £14.1 million redevelopment in the National Museum of Scotland's 150th anniversary year.

Oban Times
newsdesk
01631 568000

Transport minister visits Argyll

TRANSPORT minister Humza Yousaf is open to 'reasonable arguments' to improve Oban's roads, he said during a fact-finding trip to the Inner Hebrides this week, writes Sandy Neil.

Mr Yousaf, the Scottish Government's minister for transport and the islands, was on his first visit to Islay, Kerrera, Luing and Seil - after being moved into the role following a Cabinet reshuffle in May - to hear about the challenges and opportunities of island life.

Kerrera ferry's new £1.7million breakwater and slipway extension, which were scheduled to be completed by the end of June, will 'bring real benefits to the Kerrera community,' Mr Yousaf said, 'improving ferry resilience by lessening the impact of tidal and poor weather conditions.'

In October last year a new ferry pricing system, the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET), slashed the cost of travel to Mull, with a resultant surge in traffic.

'The whole point of RET was to increase traffic,' said Mr Yousaf. 'We want people to visit the islands, but with every positive there's a challenge.'

He said ferry capacity for island passengers can be limited as a result, but this would be addressed in CalMac's contract discussions, adding: 'These

are problems I'd rather be having.'

Asked whether there was any cash available to improve road infrastructure to and from Oban given the increase in traffic, the transport minister said: 'We are already spending a heck of a lot.'

Since 2007, more than £35 million has been spent maintaining the A85 main route into Oban, a Scottish Government spokeswoman later clarified.

Mr Yousaf said any major improvements would be discussed within the Scottish Government's Strategic Transport Projects Review, which sets out its transport investment priorities from 2008 until 2032.

'Every single local authority area asks for investment. The budget is limited, but I'm open to reasonable arguments,' he said.

After visiting Islay Museum and Luing's Atlantic Islands Centre, Mr Yousaf travelled to Oban's Northern Lighthouse Board, the A83 and the Rest and Be Thankful.

Next month he travels to the Western Isles to continue his engagement with island communities, to 'help develop and inform future legislative proposals.'

Humza Yousaf said he is 'open to reasonable arguments' on extra roads funding for Argyll.



Fèis Latharna Argyll Cèilidh Trail 2016

Cèilidh air chuairt

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Ceann latha Date	Aite Venue	Baile Town / Village	Tachartas Event	Uair Time
Tuesday 19th July	Inveraray Castle	Inveraray	Highland Games	1:00PM
Tuesday 19th July	The George Hotel	Inveraray	Session	8:30PM
Wednesday 20th July	Uig Hall	Dunoon	Cèilidh Dance	7:30PM
Thursday 21st July	Atlantic Islands Centre	Isle of Luing	Concert	7:30PM
Friday 22nd July	An Talla	Isle of Tiree	Tiree Show Dance	7:30PM
Saturday 23rd July	Bunessan Village Hall	Isle of Mull	Cèilidh Dance	7:30PM
Tuesday 26th July	Victory Hall	Benderloch	Cèilidh Dance	7:30PM
Wednesday 27th July	An Cridhe	Isle of Coll	Cèilidh Dance	7:30PM
Thursday 28th July	The George Hotel	Inveraray	Session	8:30PM
Friday 29th July	Lismore Public Hall	Isle of Lismore	Cèilidh Dance	8:00PM
Saturday 30th July	Tayvallich Village Hall	Tayvallich	Cèilidh Dance	7:30PM
Sunday 31st July	The Creagan Inn	Appin	Session	3:00PM
Tuesday 2nd August	Craignish Village Hall	Ardfern	Cèilidh Dance	7:30PM
Wednesday 3rd August	Gigha Villa Hall	Isle of Gigha	Cèilidh Dance	7:30PM
Thursday 4th August	Port Charlotte Hotel	Isle of Islay	Session	8:30PM
Friday 5th August	Lochranza Village Hall	Isle of Arran	Cèilidh Dance	7:30PM
Saturday 6th August	Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Oban	Cèilidh Dance	7:30PM

www.feislatharna.org

Tuilleadh fiosrachaidh www.feisean.org/celidh for more information

North Uist



Balranald visitor centre celebrates its 50th anniversary.

A NORTH UIST nature reserve is set for a record number of visitors this summer.

Balranald RSPB nature reserve is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and has become one of the most popular tourist locations in the Western Isles.

Figures indicate that the reserve will have attracted more than 15,000 people by the end of the year.

Jamie Boyle, the RSPB site manager for Balranald, said: 'Increasing numbers of visitors are great news for the island but we do need to be careful. The bird breeding season is a popular time to visit but it is

also the time when the birds are at their most sensitive to disturbance. We need to manage the area so that people can see the wildlife but not get too close.'

RSPB Scotland runs a programme of guided walks. Last year these were attended by more than 700 people and provide the chance to see birds and plants of the machair and croft lands.

Stuart Taylor, Uist manager, said: 'We hope and expect RSPB Balranald will attract even more visitors in the next 50 years which, in turn, should help to secure the prosperity of the vitally important tourist industry in these wonderful islands.'

Craignish

CRAIGNISH Boat Club at Ardfarn has received £500 of funding towards new equipment through the Clydesdale and Yorkshire Bank Employee Volunteer Grant Programme. Last year's funding was used to buy a new boat for the club.

The Clydesdale and Yorkshire Bank Employee Volunteer Grant Programme funds charitable initiatives its employees are passionate

about, and awarded more than £155,000 last year.

Employees can apply for grants of up to £500 if they have been involved with local community groups in their own time for at least 12 months. This includes local charities or not-for-profit organisations such as schools, Brownies, Scouts or sports groups. For further information, visit www.cbonline.co.uk/foundation.

Colonsay



KILCHATTAN primary school pupils on Colonsay spent a day as chemists when classes given by the Edinburgh Science Festival toured the Hebrides.

CalMac sponsored the Generation Science workshops, which try to make science fun and link with the Curriculum for Excellence, on five islands over the past three months, in-

cluding Coll and the Small Isles. Colonsay's workshop, called 'Fizz, Boom, Bang!', gave the children a basic insight into the colourful and explosive world of chemical reactions.

Kilchattan primary would like to thank Hazel Smith, Fiona Holland and CalMac, Edinburgh Science Festival and Craig and Calum from Generation Science.

Lismore

Island café is set for expansion

LISMORE Café will be expanding its menu after a successful start to the year – thanks to the community.

However, the café, which uses as much locally-grown produce as possible, will keep costs at a reasonable price.

Katy Crossan, who works there, said: 'We try to have everything reasonably priced and have things sourced locally. Everything is made either on the premises or made locally.'

'We're not London. We're not going to charge £8 for a roll. We want people to be stuffed without their purse being empty.'

'We want people to think, "I was on Lismore and it was good" – not leave with empty pockets. We want



Katy Crossan takes a quiet minute to sit outside the café.

our customers to come back.'

The café is part of the Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre, which has a grass roof and geothermal heat-

ing, an exhibition area, a library, an archive room, a gift shop and public toilets.

Katie continued: 'We are one big family here. That's what a true community is.

You might not like your neighbour but you would never see them stuck.

'The café provides employment for the island. The kids now have a secure job.'

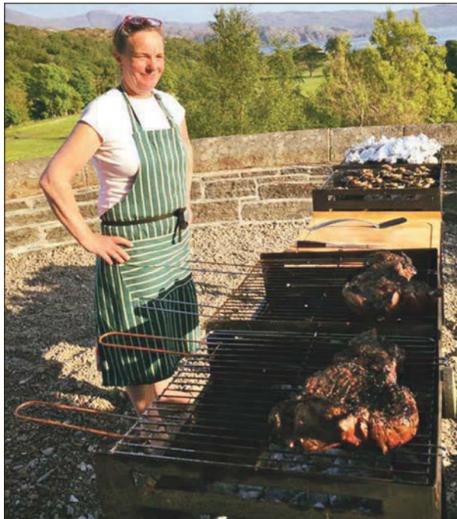
'It's great to have local knowledge; they are not just waiters or waitresses – they are serving the community. Our local young people are carrying the heritage on.'

'I say this a lot: the word ceilidh is Gaelic for together and that is what this is: we are all a community and we're a hugely talented one.'

'It's a great experience and it's an exciting time to be running a café.'

The café holds themed nights for holidays such as Halloween and events such as film club.

Mallaig



Sarah Winnington-Ingram of Arisaig House.

A BRAND new food festival is set to take place in Mallaig showcasing the very best food and drink found along Scotland's iconic Road to the Isles.

With seafood at the heart of Scotland's west highland coastline, it's naturally at the heart of the festival.

Chaired by Shirley Spear OBE, The Big Fish Debate, will see a panel of experts discuss issues surrounding the supply chain of fish from Scottish waters.

Gourmet stallholders and local producers, such as Great Glen Charcuterie and Glenfinnan Brewery, will have stalls along the pier side, offering people the opportunity to sample some world-renowned produce throughout the day.

Cookery demonstrations from a selection of Scot-

land's top chefs will take place in the fish market in Mallaig Harbour.

Duncan Gibson of the award-winning Glenfinnan House Hotel, Harry Marshall from the West Highland Hotel and Sarah Winnington-Ingram of the beautiful Arisaig House are amongst those headlining.

Topping the evening is a dinner and ceilidh, held in Mallaig and Morar Community Centre.

Sarah Winnington-Ingram, chairwoman of the Road to the Isles Marketing Group, said: 'This will be a great day out and a real community event but the underlying message is that we have great cuisine in this area and superb local produce.'

Free to attend, Taste the Wild takes place on Saturday September 10 at 11am.

South Uist



Lochnell primary pupils celebrated their last day at school with an end-of-term awards ceremony. Half-a-dozen primary sevens, who will be heading to the high school after summer, picked up trophies at the event.

Loch Lomond

VISITORS to Loch Lomond will benefit from a new route that has been added to its waterbus service.

The floating bus will

travel from Loch Lomond Shores at Balloch to Inchmurrin and then on to Inchcailloch, giving people the opportunity to explore two of Loch Lomond's

most popular islands. Clyde Cruises will operate the route.

The company joins Cruise Loch Lomond, Sweeney's Cruises and SS Sir Walter

Scott in offering waterbus services across the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, which attracts around four million visitors each year.

Glenelg

CALIFORNIAN students visited Glenelg to learn about Highland culture before staging a world premiere performance at the Edinburgh Fringe.

The 18 young men and women from Pepperdine University, in Malibu, are spending a week with playwright and cultural consultant Eddie Stiven, who is introducing them to everything from history and folklore to Gaelic language.

Eddie said: 'Coming to the Highlands is a wonderful experience and lets them see a very different side to Scotland than the one they will get in the central belt. It's a chance



The students from Malibu learn about the Highlands.

to be immersed in histories and cultures with roots that go back millennia.'

The students will go to Sabhal Mor Ostaig College on Skye to get a taste of Gaelic and a masterclass from Gaelic playwright

and actor, Catriona Lexy Campbell.

The time in Glenelg will also be used to rehearse *The Interference*, a play by Fringe First winning Scottish-based playwright Lynda Radley.

Outer Hebrides

Road safety campaign is launched

TO RAISE visitor awareness, the Outer Hebrides Community Safety Partnership (OHCSP), in association with Police Scotland and Road Safety Scotland, is campaigning to advise overseas drivers and motorcyclists about safe road travel.

They want to advise visitors on the correct use of single-track roads, to drive on the left at all times and to be especially mindful of the vulnerability of pedestrians and cyclists.

Commenting on the

initiative, Councillor John MacKay said: 'We welcome all visitors to the islands and wish them a safe trip, filled with happy memories. A handy tip might be to place a visual reminder on your dashboard to remind you to drive on the left.'

'Driving and sightseeing can be tiring so we request that drivers take frequent breaks and avoid spending too many hours behind the wheel in one day.'

'Remember, single-track roads mean just that: one lane of tarmac for all

traffic. They can be a bit unnerving at first but keep in mind there are plenty of marked passing places.'

Councillor Charlie Nicolson, who chairs the OHCSP added: 'Increased safety signage will be installed at island ports of entry with accompanying multi-lingual information leaflets and postcards distributed via our partners at Highlands and Islands Airports Flybe/Loganair, CalMac, VisitScotland, and through car and camper van hire companies.'

MORVERN lines

He was no Pretender

I CAME across an interesting little story recently in connection with Queen Victoria's visit to Lochaber in 1873.

On the day Her Majesty went out from Inverloch Castle to Glenfinnan, her coachman was a Cameron, employed for the occasion by Lord Abinger.

On the way, it seems, he and the Queen chatted freely until they reached Glenfinnan where the Queen, on seeing the Jacobite monument, announced that it was the Pretender that had raised his standard. The coachman straight away said: 'Ma'am, he was no Pretender', which resulted in them driving back to Inverloch in silence – not helped by meeting some 'dreadful reporters' on the way.

Afterwards she complained about Mr Cameron and he was dismissed. But the story of him upholding the Clan Cameron loyalty to Prince Charles Edward Stewart spread and, although he had no steady occupation, he was never out of work for the rest of his life.

A similar exchange happened at the time of Queen Victoria's uncle who became King William IV and whom she succeeded. He met a party of Macleans who had been out in the '45. 'You are all rebels here,' he exclaimed. 'No, may it please Your Royal Highness,' said one of them. 'I did fight for our rightful Prince but as that family have gone and George the Third, your royal father, is now the nearest heir, I can say that you have no more loyal subjects than the Jacobites of Scotland.'

Queen Victoria left Balmoral for Inverloch Castle at about 8am on September 9. She travelled by train to Kingussie and from there the royal party were transported in four horse-drawn carriages, arriving at their destination some 10 hours later. Accompanying her were Princess Beatrice, her eldest daughter, aged 16 at the time, whose daughter, Victoria Eugenie, became Queen of Spain; Lady Jane Churchill (lady-in-waiting), General (later Sir) Henry Ponsonby, private secretary and keeper of the privy purse; Dr Fox, physician; nine servants; and her collie dog called Noble.

One of the servants was John Brown, her attendant and personal bodyguard. There had been six attempts on the Queen's life up until 1873, the most recent during the previous year, which is why John Brown was always close to the Queen. It is most likely that both he and General Ponsonby were armed during the visit.

Queen Victoria recorded the main events of her week-long stay at Inverloch Castle in her journal, which was published in 1884. *The Oban Times*, whose local correspondent more than likely had a 'hotline' to



Inverloch Castle, where Queen Victoria stayed on her visit to Lochaber in 1873.

Photograph: The Write Image

the butler's pantry, filled in the minutiae by reporting as early as July 26 that the Queen's bed and other objects had been sent ahead.

What was the purpose of the Queen's visit? There were probably two reasons. First, to visit the spectacular Glencoe, evidenced by the entry in her journal for Saturday September 13, 1873, in which she wrote: 'We meant to go to Glencoe, which was the principal object of our coming here.' As an artist in her own right, and a great admirer of others who could capture the wild grandeur of the Scottish mountains on canvas, she was likely to have been inspired by the oil painting of Glencoe executed in 1864 by Horatio McCulloch (1805-67), who was one of her favourite landscape artists.

Secondly, she wanted to relive a visit to the area which she and Prince Albert had made 26 years earlier.

During her time at Inverloch Castle, Queen Victoria not only visited Glenfinnan and Glencoe but also the head of Glen Nevis, Fort William and Banavie. The most popular, though, was a boat journey up Loch Arkaig as a guest of Donald Cameron, 24th chief of Clan Cameron.

The Queen wrote in her journal: 'He [Lochiel] received us wearing his kilt and plaid just above the pier, and we all went on board the little steamer. The afternoon was beautiful, and lit up the fine scenery to the greatest advantage. We went about half way up the loch (which is 14 miles long), as we had not time to go farther, to the disappointment of Lochiel, who said it grew wilder and wilder higher up. To the left is the deer forest; to the right he has sheep.'

General Ponsonby, a master in the art of diplomacy who clearly wanted to defuse the incident with the coachman, later remarked to the Queen: 'There was Lochiel, whose great-grand-uncle had been the real moving cause of the rising of 1745. Without him Prince Charles would not have made the attempt, showing your majesty (whose great-great-grandfather he had striven to dethrone) the scenes made historical by Prince Charlie's wanderings. It was a scene one could not look on unmoved.'

Angus Kennedy, the captain of the little steamer named *The Rifle*, of which I will have more to say in a future column, used to relate that it was John Brown who gave orders to turn just at the point on the loch when the finest scenery was opening out – much to Lochiel's great annoyance.

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Trust in race against time to safeguard community future

MONICA GIBSON
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A TRUST may have just a few weeks to get the backing it needs to safeguard 'the future of the community'.

East Lochaber and Laggan Community Trust (ELLCT) hopes to buy the Rio Tinto estate for the community and help save the aluminium smelter, which is undergoing a 'strategic review'.

The trust is keen to see the smelter continuing and hopes to take advantage of a government incentive to increase community land ownership by 2020 in the hope of preventing job losses and keeping the future of local resources in local hands.

The role of the community trust would be to buy the estate, stretching from Kinlochleven to Laggan – around 120,000 acres. If successful, it would be the biggest community-owned area of land.

Andrew Baxter, councillor for Fort William and Ardnarnachan and an ELLCT director, explained: 'Think of this as a jigsaw with three pieces: the smelter, Kinlochleven power station, and the surrounding land. We believe our bit, the land, is a central piece, but we see an opportunity to work with parties that might run the power stations in Kinlochleven and Fort William, and others that might run the smelter and/or develop other employment options.'

At a meeting in Inverlochly village hall on Monday night, trust chairman John Hutchison explained why ELLCT was set up.

He said: 'The idea for the trust came about around February this year when it became clear an opportunity existed for a company to retain the Fort William smelter. A few days after approaching Rio Tinto, we were told it is doing a review and it is a very wide review, and [we] were made to sign a non-disclosure agreement. The community is at the heart of our idea and our best chance, so it has been very hard to have to work under the radar and not what we wanted at all.'

Because of the non-disclosure agreement, the trust has so far been made up of seven self-appointed 'initial directors'. The plan is for the local community to become members and appoint future directors. As such, the trust is calling on every resident to fill out a form to become a member.

Mr Hutchison added: 'The government wants to have 400,000 acres of land in community ownership by 2020. The area we are looking at amounts to 120,000 acres, which would go a long way to help the government reach its mandate.'

'Rio Tinto has the upper hand, but our hand could be strengthened if we have community support. It affects a large geographical area.'

'There are 11,000 electors in the area we are talking about – the community council areas of Laggan; Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry; Inverlochly and Torlundy; Caol; Kilmallie; Fort William; Nether Lochaber, Glencoe and Glen Etive and Kinlochleven.'

The trust said the Scottish Land Fund, which is a grant, would be largely used to fund

the bid alongside a loan, and that the finer details with regards to possible land use for the estate are being looked into by community members with relevant knowledge and experience. Reports so far are looking positive.

Ben Thompson, from ELLCT, helped clarify why the trust is depending on as many people signing up as quickly as possible.

He said: 'As a community we cannot buy the smelter but we can partner with people who do want to buy it. And those parties would have more clout if they team up with us because of the community ownership factor. The government earmarks £10 million per year to this land fund. In short, we could have the cash support, political support and commercial support.'

Mr Thompson, who is also councillor for Caol and Mallaig, added: 'This could be over in weeks if Rio Tinto says to us, 'This is our preferred bidder'. We have got a chair at the table and are having our say.'

John Hutchison ended Monday's meeting by saying: 'Everyone has to get involved.'

Mr Hutchison emphasised that this is a complicated challenge but one designed to benefit future generations. To reflect this, there are currently normal memberships, associate memberships for those outwith the catchment area and junior memberships.

A meeting will take place in Spean Bridge community centre tonight (Thursday) at 7pm and will mark the end of the initial consultation process.

To find out about future meetings and to become a member, visit eastlochaberlaggan.scot



Lochaber High School pupils on the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme show the Earl pictures of their expedition canoeing on Loch Arkaig. Photographs by Anthony MacMillan Photography.

Royal touch at award celebrations

A ROYAL appearance added extra sparkle to diamond anniversary celebrations in Lochaber.

HRH The Earl of Wessex met ScotRail staff at Fort William railway station as well as pupils and staff from local schools to mark 60 years of The Duke of Edinburgh's award (DofE).

The Prince was welcomed by Phil Verster from ScotRail before the two pedalled the first mile – on static bikes – of a 348-mile cycle being undertaken by 11 ScotRail apprentices as part of their 'diamond challenge'. Mr Verster, ScotRail Alliance's managing director, said: 'I am immensely proud of our all our apprentices who have worked very hard towards a Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. It's a fantastic opportunity for them to gain invaluable skills which will stay with them forever. We are honoured to welcome HRH The Earl of Wessex to help us celebrate the diamond anniversary.'

Peter Westgarth, chief executive officer of DofE, said: 'The charity is an integral part of life in Scotland which has played an invaluable role in the development of many young people.'



The Earl hands over a certificate to Nicola Smith and Iain Morrison to mark the University of the Highlands and Islands on becoming a licensed DofE centre.

TIMESLINE

Treasurer steps down on a high

THE ROTARY Club of Lochaber's out-going treasurer went out on a high at the June meeting.

George Bruce reported that last year the club raised £21,610 towards its Benevolent Fund resulting in the club handing out £24,401.50.

George was thanked for his years as treasurer and he wished his successor Flora McKee all the best in her new role.

Scottish Chamber Orchestra in Skye

THE SCOTTISH Chamber Orchestra (SCO) is to perform at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig as part of the Skye festival.

Famed for its blend of passion, skill and energy on stage, the SCO will perform a concert on Thursday July 21.

Appeal to back airport expansion

A HIGHLANDS and islands MSP is urging the Secretary of State for Transport and Secretary of State for Scotland to back plans to expand Heathrow airport in a bid to bring more passengers to the Highlands.

Labour MSP David Stewart's letter to Patrick McLoughlin and David Mundell follows the recent reinstatement of direct British Airways flights between Inverness Airport and Heathrow.

The direct BA service, which stopped in 1997, could bring in at least 70,000 more visitors to the Highlands each year.



Pokémon revival comes to Argyll as people hunt down 'creatures' using smart phones

SANDY NEIL
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THE world seems to be catching Pokémon fever again, with many children – young and old – searching Argyll for fictional Japanese creatures on their smart phones.

The Nintendo-owned franchise Pokémon, which exploded in popularity in the late 1990s, is making a comeback with a free phone app called Pokémon Go, which was released earlier this month.

In just a week, its number of users is on the verge of overtaking Twitter on Android.

The app uses your phone's GPS and clock to detect when and where you are in the game, and makes the Pokémon appear around you on your phone screen so you can go and catch them.

Depending on where you are and what time it is, different and more types of Pokémon appear. So far there have been 720 types of exotic, powerful monsters that look like rats, snakes, dragons, dinosaurs,



birds, eggs and trees. The idea behind the app round an area to catch Pokémon using interaction between the game and the real world – known as 'augmented reality'.

The game seems to have taken America by storm, where there are stories of people hunting down Pokémon in inappropriate places, such as bathrooms, hospital rooms

Pokémon hunters in Oban have been seen hunting down the mythical creatures on their smart phones.

and even coffins at funerals.

A New York woman also used the app to catch her cheating boyfriend, while police in Missouri claimed four suspected robbers lured in victims with the possibility of Pokémon.

However, back in Argyll, 20-year-old Fergus Glen from Tainuillt followed the app to the village's Nelson Monument, where he found it busy with Pokémon hunters aged from nine up to adulthood.

Oban has been featuring in the game, too, with 30 people seen around the town on Tuesday tracking down the mythical Japanese beasts.

Fergus Glen said: 'I didn't think anyone else would be looking for Pokémon in Argyll. I was very surprised.'

'It was great fun, and I even saw old pals.'

ADVERTORIAL

More than just a Hire company

Hire and supplies of Mill lane, Oban is a hire company with a real difference. A truly independent local company that many people will remember the staff from the early days when it was known as ATAM Services. With Hire and Supplies reverting it back to its Original roles since re opening the company.

Hire and Supplies recognise its position in the local market place and understand in the area it has to offer products for all the trades, Hire and Supplies is headed up by Mary Ann Murray the company is building its name on Selling and Hiring tools recognised by the trades as market leaders within that particular field. The team at Hire and Supplies are very much focused on working closely with the local trades people and any local customers requiring help.

The company is very proud of the show room that is now in position at Mill lane offering the customer a clear view of products offered whether it is for a new lawn mower or power generation a good offering is shown with in the show room.

Hire and supplies also offer a glass cutting facility with a range of windows, doors, or Mirrored glass available to order to size. Donny is on hand to talk you through the products.

With over 10,000 Products available and a weekly delivery service from its sister branch in Dumfries it gives a comfort when looking for product or needing an item serviced.

Hire and supplies are well worth a visit only once you have visited do you see what a great offering it really is



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Film fans' joy as doors open on new Fort William cinema



Nevis Centre staff with manager Kenny McLaughlin and posters of the films that will be shown at the end of this month.

ELLIE FORBES
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PEOPLE in Lochaber won't have to travel further than Fort William to see their favourite new films, as the town has a new cinema.

The Nevis Centre will be showing films from the end of this month, with *The Secret Life of Pets* and *Independence Day 2* set to hit the big screen on July 23.

Nevis Centre manager Kenny McLaughlin decided to set up the cinema after a one-off trial showing of *Frozen* proved popular.

Mr McLaughlin said: 'Showing *Frozen* was a huge success. The centre was packed with kids dressed up in character and all singing along.'

After talking to people at the Nevis Centre, Mr McLaughlin began to see the need for cinema in Fort William. He said: 'There was a feeling that a lot of kids were missing out on that big cinema experience that we all remember as youngsters.'

'So in May this year we put on *Zootropolis* and *The Jungle Book*, and both were very well received.'

The centre's biggest problem was getting films to screen before they were shown on TV, but after getting into talks with Filmobile, a company which provided independent cinemas with movies, the idea took off.

Mr McLaughlin said: 'We will be able to screen films roughly five weeks after their release date which is fantastic.'

The centre will be showing films once a month with

audience numbers dictating whether it shows two children's matinees or one children's matinee followed by an adult film in the evening.

Filmobile managing director Ian Brown told *The Oban Times*: 'The first screening in Fort William was a fantastic success. Fort William needs more regular access to new-release cinema.'

'We are already in discussions to move the planned monthly screenings up to fortnightly screenings if the community support continues at this level.'

With the closest cinemas to Fort William being in Oban and Inverness, the Nevis Centre said it wanted to help families who couldn't travel that far to reach a cinema.

Mr McLaughlin said: 'While there is the cinema in Inverness, lots of parents don't drive, so it's not only the expense but also the hassle of spending around an hour and a half on the bus on the way there and back again.'

'We are putting together a list of films that will be shown throughout the year so people will know in advance if they can see a film at the Nevis Centre, or whether they will need to make the journey to Inverness.'

Mr Brown commented: 'There are many people who either can't or don't want to travel over an hour to the nearest cinema and this will bring back this much-needed cultural provision to Lochaber residents.'

'I grew up in a rural commu-

nity but had a passion for cinema from my very first memory, but didn't have easy access and it was always a whole day out, not to mention the cost which comes with that.'

Leah Whyte, 35, from Caol, whose son is three, was delighted at the prospect of the cinema. She said: 'I think it's great for parents like me who have the opportunity to do things with their kids during the day. It's brilliant for my little one's age group as after an hour and a half in the car to Inverness, the last thing he wants to do is sit still in the cinema.'

Mum of two boys, three and four, Yasmin Yildiz said: 'It's a great idea. It would be good if there was an evening show as well so that the mums and dads who are working during the day get the chance to take their children.'

Kirsty Kyle was also pleased saying: 'I think it's a great idea especially for parents who don't drive or have a few kids, as going to Inverness for cinema is expensive to get to and to go in. I think anything that gets families together is welcome here.'

Mr McLaughlin added: 'We now have a Tango Ice Blast machine, hotdogs, popcorn and ice-cream, so we are trying to make it as realistic as we possibly can.'

The Lochaber community has taken to Facebook to show its support for the cinema, with more than 70 comments on posts about upcoming films.

To buy tickets and for more film information call the Nevis Centre.

TIMESLINE

Acharacle pupils' project success

ACHARACLE Primary School's latest re-use project has been a great success.

Over the past few months, and with the help of the local community, pupils have been collecting plastic bottles which they are using to build a self-watering greenhouse.

Extra capacity on coach route

ULLAPOOL to Inverness coach passengers should benefit from extra capacity following an agreement to put an extra coach on the route.

Concerns about capacity on the service, which connects with the ferry to and from Stornoway, were raised at a meeting of the Comhairle's transportation and infrastructure committee.

Service operator Scottish Citylink already regularly deploys an additional coach whenever bookings for the service exceed the capacity more than 48 hours in advance of the departure time.

At the meeting the bus operator agreed it would aim to ensure an increased capacity service would be deployed wherever possible to ensure passengers are not stranded on the mainland.

Visitors urged to check in early

VISITORS to the Western Isles are being encouraged to check in early for ferry sailings.

A spokesperson said: 'We are delighted so many people are coming to visit the Western Isles. With ferries at full capacity, we are keen to avoid unnecessary congestion and delays.'

Cookery classes a success

COOKS in Lochaber are learning to eat better and waste less in a series of cookery lessons.

Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) and Action for Children Scotland (ACS) in Lochaber are running their fourth block of cooking classes at Caol youth centre. The classes aim to teach people about healthy eating, budgeting, affordable cooking and reducing food waste. The classes make use of fresh ingredients and work with business and partners in Lochaber.

Jen Reilly, from ACS, explained: 'Our first cooking class was really successful with every-

one taking part making various tasty dishes. Everyone really enjoyed themselves, finding out how to make nutritious and delicious meals while on a budget. We even had time to taste what we made at the end, which went down particularly well.'

Members of LEG explained to everyone that figures from Love Food Hate Waste Scotland show approximately £38 per month is wasted.

Anyone interested in finding out more should get in touch by emailing info@lochaberenviron.org.uk or jennifer.reilly@actionforchildren.org.uk.



Members of Fort William Town Team at Morrisons.



The garden in the Parade which the town team has planted.

Town team bags £880 for coffers at fundraiser

FORT William's Town Team raised £880 at a Morrisons bag-packing event.

Sixteen members of the community team helped customers pack their shopping between 10am and 4pm on Saturday July 2.

Town team secretary Sue Keen said: 'We raised a magnificent £880.55, which is a huge boost to our funds.'

'We will put the money towards equipment, paint and plants that we need to keep the town looking the best we can.'

The team has also finished planting the sundial garden in the Parade.

Volunteers from the town team and staff from Tesco helped to get the patch completed.

The sundial shaped garden was planted up with pink, red and white begonias and geraniums, with help from volunteers at Fort William's Garden Stop.

The Lochaber Royal British Legion has also asked the team to plant six planters at the war memorial in the town, in the run up to judging for the war memorial competition, which Ms Keen said 'it would be great to win again'.

Lochaber unites to look ahead to UK's exit from European Union

LOCHABER has united at a public meeting to discuss the UK's recent vote to leave the European Union.

At a meeting on Friday (July 8), hosted by the Lochaber Common Weal, 30 people from around Lochaber came together to discuss what the vote to leave the EU could mean for them.

Consultant surgeon David Sedgwick expressed concern about the impact it could have on health and social care in Scotland.

He said: 'In this area there are a lot of people from Eastern Europe who work in social care. Where will we get these people from when we have left the EU? Where do we plan to recruit this number of people from?'

Other issues put forward were what Scotland could do as a country to generate income.

One attendee said: 'Manufacturing is what we need to generate wealth and income.'

Another suggested: 'What natural resources does Scotland have? Water

and renewables, that's where we need to be looking.'

A local teacher from France said: 'We [immigrants] bring more than we take.'

'My children are British, and they don't have dual citizenship, so I don't want to be deported now.'

But John Gillespie, who was hosting the public meeting, indicated that EU nationals who are already here will be protected.

A Czech Republic family who were on holiday in Fort William and had seen the meeting advertised were present.

One of the family's two daughters spoke openly at the meeting, discussing what life is like in her country and what the reaction to Brexit has been in Europe. She said: 'We didn't realise there was such a difference between the way Scottish and English people felt about the referendum.'

She continued: 'People move east to west for more money and better jobs. I want to be a doctor but the wages in Czech Republic are so bad, so people

move away, to the UK or Germany, for more money and a better life.'

Also discussed was the treatment of immigrants since the referendum.

Mr Sedgwick said: 'We as a country welcome immigrants. We don't use scare tactics to discourage people.'

Politics was described as 'divisive' by Eddie Morgan, who is part of the common weal. He said: 'They don't want us to have unity because then we can fight against them. They have split us on independence and now they have split us on this.'

A number of people at the meeting said they felt there was no plan in place following the referendum.

A few said they thought this was because most people expected to remain in the EU.

Mr Morgan said: 'There was no plan because there was no context to what would happen.'

Mr Gillespie added: 'We have entered into a process that we don't want to go down. We are in a nonsensical position with no plan.'

AUGUST ISSUE OUT NOW

100 THINGS TO DO WITH THE KIDS

Plus SILLY & ARCHAIC SCOTS LAWS, BORDERS BELLE PHAMIE GOW SECRET LIFE OF WOODCOCK, GORGEOUS THREE CHIMNEYS RECIPES

3 David Cameron's rags-to-riches stories

CARS OF THE YEAR - Legendary motoring writer Neil Lyndon unveils Scottish Field's best cars of 2016

100 things to do with the kids this summer

DAVID CAMERON'S SCOTTISH RAGS-TO-RICHES STORY

Stunning conversion of an Applecross boat store

Recipes from The Three Chimneys

Borders belle Phamie Gow

TOP 10

SCOTTISH FIELD'S BEST CARS OF THE YEAR

WIN EDINBURGH GIN PRIZES PLUS TICKETS TO GALLOWAY COUNTRY FAIR

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Viewpoint

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Last Wednesday afternoon the unthinkable happened. Two beautiful young children lost their lives after the car they were travelling in left the A816 near Kilmelford and plunged into Loch nan Druimnean.

The news left Argyll shocked and stunned, and the outpouring of sadness and support for the family has been overwhelming, with many people taking to social media to send their messages of sympathy.

Family friend Sarah Stopford set up a crowdfunding page, which has so far raised £13,000 to help the family. It may be a cliché, but it is at times like these that communities like ours show their true worth. The generosity of so many people, in words and deed, has been heart-warming.

The sympathy of all at *The Oban Times* goes out to Leia and Seth's parents, family and friends at such a sad time.



Days gone by – a wreck on Rum

Reader Charlie McCurdy sent in this picture of a wrecked trawler on Rum. He said: 'With reference to the article Morvern Lines and a visit to Rum in last week's Oban Times, and the mention of the French trawler, Jack Abry II, ashore on Rum, please find attached photographs of the trawler taken in June 2012 which may be of some interest to your readers. I have also attached a photograph taken on the same date of the rusting bow section of a puffer protruding from a cave on the north coast of Eigg. How she got there is a mystery to me. Maybe one of your readers could identify her and tell how she ended her days in a cave on Eigg.' If you have any information, email it to editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to Editor at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

Glasgow Letter

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

From Glasgow to the stamping grounds

IN THE title track of one of their most popular albums, Runrig (who are headlining the Hebridean Celtic Festival in Stornoway this weekend) wrote about returning to 'the stamping ground to where it all began'.

I can vouch for the fact that many Highlanders and Islanders in Glasgow spend the long winter months dreaming of the arrival of the summer and the opportunity to head back up the A82 and breathe the fresh air once again.

The completion of T in the Park last weekend heralded the beginning of a week that will no doubt see an increase in the numbers of Glasgow Gaels heading northwards as they look forward to two festivals which, although slightly smaller than the event in Strathallan, are no less anticipated by the Highland diaspora down here in Glasgow every year.

Although many miles away, the Hebridean Celtic Festival (Hebcelt) and the Tthree Music Festival go by no

means unnoticed in Glasgow – perhaps because they represent exactly this chance to return home and catch up with old friends and family. Things are often no different for the bands who are preparing this week to play at those festivals – many of which, despite being proudly Highland in both their heritage and their music, are based down here in Glasgow.

Perhaps I speak too often about Glasgow-based Highland bands but I just feel that Glasgow is a fascinating phenomena: a city where bands, having honed their skills and built up a fan-base in their native Highlands and Islands to which they return regularly for dances and ceilidhs, base themselves and develop the Highland musical community that has existed down here for decades – since the days of the dances in the Highlanders' Institute or Govan Town Hall.

Both the Tthree Music Festival and Hebcelt are perfect opportunities to showcase this back on their native soil, to their home crowds so to speak.

There are many other similar events over the course of the summer – Bel-ladrum, Loopallu, Mull Music Festival, and a couple of weeks ago I had

the privilege of playing at a cracking new festival in Lochgoilhead called Gig at the Goil which is showing all the signs of blossoming very soon into a significant event.

Similarly, last weekend, I got the chance to play on my own personal stamping ground in the Lochaber Rural Centre – only about a mile from my house. It was a cracking night – full of a young generation enjoying traditional music while home for the summer from uni, college or work.

The Highland communities that have built up in Scotland's cities over the years are absolutely wonderful: but long may it continue that the Gael will always gravitate back, in Runrig's words, 'to where it all began'.

Pub scene

Park Bar:
Friday July 15: Eriskay Lilt
Saturday July 16: Scott Harvey
Sunday July 17: Scott Harvey
Islay Inn.
Friday July 15: Twist of Fate.
Saturday July 16: The Raggals.
Wednesday July 20: quiz night.



Jennifer Struth Simpson: 'I cried when I read this today. How awful. Not long lost my niece at the river Avich and now another two young people taken...I have no words, I'm shaking. Awful just awful.'

Jonathon Nicol: 'Absolutely heartbreaking, poor kids. Hope the mum and family make it through this.'

Joanne Buick: 'so sad, so tragic my thoughts are very much with the families of these poor wee babies & the rescue teams who attended.'

Graeme Maceachan: 'so sad and my heart goes out to the family and everyone concerned with this tragic accident.'

Donald Mackinnon: 'Such tragic & heartbreaking news. Prayers & sympathy to the family. R.I.P. Little angels.'

Alison Mackenzie: 'How awful.'

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Fish farms destroying our marine ecology

Sir,
I HAVE been fortunate to have visited the north-west Scottish coast and islands over a period of 40 years, during which time I have spoken with many anglers and netmen who fish these rivers and coastal waters and have witnessed the collapse and demise of once abundant wild game fisheries.

Stocks of wild migratory salmon and sea trout are now a shadow of their past. Stocks that do survive are, in many cases, now infested with sea lice and appear emancipated fish. Disease from intensive fish farming operations and the risk of escapee interbreeding causing dilution of genetic integrity is also an ever present threat. Sea survival of salmon and sea trout smolts that migrate from fresh water to the sea have crashed in this period and a figure of two per cent returning as adults are current estimates for West Coast salmon (previously 20 per cent in the 1970-80s).

It may be convenient that inshore waters do not reveal the impact of unchecked intensive fish farming practices but careful observation of wild stocks and linked species can. The rapid decline of inshore bird colonies points to loss of staple food sources over this period.

My most recent trip to the beautiful and small Euchar river below Oban produced eight sea trout over four days, all heavily sea lice infested – in three cases sea lice extending over large parts of their gill covers. Some fish were in very poor condition with shredded fins and two thirds of their expected weight.

Marine Harvest and other fish farms have invested heavily and become embedded in the fabric of the community, making large donations and sponsorship.

M&S provides awards for sustainable and innovation and proclaim its fish farmed-sourced products to be sustainable. The reality is that the term sustainable best describes its business model, one that is financially sustainable at the expense of wild fish.

In 2014, there were 258 inshore or sea loch fish farms. All are based on the west coast of Scotland. The West Coast rivers and their game fisheries have been sacrificed along with tourism related benefits that they bring for the greater good of fish farming.

I can understand the dilemma of fisheries on the Euchar and Nell which have recently been awarded funds for regeneration and restoration of their fisheries, facing the dilemma that any efforts they make may well be self-defeating.

The impact of Scottish fish farms is felt as far afield as the important game fisheries of north-west and south-west England and Wales where smolts migrate north through Argyll waters to seas around Faroes and Iceland.

It is time that the fish farm industry woke up to the reality that its presence is destroying a precious marine ecology. Self-regulation in the industry is too lax and Marine Conservation

Areas were designed to protect these unseen but important to many species underwater environments.

Mike Ashwin,
River Eden and District
Fisheries Association.

Cyclists are a cause of danger on the roads

Sir,
With reference to your story about the hunt for a dangerous cyclist (*The Oban Times*, June 30), in my experience most cyclists are considerate and well behaved, and the very small delinquent minority aren't juveniles or even teenagers but adults who ought to know better.

They are MOMILs (Mad Old Men In Lycra) who spurn cycle tracks, race with head down along trunk roads, refuse to wear high-visibility clothing, care nothing for other road users and are a danger to themselves and others.

Their behaviour not only causes frustration and delay but also increased fuel consumption and consequent avoidable ecological damage by the tail-backs they create for what is, after all, a leisure activity. It is hard to think of anything more selfish.

We need some changes in the Highway Code and probably the law as follows.

Cyclists should be legally required to avoid motor roads and use cycleways rather than motor roads whenever possible. A case in point is the Sustrans track from Benderloch to Barcalidne.

Cyclists who use motor roads outside 30mph zones should be required to wear crash helmets and high visibility clothing conforming to E471. The minimum should be a gilet, which weighs next to nothing and can be obtained online for around £2. It could prove a life-saver. 'See and be seen' is the way to go.

The law should be changed so that it is legal to cycle along roadside paths outside built-up areas, obviously with due regard to pedestrians (Halfway House to Oban, for example). Many cyclists already do this and they should be encouraged.

Cyclists should remember that at all times and especially on single-track roads, they have a legal obligation to allow faster following traffic to overtake safely as soon as possible.

John Gosling,
Siskin, Barcalidne.

Look forward to a future out of Europe

Sir,
I am astonished at the downbeat response from many industries about the decision to leave the EU. They appear to have been deliberately misinformed by the government – and to have swallowed it.

Around three-quarters of EU legislation is geared to nudging us ever nearer to the single European state – a country called Europe. That is the main purpose of the EU – 'ever

closer union'. The remaining 25 per cent relates to trade regulation of the European single market, the only part of the EU project in which industry is interested.

Arrangements already exist for non-EU member countries to be in the single market without being in the EU political project. It is called the EEA – European Economic Area – the 'common market' part of the project.

You can Google the detailed plan for continued participation in the single market. It is called 'flexcit'. There are two versions – a 48-page pamphlet and the full policy which extends to some 420 pages.

One objection to this policy is that the EEA involves the acceptance of the principle of free movement of people. But, under Article 112 of the agreement, EEA member states can unilaterally impose restrictions when they experience excessive immigration. They do not have to ask permission.

Another development which the government failed to mention is that most new business regulation is now global and comes from bodies such as UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) which, for instance, sets the standards for motor vehicles.

While there is an EU directive about this, it was not made in Brussels but merely transcribed from what UNECE agreed in Geneva.

As an EU member, Britain has no voice at the real top table in Geneva. As an independent country, it will be able to influence matters there.

So there is every reason to look forward to a period of greater British influence in the way world trade is regulated.

Gordon J Stewart,
The Schoolhouse,
Mackenzie Place, Avoch.

Clues to where a Great War soldier died

Sir,
I read with interest the article by Bodach in *The Oban Times* (Thursday July 7) in which the author mentioned that his great-grandfather was killed in action 'somewhere' in France in 1917.

Does he have the name of the memorial to the missing in France on which his name should be recorded (eg, Arras, Pozieres)?

The memorials to the missing at Loos and Thiepval have names not just from 1915 and 1916 but also from the later years of the war.

Like your correspondent Bodach, I have the bronze plaque which the family received on the death of my uncle in 1918 and have an excerpt from the Edinburgh Castle roll of honour.

I, however, have been able to visit the cemetery in France in which he is buried.

Apologies if Bodach already knew the name of the memorial to the missing and had just decided not to mention it in his article.

Kenneth Stewart.

Ailean Caimbeul

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

THA DAOINE COMA DHIOT, chan eil thu gu luach sam bith dhan chomann-shòisealta.

Nach brùideil agus mì-chneasta leithid sin de theachdaireachd ga sparradh air pàistean òga, agus cha bheag an t-iongnadh ged a bheireadh sin agus ionnsaighean borba agus drabasta eile, buaidh mhaireann orra. Tha e doirbh dha daoine àbhaisteach tuigsinn ciarair is urrainn dha cuid a bhith cho an-ìochdmhor, agus gu h-àraid ri clann. Ciamar a tha na daoine sin beò len cogaisean fhèin?

Agus ged a tha dearbhadh ann gun robh leithid de neo-thrucaantachd a' gabhail àite fad is farsaing ann an ionadan cùram chloinne thairis air ìomadh bliadhna, bha mòran dheth cuideachd a' tachairt fo smachd shagartan agus mhnathan-cràbhaidh ann an ionadan aig an robh ìomhaigh onarach creideimh mar leithid Taigh Nàsaret. Tha fichead bliadhna bho nochd fios mun eucoir a dh'fhuiling clann a bha "fo chùram" an ionaid seo agus 's e masladh gun seadh a th' ann gum bheil iad sin, nan inbhich an-diugh, fhathast a' feitheamh ri èisteachd phoblach agus tomhais air choreigin de cheartas.

B' e adhartas a bh' ann nuair a dh'aimeich Riaghaltas na h-Alba, ann an 2014, gun robh Rannsachadh Drabastachd Chloinne na h-Alba ga stèidheachadh, ach chan annas e gum bheil mòran den fheadhainn a tha a' giùlan lotan piantach na thachair dhaibh a' sior chall misneachd is a-nise dithis den trìuir a bha os cionn an rannsachaidh air an dreuchdan fhàgail.

Ged a tha Ministearan Riaghaltas na h-Alba a' dol às àicheadh chasaidhean gum bheil iad a' gabhail cus gnothaich ri obair an Rannsachaidh, tha e air nochdadh a rèir aithris gun robh eas-aonta eadar cathraiche an rannsachaidh agus an riaghaltas a thaobh cosgais togail fianais dhan rannsachadh. Tha e coltach gun robh Iain Swinney den bheachd gun cosgadh e mu cheud not san uair àrd-luchd-lagha fhastadh gus fianais a thogail is gum biodh seirbheisich chatharra na bu shaoire.

Bidh e coltach gun robh an dithis a leig dhiubh an dreuchdan air an rannsachadh den bheachd nan leandh leithid seo de bhuntainn bho Mhinistearan gum faodadh neo-eisimeileachd cho-dhùnaidhean an Rann-

sachaidh a bhith air an lagachadh. Ged a tha gun teagamh dleastanas air Ministearan smachd mhionaideach a chumail air ionmhas poblach agus an luach as fheàrr fhaotainn às, saoilidh mi gum bheil amannan ann far am bheil amas agus buil obair àraid dol a chiallachadh nach i a' phris as lugha as fheàrr a libhrigeas toradh.

Theagamh gur e seo leithid sin de shuidheachadh agus gum bheil e ìomchaidh cosgais beagan a bharrachd a thasgadh san obair mar dhearbhadh air beachd na dùthcha gum bheil luach ga chur air na h-uile sin a dh'fhuiling cho mòr.

THE SCOTTISH Government must ensure the independence of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, and new members should be appointed quickly to retain momentum.

Too many people continue to suffer from cruel abuse experienced in childhood, and a civilised country owes them a hearing and justice. It is time to demonstrate that they are valued and respected.

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
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People power paves way for surgery

MONICA GIBSON
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

A COMMUNITY company in Fort Augustus has raised more than £600,000 to replace a medical centre which was destroyed by fire.

Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company (FAGCC) has been working tirelessly to raise money to rebuild the medical centre on the Caledonian Canal following a devastating blaze on October 25 2015.

After the fire, NHS Highland said it did not have sufficient funds to replace the centre, but could potentially pay a lease on a building.

FAGCC is now seeking to buy and redevelop the site having raised £630,000 of the required £680,000 for construction of the new centre.

The money has been raised by FAGCC, with the bulk of the funding being donated from a community benefit scheme run by Flack Renewables and the SSE Glendow Hydro scheme. A total of £25,000 is believed to have been pledged by GPs from the practice and Glengarry Trust has donated £10,000.

The most recent total was reached after a grant of £98,724 from the Scottish Land Fund, which is funded by the Scottish Government, was confirmed last Thursday.

With the target amount in sight, FAGCC has held a number of drop-in sessions in Fort Augustus and Invermoriston to gauge public opinion on services for the centre, which has approximately 1,400 registered patients including children.

After analysing the surveys, FAGCC reported that dentistry and optical services were highlighted as being extremely important and sought after.

A company spokesperson said: 'We also sought the views from a number of groups in the village after it came to our attention that people did not attend [the drop-in sessions] as they had given the project its blessing at the initial meeting.'

GPs based in Fort Augustus have been working out of temporary accommodation at the village's Telford Centre since the fire.



Kate Forbes MSP believes companies like FAGCC empower and transform local communities.

Local MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, Kate Forbes, shared her thoughts on what the efforts of the company could do for the area but recognised more needs to be done to help.

She said: 'I commend Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company for its vision and entrepreneurial spirit in securing future medical services within the village. 'Community ownership like this empowers and transforms Highland and island communities and the award from the Scottish Land Fund demonstrates just how seriously the Scottish Government takes community empowerment.'

'In the community consultation, transport was a recurring issue, regardless of whether people were travelling to Inverness or Fort William for NHS or private appointments. 'I know myself, as I drive across the constituency, that fuel is costly and public transport is expensive, and sadly often infrequent and unreliable.'

'So developing transport links, as part of providing local healthcare, also needs to be a priority.'

NHS work placements boost university success

NHS Highland has welcomed the first two groups of secondary school pupils for this year's Doctors at Work programme, writes Katie Carabine.

The programme, which has been running for five years, gives pupils an invaluable insight into their chosen career and an understanding of the realities of working in a hospital.

The programme is going from strength to strength, and with record numbers of applicants, the programme will now be running on five occasions across the year.

Dr Emma Watson, director of medical education for NHS Highland explained that the programme has been a success and has also increased the number of students from Highland being accepted into medical schools.

She said: 'The programme is a five-day work placement for pupils who are intending to apply for medicine. This year we have 40 students over the five weeks, most of which are from the Highland

Council region, but we have also welcomed students from the Western Isles.

'Those taking part get to experience a variety of clinical settings, including wards, theatres and clinics across a range of specialities including surgical, orthopaedics, diagnostics and medicine.'

'The students also have the opportunity to talk to medical students who are working in the hospital and can give them an insight on what their medical school life will be like.'

Historically, Highland pupils have been at a disadvantage when competing for places in medicine and healthcare careers but this trend is beginning to change as a result of initiatives such as this. Since 2012, 63 per cent of pupils that have taken part in this programme and have then applied for medical school have been successful.

The course has proved popular with students, with comments given including 'liked the variety that medicine has to offer'; 'like the

academic and research side that medicine offers' and 'there is nothing better than seeing a patient getting better and knowing you've helped with that.'

Dr Watson added: 'This programme is open to young people from all backgrounds and we are going to further grow this initiative by identifying bright, caring and compassionate school pupils who for reasons outwith their control may not achieve the traditional requirements for medicine or have the ability for medicine but are from areas which have no tradition of university entrance. We want to encourage and help them to apply to gateway medicine courses. 'We would like more young people from Highland to consider medicine as a profession. 'By encouraging young people from this area to enter into medicine we hope students we see taking part in these programmes are the doctors we will see coming back to work in the area.'

Eight is magic number for those in need



The food bank team in their premises on Fort William High Street.

MORE than 300 meals were donated to Lochaber food bank in its first collection of the year.

The food bank has a permanent basket in the town's Tesco supermarket where people can donate whenever and whatever they can.

Volunteer Alex McConachie, who has worked at the food bank for three and a half years and was one of the original founding members, heads down to Tesco every two or three days to weigh the basket, with the supermarket adding 20 per cent to whatever it already has.

The food bank has two

annual collections and last year it fed 681 people, 160 were children, some less than a year old.

After picking up the donations, volunteers at the food bank make up food parcels for those who come through the doors, giving them 10 meals which lasts roughly three days.

Restrictions limiting how often people can use the food bank have been lifted. Previously people could only use the service three times every six months.

On any given day the number of people requiring the service of the food bank

varies but McConachie told *The Oban Times* that the most they have seen in one day was 18 people, while on other days they may see no-one.

The food bank aims to help people who are homeless, unemployed or on a low income.

Mr McConachie said: 'Living on the minimum wage is not good enough for families, it's not good enough if you're single, so we want to help those struggling. 'I never expected there to be this many people in need of food bank services. 'And we are going to get busier because we can never get rid of poverty. But the fact

that we are going to be here is good for the people who need it.'

Mr McConachie has been helping people in need for more than 30 years.

As has Pat Leslie, also one of the original volunteers at the food bank, who has worked with Lochaber Red Cross for around 30 years.

The food bank has eight volunteers, two of which are Lochaber High School pupils who volunteer during their summer holidays.

Those in need of the food bank's services can access it on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from noon to 2pm.

Costa submits plans for drive-through outlet with restaurant

PLANS for a new Costa Coffee restaurant and drive-through in Fort William have been submitted to the Highland Council, writes Ellie Forbes.

The site at Nevis Square was set to be occupied by KFC with planning permission secured for the outlet in 2014.

Developers Herbal Eastern bought the land two years ago for KFC, but after the fast-food chain pulled out of plans to build on the site earlier this year, the company put in a bid for Costa.

Nevis Garden Centre and John Disher's floor coverings were the last businesses to occupy the site, and they were demolished to make way for KFC.

Plans for Costa include a restaurant and drive-through and outdoor seating.

Tim Stott, principal planner with the Highland Council, told *The Oban Times*: 'The site, which has had a retail use for a long



Nevis Square, the site intended for the new Costa Coffee restaurant and drive through.

time, has planning permission for similar drive-through retail use and is previously developed or brownfield land.

'Impact on Fort William Town Centre will be considered but it is not likely to be a major issue because there's already a Costa

unit in the High Street and this new unit appears to be for an additional, not replacement, drive-through, Costa.'

Decided
Mr Stott also said: 'It has only just been lodged as an application so no permission yet, but

it should be decided within two months.

'We don't know if and when Costa will implement any planning permission, but the construction period would typically be six to 12 months for this size of development.'

TIMESLINE

Late licence has no impact on call outs

POLICE in Lochaber say there 'has not been an increase in call outs' following the Crofter bar extending its licence to 2am on a Saturday.

Inspector David Campbell told *The Oban Times*: 'There has been no negative impact because of the later licence.'

The Crofter's bid to extend its opening hours was secured back in May and police have confirmed their figures are 'pretty steady compared to last year'.

Plockton office bearers re-elected

ALL OFFICE bearers of the Plockton and district community council were re-elected at the June AGM.

Among the items discussed were repairs needed to the Duirnish Bridge, clarification over grass-cutting in the village, visibility at wee Strathay - the junction with the main road which needs improvement - the new digital speed limit sign needing repairs and parking in Plockton. The next community council meeting will take place on Monday September 5.

Smokehouse shortlisted

A SOUTH UIST smokehouse has been shortlisted in the prestigious Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards.

Salar Smokehouse at Loch Carnan was mothballed in April 2015 with the loss of seven jobs, but has been revived by former staff who bought the business from previous owners Loch Duart.

Iain Macrury, managing director, said: 'We are delighted to be shortlisted for the awards.

'To be shortlisted in four categories is a fantastic achievement and is a testimony to the skills, hard work and dedication of our staff who continue to ensure we offer only the finest quality products.'

Morvern Games and Gala Week

THE ANNUAL Morvern Games and Gala Week are about to kick off at Knock Park in Lochaline.

Saturday July 16 will mark the beginning of the games, with a host of events, from falconry to chainsaw crafts and the traditional heavy weight events. Food and local craft stalls are sure to keep all the family entertained throughout the day.

Programmes are now available to buy in Lochaline Stores and Ardornish Information Centre.

Email us with your news items
PORT@OBANTIMES.CO.UK

Fort William funeral directors under new ownership



ADVERTORIAL

FUNERAL firm John McLellan and Company Ltd in Fort William has been bought over by the company's senior funeral director Scott Greenlees, above.

Mr Greenlees bought the company from Mr and Mrs MacPhie, who have owned the business since 2000. Mr Greenlees has worked

at the funeral firm for four years and said he is looking forward to supporting the community and families in the area, continuing the established traditions of quality service and support for the families in their time of need.

Fèis Lochabair Lochaber Cèilidh Trail 2016

Cèilidh air chuairt

Cèil traidiseanta air a chluich le cuid den òigridh as fheàrr aig Fèisean Lochabair
Traditional music from some of the best young musicians and singers from Fèisean Lochabair

Cuim latha	Àite	Balla	Tachartas	Uair
Friday 15th July	Clachalg Inn	Glencoe	Session	9pm
Saturday 16th July	Tresalg Hall	Tresalg	Family Cèilidh Dance	7.30pm
Sunday 17th July	Knoydart Village Hall	Knoydart	Family Cèilidh Dance	
	Steam Inn	Mallaig	Session	
Monday 18th July	Egg Community Hall	Isle of Egg	Family Cèilidh Dance	7.30pm
Tuesday 19th July	Glenuig Hall	Glenuig	Session	7pm
Wednesday 20th July	Astley Hall	Arisaig	Session	7pm
Thursday 21st July	Muck Community Hall	Isle of Muck	Family Cèilidh Dance	7.30pm
Friday 22nd July	Feis nan Garbh Criochan	Acharacle	Family Cèilidh Dance	7.30pm
Saturday 23rd July	Roy Bridge Hotel	Roy Bridge	Session	9pm
Sunday 24th July	Glenfinnan House Hotel	Glenfinnan	Session	3-6pm
	Lochalbert Inn	Lochalbert	Session	7pm
Monday 25th July	Ben Nevis Inn	Achninnee	Session	8.15pm
Wednesday 27th July	Clachalg Inn	Glencoe	Session	9pm
Thursday 28th July	Loch Shell Hotel	Acharacle	Session	9pm
Friday 29th July	Invergarry Village Hall	Invergarry	Family Cèilidh Dance	7pm
Saturday 30th July	Roy Bridge Hall	Roy Bridge	Family Cèilidh Dance	7.30pm
Sunday 31st July	Sunny's Sports Bar	Fort William	Session	8pm
Wednesday 3rd August	Feis Lochaber Tutors Cèilidh	Bun-Spoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar	Family Cèilidh Dance	7pm
Friday 5th August	Mod Lochaber Fundraiser	Caol Community Centre	Family Cèilidh Dance	7.30pm

Arena

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

It's all summer fun and games for the good sports at Atlantis Leisure camps



CHILDREN in Oban made the most of their summer last week by attending one of Atlantis Leisure's holiday camps.

The group of boys and girls attended the multi-sports camp and had the opportunity to experience a variety of activities such as football, swimming, climbing, badminton, hockey, tennis and rugby.

The camps run from July 4 to August 12 and there is something for all ages. To find out more, call Atlantis Leisure on 01631 566800.



Countdown begins to Mark Beaumont's epic Wild About Argyll adventure

HE'S TAKEN on the world, broken records, set global firsts and become renowned for his ultra endurance adventures – and from July 24 for 12 days – Mark Beaumont takes on his latest adventure, Wild About Argyll.

Masterminded by Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative

(AITC), Wild About Argyll is a multi-sport challenge which will see Mark undertake numerous disciplines over 12 days across the area. As well as running, Mark will cycle, kayak, fell run, mountain bike, wild swim, sail, horse ride and quad bike his way across the region. If that wasn't enough, every day

will include an 'epic' adventure. Whether that's kayaking 30km along part of Argyll's Sea Kayak Trail, fell running the Paps of Jura or taking on the 140km Mull Sportive route, there is no doubt that this adventure will be a real challenge.

Mark has spent the past decade taking on world records and global

firsts in ultra endurance. Best known as a cyclist, he circumnavigated the globe, taking a staggering 82 days off the previous world record, pedalled the length of the Americas and recently smashed the Cairo to Cape Town record. Off the bike, Mark has filmed numerous BBC documentaries and

presented for the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Closer to home in recent months, Mark has cycled the North Coast 500 in 37 hours and launched the Hebridean Way by cycling its 185-mile length in 24 hours.

If these superhuman feats of endurance find you longing to hear more, then you can join Mark at the Corran Halls on the evening of August 3 for his 'Round the World and Back to Argyll' talk. Tickets are on sale now. Having spent the first two years of his life in Kintyre, the talk will focus on his international adventures,

his charity work and, of course, his Wild About Argyll challenge. The following morning Mark will head to Colonsay where he will complete his final epic adventure – running the island's MacPhies – 22 peaks above 300 feet over 20 miles.

'I can't wait to explore Argyll and the Islands. This will be the biggest adventure of my year. I am proud to have spent my early years living in Argyll and I know there is a lot that I haven't seen. To have the opportunity to film and photograph this wonderful adventure playground will be spectacular.'

AITC director Calum Ross explained more about the Wild About Argyll adventure saying: 'We believe Argyll and the Isles is the perfect adventure destination and we're delighted to have someone of Mark Beaumont's calibre to showcase what we have to offer to a global audience. Afterwards we will be working with Mark to appraise how to lift our adventure credentials even higher.'

Follow Mark's tracker on exploreargyll.co.uk as the adventure unfolds and chat with him on social media on @MrMarkBeaumont.

AITC is very grateful

for the funding and in kind support provided by Argyll and Bute Council, Sustrans, Caledonian MacBrayne, ScotRail, Oban Airport, Scottish Natural Heri-

tage, Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Canals, HIE and VisitScotland, and to the many businesses and organisations supporting each day's activities.



What's on at **The Nevis Centre**

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Fasnaclloch Gun Club TROPHY SHOOT
16th July
12:00 Start

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Beginners' Pottery Workshop
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Print Rocks! Family Craft Workshop
Saturday 6 August, 10am - 11am
Adults £6, Children £5 - book via www.obancommunitiestrust.org.uk

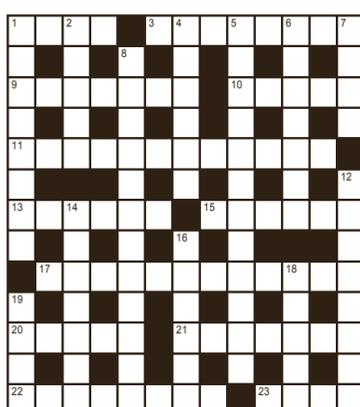
Afternoon Cream Teas
Saturday 16th July
Kilmore Hall
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Across

- 1 Extinguish (4)
- 3 Work hard at school (8)
- 9 Agreement to stay (7)
- 10 Part human, part goat (5)
- 11 More and more (12)
- 13 Bring to light (6)
- 15 Magpie lark (Australian) (6)
- 17 Emergency parking (4,8)
- 20 Pronunciation symbol (5)
- 21 Bet (7)
- 22 Fib (5,3)
- 23 Hen house (4)

Down

- 1 Intricate (8)
- 2 Frenzied (5)
- 4 Inflorescence of the grape (6)
- 5 Insincere (12)
- 6 Pouring away (7)
- 7 Type (4)
- 8 Go-between (12)
- 12 Salty leakage from the eye (8)
- 14 Girls name, colour and shrub (7)
- 16 A quick look (6)
- 18 Likewise (5)
- 19 Request for an answer (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION





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Friday 15 - Thursday 21 July

ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS: THE MOVIE | 15 | 110 MIN

Fri: 20:00 Sat: 20:00, 20:30 Sun: 19:15, Mon: 19:30 Tue: 21:00 Wed: 19:45 Thu: 19:30

Edina and Patsy are still oozing glitz and glamour, living the high life they are accustomed to: shopping, drinking and clubbing their way around London's trendiest hot-spots. Blamed for a major incident at an uber fashionable launch party, they become entangled in a media storm and are relentlessly pursued by the paparazzi. Fleeing penniless to the glamorous playground of the super-rich, the French Riviera, they hatch a plan to make their escape permanent and live the high life forever more!

ALMEIDA THEATRE LIVE: RICHARD III | 15 | 190 MIN

Thu: 19:00

Almeida Theatre Live makes its debut broadcast with Richard III from the Almeida stage to cinemas in the UK and around the world, in association with Picturehouse Entertainment, produced by Illuminations Media.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE | 12A | 127 MIN

Fri: 19:45, Sat: 17:30, Sun: 18:45, Mon: 19:45, Tue: 18:30, 19:45, Wed: 20:15, Thu: 14:15

Parent and Baby Screening: Tue: 11:30

Dwayne Johnson and Kevin Hart star in the action comedy Central Intelligence, for New Line Cinema and Universal Pictures. The story follows a one-time bullied geek who grew up to be a lethal CIA agent (Johnson), coming home for his high-school reunion. Claiming to be on a top-secret case, he enlists the help of the former "big man on campus" (Hart), now an accountant who misses his glory days. But before the staid numbers-cruncher realizes what he's getting into, it's too late to get out, as his increasingly unpredictable new friend drags him through a world of shoot-outs, double-crosses and espionage that could get them both killed.

ICE AGE: COLLISION COURSE | U | 120 MIN

Fri: 12:30, 15:15, Sat: 13:00, 15:45, Sun: 12:15, 14:15, Mon: 12:30, 15:15, Tue: 14:00, 15:15, Wed: 12:30, 15:45, Thu: 12:30, 16:30

Scrat's epic pursuit of the elusive acorn catapults him into the universe where he accidentally sets off a series of cosmic events that transform and threaten the Ice Age World. To save themselves, Sid, Manny, Diego, and the rest of the herd must leave their home and embark on a quest full of comedy and adventure, travelling to exotic new lands and encountering a host of colourful new characters.

INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE | 12A | 140 MIN

Fri: 17:30, Sat: 18:00, Mon, Wed, Thu: 17:00

We always knew they were coming back. After 'Independence Day' redefined the event movie genre, the next epic chapter delivers global spectacle on an unimaginable scale. Using recovered alien technology, the nations of Earth have collaborated on an immense defence program to protect the planet. But nothing can prepare us for the aliens' advanced and unprecedented force. Only the ingenuity of a few brave men and women can bring our world back from the brink of extinction.

KIDS CLUB: THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE | U | 95 MIN

Sat: 11:00

Children's Classic: SpongeBob SquarePants takes leave from the town of Bikini Bottom in order to track down King Neptune's stolen crown.

SILVER SCREENING - OUR KIND OF TRAITOR | 15 | 136 MIN

Sun: 14:30

Silver Screening - 'Last Chance to See' - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £2.50! Tea and cake £1.50

A couple find themselves lured into a Russian oligarch's plans to defect are soon positioned between the Russian Mafia and the British Secret Service, neither of whom they can trust.

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS | U | 140 MIN

Fri: 13:00, 17:30, Sat: 13:30, 15:15, Sun: 12:00, 16:30, 17:00, Mon: 13:00, 14:45, 17:30, Tue: 13:00, 16:15, 17:30 Wed: 13:30, 14:45, 18:00, Thu: 12:00, 14:45

Taking place in a Manhattan apartment building, Max's life as a favourite pet is turned upside down, when his owner brings home a sloppy mongrel named Duke. They have to put their quarrels behind when they find out that an adorable white bunny named Snowball is building an army of abandoned pets determined to take revenge on all happy-owned pets and their owners.

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MONDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1700 Drivetime With Marcus, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen

TUESDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey

WEDNESDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Sound Scottish (repeat), 1000 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Elaine Lamb, 1700 Drivetime with Campbell, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves

THURSDAY: 0800 Morning show, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with Stephen, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight

FRIDAY: 0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300-1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lavin

SATURDAY: 0800 Breakfast Show, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crosher, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis

SUNDAY: 0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Sunday Brunch, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott

Catriona MacIntyre and Gordon Connell latest inductees into

SCOTTISH TRADITIONAL MUSIC HALL OF FAME

TWO Hebridean musicians have been inducted into the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame.

Tiree accordion teacher Gordon Connell and Catriona MacIntyre, a Gaelic teacher and activist from South Uist, plus four others won Hands Up For Trad Services to Community awards, which recognise individuals who 'work tirelessly to help their community and enrich the lives of others through selfless service or charitable work'.

The category looks for individuals who may not be in the limelight, but generally make life better for people learning traditional music. All awardees are nominated by organisations or the public, and are entered into the Scottish Music Hall of Fame.

The other four inductees so far this year are Liz Marroni, a traditional music activist and teacher; folk activist and publisher Pete Heywood; Caroline Hewat, an artist and musician activist; and photographer Louis De Carlo.

If you know someone who works tirelessly for traditional music, you can nominate them on the Hands Up For Trad website, projects.handsupfortrad.scot/handsupfortrad.

CATRIONA MACINTYRE

CATRIONA MacIntyre has been a tireless champion of Gaelic language and culture, both as a Gaelic medium teacher and development officer in West Highland schools, and as an organiser and tutor in the Fèisean movement and, most recently, with the Ceòlas initiative on her native South Uist.

With Gaelic as her first and preferred language, Catriona has taught it as a second language to children and adults all her adult life, in the classroom, at

local Fèisean gatherings and festivals, and online.

'Catriona MacIntyre is a community-spirited individual with a great love of Gaelic language and culture and an even greater desire to ensure it is passed on to younger generations,' said Arthur Cormack, chief executive of Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

While she worked in the Lochaber area for almost 40 years, as a teacher at Lochside Primary School and as Lochaber's first Gaelic medium teacher at Acharacle Primary School, she always

considered herself an Uibhisteach at heart.

'Having retired to her native South Uist,' Mr Cormack continued, 'her energy levels have not abated and she is now involved with the highly-successful Ceòlas programme and will be a great asset to them as they seek to develop their work. Tha Catriona fìor airidh air urram agus ghuidhinn buaidh is piseach leatha san àm ri teachd - Catriona is very worthy of recognition and I wish her every success in the future.'



Traditional Music Hall of Fame Catriona MacIntyre.

GORDON CONNELL

FOR a small Inner Hebridean island with a population of not much more than 700, Tiree has produced an inordinate number of accordionists, not least those playing in West Coast bands Skipinnish, Skerryvore and Gunna Sound, and in up-and-coming young outfits such as Trail West and Dùn Mòr.

Much of the credit must go to Gordon Connell, a self-taught piano-accordionist whose enthusiasm

for the music and dedication as a teacher inspired 100 accordionists on the island which has been his home since 1962.

Voted Music Tutor of the Year in the 2010 Scots Trad Music Awards, Gordon first arrived on the island to take up a post as history and, later, modern studies teacher at Cornaigmore School - now Tiree High School - and by 1970 he was teaching accordion there.

'Gordon is quite

different to any other music tutor I've ever had,' says Daniel Gillespie, accordionist with folk-rockers Skerryvore. 'It's unbelievable how natural teaching is to him and how much patience he has. Gordon would be first to say that he's not a world-class accordion player but he is a world-class teacher. And he's never taken a penny for his teaching.'

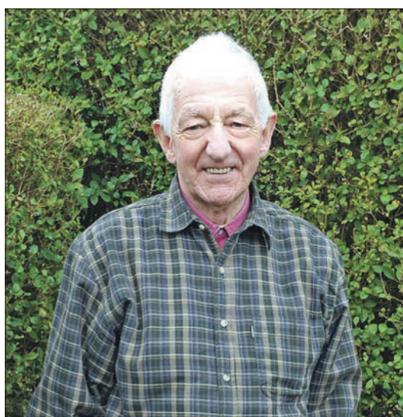
He retired from the school in 1996, but was persuaded to

carry on teaching accordion by his pupils' enthusiasm. So far as his own playing is concerned, he declares simply that 'teaching youngsters who are about to overtake you is motivation enough for me to keep practising and trying to learn new tunes. I wouldn't really class myself as a player.'

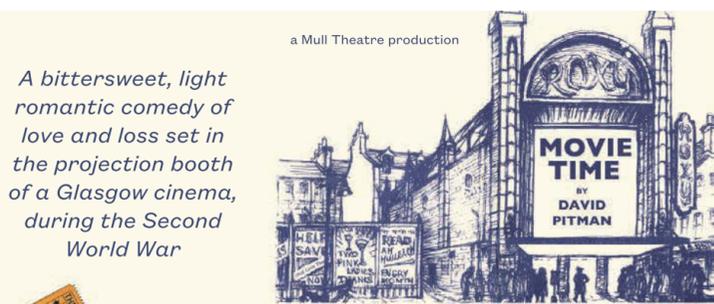
'I guess the most satisfying thing for me is seeing my students progress - some to form their own bands - at least four of them

are making a living from their music and a couple of others are bandleaders with day jobs, but extremely competent just the same. What still motivates me is the great response I get from my students. They're all fantastic people and a pleasure to teach.'

Tiree, he adds, is 'a small and friendly community. Most of my former students still keep in touch - many of them I count as friends.'



Traditional Music Hall of Fame Gordon Connell.



MOVIE TIME Mull & Argyll Tour!

- 15 July - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, Tickets 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 19 July - Tarbert Village Hall 7.30pm, 01880 820310/comar.co.uk
- 20 July - Carradale Village Hall 8pm, Tickets 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 21 July - Gigha Village Hall 8pm, Tickets 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 23 July - Scalasaig Village Hall 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 26 July - Ballachulish Village Hall 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 27 July - North Connel Hall 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 28 July - Iona Hall 8pm, Tickets 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 29 July - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk

- 1 Aug - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 12 Aug - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 15 Aug - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 16 Aug - Bunessan Hall 8pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 17 Aug - Astley Hall, Arisaig 8pm, Tickets from Post Office/01687 450263
- 18 Aug - Muck Hall, Isle of Muck, 7.30pm Tickets on the door
- 22 Aug - Atlantic Islands Centre, Luig, 7.45pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 23 Aug - Appin Village Hall, 8pm, from 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 24 Aug - Sunart Centre, Strontian, 8pm, 01397 709228/sunartcentre.org
- 25 Aug - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 26 Aug - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk



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Monday - Friday 10am-12pm

MULTI-SPORT SESSIONS (5-8yrs)
Mon 25th July - Fri 29th July
Mon 1st August - Fri 5th August
Mon 8th Aug - Wed 10th Aug (3-day camp)

For your chance to a place at Atlantis Leisure junior Multi-Sports Camp, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to The Oban Times, Atlantis Leisure Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by July 26, 2016.

Q. How many places are being given away?

Answer

Name

Address

Telephone

Email

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive information, including special offers, from the Atlantis Leisure

Terms and conditions: Over 18s only. Winners with the correct answer will be selected at random after the closing date. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. The competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Digital subscribers can enter by post by sending us a letter with your answer, contact details and email address, along with a note to explain that you are a digital subscriber. The closing date for entries is midnight, Tuesday July 26, 2016.

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Fort William detachment honour our wars' fallen

FORT William members of 1st Battalion the Highlanders recently returned from a tour of Belgium as part of the organisation's first battlefield tour.

Cadet Lance Corporal Iona Gregor, 16, and Regimental Sergeant Major Instructor James Standen, 46, who attend Fort William detachment, took part in the tour last week, alongside 23 other representatives from the battalion, and Orkney Army Cadet Force.

While there, they visited battlefields, cemeteries and took part in various ceremonies to pay their respects to the fallen soldiers who lost their lives in the First World War.

During an organised historical trip to Belgium, the cadets and adults completed a tour of Mons, Ypres, the Menin Gate memorial and Passchendaele. For many of the cadets and adults, the tour was very personal as they were given the opportunity to pay respects at the graves of family members who fell during the war, and were given a number of small wooden crosses to place on the graves of servicemen of their choosing, which for a lot of them were family members. They then visited

Nimy Bridge where the 4th Battalion the Royal Fusiliers stood fast during 1914 and learned of the defence of the Mons-Condé Canal where Victoria Crosses were won by Lieutenant Maurice Dease and Private Sidney Godley. Later in the day they paid a visit to the St Symphorien military cemetery where Lt Dease was buried, where the cadets conducted a small memorial service and laid a wreath with the battalion's colours lowered as a mark of respect.

During the visit to Ypres, they visited Langemark cemetery where 44,061 men were buried – 25,000 of them in one mass grave. At times it was incomprehensible that so many soldiers were buried in one cemetery.

The day finished with a visit to Menin Gate to take part in the last post ceremony, which has been held every day since 1928 – apart from when Belgium was occupied in the Second World War by the Germans. The battalion was given special permission to wear their uniform and to proudly display their battalion's colours at the ceremony. They were even given the

privilege of laying a wreath during it. They were filmed and photographed by visitors who flock in their hundreds to witness the emotional service. The cadets were left speechless during the visit when the realisation hit home that the thousands of names of the fallen troops were engraved in the stone of the walls of Menin Gate.

On the final day they visited many cemeteries but the highlight of the day was a visit to the Passchendaele Museum, where the cadets viewed the facility and all the First World War artefacts and toured the underground bunker system and walked through the trenches of Passchendaele.

Some cadets even had the chance to try on some replica equipment. Lance Corporal Gregor said that the museum 'was full of interesting facts about the war ... there was also full-scale models of British and German trenches which were amazing to actually see what the inside of a trench looks like'.

The final cemetery visited was at Tyne Cot, the largest First World War Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in the world. It was a moment

of disbelief for the cadets when they saw the 11,953 gravestones as they entered the cemetery walls.

A final wreath-laying ceremony was performed, with colours, prior to their departure and their return to Scotland.

On her return to Scotland on Monday evening, cadet Iona Gregor said that she 'had an amazing time in Belgium. I learned so much about the First World War and how much warfare has evolved in the past century, and would consider applying for the tour again next year'.

*The 1st Battalion the Highlanders ACF is a youth organisation that provides challenging adventure, sporting and community activities aiming to inspire young people to achieve success in life while having fun at the same time.

The Fort William detachment meets every Wednesday evening at the Cadet Centre on Croft Road between 7.30pm and 9.30pm.

For more information contact Graeme Wells, 1st Battalion the Highlanders Army Cadet Force public relations officer, by emailing: 1highlandersacf@gmail.com or visit armycadets.com.



Ceòlas festival that was sprinkled with stardust

ON FRIDAY (July 8) the final fling following a successful week of workshops by Ceòlas on South Uist was hosted by Kirsteen MacDonald, who was surprised and impressed by the quantity and quality of the talent performing.

Rachel Walker, Christine Primrose and Alasdair C Whyte had taught song classes all week to great acclaim by the students. Griogair Låbhruidh sang Pìobaireachd song as well as performing his trademark rap, to the delight of the audience. Piping was provided by Fin Moore and Angus Nicolson, who had been tutoring all week and was supported by Seonaidh MacIntyre, who had been playing for the dancers. Dance took centre stage during the week with Frank McConnell, Mats Melin and Jayne Macleod making it all look easy, till you tried. Jamie MacDonald and Sarah Hoy provided music for the dancers and our Cape Breton guests Shelly Campbell also danced as well as played fiddle. Calum MacKen-

zie taught fiddle although his great piano skills were used to accompany Fin and Sarah Hoy's set at the Ceilidh Mòr. He also accompanied his wife Alexis MacIsaac, who played a lively set on the fiddle. Allan Henderson, who had been teaching youth fiddle all week, was called on several times to accompany the singers and fiddlers. Patsy Reid wowed everyone with her fiddle playing and Patsy Seddon's clarsach playing was sublime.

The concert was streamed live on An Radio and there were more than 500 people from across the globe listening in as well as the locals who could not get a ticket for this sold-out event.

From registration on Sunday through until everyone left the Ceilidh Mòr on Friday evening, the atmosphere was fantastic and people expressed this throughout the week. One hour into the welcome ceilidh on Sunday evening a first-time participant told Iain MacDonald that she was planning on coming again next year.

On Monday, the singers concert was the highlight of the week for many locals who love song. Local group Guthan an Iar showed their own talent, as did Sandy Jones, who had launched her book, and Penny Burgess sang songs from her new CD.

Rachel Walker, Alasdair C Whyte and Christine Primrose all performed to the highest standard, Patsy Seddon offering accompaniment for parts of the evening. Rona Lightfoot was her usual entertaining self as bean-an-taighe (MC) for the concert. Tuesday's walk in Eriskay led by DR Campbell was taken by 40 people who were introduced to the new poetry trail recently set up. Tuesday night was house ceilidhs and the Ceòlas participants appreciated the welcome given by our local hosts, DJ and Pat Peteranna, Fr Donald, Mairi Wilmot, Eric and Jane Twelves, Penny Burgess and Catriona Martindale.

Pipers' ceilidh on Wednesday night was wonderful with the first half being led by our local young people: Sheena Peteranna, Cailean Martindale, Andrew MacIsaac and Calum Craib warming the audience for Seonaidh MacIntyre, Griogair Labhruidh and Angus Nicolson. Rona Lightfoot was bean-an-taighe for this event also. Visitors were amazed at the quality of performances and one Ceòlas student asked: 'Who has been sprinkling stardust at Ceòlas this year?'

Thursday night dance attracted a crowd of almost 200 and the fiddlers were given their space to perform while the dancers caught their breath.

A damp drizzly evening was transformed into a glorious fun event with the step dancers showing their skills as well as



Finale of final concert.



Young piping students.



Allan Henderson and the young fiddlers.

sheer joie de vivre of the quadrilles.

Three book launches took place during the week. On Monday afternoon Sandy Jones launched her new book *Crotal Ruadh*, a collection of poems. On Tuesday afternoon, Mats Melin launched his book *Ceòlas One with the Music* and on Saturday night a local book *From small lochs to great lakes*, by Donald MacDonald, was launched at a full house in the meeting room at Kildonan museum.

Ceòlas is increasing its engagement with Gaelic and there were four teachers doing an immersion course in Gaelic alongside a much larger than usual group of people coming to do Gaelic in Uist owing to

the strength of the language in this community. Gaelic tutors Alex Bhaltais MacDonald, Catriona MacIntyre and Catriona Black were instrumental in fun generated by the Gaelic students' drama at the Crossover concert on Friday afternoon, an event that local families attend. During the week various speakers came in to talk about local skills, activities and traditions. Lawrence MacEachen, Roddy Johnston, Rona Lightfoot, Mairi MacInnes

Ceòlas is a finalist the National Lottery Good Causes Awards Heritage Sector and if you have not voted yet, please do so before July 20 at www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards or ring 08448369676.



Thursday night dance in St Peter's Hall, Daliburgh.



Shelly Campbell's Cape Breton fiddle class.

Bodach

In this series, *The Oban Times'* resident Bodach (Gaelic: old man and, by experience, often a storyteller) looks through archive material for articles and pictures that preserve moments from the past. There is always a back story – and sometimes a future one.

Get in touch with your stories at bodach@obantimes.co.uk

Beside the Seaside

PEOPLE of all ages have their special memories of living in or visiting a place by the sea ... bathing and paddling at the beach, playing in the sand, rock-pooling, throwing sticks for the dog, ice-cream, chips, watching boats come and go at the harbour. The popularity of the West Coast's seaside resorts dwindled since the advent of affordable package holidays abroad, and the decline of some traditional industries has had a significant impact on the prospects of residents.

The news that the British Hospitality Association recommends a seaside tsar to help turn declining towns into coastal powerhouses sounds like an exercise in the management of failure. Someone would be appointed at considerable public expense to tell communities what they already know.

There is an expectation that the public sector will come to the rescue, but central and local government can only do so much. Their

responsibilities include public services and creating and maintaining conditions to attract investment.

Argyll and Bute Council's CHORD programme was introduced to do just that: assist with regeneration and economic development in Campbeltown, Helensburgh, Oban, Rothesay and Dunoon. With a budget allocation of more than £30 million, the initiative has already seen significant improvements in town centres and waterfronts, including conservation sites, traffic management, public spaces, important buildings and maritime infrastructure.

Last year the Highland Council adopted town centre action plans for Fort William, Nairn and Tain. This is non-statutory planning guidance that will be treated as a material consideration in the planning process in an endeavour to deliver long-term community growth. Similar strategic efforts are already advanced or planned all

around Scotland's coast. Redevelopment and the creation of new facilities will present attractive places, but vibrancy will come from a varied suite of things to see and do, and business communities have a responsibility to respond to market changes and to reinvest in property, personnel and technology.

Places that are busy and interesting are attractive for residents and visitors, and the richer the experience the better for all. We need an essential mix of independent retail; restaurants, cafes and bars serving different local specialities all day is becoming a minimum consumer expectation.

Destination-led innovations can provide low-cost solutions that immediately improve townscape appeal. Empty shop units have been transformed into temporary gallery or performance spaces; other empty buildings have been painted or vinyl-wrapped to give the impression that they are

used and cared for. Plans that are developed in collaboration with local community and business interests have the best prospects of success and will necessarily include environmental considerations, effective land use, mobility, accessibility and connectivity.

There is no technical reason that all of this cannot be achieved. Imagine your town with high employment, a busy and interesting high street and a profitable trading environment. Imagine being able to park within easy reach of the main facilities, as well as a fully integrated public transport network.

Imagine your streets without litter.

How can anyone complain about having nothing to do? We have cinemas and swimming pools, sports halls, tennis courts and bowling greens. We have waterfronts and esplanades, promenades and ferry terminals, and emerging maritime quarters that will become hubs of leisure and recreation activity. We are embracing café culture and fostering an appreciation of outdoor street scenes and night-time economies. There is a collective will for these changes to happen across the West Highlands and Islands, and our children

and grandchildren will benefit from them. Taking local responsibility for shaping the future of our coastal settlements is an opportunity not to be missed, but we all have a part to play and must not expect unlimited public subsidy.

The public, local authorities, community councils and business operators can and must work together for mutual benefit. Short-term, piecemeal projects rarely deliver any kind of lasting effect – the recovery and sustainable growth of our seaside towns is about civic pride, and that cannot be imported in the form of a tsar.



This bus of yesteryear took people from Ardrishaig to Tarbert and back.



The Ladies Lifeboat Guild had their sales table out on Sunday at Inveraray.



Fiddler David Boag, piper Alasdair Fraser and guitarist Michael Simpson of Feis Rois prepare to launch the Crossings Festival – a series of performances organised by various artists on board Caledonian MacBrayne ferries throughout the Highlands and Islands.



The smallest steam launch in the fleet. Everything hand-made by John Finlay, Oban.

Great Glen Gig lives up to its name

Skippinish reunited for the gig.



CROWDS gathered in Lochaber Rural Complex for a night of singing, piping and dancing on Saturday (July 9) as the first Great Glen Gig took place. The Gig was organised by Isobel and Linda Campbell and the Lochaber Rural Education Trust team as a fundraiser for the facility. The atmosphere was great

on the night, with the whole mart filled with the music and people having a good time. Kirsty Kyle, who organises the Caol gala day, was there with some friends. She described the gig as a 'brilliant night'. The youngsters of the Lochaber Rural Complex Gaelic Choir performed at the start

of the night and they were followed by Sandy Cameron on the bagpipes. Robert Robertson performed both solo and as part of Skippinish, who had reunited for the night. They played a mix of traditional Scottish, Gaelic and also more mainstream pop music

Most of the traditional ceilidh tunes were performed by Andrew MacDonald and his ceilidh band. Organiser Isobel said: 'It's absolutely brilliant. I'm very happy and the children were excellent.' She added: 'We've had big requests to do one next year already.'



Stripping the willow.

Andrew MacDonald's ceilidh band getting people up on their feet.



Robert Robertson performed some solo songs and as part of Skippinish.

The perfect destination for fine dining or casual eating with ambience

CUANRA Restaurant at Best Western The Queen's Hotel on the Esplanade welcomes head chef Stuart Wood back to Oban. Stuart takes the helm at this destination restaurant, having worked at restaurants and luxury hotels around the world, from the five star Queen's Hotel in Cheltenham to eateries in France and Spain, to the Waterfront Fish-house in Oban. Stuart, an Edinburgh native, combines knowledge and experience with a passion for local ingredients to create outstanding seasonal food. His ethos is an emphasis on fresh, local products, but with a twist. 'I'm using Scottish ingredients to make

dishes with diverse flavours influenced from my experiences working across Europe,' Stuart said. 'It's something that's a bit different. All of our food is made freshly in house. We make all of our breads and desserts, including ice-cream.' The menu changes seasonally to showcase the best of the west's bounty, such as Isle of Mull hand-dived scallops with tomato salsa, olive tapenade and basil, or Oban-landed langoustines with garlic butter - prepared simply to let the natural succulent flavour shine. 'The scallops and langoustines come right off the boats, and they're brilliant, some of the best I've ever

seen,' shared Stuart. 'Our Isle of Gigha halibut dish is really popular, prepared with sautéed new potatoes, broad beans, wild fennel and mint.' Highland venison gets special treatment - carpaccio-style with house-made watermelon sorbet. Vegetarian dishes are always on offer, such as barley risotto with roast butternut squash and red-pepper salsa. Desserts feature seasonal ingredients and house-made special touches, such as rhubarb frangipane tart with brown bread ice-cream, and lemon meringue cheesecake with stem ginger sorbet. The Queen's Bar menu offers a more casual menu from

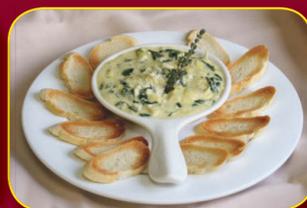
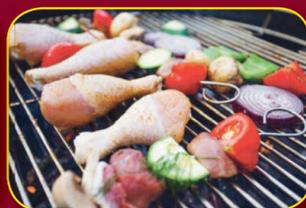
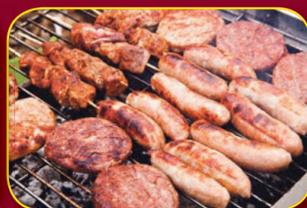
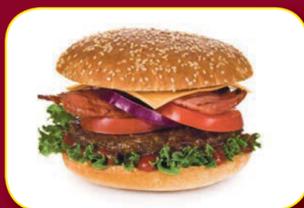
5.30pm to 9.30pm, with traditional dishes such as fish and chips, burgers, steaks and seafood, along with a fine dessert selection, such as sticky toffee pudding or chocolate and Oban malt mousse. The ambience at Cuanra is elegant, yet casual, the perfect spot for a romantic dinner or special family occasion. Diners enjoy quiet tables overlooking the bay - and the sunsets over Oban bay make for an incredible setting in which to enjoy a relaxing dining experience. Dinner is served from 6pm-9pm. Booking is recommended to avoid disappointment. Ring 01631-562505 or visit www.thequeenshotel-oban.co.uk.



A group of locals having a good night.

21_F29 great glen gig 6no party hat girls: Bringing the party spirit.

Summer dining



Café Shore – great fresh food, great location

SET in the heart of Oban's vibrant Argyll Square, Café Shore is the perfect spot to enjoy a light lunch or refreshment. Run by the husband and wife team of Jordan and Ania Mitchell, and assisted by mother Violet Mitchell, this charming café is a favourite of locals and visitors alike. With its convenient central location near

the ferry terminal and bus and train stations, why not pop in for a range of lunch favourites such as paninis, toasties and baked potatoes? Or maybe a sweet and tea or coffee would hit the spot. You can choose from a variety of cakes, pastries and scones, including their renowned Scottish tablet. And what could be better in

summertime than a luscious ice-cream - knickerbocker glory or sundae? On a nice day, sit out outside in the lovely pavement café area, where you can relax as you watch the world go by. Let the Mitchells and their friendly staff treat you to a well-deserved break. Telephone 01631 562588.

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ISLANDHOPPING



Islay

ISLAY is called the Queen of the Hebrides. And no wonder with a surfeit of whisky distilleries, incredible wildlife, warm hospitality and amazing scenery, Islay is a top rate holiday destination.

The gentlest and most southerly of the Inner Hebrides, Islay is covered in peat, a vital component in the production of the single malt whiskies for which it is best known.

The island has eight working distilleries and the journey between them doubles as a discovery route of its highlights – from the towns of Port Ellen and Bowmore, to Caol Ila, with views across to Jura, and the sandy Machir Bay, near Kilcho-man.

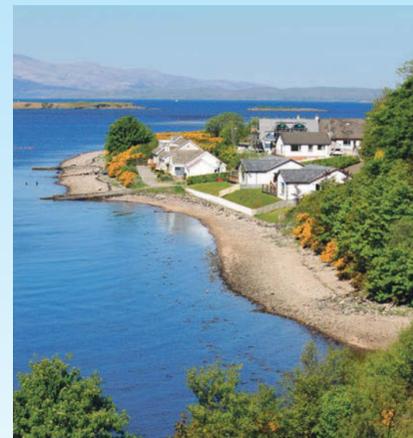
It is worth looking upwards and out to sea as well as into your glass, because there is as much variety to Islay's wildlife as to its single malts. The island boasts over 250 species of bird, including the rare blackbird-like chough, and it is an important wintering ground for barnacle and white-fronted geese.

A trip from Port Ellen to the Oa, the island's southerly tip, is a chance to experience scenic highlights including the intriguing square Carraig Fhada lighthouse and the American Monument.

Finlaggan, on a secluded loch in the north-east of Islay, was once the seat of the Lord of the Isles and centre of power for an entire territory. It's hard to envisage, but from the 13th century rulers made this remote spot their base – its position at the heart of the Hebrides perfect for leaders who ruled and conquered by sea.

Diners on Islay are spoiled for choice, particularly in the island's most populous village, Bowmore. Seafood and fish are prepared and served fresh from the boats, along with a variety of delicious dishes – all of which are even better accompanied by a dram of fine Islay whisky. Welcoming hotels, B & Bs, lodges and campsites proffer famous island hospitality.

A holiday on Islay can be laid back or active. Cycling, fishing, horse riding, hill walking and golfing on world class courses is all on offer, and for those who like to watch the world go by, driving tours take in the lovely island scenery.



Isle of Lismore

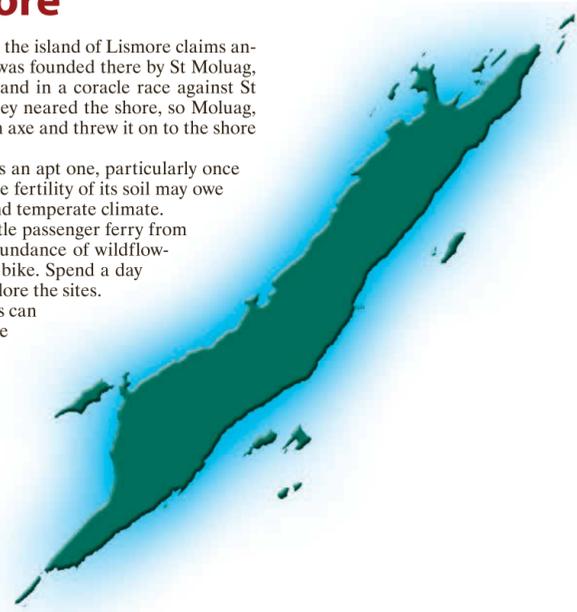
ACROSS Loch Linnhe from Port Appin, the island of Lismore claims ancient origins. An early Christian settlement was founded there by St Moluag, who, legend has it, staked his claim to the island in a coracle race against St Columba. Columba was narrowing ahead as they neared the shore, so Moluag, desperate to claim the land, cut off his own little finger with an axe and threw it on to the shore – ensuring that at least a part of him reached the island first.

The island's Gaelic name 'LiosMor' meaning 'great garden' is an apt one, particularly once the fuchsias which decorate every hedgerow bloom – though the fertility of its soil may owe less to an infusion of saintly blood than to its limestone base and temperate climate.

Lismore can be reached by a car ferry from Oban, but the little passenger ferry from Port Appin offers a more intimate experience and with an abundance of wildflowers, the island lends itself to a close-up exploration on foot or bike. Spend a day peddling around the island's single track roads, stopping to explore the sites. Tirefour Castle is an Iron Age broch, whose impressive remains can be climbed for unbeatable views over the loch. Coffin Castle dates to the 13th century, and you can also scramble up the ruins – take a picnic and enjoy the views over the island and the loch! Achanduin Castle west of Achnacroish also dates to the 13th century, its brooding ruins overlooking the island of Bernera.

Stop in at the Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre for a coffee and cake – the cream scones are renowned here! While you are there, browse the history of the island.

Lismore is a wonderful day trip getaway that is so close yet feels like a world away.



Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre

'Each ruin, each knoll, carries some tale, some secret tradition unique to that spot'

The Island of Lismore is an emerald gem set at the entrance to Loch Linnhe. Only 50 minutes on the ferry from Oban or 10 minutes on the foot ferry from Port Appin, it is easily accessible to walkers, cyclists and day trippers. The island is rich in historical sites telling the story of the people who have lived here for thousands of years.

From the Oban Ferry, as it approaches Achnacroish, you get your first sight of Tirfuir Castle, the Pictish Broch dominating the approaches from the mainland. Castle Coeffin on the western side has Viking connections and at the south end of the island is Achanduin Castle looking toward the sound of Mull. There are Bronze Age cairns, carved medieval grave slabs, deserted townships, lime kilns and watermills and

a Stevenson lighthouse.

Between the two ferries (3 miles from Point and 2½ from Achnacroish,) on the main road, is the Gaelic Heritage Centre; a stunning ecologically friendly building with a restored cottar's cottage alongside. Inside is an accredited museum packed with information about the island – both past and present; a newly refurbished shop selling unusual and interesting items – all made in Scotland – and our bright and lively community café where you can feast on home baking, light lunches, tea and coffee. Island produce is always used in season.

Further information can be found on our website www.lismoregaelicheritagecentre.org and on the Community website www.isleoflismore.com.



www.lismoregaelicheritagecentre.org

Amazing nature to be seen on Islay

Islay is a place where nature and history come to life; a wet and wild landscape with sandy beaches and amazing skies.

Get closer to Islay's wildlife at one of the RSPB Scotland's two nature reserves. Every October thousands of geese flock to the green fields of Loch Gruinart and stay over winter before heading back to their breeding grounds in Greenland. At the Oa there are wild sea cliffs and open moorland, providing the perfect home for magnificent golden eagles.

A walk along the trails will immerse you in the sights and sounds of Islay; from the white cotton-grass on the moor and the carpets of bluebells in the

woods to the melodic skylark or 'pee-wit' cry of lapwings in summer. Make time to simply sit and let the world go by. Your patience may be rewarded with sights of chough feeding at The Oa or the rasping 'crex-crex' call of the corncrake at Loch Gruinart.

Both reserves are working farms where agriculture goes hand in hand with wildlife, as it has done for centuries. Evidence of early farmers still mark the landscape with ancient hut circles and ruined cottages.

Discover more of the amazing sights and sounds the reserves have to offer by joining one of our weekly guided walks from April to October.



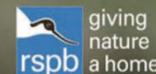
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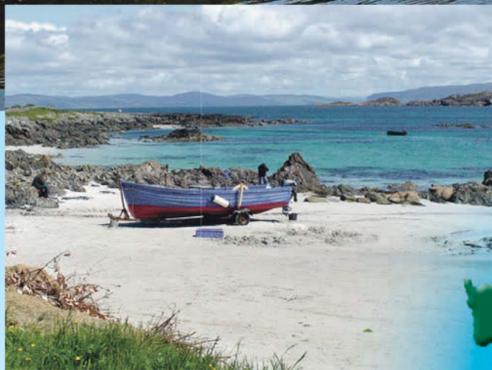
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Isle of Mull

BOASTING spectacular wildlife and scenery, as well as outstanding seafood, Mull is truly up there with some of the world's finest tourist attractions.

A playful otter could cross your path at any moment, a majestic red deer stag will observe you from his mountain vantage point and golden and white tailed eagles plummet from the skies before your disbelieving eyes.

Out to sea the encounters are richer still. You'll find guillemots, gannets and puffins above the water, especially around Staffa and the Treshnish Isles, while within it swim minke and killer whales, black baleen, harbour porpoises and Risso's dolphins.

Travel to Mull by ferry from Oban, and you cannot help but feel that you are entering another world.

You pass enchanted caves, fairytale castles, and if you're lucky
m i g h t
e v e n
s e e

basking shark!

Mull's main port, Craignure, is a short ferry crossing from Oban, close to two impressive castles, including Duart, which has been lovingly restored. The northern capital, Tobermory, is known as the setting for children's television programme Balamory, though it has also been gaining media and young readers' attention recently through the saga of the Tobermory Cat. The Mull Museum, the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and the Marine Visitor Centre offer displays and interactive exhibits on the history, geology and wildlife of the island. Tobermory Distillery, established in 1798, it is one of the oldest commercial distilleries in Scotland.

Thanks to a careful conservation programme, several pairs of rare white-tailed or sea eagles nest and fish around the island, and golden eagles occupy the high ridges where they feast on mountain hare. Big name mammals to look out for include red deer, fallow deer, and even wild goats, and be sure to keep an eye out for the distinctive shapes of both grey and common seals basking on the rocks or bobbing up and down just off shore.

Isle of Iona

Known as the cradle of Christianity in Scotland, Iona is a magical isle. From the final resting place of kings to its current reputation as a leader in fair trade and ecotourism, this tiny emerald island off the western shore of Mull captures the hearts and spirits of those who make the pilgrimage.

Upon leaving Fionnphort on the short ferry crossing, a feeling of tranquillity comes over visitors as they approach the idyllic wee island. The first things one notices is the monastery, built around 1200. But the spot has been sacred since 563, when Saint Columba and 13 followers landed at the bay to establish a monastery.

Many kings of Scotland, Ireland and the Vikings are buried at the abbey. Perhaps the most famous illuminated manuscript of the Dark Ages, the Book of Kells, was created at Iona, which was a celebrated centre of learning through the Middle Ages. Over the centuries, wealthy patrons commissioned exquisite Celtic crosses, some which date to the 8th century.

Pilgrims and tourists alike make the journey to pay homage, tour the abbey and graveyard, and view the fascinating collection of carved crosses and stones, which, along with reproductions of illuminated manuscripts, are thoughtfully displayed and interpreted throughout the church and the grounds.

While many visitors go to Iona for a day trip, there are a range of accommodations, as well as quaint shops, cafés and restaurants. On Iona, the everyday world seems to melt away as the gentle lapping of turquoise waters lulls one into a relaxed state.



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BUSINESS NEWS

TO ADVERTISE IN OUR BUSINESS SECTION PLEASE CALL OUR SALES TEAM ON 01631 568000

Workshops do the business

BUSINESS Gateway Argyll and Bute is encouraging business owners to take advantage of the free skills workshops coming up.

Due to the popularity of the spring workshop programme, additional workshops will run over the summer months.

The Introduction to Trading Online workshop is a workshop of two halves. The morning will focus on some of the basics required for trading online and will look at the various tools, platforms and payment options available to everyone.

It will include some information on the legal requirements and discuss the impact of online e-commerce. Specifically it will advise how to plan for a successful e-commerce site, decide which payment options to use, understand the rules and regulations, make it easy for visitors to buy from you and engage your buyers.

The afternoon will focus on online marketplaces such as Amazon, eBay and Etzy. It will cover choosing the right marketplace, understanding

Passion for peace inspired Sharon to be self-employed

JOINING a local CND group not only allowed Sharon Dolan-Powers to stand up for what she believed in but it inspired her to launch a new business.

Using her eye for detail and love of art and craft, the 58-year-old launched the Bonny Badge Company last year after designing and making badges for CND members to wear.

Thanks to her clever use of social media, Sharon, who lives in Clachan Seil near Oban, has built a loyal Twitter following of 1,200 people who love the quirky and individual products she sells, from badges, coasters and magnets to clocks, compact mirrors and tote bags.

With demand for new products, such as mugs and T-shirts growing, and with cus-



Sharon Dolan-Powers.

tomers stretching all the way to Australia, she turned to Business Gateway Argyll and Bute for advice on how to take her business to the next stage.

She said: 'I'd had support from Business Gateway some years ago when I set up a business with my husband down in Dum-

fries and Galloway, so I knew I could turn to them when I realised I needed to up my game. Sometimes when you're doing everything in a business you can't see the wood for the trees, so the advice I was given really helped me focus and highlighted routes of investment that I could go down to help me buy new equipment.

'The plan now is to sign up to some of the free seminars, particularly those about social media, to help me capitalise and grow on the following I've already generated.'

For more visit <http://the-bonny-badge-company.myshopify.com>.

To find out how Business Gateway can help you set up and develop your own business, call 01546 808 363 or visit www.bgateway.com/argyll-and-bute.

The Introduction to Social Media for Business workshop is designed for people who haven't used social media for their business before and want to know more about how Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn can help build their business.

This half-day workshop is taking place in Ardrishaig on

August 24. For those looking to take their social media marketing to the next level, the Doing More with Social Media workshop is running in Ardrishaig on August 25. The workshop will cover new developments, how to increase your impact, understanding analytics data and tools for managing multiple social media platforms effectively.

To book a place or to find out more about the full range of workshops, contact the Business Gateway team on 01546 604555 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Looking for exporting support for your business? Business Gateway Argyll and Bute is encouraging anyone considering exporting, or at the early stages of doing so, to get in touch.

Depending on your business's current turnover and growth potential, the team can signpost further support and information, which could include free one to one advice from a subject specialist. To find out more and check your eligibility contact the Business Gateway team.



Comedian Fred MacAulay will host the awards ceremony.

Firms in running for food and drink awards

FORTY-ONE food and drink businesses from across the Highlands, Islands and Cairngorms National Park area celebrating being shortlisted for the region's most prestigious food and drink awards, to be held in Inverness's Kingsmills Hotel on October 21.

Finalists for the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards range from new business such as Ballinalloch distillery to established companies, such as Orkney-based Stockan's Oatcakes which has been operating for more than 100 years.

Successful eateries and restaurants like the new Café Sia on Skye and Lossiemouth's popular Harbour Lights restaurant were included alongside food and drink retailers.

Businesses are being recognised for their success in categories like best marketing initiative (sponsored by Bidvest Foodservice Scotland) and the business growth award (sponsored by Johnston Carmichael).

Young talent in the industry is recognised with four finalists in the Young Shining Star category: Andrew Fraser from Wester Ross Fisheries Ltd, Caitlin Grainger from Corner on the Square, Gillian Ross from MacGochans and Kirstin McGrath from the Clubhouse Hotel.

Judges include representatives from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), Scotland Food and Drink, caterers, chefs and current ambassadors of the year, Jill and Callum Clark of Connage Highland Dairy.

The awards, now in their 12th year, are delivered with support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

Elaine Jamieson, head of food and drink at HIE, said: 'Our food and drink sector is characterised by high-quality produce and service, and a strong sense of pride in people and place.'

'It is great to see a strong field of entries in the Highland and Islands Food and Drink Awards and we look forward to an evening of showcasing, celebrating and meeting friends old and new on October 21.'

Fred MacAulay will be hosting the evening for the third time running.

Further information and tickets are available at www.hifoodanddrinkawards.com.

Pier shop reopens after new operator is found

THE SHOP on Luss Pier has reopened after successfully finding someone to operate the premises.

The successful bidder was St Mocha – a fledgling business based in Balmaha on the other side of Loch Lomond.

There has been a small shop on the pier for more than 30 years and in 2015 Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority set out to find a new tenant.

Following a full renovation of the interior, St Mocha at Luss Pier is now open. Visitors to the shop can buy cruise and waterbus tickets for all services leaving Luss Pier, enjoy Scottish roasted coffee and homemade ice-creams and make use of the reopened toilets.

Stuart Fraser, director of St Mocha said: 'St Mocha specialises in artisan Scottish roasted coffee and our very own Loch Lomond luxury ice-cream.'

'We're really excited to be opening in Luss and providing a warm welcome to visitors looking to get out on the Loch in one of the many cruises and waterbus services that leave from the pier all summer long.'

'We're passionate about high quality food and drink, great customer service and making sure visitors want to come back time and time again.'

The National Park Authority manages Luss Pier. Its head of visitor experience, Mairi Bell said: 'We were looking for a business that not only offers a great product, but who would commit to helping visitors experience the best that Luss and Loch Lomond has to offer.'

'The quality of the St Mocha product is fantastic and Stuart has worked hard to ensure his team can provide visitor information and work closely with cruise and waterbus operators to help get people out enjoying the loch.'



The shop on the pier at Luss has reopened and is also where to buy tickets for waterbus services.

Start-up enterprise is fit for purpose

A YOGA teacher from Oban is bringing balance to the life of people on the West Coast thanks to a lot of determination and a little help from a government scheme.

After the death of her mother, Susan Irvine, 35, decided to quit her job of 14 years, sell all of her possessions and travel the world.

Susan said: 'I had always wanted to go travelling and to go to a yoga retreat. I managed to book a 200-hour Ashtanga Vinyasa yoga teacher training programme in Thailand and, after going around Australia and Bali, went back to Koh Samui to start.'

'I carried on practising every day and went back for a further 100 hours of Yin Yoga training, using up my last savings before I flew back on September 18 last year – the anniversary of my mum's passing.'

Now Susan has brought yoga to some of the most isolated villages through SuAsana Yoga and Massage Therapy.

Although she set out to run just two classes a week, local



Susan Irvine's business started with government funding.

appetite has seen Oban's newest business expand beyond Susan's goals, and she now runs yoga classes and private sessions, covering Oban, Taynuilt, Connel, Dalmally and Lochgilphead.

Susan said: 'When I got back,

I signed on with the Jobcentre and my intention was to start something up but I didn't know if it would work. Then the Jobcentre told me that because I was unemployed, I was entitled to get help from the New Enterprise Allowance (NEA).

The scheme offered £65 a week for 13 weeks and then 13 weeks at £33, which helped me get established while I was building the business.

'I was sleeping on my stepdad's sofa because I sold off all my possessions to go travelling and so had nothing to come back to.'

'That money really helped because I managed to get someone to rent a flat to me where I could offer holistic massage therapy, which I'm also qualified to do, while I was setting up the yoga classes.'

'Emilio, my NEA coach, was very supportive and gave me a lot of information. I enjoyed the security of having a business adviser to call on at any time and he continues to support and help me as my business grows and develops.'

Susan now hopes the business will continue to flourish. 'People have really embraced the styles of yoga I teach, and we get people of all ages, from 18 up to 70, coming along to the classes.'

Call 07793 133506 or search SuAsana on social media.



Congratulations to Jamie Menzies of MacLeod Construction who successfully achieved his OCR transport manager (road haulage) certificate. Jamie demonstrated professional competence in order to meet the operator licensing requirements providing him with a national licence for management of transport.

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Oban company lands £100,000 cash prize

OTAQ, an Oban company designing and manufacturing technology for the global fish farming industry, has been announced as one of the biggest winners of the Scottish Edge awards, with a prize of £100,000.

The competition, aimed at identifying and supporting Scotland's up-and-coming, innovative and entrepreneurial talent, invited OTAQ to pitch at the finals of the event in Edinburgh last week where more than £1.27million in grants and loans was awarded.

The firm scooped £100,000 after commercial director Chris Hyde led the firm's pitch on its launch product, an innovative deterrent system called SealFENCE, which uses unique underwater acoustic technology to prevent seals from attacking marine fish farming sites.

From 239 original applicants, just 22 of Scotland's most promising entrepreneurs were

invited to pitch their businesses to an expert panel of judges in order to win up to £100,000 each in grant funding and loans.

Just 15 of the start-up and growth businesses were successful, with only OTAQ and two others awarded the full amount applied for.

Mr Hyde said: 'This award is going to make a major difference to our company and will mean that we can accelerate our export plans significantly, introduce our product to more markets and recruit more staff this year.'

'Our company vision is to become world leaders in aquaculture technology and, specifically, in acoustic products such as predator control and monitoring systems.'

'Our key area of expertise lies within underwater acoustics and sonar, and we intend to build a reputation as experts in this field within our industry.'



Chris Hyde, left, is presented with the award by Sir Tom Hunter.

ADVERTORIAL



The Avalon team has been racking up awards, including the 2016 Scottish Independent Retail Awards Hair & Beauty Salon of the Year, Central Region.

Awards show that salon is a cut above

MICHELLE MCANALLY
editor@obantimes.co.uk

AVALON Hair and Beauty continues to rack up prestigious awards, adding the Scottish Independent Retail Awards Hair & Beauty Salon of the Year, Central Region, to its list of accolades.

This award highlights Avalon's role within its community, as well as its entrepreneurial spirit and business acumen.

Avalon also won Hair Salon of the Year North West Region, at the Scottish Hair and Beauty Awards in November 2014, and again in 2015, as voted for by its own clients.

'It's such a nice feeling to know that the award is actually from the clients,' said Jackie Den Heijer, who, along with her husband, Ian, and mother, Carol Young, own Avalon.

'It shows that people are getting great services and they are more than happy with our prices. They know they can come in, relax and have a laugh while enjoying a treatment. From the moment they walk in the door to the moment they leave, they are treated like royalty. Instead of focusing

on getting bums on seats, we concentrate on building a family with our clients. We listen to them and give them exactly what they want.'

The team consists of Jackie and Carol, along with additional stylist Vanda Brown, beauty therapist Natalie Pacitti, assistant Paula Cameron and trainees Ian Den Heijer and Elaine Boyce, all providing the most innovative therapies available, complemented with the finest professional salon brands for treatments and homecare, such as Wella, Mii and the organic Bronze Leaf Spray Tan. It is also in the process of taking on the Beauty Lab London range and the world renowned Declor range for skin care.

Located in Oban at 7 Albany Street, Avalon offers the perfect retreat for pampering, offering luxury and convenience that can take care of any beauty regime from top to toe. From waxing to nails, from spray tans to exclusive results-driven skincare lines, expertly trained and experienced therapists provide an extensive range of beauty treatments. And Avalon's advanced haircare therapies are working miracles on clients' locks. Ian and Elaine

are now offering an Olaplex treatment and blow dry for £30.

'People decide that they want the lightest blonde hair and on a number of occasions this is not possible. But Olaplex is changing things, allowing us to push blondes further than we ever have dared to before, and the results have been amazing.'

'But it's not just for blondes. Olaplex can help repair the most fragile of hair and is a fantastic all round treatment,' Jackie shared.

For clients who want to induce hair growth, or have thinning hair for any number of reasons, Nioxin therapy can help stop hair loss and bring back hair. 'The success stories we've had have been phenomenal with absolutely fantastic results.'

For a big night on the town, Avalon offers Instaglam-hair and make-up from only £25. The salon also offers wedding packages, including a complimentary pick-up and drop-off service in Oban.

The salon is open seven days a week, including late on Thursdays and Fridays. New services, last-minute appointments and specials can be found on the Facebook page, or ring 01631 563964.

Mull bar is up for pub of the year

MULL'S MacGochans is celebrating after being shortlisted in two categories at the Scottish Bar and Pub Awards.

The Tobermory hostelry is up for bar of the year as well as the quality award at the gongs ceremony on Tuesday August 16 in Glasgow's Hilton hotel.

Publican Neil Morrison said: 'We're absolutely delighted. We won the Tennent's quality award in 2014 and were shortlisted for Sunday Mail Pub of the Year the same year.'

Neil, who has run MacGochans for five years, said: 'We always try to push standards up on the island and it's good we get

recognised for the standards we have.'

'We try to promote as much local stuff as possible, including food and drink from local farms or seafood that comes straight off the boat into the pub.'

'We cater for up to 400 meals a day and keep a pristine cellar and glasses.'

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Are you curious about social media and what it can do for your business? Do you think you're a bit of a digital dinosaur? Then this workshop is for you. It is designed for people who haven't used social media for their business before and would like to learn more.

The Grey Gull Hotel, Ardrishaig - 24 August

DOING MORE WITH SOCIAL MEDIA

Are you looking to take your social media marketing to a new level? This workshop is for those who have a Facebook business page or Twitter account and have been using social media marketing for a while but would like to grow their presence, improve their reach and become more effective and efficient in social media marketing.

The Grey Gull Hotel, Ardrishaig - 25 August

To book call 01546 604555 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk or visit www.bateway.com/events



money matters



Members of the public are given warning of eight fraudulent practices carried out by ruthless and callous criminal con men

Trading Standards and Citizens Advice launch nationwide campaign to expose the most common scammers' tricks

Argyll and Bute Trading Standards is urging people to spread the word about scams and expose the tactics of fraudsters to protect others.

Citizens Advice and Trading Standards have launched the national Scams Awareness Month, which runs until the end of July, to help stop people falling prey to scams by following a three-step rule - get advice, report it and tell others about it.

It comes as national research by Citizens Advice finds scammers are using a variety of tactics to get people to part with their cash, with people losing an average of £2,500 across all types of scam.

Methods include vishing - where scammers cold-call people in a bid to get their bank details, and offers of fake services, such as telling people their computer has a virus which they can fix remotely.

Investment scams carried the highest price tag, with people investing in fake diamonds or bogus stocks and shares losing of on average £20,000 each.

Citizens Advice and Trading Standards are warning people to be on their guard and watch out for the different methods used by fraudsters, from doorstep selling of counterfeit goods to demands for upfront payments for services that never materialise.

Councillor David Kinniburgh, policy lead for planning and regulatory services, said: 'Scams are not a minor blight. They heap misery on people and in some cases can lead to financial ruin.'

'Fraudsters use sophisticated techniques to con

people and, because they vary their methods, it can be tricky to spot when something is a scam. If you come across something that seems suspicious, seek advice so you don't put yourself at risk.

'It's vital to report scams and spread the word so we can clampdown on con artists and stop others falling into the same traps.'

Eight common scams reported to Citizens Advice are:

Investment - victims are persuaded to invest money into fake ventures and are then unable to get their money back.

Fake services - people are offered a service for a fee, only to find the service isn't real or doesn't exist at all. Examples include offers to fix computers remotely and fake invoices for advertising.

Vishing - con-artists cold-call people pretending to be a legitimate company, asking for credit or debit card details - for example, on the pretence that they need to refund overpaid bills.



Doorstep selling - victims are offered goods door-to-door or from the back of a van, which are likely to be counterfeit. Fraudsters selling mattresses, 'fresh' fish and cleaning products were all reported to Citizens Advice.

Upfront payment or fee - fraudsters ask for a payment in advance for a service or product that never materialises, such as asking for a fee to get a loan, or to pay for a training course to secure a job.

Premium rate texts - victims inadvertently agree to receive premium rate texts about games or competitions, usually costing around £4 each.

Counterfeit goods - people buy goods at marketplaces or online that turn out to be counterfeit or even stolen. Common products include cigarettes, shoes and clothing, and tickets for events.

Goods not received - people place orders for goods which don't arrive. Scams are often carried out through social media and online auction sites.

If you have been scammed, report it to Trading Standards through the Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 04 05 06, which will also offer advice.



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In 2015/16 we helped clients with 8,418 issues, generated £1.2million in client financial gain and saved 70 households from losing their home.

We are an accredited advice giving organisation and hold the Scottish National Standards award and are also accredited by Money Advice Scotland to provide debt and money advice. We are licenced to provide debt advice by the Financial Conduct Authority and staff are trained and insured to provide this.

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Cupboards full of cash? Take a closer look

What about all that cash you have got lying around the house? This is not about the children's piggy banks, those euros you have not changed back or the stuff that has fallen down the back of the sofa.

Go into the kitchen, open all the cupboard doors and take a long, slow look at all that money.

Now do the same at the fridge and freezer - though it will have to be a much quicker look because you do not want to start a thaw.

A well-stocked family kitchen, a freezer with a working supply of ice-cream, burgers, pizzas, garlic bread and a mix of different veg, a couple of big bags of frozen chips, packets of mince and a joint or two of meat plus a family pack of chicken pieces has a price tag wandering into the hundreds of pounds.

Take a look at the herb and spice rack. The average price is around a pound for each jar. How many have you got on the rack, not to mention the overflow of all those other jars in the cupboard, sitting there with the stock cubes, gravy powder, casserole mixes and spice rubs?

Quite a fright - and we have not even gone through the fridge yet, with all that pre-packed salad and yoghurt, pate and cooked meat with its short life.

Not to mention all the pasta, rice, flour, sugar, tea, coffee - what our grannies used to call 'dry goods and groceries'.

Then there is the special foodie ingredients you bought to do those TV recipes that everyone fancied from the previous Jamie Oliver show.

It runs to hundreds of pounds.

The easiest way to save money and eat well for less is to recognise the money already invested in your food stock and use it.

If your kitchen was part of a cafe or hotel chain, someone at head office would be breathing down your neck and asking why you were carrying so much stock and not turning it into profit.

And the size of those packets?

A weekend special XXL bargain is only a bargain if you use it all.

Remember the difference between best before dates and use by dates, and also remember that how you store items is of prime importance.

If you do not decant into a spotlessly clean, air-tight container, then open the packaging carefully and close securely with a suitable fastener.

Also, how do you know what you have got to use if you cannot see it because those cupboards are in such a mess?

Remember the time you had to clean out that shelf because something had leaked and you found the inevitable tin of tuna happily rusting away at the back, a good three years out of date.

And all those half-eaten packets of breakfast cereal the kids pestered you to buy.

Are you looking at a well-stocked kitchen with all goods rotated, oldest to front, newest to back with a quick-turn over that would make your inner profit or loss account beam with pride?

Just think how much you could save if you got those cupboards under control.

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Livestock returns to Lismore show after 78-year absence

COLIN CAMERON
editor@obantimes.co.uk

LIVESTOCK makes a welcome return to the revived Lismore Agricultural Show this year.

The Lismore Agricultural Society had organised an annual agricultural show on the island since its foundation in 1853. But the last time sheep and cattle were paraded around the island was in 1938, on the eve of the Second World War.

Last year saw the revival of a show but without the animals that were at the event's heart for so many years.

Now they are back, and the 2016 show, to be held this Saturday July 16, at Croft 5 Craiganinch, will see classes for blackface, purebred and cross sheep, as well as breeding cattle.

Well known Galloway cattle breeder Drew Brown from Drumhughry, Castle Douglas, will handle the judging duties. Umpire for the day will be Willie MacLean from West Ferloch, Benderloch.

Among the marquees, there will be strong sections for baking, preserves, handicrafts,



A young handler with his prize-winning dairy heifer from Lismore Show in the early 1930s.

floral, vegetables, arts and photography. Glasgow's Ann

Sneddon will judge the baking classes, while the handicrafts

will be scrutinised by Ann Muirhead. The paintings and

photography entries will be placed by Sue Campbell.

One of the big attractions, with a large entry in store, is certain to be the dog show, judged by an as-yet-unnamed local vet.

The show will operate a 'bring your own bottle' bar.

Scottish Sea Farms has sponsored the event to the tune of £1,500, while invaluable support has also been received from Oban Livestock Centre.

Neil Carmichael, from Lismore Agricultural Show, said: 'We are very much looking forward to this year's show, which will be the first proper show on the island since 1938.'

'The venue is less than a mile from the ferry and it should be a great family day out. We just hope for a good day of weather.'

He continued: 'I want to thank Mrs C Carmichael for kind use of the land and local businesses for prizes. Oban Livestock Centre and Scottish Sea Farms have also been fantastic supporters this year, so many thanks to them.'

Judging starts on Saturday at 11.30am, while the dogs will be judged around 2pm. Show entry is free, though donations are welcome.

Argyll monitor farms sought

FARMERS in Lochaber are being invited to join a new programme to help improve the profitability and productivity of local producers.

The £1.25 million monitor farms project is looking for farmers who would be interested in joining the scheme which aims to create monitor farms that will hold discussions of relevant issues, and share their best practices with others.

Applications can be downloaded at www.qmsscotland.co.uk/monitor-farms-2016-2020

School talk is the bees knees

LOCHABER Bee-keeping Society created a buzz at its talk in Spean Bridge recently.

Representatives from the group, which was set up around 1968, visited the primary school last month.

Sarah Kennedy said: 'The talk was carried out by myself and Alison. It was great to see the reaction of the children to seeing the actual bees and there were lots of questions!'

'We talked a bit about the group - we have 53 members throughout Lochaber - the important times of the year and what we can do to help honey bees - for example having a wild area in our gardens.'

David ploughs his own furrow, raising vital cash for cancer charity

A PERTSHIRE farmer rolled into Argyll and Bute last week as part of a major fundraising initiative.

David McLaren, 78, from Blackford, is chugging 1,600 miles around the coast of Scotland in his Fordson Dexta 1960 tractor to raise money for Cancer Research UK and Friends of St Margaret's Hospital in Auchterarder.

He arrived in Oban on Friday having travelled up from Campbelltown and met members of Oban's Cancer Research UK (CRUK) committee.

The retired farmer decided to attempt the challenge in memory of his wife Elizabeth, who died of cancer in 2014.

This is not the first time David has supported CRUK and the hospital in Auchterarder.

In 2003, wearing his kilt the whole way, David and Elizabeth

drove the same Fordson Dexta tractor from Land's End to John O'Groats and raised more than £14,500.

David said: 'I'm doing it in memory of Elizabeth. Four months after the last trip in 2003 we discovered Elizabeth had kidney cancer. That run was a fantastic experience and we made a lot of friends.'

'This time I'd like to stay closer to home and explore the amazing coast of Scotland while raising vital funds for these two charities.'

He set off on Saturday July 2 and expects to finish around July 20.

Anyone can sponsor his fundraising efforts by donating to Sponsored Run Around Scotland at Bank of Scotland 80-22-60, Account Number 14359061.

Dorothy Rodger, from Cancer Research UK, said: 'We are

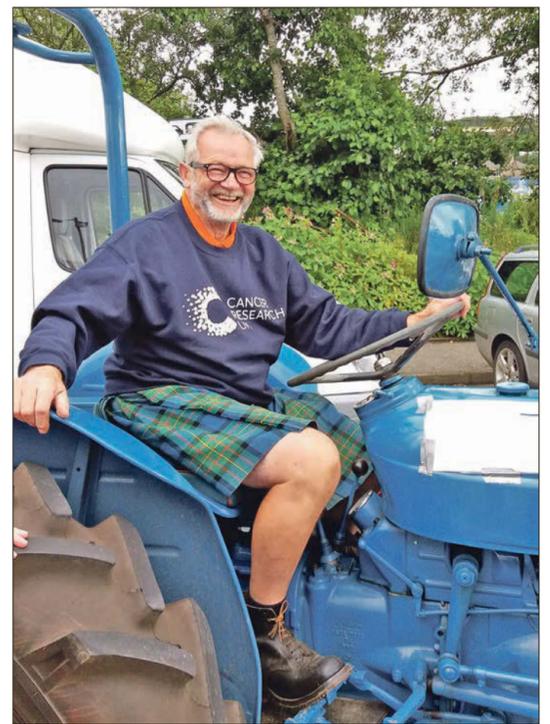


David McLaren, far right, is creating his own Straight Story as he drives a tractor round the coast of Scotland to raise money for Cancer Research UK; and above, David, centre, with members of the Oban CRUK committee. Photographs: Kevin McGlynn

absolutely delighted that David has decided to attempt such a huge challenge to raise vital funds for Cancer Research UK. He has put an enormous amount

of time and effort into organising this trip and I hope everyone will be inspired to support him through donations and by cheering him on along the route.

Cancer Research UK is entirely funded by voluntary donations and we could not make progress without the ongoing support of people such as David.'



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The Mégane family is extended with the arrival of the all-new Grand Coupe

A SALOON WITH FEATURES FROM THE SEGMENT ABOVE

After revealing the all-new Mégane in 2015 and all-new Mégane Sport Tourer in March 2016, the all-new Mégane Grand Coupé is the latest model in the marque's family.



The new four-door saloon is part of the renewal of the Renault range. Its dynamic and prestigious styling is reflected in sculpted surfaces, well-balanced proportions, a Renault-family front end, and a distinctive C-shaped front lighting signature. The glass roof linking the windscreen to the rear window lends an elegant and aesthetic two-tone look.

The all-new Mégane Grand Coupé boasts top-level rear-seat space. The new model's three-box body also benefits from a capacious boot (508 dm³ VDA) with easier access thanks to the hands-free easy boot access system.

All-new Mégane Grand Coupé benefits from the cost-cutting CMF C/D architecture (common module family) and brings motorists the same driving pleasure and superior features as the rest of the Mégane family, including a seven-inch colour TFT instrument panel, an 8.7-inch multimedia tablet, R-Link 2, multi-sense, easy park assist and an extensive line-up of additional comfort equipment and driving aids such as advanced emergency braking system and lane departure warning. The all-new Mégane Grand Coupé meets the expectations of customers looking for a stylish vehicle with refined features.



NEW CAR INDEX



ISUZU
S & S Services
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080
01292 880440



Great Wall
S & S Services
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080
01292 880440



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S & S Services
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Ford Transit 2.5 Diesel Countryman Motorhome

2 berth, 1994, power steering, electric hook-up, full size cooker, fridge, microwave, shower and cassette toilet, hot and cold water. MOT expires 06/07/2017. Mileage - 92,330.
£5000 o.n.o.
Tel: 01852 300213 (Isle of Seil)

Toyota Previa

53 reg, 7 seater, MPV, 10 1/2 months MOT, 2.2 diesel, twin sliding rear doors, folding rear seats giving lots of space. good condition for year, good on fuel.
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Diesel - good on fuel, New MOT, sleeps 2, warm air heating, new air awning/bike rack. Great condition. new timing belt and suspension
£4750
Tel: 01770 601319 (Arran)

Mitsubishi Lancer Estate

2005 reg, 64,000 miles, 8 months MOT, timing belt done, 4 new tyres, 9 disc cd changer.
£990
Tel: 07516 803 866

BMW Z4 Roadster, 2.2SE

Excellent condition inside and out, with full service history.
£4,000
For further details or viewing contact Dave on 07879 812603

2011 Peugeot Boxer 335 Dropside

pick-up, new MOT, 126000 miles, vgc.
01343 842114 or 07702985180

16ft GRP Boat

with 5hp yamaha 2 stroke, comes with oars raulics and anchor. With road trailer all in good condition.
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01631 720414

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All types of 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Toyotas, Nissan, any 4 x 4 consiered, also non-runners, failures, single or double cab.

Telephone 01250 884306 or mobile 07885 203020

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Wanted motor homes, caravanettes and camper vans, all makes or models considered. Also touring caravans and statics, instant decision, same day payment.

Contact William 07730 130284 or email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com

WANTED

All types of good quality 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford etc and all 4 x 4 pickups, must be good condition and reasonable mileage. Older 4 x 4's and non runners/MOT failures etc considered. Will collect.

Telephone 07546 788945

WANTED

All 4 x 4s, old or new Toyota Hilux, land cruiser, all pickups single or double cabs, any condition, runner or not, high miles no problem.

Tel 07703490572 ask for Robert

WANTED

All types of motor homes and caravanettes, any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 85 onwards.

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2012 KIA CEED, 1.6 DIESEL, SILVER, LOW MILES, MOT 2017, £20 A YEAR ROAD TX.£5,975

2005 HONDA ACCORD CDTI EXECUTIVE EST, 2.2 LTR DIESEL, LEATHER INTERIOR, SAT NAV, MOT TILL MAY 2017, 99,052 MILES.£2,950

2007 PEUGEOT 107 1LTR, 37,727 MILES, MOT APRIL 2017, 1 OWNER FROM NEW, FOR SALE ON BEHALF OF CUSTOMER.£2,750

2008 FIAT PUNTO, 1.4, 53, LOW MILES 923, MOT 30TH MAY 2017, GOOD CLEAN LOCAL CAR£2,375

2004 VAUXHALL ASTRA, 1.4, 82,945 MILES, MOT & SERVICE AT TIME OF PURCHASE£1,995

2005 VAUXHALL CORSA, 1.2, 99,018 MILES, MOT TILL JUNE 2017, LOCAL TRADE IN£995

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Unit 6, Lochavullin Ind. Est., Oban
Tel: 01631 566502 01631 566470

ADVERTORIAL

WHEN YOUR CAR CAN'T, THE SUBARU XV CAN.



PCP Representative example

OTR Cash price	£21,995.00
Customer Deposit	£2,909.50
Subaru Deposit Contribution	£1,000.00
Total Deposit	£3,909.50
Total Amount of Credit	£18,085.50
Option to Purchase Fee (included in final payment)	£10.00
48 Monthly Payments	£299.00
Optional Final Payment	£7,254.00
Total Amount Payable	£25,515.25
Duration of Agreement	49 Months
Representative APR	6.9% APR
Interest Rate (Fixed)	6.67% APR

Representative example relates to a XV 2.0i SE. Vehicle shown is an XV 2.0i SE Premium Lineartronic with optional special paint finish OTR price of £26,995.00.

FROM
£21,995 OTR
For the XV 2.0i SE



CONTACT US TO FIND OUT MORE

Helensburgh Subaru
101-103 East Clyde Street, Helensburgh, G84 7PJ

Telephone: 01436 584326
helensburgh-subaru.co.uk

@HBurghSubaru
 /HelensburghSubaru

SUBARU XV RANGE Fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km): Urban 31.4-41.5 (9.0-6.8); Extra Urban 48.7-61.4 (5.8-4.6); Combined 40.4-52.3 (7.0-5.4). CO₂ Emissions 160-141 g/km.

MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

Credit available subject to status to UK residents aged 18 and over. Representative Example based upon total contract of 24,000 miles. With Subaru Personal Contract Purchase you have the option at the end of the agreement to: (1) return the vehicle and not pay the Final Payment. If the vehicle has exceeded the allowed mileage a charge per excess mile will apply. In this example, 14.0p per excess mile up to 4,999, or for excess mileage of 5,000 or more, a charge of 28.0p will apply to each excess mile above the allowed mileage plus VAT. If the vehicle is in good condition and has not exceeded the allowed mileage you will have nothing further to pay. (2) Pay the Final Repayment to own the vehicle. (3) Part exchange the vehicle subject to settlement of your existing finance agreement; new finance agreements are subject to status. Excludes motability, fleet and BASC Members Affinity Scheme sales. Available at participating dealers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. This credit offer is only available through Subaru Finance. We may receive commission or other benefits for introducing you to Subaru Finance. We can introduce you to Subaru Finance and a limited number of other lenders to provide funding. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Offer ends 30.09.16. Subaru Finance is a trading style of International Motors Finance Limited, registered office at Charterhall House, Charterhall Drive, Chester, Cheshire, CH88 3AN. Every vehicle marketed by Subaru (UK) Ltd, excluding WRX STI, is covered by a 5 Year/100,000 mile (whichever comes sooner) Limited Warranty which comprises of a standard 3 Year / 60,000 mile (whichever is sooner) Manufacturer's Warranty (bumper to bumper, excluding clutch driven plate) and an Extended Warranty (applies to powertrain only) provided by the importer. Vehicle shown is an XV 2.0i SE Premium Lineartronic with optional special paint finish OTR price of £26,995.00. Without special paint finish £26,495.00. OTR price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months road fund licence and first registration fee. Prices correct at time of going to print.

AYGO X-CITE AT HELENSBURGH TOYOTA

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£99

per month*

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Model shown is AYGO x-cite 5 door 1.0 VVT-i Manual at £12,490. Prices correct at time of going to print. *0% APR Representative only available on new retail orders of AYGO (excluding x grade) between 1st July and 30th September 2016 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services by 31st December 2016 on a 2 year Access Toyota (PCP) plan with 0%-37% deposit. *Payment shown is based on a 24 month Access Toyota contract with £4,603 customer deposit, and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC, registered office Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Excess miles over contracted charged at 8p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. Affordable finance through Access Toyota. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.

AYGO x-cite 5 door 1.0 VVT-i Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 56.5 (5.0), Extra Urban 78.5 (3.6), Combined 68.9 (4.1). CO₂ Emissions 95g/km. All mpg and CO₂ figures quoted are sourced from official EU regulated laboratory test results. These are provided to allow comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

Helensburgh Motors

Helensburgh Motors is proud to be an independent company serving Argyll and Bute and Dunbartonshire. Its facilities provide new and used cars sales, servicing, parts and body repairs in its BSi Kitemark Accident Repair Centre. The company is also delighted to now be supporting Subaru customers for all their needs.

Helensburgh Motors has held the Toyota franchise for 39 years – one of the longest in the UK – and for the past eight years has consistently been the number one dealer for customer care in Scotland. That is not a judgement the firm makes itself, that is what its customers say.

Building relationships with its customers is fundamentally what makes the difference and with high staff retention and a friendly atmosphere, its garages are a welcoming place to be. Every car owner needs to get their car serviced, repaired or MoT'd at some point, but they have a choice of who does that work. They make a positive choice to use Helensburgh Motor Sales because they trust the company.

There's more to us than just selling cars!

But there is more to business than the next sale or service, and an essential part of who the company is is being a good corporate citizen in the local community.

2015 - raised more than £4,700 for Comic Relief Red Nose Day

2015 - raised £750 for the Children's Hospice (CHAS)

2014 - sponsored big attraction: Roller Rink at Helensburgh Summer Festival

2013 - local girl Charlie Sutherland won a trip to Japan with her parents to the ceremony of the Dream Car Competition

2012 - raised more than £5,200 for Help our Heroes

Helensburgh Motors is proud to play its part – YOUR COMMUNITY, OUR COMMUNITY

Scottish Garage of the Year 2012

Helensburgh Motor Sales, Toyota Franchise – 'We'd never consider taking our car anywhere else' – was typical of the company's customers' responses, and this quote appeared in WHATCAR? Magazine.

Next week Helensburgh Motors will visit Tesco, Oban, and will be showcasing models in the Toyota and Subaru Range. The sales team will also be offering visitors the chance to test drive these vehicles from Tesco, so please bring along your driving licence. To make an appointment please call 01436 672779.

Sales Controller, Kirsteen McGuire said:

'There has never been a more important time for small businesses and people in our surrounding area to support each other. Being out and about is giving us the chance to do this and we hope to let local people see the commitment we have to Argyll and Bute and the islands. We will have a new car display on show with some terrific offers so come along and see us.'

Helensburgh Motors Come and see us at

TESCO
OBAN

Monday 18th July until
Sunday 24th July

To book an appointment call 01436 672779



Come and check out the Subaru XV's spacious storage at Tesco Oban from Monday 18th July - Sunday 24th July.



Take a seat for a test drive in the modern, stylish interior of the Toyota Aygo X-Cite.

PUBLIC NOTICES

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING
These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
16/01594/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 2 Land North Of Craig Lora Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Connel
16/01795/PP	Erection of two temporary storage huts (retrospective)	Macleod Centre Isle Of Iona Argyll And Bute PA76 6SN	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
16/01649/PP	Formation of access track	Land South West Of Tullich Water Treatment Works Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4SB	Oban Area Office
16/01582/AMSC	Approval of conditions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 relative to planning permission in principle reference 15/00421/PPP for the erection of dwellinghouse, installation of private drainage system and formation of new vehicular access	Land North West Of Arinagour Pier Arinagour Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
16/01846/PP	Erection of 24 flats and associated works	Land West Of Catalina Avenue Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
16/01558/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage	Plot 5 Land Adjacent To Arriogan Cottage Lerags Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4SD	Oban Area Office

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/feedback-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

Applications marked with an asterisk - Interest can be expressed in obtaining the tenancy of the croft subject to the application.

M Heads
Arivouchallum, Kildaton & Oa
0.4609 ha - Site for a dwelling house
4.86.61188
Conditions: 2, 3b, 4

Conditions

(2) To provide a site for a dwellinghouse
(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.

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT REGULATIONS 2011 APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION ARDINTIGH NEVIS C MARINE CAGE FISH FARM, LOCH NEVIS

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Scottish Sea Farms Ltd to vary water use licence number CAR/L/1002353 authorising the carrying on of a controlled activity at, near or in connection with Ardintigh Nevis C Marine Cage Fish Farm, Loch Nevis, as follows:

Description of change to controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Increase in maximum biomass from 1000 tonnes to 1630 tonnes. Changes to chemical treatments used. Additional cages with a change to cage configuration.	Loch Nevis	NM 7695 9370

SEPA considers that the above change(s) to a controlled activity may have an impact on the water environment. A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advised-applications-under-car/>

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1002353:

Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall Office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall Business Park, Dingwall, IV15 9XB.

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application. Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
16/01960/LBC	Arisaig Railway Station, Station Road, Arisaig		Installation of new CCTV cameras
16/02695/FUL	Unit 3, Ben Nevis Drive, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate Fort William		Installation of mezzanine floor, removal of garage door and erection of new signage
16/02729/FUL	Land 1340M NW of Netherwood, House, Invergarry		Change of use of land to site 6 no. glamping pods, installation of septic tank and soakaway
16/02831/FUL	House Plot 3 South of Coillera, Wilson Way, Banavie, Fort William		Proposed Erection of single storey 3 bed dwelling and associated garage
16/02890/FUL	Land 60M NE of The Old Sawmill Glenborrodale, Acharacle		The partial change of use of the Glenborrodale agricultural store to facilitate the running of a 32kW hydro turbine utilising the existing old sawmill hydro power system (Dam and Pen-stock). The addition of a dry stone wall to divert the exiting water.
16/02917/FUL	104 High Street, Fort William		Proposal for a Pavement Cafe (renewal of 13/01172/FUL)
16/02965/FUL	Residential Accommodation Kingshouse Inn, Glencoe, Ballachulish		Erection of pitched roof entrance porch to south elevation and mono pitch boiler house on north elevation, installation of cooler unit for beer store.
16/02975/FUL	Nevis Square, North Road, Fort William		Erection of restaurant with drive through facility with car parking, outdoor seating area and associated works
16/03011/FUL	Gleann Fia, Glencoe, Ballachulish		Erection of proposed detached garage/letting unit (amended siting to planning permission 15/00441/FUL)

Time period for comments is 14 days, 16/01960/LBC is 21 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

First Registration of a Croft

Shelagh Munro has registered their croft 2 Torcastle & Mount Alexander (Share), Kilmalie, on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by March 29, 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2850.

First Registration of a Croft

Mrs Julie Ann Bryce has registered their croft 2 Bunacaimb, Arisaig and Modiat on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by February 20, 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2735

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

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West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

LETTINGS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY SALE PROPERTY REVIEWS PROPERTY NEWS LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

Scottish Property Federation welcomes Scottish Government's 'positive' response to planning review

SCOTTISH Ministers have published their response to the report of the independent planning review panel led by Crawford Beveridge, Petra Biberbach and former Scottish Property Federation chairman John Hamilton.

Building on the work of the panel, the Scottish Government has identified 10 immediate actions including:

Extending permitted development rights – where planning permission is not needed – to more types of development. This could mean removing uncontroversial minor developments from the system, as well as using permitted development to encourage developments which support low-carbon living and digital infrastructure.

Strengthening skills and capacity and consulting on enhanced fees to ensure planning authorities are better resourced to deliver more homes.

Improving planning performance, ensuring users of the system receive a better service.

Introducing pilot simplified

planning zones for housing so that planning permission is granted for housing up front, allowing developments to progress more quickly and flexibly.

Identifying how digital transformation of the planning service can be taken to another level, using tools including the web and 3D visualisations to make information about how our places will evolve over time much easier to access and understand.

The Scottish Property Federation, which contributed evidence to the planning review, has welcomed the Scottish Government's response.

Mandy Catterall, government relations manager at the Scottish Property Federation, said: 'The recommendations in the report offer a strong focus on a planning service that delivers positive outcomes for communities, public leadership and securing investment.'

'We look forward to engaging collaboratively with the Scottish Government and other stakeholders on the proposed work programmes

and the development of more detailed proposals for the recommendations contained in the review.

'Our sector is a key catalyst for jobs, investment and creating places for people to live, work and play, and we need to work together if we are to sustain the economy and investment in Scotland. The priority in Scotland must remain on growing the economy and securing investment to deliver the infrastructure our businesses and communities need. We must act swiftly to get the message around that Scotland is open for business.'



WANTED

Cottage with ground or a Plot wanted.

Close to Sea Loch must have access to shore. Areas including or nearby: Lochs Linnhe, Sunart, Moidart and Ailort. Would consider other Areas/Islands.

Contact Mr McLelland 07826608841 or 01413390413

KINTYRE PROPERTY CO.
SALES & LETTING AGENTS
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www.kintyre-property.co.uk

TELEPHONE: 01586 552345
6 MAIN STREET
CAMPBELTOWN
ARGYLL
PA28 6AG

GARAGE FOR SALE

Well established MOT and service/repair garage. Superb location within Campbeltown town centre. Large space of approximately 477 square metres with the reception and accounts office. Also car wash space at the side and parking space at the front.

EPC rating C OIRO £95,000

Bell Ingram, Boswell House, Argyll Square, PA34 4BD
01631 566122 oban@bellingram.co.uk

THE TIN CHURCH, BALVICAR, ISLE OF SEIL
Offers Over £295,000 EPC C72

Unique and outstanding architect designed conversion of a tin church to provide an art deco style home with holiday let annex in convenient island location.

ARDROSS, CLACHAN, ISLE OF SEIL
Guide Price £350,000 EPC E48

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Top five things on every tenant's wishlist

With the private rented sector (PRS) demand stronger than ever, it can be easy to be somewhat complacent when making sure a property meets tenants' needs and desires. However, it's vital to remember that properties which tick all the boxes are more likely to see a tenant sign a lease – and at a better price.

It's always important that landlords know exactly what most tenants will want from their rented homes, meaning they can prepare the property in advance and make sure it has the best chance of securing a tenancy quickly. We take a look at a few key factors.

Modern furnishing/decor

Most properties in this day and age come furnished and freshly decorated, and it's important that this is executed well in order to secure the right tenant. For example, if you are letting to a young professional couple, the best bet is to ensure that the home has modern, simple interiors and sharp, contemporary furnishings that will give it that city-living sort of look.

Good transport links

Not exactly something that the agent or landlord can influence, but it's something that tenants really do look for, so if you are trying to let a home that

has fantastic transport links, make sure you're shouting it from the rooftops.

Broadband

Tenants will always want to know that they have access to a strong and fast connection wherever they choose to live. If the home doesn't have a connection, it's good idea to pay the expense to make sure it's ready to connect when someone does move in.

Security

For all that everyone wants all the modern connectivity and furnishings, the majority of tenants will still put safety at the top of their list when it comes to things they want from the property. Make sure that in advance of any viewings, you have ensured that all doors, windows and locks are well maintained and secure.

Amenities

People live for longer than ever in rented accommodation and the majority of tenants now even say that they see their rental property as their home. And they want to know that they have good amenities nearby – shops, bars and restaurants are always important. Again, make sure you are not scared to show this fact off, and tell tenants exactly what they will be getting. It always pays to wow potential customers, after all.

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Properties for sale and let

Struan Crescent, Tobermory

- Semi detached bungalow
- 2 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom
- Modern property
- Popular residential area
- Large gardens with driveway parking
- EPC Rating - D65

OIRO £155,000

2 Struan Crescent - A deceptively spacious 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow close to Tobermory town centre. Built 5 years ago, this low maintenance property boasts well proportioned rooms, driveway parking and generous gardens front and accommodation comprises porch area with large storage room, hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, family bathroom and 2 double bedrooms with built in storage.

Main Street, Tobermory

- Semi detached cottage
- 2 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom
- Central location close to Tobermory Harbour
- Excellent holiday let potential
- In need of some modernisation
- EPC Rating D - (S8)

OIRO £120,000

Portmore Cottage offers an excellent opportunity to purchase a centrally located traditional cottage situated just meters from Tobermory's harbour and bustling Main Street. Upon entering the cottage a small porch leads into a rectangular lounge which features a gas fired Eifel stove.

Comraich, Tobermory

- Spacious Detached House
- 3 Bedrooms All En-Suite
- High Standard Fixtures & Fittings
- Private Well Maintained Garden
- Potential B&B/Holiday Rental
- EPC - C75

OIRO £300,000

Comraich - A spacious 3 bedroom detached house located above the town of Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. Built 8 years ago by the current owners the accommodation comprises a spacious hallway, large lounge, dining room, kitchen/diner, utility and master bedroom with en-suite bathroom.

Staffa House, Fionnphort

- Highly successful, award-winning B&B
- 4 en-suite bedrooms & separate owner accommodation
- Situated in Fionnphort, very close to Iona ferry
- Beautiful conservatory with views to Iona
- Large private garden
- EPC rating E43

OIEO £350,000

Built in 1923 by a local stonemason, Staffa House is a spacious five bedroom, two-storey detached house situated in Fionnphort on the Ross of Mull. Currently run as a B&B (graded 3-star Gold with Visit Scotland), the house comprises four en-suite guest bedrooms and private owner accommodation.

25 Stevenson Street, Oban

- One bedroom flat
- Located Centrally in Oban
- Unfurnished First Floor
- Council Tax Band A
- EPC - B(04)
- Landlord Reg: 342259/130/31461
- AVAILABLE NOW

£460 PCM

One bedroom flat located centrally in Oban. Open plan living room and modern kitchen with spacious double bedroom and shower bathroom. The property is freshly painted in neutral colours, newly carpeted in living area and comes unfurnished with fridge and built-in cooker. Rent excludes Council Tax (Band A) and utilities. Deposit and references required.

Albany Street, Flat 5, 1 Albany Street, Oban

- One bedroom town centre flat
- Newly refurbished
- On-street Permit Parking
- Centrally located
- Council Tax - B - EPC - D (74)
- Landlord Reg. No. 427367/130/18351.
- Deposit & References Required

AVAILABLE NOW £485 PCM

Cosy one bedroom flat located in Oban town centre with excellent transport links. The accommodation comprises of one bedroom, shower bathroom, kitchen/dining area, lounge and hallway. New fully fitted kitchen includes cooker, fridge-freezer, washing machine. With secure entry system and on street permit parking available. Double glazing and electric heating throughout.

Shuna Terrace, Oban

- 3 Bedroom ground floor flat.
- EPC - F (25)
- Council Tax - Band B
- Landlord Reg: 433602/130/27551 & 433646/130/27551
- Deposit & References Required
- AVAILABLE MID AUGUST 2016

AVAILABLE AUGUST £550 PCM

Modern 3 Bedroom Property in upper Oban. The accommodation comprises of 2 double bedrooms with built-in wardrobes & 1 single bedroom. There is a spacious kitchen, lounge, bathroom with bath & shower plus a separate WC.

Longsdale Terrace, 11B Longsdale Terrace, Oban

- 2 bedroom Flat
- Part-furnished
- Available for long let
- Street Parking - EPC Rating D(68)
- Council Tax - Band B
- AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER
- Landlord Registration: 161016/130/2420

AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER £500 PCM

A first floor two bedroom flat on Longsdale Terrace, Oban. The accommodation is comprised of Lounge (with access to a private balcony), Kitchen (inc. All white goods), 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom, hall cupboard. Outside there is a large stairwell storage cupboard and a shared drying green to the rear.

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ENGAGEMENTS

BADDON FORGRIEVE - BUCKLEY - Beverley Baddon Forgive of Oban, daughter of Robert and Iliad and John Buckley, son of the late Captain N.S.D Buckley MBE and the late Jessica Buckley of Adelaide are pleased to announce their engagement on May 1, 2016.

MARRIAGES

RUTH - McCULLOCH - On Saturday July 9, 2016 in Edinburgh, Martin, son of Joe and Isabel Ruth, Glasgow to Deirdre, daughter of Bob and Ann McCulloch, Oban.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

McNEILL - BARBOUR - On July 15, 1966 at St. Oran's Church, Connel by Rev. D. MacCallum, assisted by Rev. K. McMillan, Appin, John to Fay. Present Address: Craigmount, Tarbert.

DEATHS

BARTHOLOMEW - John of Calgary. Suddenly at home on July 9, 2016, aged 92. Beloved husband of Alison and adored father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Happy and active to the last. Funeral at Gruline Church on date to be advised. Donations if desired to RNLI. Colossians 3:3.

LIVERSEDEGE - Peacefully, in the Belford Hospital, on Tuesday, July 12, 2016, Joan Liversedge, aged 84 years. Loving wife of Jack. Funeral Service will be held on Friday, July 22, 2016 at 2 pm in the Strontian Church; thereafter to Drimnatorran Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired to Cancer Research UK can be given at the door. All friends are welcome to attend. Enquiries to John McLellan Funeral Directors, Dudley Road, Fort William.

MACGREGOR - Peacefully, in the loving care of Abbeyfield Nursing Home, several days short of her 102nd birthday, on Friday, July 8, 2016, Christina 'Chrissie' MacGregor. Beloved wife of the late Hugh, third eldest of 11 children (survived by her twin sisters), a much loved aunt and great-aunt. Funeral Service will be held on Friday, July 15, 2016 at 11.30am in the Salvation Army Hall, Kinlochleven; thereafter to Duror Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired to Abbeyfield Nursing Home and the Salvation Army can be given at the door. All friends are welcome to attend. Enquiries to John McLellan Funeral Directors, Dudley Road, Fort William.

MACINTYRE - Peacefully at home, surrounded by his loving family and after a long illness patiently borne, on July 5, 2016, Duncan Currie MacIntyre, retired councillor for Argyll & Bute Council, much loved and caring husband to Rosemary, dearly loved dad to Fiona and Alexander. Funeral will take place from St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban on Saturday July 16, at 10.00 am, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only, please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for, Pancreatic Cancer, Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

McGILLIVRAY - Peacefully on July 7, 2016 at the Vale of Leven Hospital, Flora McGillivray, aged 84 years, beloved mum, nana, great-grand, sister and aunt of all the family. Sadly missed.

RAINIE - Peacefully at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban, in her 88th year, Leah Rannie, beloved husband of the late Donald, a very dear mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She will be very sadly missed.

STEVENSON - Moira (née Blue), peacefully in Lorn and Islands Hospital on July 5, 2016, aged 92. Beloved wife of the late John. Much loved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral service to be held in St. Oran's Church, Connel, on Thursday, July 14, 2016 (today) at 1pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, in lieu to North Argyll Evendide Home, Oban.

MEMORIAMS

BUCHANAN - In loving memory of Peter, Remembering you is easy We do it every day Missing you is the heartache that never goes away. Love always. - All at Glasdrum and Andrew and family

DOHERTY - In memory of Jerry who passed away on July 20, 2014. Remembered always - Laura, Mary and Robert

MACBRIDE - Remembering always a dear Aunt, Mary, died on July 13, 1995. Time passes, memories stay. - Rosemary, Ewen and family, Spean Bridge.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of Jimmy, who passed away July 14, 2015. Forever in our hearts. - Susie and family.

MACPHERSON - Richard MacPherson Crossland (Richy). Ever closer in our hearts and memories. - Mum Cona, brother Gary, Will, Orla and Jade.

PROSSER - In loving memory of George, our dear dad, grandad and great-grandad who died on July 13, 2002. You're always in our thoughts Forever loved and missed. - Betty and all the family.

SMITH - Treasured memories of our dear Mum Morag, who died on July 14, 2007 and our dear dad Jimmy, who died on August 1, 2012. We miss you more than words can say Loved and remembered every day. - Violet and Theresa.

THOMSON - Loving memories of Irene who died on 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. - Mum and Frankie, Inverness.

TRAYNOR - Treasured memories of our beloved parents and grandparents, mother Jessie who passed away July 16, 2013 and father John on November 22, 1994. Dear are the memories and precious they stay No passing of time can take them away. - Love Violet, Iain, Janette, Jennifer and families

WINCHESTER - In loving memory of David (Winnie) Winchester, who died July 9, 1996. Gone but not forgotten. - Marian, Caol.

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

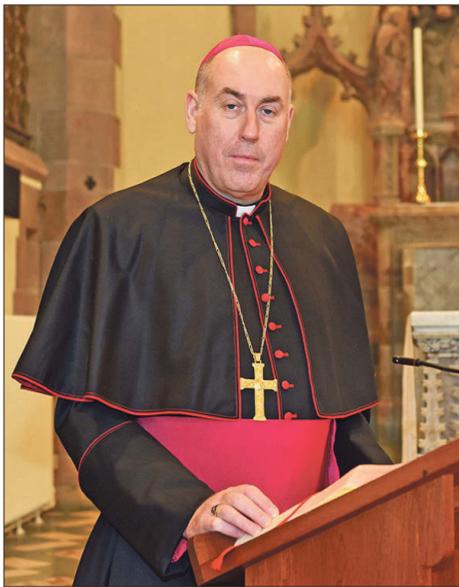
Bishop calls on government to do more to dispose of nuclear weapons

ARGYLL and The Isles' Bishop Brian McGee has joined with other Scottish Catholic bishops in calling on the UK Government to 'take more decisive and courageous steps' to work towards the disposal and elimination of all nuclear weapons.

They have issued a statement urging the Government to honour its commitment as a key signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferations Treaty (1968) in the run up to a parliamentary vote on the renewal of Trident Nuclear weapons, expected to take place on Monday July 18.

All eight Scottish Catholic bishops have signed the statement, including Philip Tartaglia, president of the Bishop's Conference of Scotland, and Archbishop of Glasgow and Vice President of the Conference Joseph Toal who is also the Bishop of Motherwell.

In the statement, the bishops highlight 'the immorality of the use of strategic nuclear weapons due to the indiscriminate destruction of innocent human life that their use would cause.'



Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, Brian McGee has joined other bishops to dispose of nuclear weapons.

They also mention the financial implications of nuclear weaponry, quoting Pope Francis: 'Spending on nuclear weapons squanders the wealth of nations.' and adding that 'Lives are being lost now because money that could be spent on the needy and the poor is tied up in nuclear arsenals.'

Church of Scotland condemns rush to vote on Trident

THE CHURCH of Scotland has long argued the UK should not possess weapons of mass destruction, and condemns the UK Government's decision to vote on the renewal of the Trident nuclear weapons system next week.

The convener of the Church and Society Council, Rev Dr Richard Frazer has spoken out against the vote.

Rev Dr Richard Frazer said: 'The Church of Scotland has consistently spoken out against nuclear weapons for more than 30 years.'

Next Monday, July 18, MPs will debate and vote on whether or not to renew the four nuclear submarines which con-

stitute Britain's nuclear deterrent.

'This announcement comes in the wake of the UK's vote in favour of leaving the European Union, it comes at a time when the opposition are embroiled in a leadership challenge and it comes only days after the appointment of a new Prime Minister.'

'At a time when we are rebalancing our relationship with the rest of the world, we do not believe this should be our first action.'

'We are concerned the House of Commons is being rushed into this decision in undue haste with little opportunity for reflection or wider discussion.'

Skye humanist in radio first

JOHN HOWIESON from Skye has become the first humanist to deliver a Smuain na Maidne (Thought for the Day) on the BBC's Gaelic radio station Ràidio nan Gàidheal.

This is a ground-breaking step in the BBC's policy, which has previously not allowed non-religious groups to participate. Mr Howieson, who lives in Harrapool on Skye, is a retired head teacher who began learning Gaelic after his retirement. He was awarded the Gaelic learner of the year award at the Royal National Mod in 2014.

Sealife sanctuary makes a splash as revamped centre goes interactive

AN INTERACTIVE cove has been added to The Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary in Barcaldine, which will allow children to learn as they play, writes David McPhee.

The cove will inform children about how close they can get to seals and of the negative effects that everyday products can have on marine life.

Phase one of the revamp also included upgraded tanks, additional fish and other interactive features.

Anna Price, who works at the sanctuary, said: 'The original aquarium that started Sealife almost 40 years ago needed a revamp and I am glad it got one. It's looking amazing.'

'I love it. It's a really important place as it gives people the opportunity to see the animals up close.'

Phase two, which starts at the end of the year, will see a seal hospital built on site to allow more seals to be rescued.



Clockwise from top left: A staff member tests out the new interactive features. 17_t29sealife01; Alexander, 5, and Evie, 3, from Blantyre, test out the upgraded touching pool. 17_t29sealife05; One of the residents at the sea life sanctuary. 17_t29sealife03



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GRADUATION

JACK MALLON
On Thursday 30th June, 2016, Jack graduated from the University of Stirling with a Bachelor of Arts (1st Class Honour History).

He was also awarded the Stirling Guildry Prize for best dissertation in a British History topic.

Jack is the son of Katriona Fox Lloyd and Paul Mallon (Tobermory and Glasgow), and the grandson of Ishbel and Dr Bill Lloyd, and Susan and Jack Mallon.

Jack is currently working in the Arts and Humanities Department at Stirling, and plans to continue his studies in the autumn.

Thought for the week

'We will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea' (Psalm 46:2)

THERE is change, and there is upheaval. We can cope with change; upheaval is different. The message coming over the media is that we are entering a time of upheaval. That resonates with many. Political change blends with worry about pensions and fear of the unknown. If we think we have reason to fear then we should remember people who are losing home and livelihood to climate change or those suffering genocide in the Middle East.

It also chimes with something Jesus said, 'People will faint as they fearfully wait for what will happen to the world.'

But the writer of Psalm 46 gives a different message - 'We will not fear, though the earth gives way...' He is speaking on behalf of what he calls 'the city of God', the society of God's people within the larger society.

In his world cities stood for stability and security. He also refers to 'a river whose streams make glad the city of God'. He sees God constantly refreshing his people even in the worst of times.

The Bible is realistic about trouble. It mentions God calling societies to return to him, eventually abandoning them when they refuse. It also speaks about his loyalty to those who do return, and the hope he gives, even following the footsteps of Jesus' resurrection.

'Remember me, Lord, with the love you show to your people.'

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Club on target with charity cash

Lorn Clay Target Club held its annual charity shoot on Saturday July 2. This year's chosen charity was Clie Sargent and £750 was raised.



John wins fourth Glencruitten title

JOHN Plunkett won the senior championship at Glencruitten, Oban, on Saturday for the fourth time with net scores of 59 and 62 = 121.

John also leads the handicap championship with two rounds to be played.

John's score of 121 is followed by Neil Carmichael on 125 and Alan Jamieson on 126.

The George Smith second round and championship second round take place on Saturday and there will be a Stableford on Tuesday.

Islay Golf Club

ISLAY Golf Club summer league, played Wednesday July 6: 1 D Livingstone 38 points; 2 D Melrose 36 points; 3 I MacCuaig, 35 points.

S P Morrison Trophy, played Friday July 8 and Sunday July 10: 1 R MacLean 140; 2 D Livingstone 141; 3 J Rozga 145.

Dalmally

LADIES medal and Thistle Brooch, net scores: 1 Maud Marshall, 66; 2 Lily McKay, 71; 3 Janet Buchanan, 77.

The overall winner of the ladies Stableford played over two rounds was Ann Hay with a combined total of 64 points, narrowly beating Lily McKay by just one point.

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Fighters look forward to competing for team GB

CRAIG MacLachlan from Oban's Senshi Do Kickboxing and Iain Rodger from Oban's Caledonia Kyokushin Karate have been invited to Japan as part of the GB team to take part in the full contact karate world championships in October this year.

The team of four fighters and a coach have been picked to represent their country but as an amateur sport they have to find their own way there.

If any local businesses can help with donations/sponsorship, Craig and Iain would be very grateful.

Donations have already come in from Midton Acrylics in Lochgilhead, D A MacDonald



Contractors Ltd, Lochgilhead, and Wellpark House, Oban. If you can help, please contact Iain on 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

BJJ

IT HAS been a year since Oban BJJ associated itself with Brazilian Jiu Jitsu black belt Marcos Nardini.

Club coach Coogie Potter had

the following to say when asked how this had affected the club: 'I had been wanting to get the club associated with a legitimate professor for a long time and although we had a black belt helping out a few times a year I had wanted someone who could commit to us in a more permanent way.'

'From day one it was obvious Marcos was the way ahead for us.'

'His monthly seminars and

patience in teaching, along with an easy going Brazilian mentality and attention to detail, was a perfect balance to the different abilities and personalities of our students. I feel this has reflected on my own style of not just BJJ but in teaching as well.

'Every student that has been with us over the past year has come on quicker than all the years before.'

'The link between us and his other clubs will accumulate this month with two seminars - a No gi seminar on July 16 followed by a weekend barbecue training session with his other clubs in Oban at the end of the month.'

For club info contact Coogie on coogiepots@gmail.com.



Shukokai karate annual awards in Inveraray

The Inveraray club's annual awards took place recently with presentations made by the club's newest black belt, Iona McCulloch. The club is stopping training for a few weeks to allow everyone to enjoy their holidays and will resume in mid-August. Anyone thinking of taking up this martial art should contact Kenny Gray on kenni.gray@btinternet.com.



Junior Kyokushinkai karate students graded

The Oban club's junior students that graded recently were awarded their certificates last week. Left to right: Donald Robertson, Darryl McLaughlin, Charlie McLaughlin, Leona McLaughlin. New students are being taken on now and anyone interested in learning this traditional style of karate should contact Iain Rodger on 07584 166542 or at iain@ikku.co.uk.



Jessica Graham, centre.

Kickboxing fighter profile - Jessica Graham

Name: Jessica Graham.
Age: 11.
Date of birth: 28.03.05.
Occupation: school student.
Weight: 29.7kgs.
Years training: four.
Grade: junior black.
Favourite technique: scissor kick.

Favourite combination: jab, right cross, spinning back kick.
Best tournament result: third place in the So Kyokushin full contact open in Glasgow.
Ambitions: To compete in more full contact tournaments and win and to pass my first

dan black belt when I turn 16. Anything else you want to say: A big thank you to my brother and auntie who help me get to tournaments and training.

Classes continue as normal throughout the school holidays: Wednesday evenings, 6.30pm for juniors and 7.30pm for seniors.

Sundays - 11am for juniors, noon for seniors and 2pm for Sharon's women-only session. Beginners always welcome.

For more details contact Wullie Rodger at shihanwill@gmail.com.

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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.

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SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Oban secure Camanachd semis place

Oban Camanachd and Newtonmore are through to the Camanachd Cup semi-finals but Kinlochshiel and Beaulieu and Kyles Athletic and Lochaber will have to do it all over again following the shinty action on Saturday July 9.

Camanachd Cup quarter-finals

Kilmallie 3 Oban Camanachd 4
THE MATCH of the day was at Canal Parks where Oban Camanachd came from behind three times to eventually beat a determined Kilmallie side 4-3 in their Camanachd Cup quarter-final tie.

Before the game there was a minute's silence for former president of Oban Camanachd Club Duncan MacIntyre who sadly passed away midweek after a long illness.

Kilmallie had players back from the side that beat Inverness in the league a week earlier. Shane Gillies returned in goal while Martin Stewart and Liam MacDonald were also back and Peter Carmichael and Michael Rodger were free of one-match suspensions.

Oban Camanachd travelled with a full squad for the 3pm throw up.

The game started at a hectic pace with the home forwards giving the Camanachd defence a torrid time and it was no surprise when, after 21 minutes, Liam MacDonald latched on to a poor clearance to put the home side one up.

Camanachd's response was immediate though as Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish levelled the score two minutes later.

Once again the Oban defence was found wanting when Brian MacKay restored the home side's lead. On the half-hour mark, however, after good lead-up play by Daniel Cameron, Andrew MacCuish scored his second goal of the game to draw Camanachd level.

This only lasted a minute as Duncan Rodgers restored the home side's lead after more sloppy defending by the Oban side.

There was no further scoring before referee Calum Girvan

Semi-final draw

THE DRAW for the 2016 Camanachd Cup semi-finals was made on Monday July 11 at BBC Scotland, Pacific Quay, Glasgow.

Making the draw was MG Alba chief executive Donald Campbell, assisted by Camanachd Association chieftain Jock Turner and BBC Alba's shinty commentator Hugh Dan MacLennan.

The draw is as follows: Beaulieu/Kinlochshiel v Newtonmore and Lochaber/Kyles Athletic v Oban Camanachd.

Both matches will be televised live by BBC Alba and will throw up at 4pm. BBC Scotland will televise the final.

The venues for the semi-final ties, which will be played on August 13 and 20, are still to be confirmed.

The Camanachd Cup is shinty's greatest prize and one of Scotland's oldest and most iconic sporting trophies.

The 2016 Camanachd Cup final will be played at An Aird Park, Fort William, on Saturday September 17.

sounded the whistle for half-time.

Whatever was said at half-time by team manager Iain Hay seemed to have the desired effect with the Camanachd defence having a more solid look as the second half got under way.

With the midfield trio of David Lafferty, Lorne Dickie and Aidan MacIntyre in control of the midfield, it was the premier league side which drew level through Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish completing his hat-trick. His shot deceived the home keeper although there were claims by the home defence that an infringement had been committed.

On consulting his goal judge the referee awarded the goal.

The Oban side's superior fitness was beginning to tell and in 63 minutes Connor Howe put Camanachd ahead for the first time in the game.



Oban Camanachd manager Iain Hay celebrates his team's Camanachd Cup quarter-final win. Photograph by Neil Paterson.

Camanachd could have added to their score but an Andrew MacCuish effort hit the side-net and a goal by Daniel MacVicar was disallowed after the young player was judged to have dragged the ball with his foot before scoring.

Team manager Iain Hay rang the changes bringing on Scott MacMillan for Aidan MacIntyre, Malcolm Clark for Daniel MacVicar and Willie Neilson for Connor Howe.

At the final whistle, the Oban side were deserved winners for their second half performance.

This was a great game of shinty, played in front of a big crowd who generated a fantastic atmosphere in the rain and it's Oban Camanachd who went into Monday's semi-final draw.

After the tie, Oban Camanachd manager Iain Hay said: 'We had a very good second half when the whole team played well. It was a great game of shinty though and I was pleased with our fitness levels. It's good to be in the semi-final draw.'

Next up for Oban Camanachd is a Marine Harvest Premiership visit to the Dell to play Kingussie this Saturday. Throw up is at 3.30pm.

The big games also keep coming for Kilmallie and they now have a Balliemore Cup final against Caberfeidh at Blairbeg to look forward to this coming weekend.

Newtonmore 4 Skye Camanachd 2

NEWTONMORE beat Skye Camanachd 4-2 at the Eilan.

Evan Menzies returned for 'More after suspension. Rory Kennedy was also back but Fraser MacKintosh was still missing.

Skye had skipper Neil MacVicar back after injury but they were minus Gilleasbuig MacDonald, Chris MacLennan, Iain Nicolson and David MacInnes.

Newtonmore put Skye under pressure from the throw up and Jamie Gannon made a terrific save with his feet after Jamie Robinson had drifted in from the left and fired the ball goalwards.

Skye survived the early 'More onslaught and a James Pringle shot went wide midway through the half.

Newtonmore took the lead on 25 minutes. An initial shot was saved with his hand by Skye keeper Jamie Gannon but Evan Menzies bundled the rebound over the line to make it 1-0.

Jamie Gannon pulled off a terrific save with his hand from a deflected Glen MacKintosh



Connor Howe, who scored Oban Camanachd's winning goal, left, and Jordan MacPhee of Kilmallie keep an eye on the ball during Saturday's Camanachd Cup quarter final. Photograph by Stephen Lawson.

shot three minutes later but Evan Menzies got his and Newtonmore's second goal with a low shot from 20 yards out with just a couple of first-half minutes remaining.

Skye started the second half well and 'More keeper Owen Fraser made a good stop with his feet to deny Danny Morrison a couple of minutes after the restart.

The Skye rearguard was defending well but there was little they could do on 55 minutes as Norman Campbell made it 3-0 with a 20-yard drive.

'More substitute Iain Robinson made it 4-0 on 70 minutes when he created space for himself before sending a low shot into the corner of the net.

A 20-yarder from Skye substitute Ally 'Cleodi' MacLeod was expertly dealt with by keeper Owen Fraser as the tie moved into the final 15 minutes.

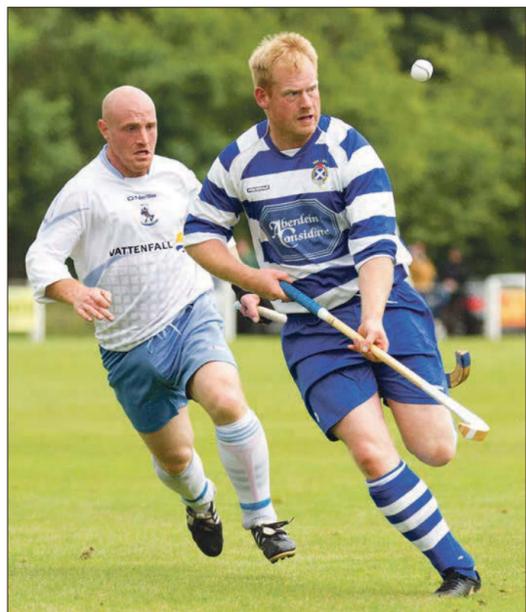
Skye had made substitutions which aided them as an attacking force and, with six minutes remaining, a superb 20-yard shot from Jordan Murchison flew past Owen Fraser to make it 4-1.

Skye were awarded a penalty on 88 minutes when referee Deek Cameron penalised Owen Fraser for playing the ball while on the ground. Jordan Murchison made no mistake from the spot hit, sending a low shot into the corner of the net.

Newtonmore deserved their place in the last four of the Camanachd Cup and the sides meet in league action at Pairean Laoch, Portree, this coming Saturday.

Kinlochshiel 1 Beaulieu 1

KINLOCHSHIEL and Beaulieu



Skye's Kenny Campbell and Newtonmore's Jamie Robinson on the run during Saturday's Camanachd Cup tie. Photograph by Donald Cameron.

will have to do it all over again this coming weekend after they drew 1-1 at Kirkton.

Kinlochshiel keeper Scott Kennedy returned in goal after missing the previous weekend's league win over Kingussie because of a groin injury sustained against Skye a fortnight earlier.

Raymond Gillies deputised against Kingussie and he was named on the bench for this game as a precaution in case Kennedy's injury flared up.

Paul MacRae went over his ankle in the Skye match and

he also missed the Kingussie clash but he was back for this one with a strapped ankle. Defender Mark MacDonald was on holiday so Calum MacLean continued in defence. Beaulieu boss Steven MacLean was without Barrie MacDonald. He made his return from a long injury lay-off a week earlier but was ruled out with a swollen knee.

Colin MacDonald, Jamie MacLennan, Sandy Elrick and Liam Mutch were missing. David MacLean started at buckshee back with Ryan

Tillman at full centre. Beaulieu shocked their hosts when they took the lead after just three minutes. Ross Forbes and Marc MacLachlan worked the ball up the Beaulieu left and MacLachlan sent a deep cross to the back post. Keeper Kennedy stumbled as he came off his line to clear the danger and Conor Ross did well to hold off Calum MacLean and steer the ball low into the far corner of the net from a tight angle to make it 1-0.

Kinlochshiel had most of the first half pressure but the closest they came to an equaliser was a low John MacRae shot which was well saved with his foot by a stretching Josh Grant in the Beaulieu goal.

The pattern of play continued in the same vein during the second half and Kinlochshiel drew level on 56 minutes from a set-piece when John MacRae ran in from the left to sweep the ball into the net.

Jordan Fraser had the ball in the net shortly after but referee Graham Cameron ruled the effort out for offside. Despite all 'Shiel's pressure, this was a spirited performance from Beaulieu and they could have won it late in the game when a Jack MacDonald shot from the right came back off Scott Kennedy's right post.

Beaulieu's David MacLean put in a man-of-the-match performance in defence while full centre Ryan Tillman also caught the eye.

The teams will do it all over again at Braeview Park this coming Saturday where the Marine Harvest Premiership side will start as favourites against their Marine Harvest National Division opponents.

Kyles Athletic 2 Lochaber 2

Kyles Athletic had to twice come from behind to earn a replay against Lochaber in their 3pm throw up at a wet Tighnabruaich.

Andrew King's return to the Kyles Athletic defence a week earlier was a timely boost for the home side, while Lochaber had Kevin Ferguson available after a two-match ban.

Ben Delaney gave Lochaber the lead after 37 minutes, only for Dunkie Kerr to equalise on the stroke of half-time.

Neil MacDonald put Lochaber back in front on 51 minutes when he fired the ball over Kyles' keeper John Whyte's right shoulder.

Grant Irvine drew Kyles level for a second time with a goal on 64 minutes.

Lochaber deployed Barry MacDonald against Grant Irvine in the middle of the park and the youngster had a fine game.

The sides were scheduled to meet at Tighnabruaich in the league this coming Saturday. Instead they will replay their Camanachd Cup quarter-final tie at Spear Bridge.

Lochaber's Brennan MacDonald will be an injury concern for that game as he left Tighnabruaich with his arm in a sling after taking a blow to the elbow.

Marine Harvest National Division

Bute 1 Inveraray 4

INVERARAY stay top of shinty's second tier after beating Bute 4-1 in their 3pm throw up at the Meadows.

Inveraray travelled with a depleted squad, missing several regulars, including the suspended Andrew McMurdo. They found Bute in a similar situation so both teams fielded some of their promising youngsters.

On a dreich day in Rothesay, 'Aray made the brighter start and deservedly went ahead thanks to Allan MacDonald's persistence which saw him break clean through on goal and confidently strike the ball past the keeper to make it 1-0.

The visitors were now playing the ball slickly around the front line for Fraser Watt, David Robertson, Ruaridh Graham and Allan MacDonald and it



Oban Camanachd's Andrew MacCuish celebrates netting one of his three goals against Kilmallie. Photograph by Neil Paterson.



Skye's Ally MacDonald, left, and Iain Robinson of Newtonmore during Saturday's Camanachd Cup tie which Newtonmore won 4-2. Photograph by Donald Cameron.

Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup



was no surprise when they extended their lead. Fraser Watt added a second with a well struck shot from 20 yards on 18 minutes.

Then, 10 minutes later, player/manager Ruaridh Graham pounced on a through ball and sent a strike high into the net to make it 3-0.

The Inveraray midfield of Garry MacPherson, Lewis MacNicol and youngster Ruaridh Graham dominated the middle of the park.

Young Graham deserves special praise for a tireless display all afternoon and he is a player for whom the Winterton side has high hopes.

There was role reversal after the break when Bute came much more into the match and stopped Inveraray from playing their usual game.

The visitors managed a fourth goal through Allan MacDonald on the hour when he had a simple finish to notch his second strike of the afternoon following great play from Ruaridh Graham senior.

Inveraray made changes for the final 20 minutes, replacing veterans David Robertson and Ruaridh Graham with young guns Robert Wood and Niall Kennedy.

Bute finished strongly and got their reward five minutes from time when former Lovat player Duncan Davidson scored to make it 4-1.

In the end, Inveraray did the damage in the first half against a never-say-die Bute team.

Ballachulish 0 Glasgow Mid Argyll 12

GLASGOW Mid Argyll notched up another league win and go second in the table after thumping Ballachulish 12-0 at Jubilee Park.

Scott MacDonald was still out through suspension for Balla while GMA were without the banned John McNulty and the injured Brian Slattery and Euan Murray. Mark Bain returned.

This was the fourth time these sides had met this season with GMA coming out on top each time.

It took GMA half an hour to break Balla's resistance with Euan Forsyth scoring. Craig Anderson added a second a minute before the break.

The goal glut came in the second half. Craig Anderson got his second three minutes after the restart and Mark Bain made it 4-0 on 54 minutes.

Garry Luke added a fifth on 57 minutes with Nick Lavin adding his name to the score-sheet 10 minutes later.

Garry Luke completed his hat-trick with goals on 74 and 79 minutes to make 8-0.

Ryan Harrison made the most of a spell up front with goals on 82 and 88 minutes. His goals came either side of a first goal at senior level from GMA debutant Angus MacInnes, the youngster netting on 86 minutes.

Mark Bain rounded off the scoring just seconds before referee Innes Wood's final whistle.

It's tight at the top of the Marine Harvest National Division with only five points separating the top five teams. Inveraray are four points ahead of second placed GMA but the Glasgow side has three games in hand.

Beaulay and Kilmallie only trail GMA on goal difference with Caberfeidh just a point behind them.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Lovat 4 Strathglass 8

STRATHGLASS extended their lead at the top of the table with an 8-4 win over Lovat's second team at Balgate.

Lovat were without keeper Ronan MacMillan so James Gallacher played between the sticks. There were starting places for Fraser Gallacher and Greg Matheson and Martin Mainland who are on their way back from injury.

Strathglass had keeper Adam

Todd back as well as Steven Hyslop, Ryan Balharry and Michael Stokes who all missed the previous weekend's win over the Skye reserves in Portree. Donald Fraser and Jono Price were missing.

Lovat made a good start but it was the Cannich side which went ahead on eight minutes when wing centre Seth Jones sent a great 30-yard shot into the net.

The visitors doubled their lead straight from the re-start when Scott Douglas scored from close range.

Keeper Gallacher got his stick to the ball but he couldn't keep it out of the net.

Scott Douglas got his second on 23 minutes and substitute Barry John Phimister, who had replaced Steven Hyslop after he took a head knock, made it 4-0 just a couple of minutes later.

The Strath centre line of Ross Balharry, Michael Stokes and Seth Jones were dominating and they added to their tally a minute later through Darren Reid.

Reid then turned provider as he showed good skills on the right before crossing for Scott Douglas to score from the edge of the 'D' to complete his hat-trick with half an hour played.

With Strathglass now 6-0 ahead, Lovat pulled a goal back a minute before the break when full forward Fraser Gallacher jostled with full back Ally MacAdams and Gallacher's strike beat the keeper at his left post.

Fraser Gallacher scored a similar goal with a 20-yard shot four minutes into the second half and he almost repeated the feat a minute later but this time the ball went just the wrong side of the post.

Referee Neil Ferguson awarded Strathglass a penalty on 58 minutes when Sam Ferguson was penalised for kicking the ball inside the 'D'. James Gallacher saved Scott Douglas' spot-hit, high above his head with his caman.

The Lovat fight-back continued and they made it 6-3 on 63 minutes. Adam Todd saved a Fraser Gallacher shot with his hand but Greg Matheson knocked the dropping ball home.

It was Strathglass who would score next though as Steven Hyslop, back on the field, made it 7-3 and then Michael Stokes, with a peach of a goal, sent a 35-yard waist-high rasping shot into the net to make 8-3 with 67 minutes played.

There was consolation for Lovat when Greg Matheson scored his second goal of the afternoon a couple of minutes from time.

The ball came out to Matheson off a Strathglass defender and he just managed to steady himself enough to scoop the ball into the net to make it 8-4.

Strathglass are now four points ahead of the Newtonmore reserves who have a couple of games in hand.

**Kingussie 3
Kinlochshiel 2**
KINGUSSIE'S reserves beat the Kinlochshiel second team 3-2 at the Dell.

Kevin Thain gave Kingussie a two-goal advantage with strikes on 12 and 39 minutes but 'Shiel pulled a goal back a minute late through Scotland U17 player Jonnie MacAskill.

John Gibson restored Kingussie's two-goal advantage on 74 minutes and it was an important score as Duncan 'Ach' MacRae pulled another goal back for 'Shiel with just eight minutes remaining.

Third-placed Kingussie are now just three points behind their Newtonmore rivals.

**Beaulay 0
Skye Camanachd 3**
SKYE Camanachd's colts collected two valuable points with a 3-0 win over the Beaulay colts at Braeview Park.

Beaulay second team manager Neil Brindle was without Oran MacDonald who was suspended for passing through the disciplinary points threshold. Kieran MacTavish, Craig



Ally McKerracher, Oban Celtic, with Fulton Ronald of Glenorchy. Photograph by Kevin McGlynn.

Rankin, Iain Rankin and Marc MacLachlan were with the Beaulay senior side.

Skye boss Davie Pringle made four changes to the squad which lost to Strathglass in their league meeting in Portree a week earlier. Captain David Grant and keeper Iain MacLeod were unavailable and defender Neil John Campbell and full centre Ally 'Cleod' MacLeod were called up by the first team.

John Angus MacInnes was back from holiday and Thomas Wilson and youngsters Martin Pringle and Sam MacPhee were added to the squad. Ryan Morrison took over in goal.

Ross Gordon was given a start for Skye after scoring his first goal at second team level against Strathglass a week earlier and he repaid his manager's faith with a goal after 18 minutes.

Another youngster, Ruaridh MacLeod, made it 2-0 on 40 minutes.

But it was older head John Angus MacInnes who sealed the win with a goal after 72 minutes.

The win lifts Skye a couple of places to sixth in the table.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Oban Celtic 3 Glenorchy 0

A REVAMPED Oban Celtic side got their league challenge back on track as they beat Glenorchy 3-0 at Mossfield.

The sides had met at Mart Park just a couple of weeks earlier with Glenorchy coming out on top.

Celtic were minus David MacInnes, Alan Mckie, Rory Bruce, Ewan MacCorquodale as well as top goalscorer Fraser MacMillan.

Manager Kenny Wotherpoon reshuffled his starting line-up in an effort to be more clinical up front.

Andy MacDonald was switched from full back to full forward while Ally McKerracher moved from half back to half forward. Lee Askew and Daniel Madej remained in attack.

Glenorchy were without the suspended Duncan Smith and Dylan Cooke as well as Findlay Ross, Alec McPherson, Kieran McKay, James Livingstone, John Sartain, Conor Sartain, Ewan Murray, Sandy Leiper and keeper Andrew Smith.

Glenorchy were forced to make an early change when Kieran Gallagher was on the end of a bad challenge which required stitches.

Celtic enjoyed some early



Daniel Madej of Oban Celtic scores the second goal in his team's 3-0 defeat of Glenorchy. Photograph by Kevin McGlynn.

pressure but Glenorchy keeper Des McNulty stood in their way with some fine saves. The home side made the breakthrough on 41 minutes when Neil Carmichael flicked home a loose ball following a Des McNulty save.

A similar pattern of play followed in the second half but the Oban side eventually beat the impressive Des McNulty again on 63 minutes.

Daniel Madej made the difference with a driving run into the 'D' before he flicked the ball high past the keeper to make it 2-0.

Celtic made changes up front, bringing on Iain MacKechnie for his first appearance of the season.

His clever link-up play with Daniel Madej allowed Ally McKerracher to finish the game on 88 minutes with a well-struck shot which gave the keeper no chance.

After the match, Oban Celtic manager Kenny Wotherpoon said: 'I made it clear to the boys before the game started that three points out of the last four matches wasn't good enough. I reshuffled the team for today's game and it paid off.'

'I thought Andy MacDonald had a great game at full forward as did Kieran Carnie on the wing.

'We have a free weekend ahead which is good as it gives guys like Rory Bruce and Ewan

MacCorquodale another week of rest and recover from injury.'

Kyles Athletic P Taynuilt P

THE NOON throw up between Kyles Athletic's second team and Taynuilt was postponed as it was ruled the Tighnabruach pitch could only take one game.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Aberdeen University 9 Lochaber 0

ABERDEEN University's title charge is very much on course after they beat Lochaber's second team 9-0 at Balgownie.

Alex Duncan put the home side ahead on 19 minutes and Ewan Fraser on 26 and 38 minutes had the students 3-0 ahead at the break.

Alex Duncan got his second three minutes after the restart and completed his hat-trick on 56 minutes to make it 5-0.

Aberdeen University player/manager Jamie Beaton scored on 64 and 75 minutes to make it 7-0.

Alex Duncan scored his fourth goal of the afternoon on 80 minutes and Ewan Fraser added another to compete his hat-trick five minutes from time to round off the 9-0 triumph.

Aberdeen University remain

six points ahead of second-placed Lochcarron but the Battery Park side has a game in hand.

Lewis Camanachd 0 Lochcarron 4

SECOND-PLACED Lochcarron had a deserved 4-0 win over Lewis Camanachd at Shawbost.

Lochcarron had David MacCuish and Sean MacCuish free of suspension.

The visitors went in front on 34 minutes when David Bauermeister ran in on goal before slotting the ball home.

An unmarked David MacCuish crashed the ball high into the net to make it 2-0 on 39 minutes.

Andrew Slaughter threaded the ball home after a goal-mouth scramble on 57 minutes and Crisdean Finlayson rounded off the 4-0 victory 20 minutes from time.

Strathspey Camanachd 0 Caberfeidh 5

CABERFEIDH'S second team beat Strathspey Camanachd 5-0 at Kincaig.

Paddy Wilson was still suspended for Cabers.

First-half goals from Colin MacLennan on 12 and 35 minutes had Cabers 2-0 ahead at the break.

David Mellis added a third three minutes after the restart and Gavin McLaughlan on 56 minutes and Robert Bartlett five minutes from time made it 5-0.

Cabers stay third in the division.

Strathspey's Liam Tinney was sent off by referee Callum Duff.

Boleskine 1 Glengarry 6

GLENGARRY were 6-1 winners over Boleskine at Smith Park.

Archie Johnstone on three and 28 minutes had the visitors 2-0 ahead while James MacRae on 34 minutes and Raymond Robertson a couple of minutes later made it 4-0.

Boleskine player/manager Jamie Matheson pulled a goal back a minute before the break but second-half goals from Raymond Robertson on 60 and 85 minutes completed his hat-trick and gave 'Garry the 6-1 win.

Kilmallie P Inverness P

THE KILMALLIE and Inverness second teams agreed to reschedule their meeting at Canal Parks.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Bute 0 Tayforth 6

TAYFORTH were too strong for the Bute second team, winning 6-0 in their noon throw up at the Meadows.

Connor Sweeney scored twice, Finlay Stark was also on target while Brendan Duggan grabbed a hat-trick.

Dunoon Camanachd 0 Oban Lorn 2

OBAN Lorn's good league campaign continued as they returned from Dunoon Stadium with both points after a 2-0 victory.

Dunoon were minus the suspended Jonathon Black.

Callum MacDougall put Oban Lorn ahead on 68 and David Martin confirmed the win with a goal a couple of minutes before time.

Both teams deserve great credit for serving up an entertaining match in awful weather conditions. Oban Lorn climb to third place in the table.

Glasgow Mid Argyll v Kilmory W/O

GLASGOW Mid Argyll were unable to raise a second team for their meeting with Kilmory at Yoker.

Kilmory have been awarded the points and they remain ahead of second-placed Tayforth on goal difference, although they have played a game more.



Fixtures

Saturday July 16

Balliemore Cup Final
Kilmallie v Caberfeidh
Martin MacLean
At Blairbeg, Drumnadrochit.

Camanachd Cup third round replay
Beaulay v Kinlochshiel
Deek Cameron.
Lochaber v Kyles Athletic
John Angus Gillies.

Strathdearn Cup third round
Skye v Kinlochshiel
John Wood
Noon throw up.

Bullough Cup semi-finals
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Tayforth
Ewan MacDonald.
Aberdour v Kilmory
Alan Harrison.

Marine Harvest Premiership
Kingussie v Oban
Camanachd
Evan MacRae
3.30pm throw up.
Fort William v Lovat
Lachie Wood.
Skye v Newtonmore
Innes Wood
3pm throw up.

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Newtonmore v Fort William
Andy MacLean.

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Inveraray v Glenorchy
Ronnie Campbell.
Kyles Athletic v Aberdour
Calum Girvan.

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Strathspey v Glengarry
John Matheson.

All throw ups 2.30pm unless stated.

Results

Saturday July 9

Camanachd Cup third round
Kilmallie 3-4 Oban
Camanachd
Kinlochshiel 1-1 Beaulay
Kyles Athletic 2-2 Lochaber
Newtonmore 4-2 Skye

Marine Harvest National Division
Ballachulish 0-12 Glasgow
Mid Argyll
Bute 1-4 Inveraray

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Beaulay 0-3 Skye
Kingussie 3-2 Kinlochshiel
Lovat 4-8 Strathglass

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Kyles Athletic P-P Taynuilt
Unplayable field
Oban Celtic 3-0 Glenorchy

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Aberdeen University 9-0
Lochaber
Boleskine 1-6 Glengarry

Kilmallie P-P Inverness
To be rescheduled
Lewis 0-4 Lochcarron
Strathspey 0-5 Caberfeidh

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Bute 0-6 Tayforth
Dunoon 0-2 Oban Lorn
Glasgow Mid Argyll P-P
Kilmory
GMA unable to field a team.

Excellent conditions and good entry for the round Mull race

Junior athletics at Argyll's Highland Games

EXCELLENT sailing conditions and a near-record entry made for one of the best Owen Sails and Ardfern Yacht Centre sponsored round Mull races to date.

Organised by Oban Sailing Club, the event is a circumnavigation of the island of Mull over three legs – Oban to Tobermory, Tobermory to Bunessan and Bunessan to Oban.

And for the first time in many years the strong winds on Sunday ensured the 40-yacht fleet raced the last leg to finish in Oban Bay.

It was to be a Class 3 slow handicap winner that swept the boards taking overall honours for the weekend.

Murray Caldwell from the Clyde in his Trapper 500 *Oystercatcher* won the Jolanta Trophy for the slow handicap class and the Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy for the best overall points for amalgamated classes for the weekend.

Oystercatcher lifted the Mishnish Bucket for the best performance from Oban to Tobermory and the Glencoe Trophy for best corrected time from Bunessan to Oban.

Caldwell also won the fastest circumnavigation on corrected time on *Clyde*, lifting the

Sailing

Torran Rock and, sailing two up, the Bilgewater Shield for the double-handed class.

Class 1 was taken by Major David Walter in his Arcona 430 *Requiem* lifting the Antique Schwegges Trophy and the Mull Plaque for the fastest circumnavigation on elapsed time.

Ionara, the Dufour 44 of Damon Lyndsay, sailed well on the second leg to win the Bunessan Hall Trophy for best performance from Tobermory and lifted the restricted sail class overall. The one-off yacht *Elusive Lady* was second overall in this class.

Class 2 on medium handicap was won by the Forteiths of Oban with *Shadowfax*.

Although Brian Wiseman's *Sorr of Appin* took the wins in this class on day one and two in style, *Shadowfax* halted their hat trick and overall class win on the final day with the Sorr team finishing second overall.

Similarly, Marian Austin's *Scintilla of the Sea* was a strong second in Class 3 to *Oystercatcher*.

The fleet saw good winds for the 100-mile race with the first

leg to Tobermory taking just over three hours for the fast yachts, a mix of fetching and beating in a sometimes stiff breeze.

Saturday's start off Tobermory proved initially frustrating with a light breeze and besetting tide seeing positions change within all classes in the fleet just out of the bay. The faster boats caught the edge of the breeze on the outside first and were off to Bunessan in grand style, again with a mix of beating initially to Caliach Point and then a fetch in lumpy seas to Bunessan.

Competitors enjoyed a buffet and ceilidh in Bunessan Village Hall in aid of the Ross of Mull Historical Society.

The wind was up on Sunday. Boats started on a beat to the Sound of Iona and through to the Torran Rocks before kites were set on the downwind leg to the finish. In the event of light winds, the 41-mile race is normally finished off at Frank Lockwood's Island but there was no issue this time with the wind gusting up to 20 knots with a following sea. It made for an impressive sight sailing up the Sound of Kerrera under spinnaker to the finish off Oban Sailing Club.

Race officer David Preston and organiser Billy Forteith were delighted at the success of the event.

Billy said: 'You can only plan everything and then hope you get good sailing conditions. This year we had a near-record entry with some late arrivals. The breeze was strong and consistent and there was tremendous camaraderie among the fleet. It is a fantastic event and I think everyone enjoyed themselves. We look forward to welcoming even more boats next year.'

Billy thanked Dave Sturrock whose boat *Unity* acted as committee vessel as well as the headline sponsors Owen Sails and Ardfern Yacht Centre. He also praised Forteith Food Service Oban for the reception and seafood buffet evening preceding the start of the race, T Barbour Fuels for help with fuel for the committee boat, Dimension Polyant for supplying race T-shirts and Forteith Refrigeration and Heat Pump Solutions.

Results: Class 1 – 1 *Requiem*; 2 *Sunrise*; 3 *Moonstruck*. Class 2 – 1 *Shadowfax*; 2 *Sorr of Appin*; 3 *Amber Haze*. Class 3 – 1 *Oystercatcher*; 2 *Scintilla of the Sea*; 3 *Hot Toddy*. Restricted Sail – 1 *Ionara*; 2 *Elusive Lady*; 3 *Rosie Keeping*.

Special trophies: Mishnish Bucket – *Oystercatcher*. Bunessan Hall Trophy – *Ionara*. Glencoe Trophy – *Oystercatcher*. Mull Plaque – *Requiem*. The Antique Schwegges Trophy – *Requiem*. Royal Bank of Scotland Cup – *Shadowfax*. The Jolanta Trophy – *Oystercatcher*. Brian Shellcock Memorial Trophy – *Ionara*. The Torran Rock, the Bilgewater Shield and The Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy – *Oystercatcher*.



Ian Gibson's Nicholson 32 Tegumai on the leg to Bunessan.



Moonstruck Too takes part in the Round Mull Race.



Sarah before the start at Bunessan.



Oban bowlers win open week title

Helen and Donna MacLean from Oban Bowling Club who won the Helensburgh open week ladies pairs competition.

THE HIGHLAND Games season is under way in Argyll, with Luss Games the first on July 2.

Next on the programme is Inveraray on Tuesday July 19, followed by Mull Games at Tobermory on Thursday July 21.

Taynuilt and Southend, an evening event, are both on Saturday July 23 and Oban Games take place on Thursday August 25.

Several junior track and field events are being held to encourage more local young athletes to take part. This applies to the Highland Games in Argyll which are affiliated to the Scottish Highland Games Association [SHGA].

Junior events will be held at Inveraray, Mull and Oban with separate events for boys and girls between the ages of 11 and 16.

The events are 90 metres, 600 metres, high jump, long jump and shot putt with the two track races being on a handicap basis according to age and ability.

There will be an overall junior championship with points awarded over the series of three games. Trophies will be presented to the top boy and girl at Oban Games on the August 25.

Prize money will be an added incentive at each of the three Highland Games.

As well as the junior events at the three SHGA games, there is a full programme of senior events – 16 years and over – in two categories with local events confined to athletes born or resident in Argyll and open events.

To compete in the open events, athletes will have to register with the Scottish Highland Games Association for the day or for the season.

Junior athletes at Inveraray Games on Tuesday July 19 should enter on the field between 10am and 10.30am with the first event likely to start at 10.45am.

A similar start time will apply at the Mull Games two days later with competitors advised to travel on the first ferry from Oban at 7.45am.

Further information on the junior events at Inveraray, Mull and Oban can be obtained by contacting Bill MacCallum on 01546 602664.

Inveraray Games ladies mile race

A LADIES mile race will be held at Inveraray and is open to ladies 16 years and over.

The race will be handicapped according to age and ability with starts given to the older and slower runners. All entries are on the day and the race is likely to be in the early afternoon.

In addition to generous prize money, a trophy will be awarded to the winner.

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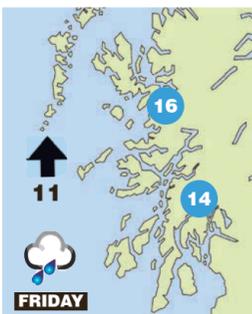
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WEATHER

Thursday Light cloud
Winds light westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 16°C.

Friday Heavy rain forecast
Winds moderate Southerly
Temperatures 14°C to 16°C.

Weekend Heavy rain showers
Winds moderate South Westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 15°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday April 21, 2016 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm			
Thur	00.24	2.9	07.33	1.9	13.49
Fri	01.53	3.0	08.45	1.8	14.50
Sat	03.01	3.1	09.41	1.6	15.38
Sun	03.52	3.3	10.23	1.4	16.22
Mon	04.37	3.5	11.00	1.2	17.03
Tues	05.19	3.6	11.35	1.0	17.41
Wed	05.57	3.7	12.09	0.9	18.18

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



Great Glen Gig lives up to its name

Crowds gathered in Lochaber for a night of singing, piping and dancing

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £3100

Trust in race against time to safeguard community future

MONICA GIBSON
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

A TRUST may have just a few weeks to get the backing it needs to safeguard 'the future of the community'.

East Lochaber and Laggan Community Trust (ELLCT) hopes to buy the Rio Tinto estate for the community and help save the aluminium smelter, which is undergoing a 'strategic review'.

The trust is keen to see the smelter continuing and hopes to take advantage of a government incentive to increase community land ownership by 2020 in the hope of preventing job losses and keeping the future of local resources in local hands.

The role of the community trust would be to buy the estate, stretching from Kinlochleven to Laggan - around 120,000 acres. If successful, it would be the biggest community-owned area of land.

Andrew Baxter, councillor for Fort William and Ardnamurchan and an ELLCT director, explained: 'Think of this as a jigsaw with three pieces: the smelter, Kinlochleven power station, and the surrounding land. We believe our bit, the land, is a central piece, but we see an opportunity to work with parties that might run the power stations in Kinlochleven and Fort William, and others that might run the smelter and/or develop other employment options.'

At a meeting in Inverlochly village hall on Monday night, trust chairman John Hutchison explained why ELLCT was set up.

He said: 'The idea for the trust came about around February this year when it became clear an opportunity existed for a company to retain the Fort William smelter. A few days after approaching Rio Tinto, we were told it is doing a review and it is a very wide review, and [we] were made to sign a non-disclosure agreement. The area we are looking at amounts to 120,000 acres, which would go a long way to help the government reach its mandate.'

'Rio Tinto has the upper hand, but our hand could be strengthened if we have community support. It affects a large geographical area. There are 11,000 electors in the area we are talking about - the community council areas of Laggan; Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry; Inverlochly and Torlundy; Caol; Kilmallie; Fort William; Nether Lochaber, Glencoe and Glen Etive and Kinlochleven.'

The trust said the Scottish Land Fund, which is a grant, would be largely used to fund

the bid alongside a loan, and that the finer details with regards to possible land use for the estate are being looked into by community members with relevant knowledge and experience. Reports so far are looking positive.

Ben Thompson, from ELLCT, helped clarify why the trust is depending on as many people signing up as quickly as possible.

He said: 'As a community we cannot buy the smelter but we can partner with people who do want to buy it. And those parties would have more clout if they team up with us because of the community ownership factor. The government earmarks £10 million per year to this land fund. In short, we could have the cash support, political support and commercial support.'

Mr Thompson, who is also councillor for Caol and Mallaig, added: 'This could be over in weeks if Rio Tinto says to us, 'This is our preferred bidder'. We have got a chair at the table and are having our say.'

John Hutchison ended Monday's meeting by saying: 'Everyone has to get involved.'

Mr Hutchison emphasised that this is a complicated challenge but one designed to benefit future generations. To reflect this, there are currently normal memberships, associate memberships for those outwith the catchment area and junior memberships.

A meeting will take place in Spean Bridge community centre tonight (Thursday) at 7pm and will mark the end of the initial consultation process.

To find out about future meetings and to become a member, visit eastlochaberlaggan.scot



Lochaber High School pupils on the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme show the Earl pictures of their expedition canoeing on Loch Arkaig. Photographs by Anthony MacMillan Photography.

Royal touch at award celebrations

A ROYAL appearance added extra sparkle to diamond anniversary celebrations in Lochaber.

HRH The Earl of Wessex met ScotRail staff at Fort William railway station as well as pupils and staff from local schools to mark 60 years of The Duke of Edinburgh's award (DofE).

The Prince was welcomed by Phil Verster from ScotRail before the two pedalled the first mile - on static bikes - of a 348-mile cycle being undertaken by 11 ScotRail apprentices as part of their 'diamond challenge'. Mr Verster, ScotRail Alliance's managing director, said: 'I am immensely proud of our all our apprentices who have worked very hard towards a Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. It's a fantastic opportunity for them to gain invaluable skills which will stay with them forever. We are honoured to welcome HRH The Earl of Wessex to help us celebrate the diamond anniversary.'

Peter Westgarth, chief executive officer of DofE, said: 'The charity is an integral part of life in Scotland which has played an invaluable role in the development of many young people.'



The Earl hands over a certificate to Nicola Smith and Iain Morrison to mark the University of the Highlands and Islands on becoming a licensed DofE centre.

TIMESLINE

Treasurer steps down on a high

THE ROTARY Club of Lochaber's out-going treasurer went out on a high at the June meeting.

George Bruce reported that last year the club raised £21,610 towards its Benevolent Fund resulting in the club handing out £24,401.50.

George was thanked for his years as treasurer and he wished his successor Flora McKee all the best in her new role.

Scottish Chamber Orchestra in Skye

THE SCOTTISH Chamber Orchestra (SCO) is to perform at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig as part of the Skye festival.

Famed for its blend of passion, skill and energy on stage, the SCO will perform a concert on Thursday July 21.

Appeal to back airport expansion

A HIGHLANDS and islands MSP is urging the Secretary of State for Transport and Secretary of State for Scotland to back plans to expand Heathrow airport in a bid to bring more passengers to the Highlands.

Labour MSP David Stewart's letter to Patrick McLoughlin and David Mundell follows the recent reinstatement of direct British Airways flights between Inverness Airport and Heathrow.

The direct BA service, which stopped in 1997, could bring in at least 70,000 more visitors to the Highlands each year.



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Traffic wardens return to Lochaber

TRAFFIC wardens will return to Lochaber in October.

As part of a £550,000 project, the Highland Council is taking back control of parking from the police and creating an enforcement team made up of a parking supervisor, 10 parking officers and two parking attendants.

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'The Scottish Government needs to pass legislation on this. The process will take until October and then the council will begin to enforce all parking.'

The issue was discussed by members of the Highland Council community services committee earlier this year. At that time, the estimated budget was increased from a 2014 total of £450,000 to cover higher than anticipated costs for implementing the scheme which includes the painting and checking of double yellow lines and signs.

The committee says a major risk to the project is the parliamentary legal timetable but benefits include a co-ordinated parking enforcement service covering on- and off-street parking across the Highlands. It will also free up police officers' time.

Brian Murphy, councillor for Fort William and Ardnamurchan, is in favour of the changes and described the situation up until now as a 'free for all'.

He said: 'This all goes back to when Police Scotland was created and took the decision to get rid of parking enforcement.

'Traffic wardens were paid by Police Scotland and that enforcement ceased in town which has resulted in an increase in infringements in parking in the town. In particular, I think there are problems for those with disabilities because people know that they can park in disabled spaces and on corners and nothing will happen. It has led to all sorts of stupidity really.'

With regards to the cost of the scheme, Mr Murphy said: 'The project will be self-financing to a certain extent as the council will be able to hold on to any penalties. I believe when it was operated by the police the money went to the Treasury.'

He added: 'I am confident the scheme will improve parking in the area.'

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Winterton Park, Castle Grounds. Tuesday 19th July 2016, 9.00am-5.30pm

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

Inveraray & District Pipe Band (Grade 1) will parade from Church Square led by His Grace The Duke of Argyll at 10.45am
Trade Stalls, Side Shows, Children's Activity Tent [FREE], Full Catering Facilities

Adults £8.00: Seniors £5.00 : Children £3.00 Family - £18.00 FREE PARKING
For further details: Tel: 01499 302458 www.inveraray-games.co.uk

Film fans' joy as doors open on new Fort William cinema



Nevis Centre staff with manager Kenny McLaughlin and posters of the films that will be shown at the end of this month.

ELLIE FORBES
forbes@obantimes.co.uk

PEOPLE in Lochaber won't have to travel further than Fort William to see their favourite new films, as the town has a new cinema.

The Nevis Centre will be showing films from the end of this month, with *The Secret Life of Pets* and *Independence Day 2* set to hit the big screen on July 23.

Nevis Centre manager Kenny McLaughlin decided to set up the cinema after a one-off trial showing of *Frozen* proved popular.

Mr McLaughlin said: 'Showing *Frozen* was a huge success. The centre was packed with kids dressed up in character and all singing along.'

After talking to people at the Nevis Centre, Mr McLaughlin began to see the need for cinema in Fort William. He said: 'There was a feeling that a lot of kids were missing out on that big cinema experience that we all remember as youngsters.'

'So in May this year we put on *Zootropolis* and *The Jungle Book*, and both were very well received.'

The centre's biggest problem was getting films to screen before they were shown on TV, but after getting into talks with Filmobile, a company which provided independent cinemas with movies, the idea took off.

Mr McLaughlin said: 'We will be able to screen films roughly five weeks after their release date which is fantastic.'

The centre will be showing films once a month with

audience numbers dictating whether it shows two children's matinees or one children's matinee followed by an adult film in the evening.

Filmobile managing director Ian Brown told *The Oban Times*: 'The first screening in Fort William was a fantastic success. Fort William needs more regular access to new-release cinema.'

'We are already in discussions to move the planned monthly screenings up to fortnightly screenings if the community support continues at this level.'

With the closest cinemas to Fort William being in Oban and Inverness, the Nevis Centre said it wanted to help families who couldn't travel that far to reach a cinema.

Mr McLaughlin said: 'While there is the cinema in Inverness, lots of parents don't drive, so it's not only the expense but also the hassle of spending around an hour and a half on the bus on the way there and back again.'

'We are putting together a list of films that will be shown throughout the year so people will know in advance if they can see a film at the Nevis Centre, or whether they will need to make the journey to Inverness.'

Mr Brown commented: 'There are many people who either can't or don't want to travel over an hour to the nearest cinema and this will bring back this much-needed cultural provision to Lochaber residents.'

'I grew up in a rural commu-

nity but had a passion for cinema from my very first memory, but didn't have easy access and it was always a whole day out, not to mention the cost which comes with that.'

Leah Whyte, 35, from Caol, whose son is three, was delighted at the prospect of the cinema. She said: 'I think it's great for parents like me who have the opportunity to do things with their kids during the day. It's brilliant for my little one's age group as after an hour and a half in the car to Inverness, the last thing he wants to do is sit still in the cinema.'

Mum of two boys, three and four, Yasmin Yildiz said: 'It's a great idea. It would be good if there was an evening show as well so that the mums and dads who are working during the day get the chance to take their children.'

Kirsty Kyle was also pleased saying: 'I think it's a great idea especially for parents who don't drive or have a few kids, as going to Inverness for cinema is expensive to get to and to go in. I think anything that gets families together is welcome here.'

Mr McLaughlin added: 'We now have a Tango Ice Blast machine, hotdogs, popcorn and ice-cream, so we are trying to make it as realistic as we possibly can.'

The Lochaber community has taken to Facebook to show its support for the cinema, with more than 70 comments on posts about upcoming films.

To buy tickets and for more film information call the Nevis Centre.

TIMESLINE

Acharacle pupils' project success

ACHARACLE Primary School's latest re-use project has been a great success.

Over the past few months, and with the help of the local community, pupils have been collecting plastic bottles which they are using to build a self-watering greenhouse.

Extra capacity on coach route

ULLAPOOL to Inverness coach passengers should benefit from extra capacity following an agreement to put an extra coach on the route.

Concerns about capacity on the service, which connects with the ferry to and from Stornoway, were raised at a meeting of the Comhairle's transportation and infrastructure committee.

Service operator Scottish Citylink already regularly deploys an additional coach whenever bookings for the service exceed the capacity more than 48 hours in advance of the departure time.

At the meeting the bus operator agreed it would aim to ensure an increased capacity service would be deployed wherever possible to ensure passengers are not stranded on the mainland.

Visitors urged to check in early

VISITORS to the Western Isles are being encouraged to check in early for ferry sailings.

A spokesperson said: 'We are delighted so many people are coming to visit the Western Isles. With ferries at full capacity, we are keen to avoid unnecessary congestion and delays.'

Cookery classes a success

COOKS in Lochaber are learning to eat better and waste less in a series of cookery lessons.

Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) and Action for Children Scotland (ACS) in Lochaber are running their fourth block of cooking classes at Caol youth centre. The classes aim to teach people about healthy eating, budgeting, affordable cooking and reducing food waste. The classes make use of fresh ingredients and work with business and partners in Lochaber.

Jen Reilly, from ACS, explained: 'Our first cooking class was really successful with every-

one taking part making various tasty dishes. Everyone really enjoyed themselves, finding out how to make nutritious and delicious meals while on a budget. We even had time to taste what we made at the end, which went down particularly well.'

Members of LEG explained to everyone that figures from Love Food Hate Waste Scotland show approximately £38 per month is wasted.

Anyone interested in finding out more should get in touch by emailing info@lochaberenviron.org.uk or jennifer.reilly@actionforchildren.org.uk.



Members of Fort William Town Team at Morrisons.



The garden in the Parade which the town team has planted.

Town team bags £880 for coffers at fundraiser

FORT William's Town Team raised £880 at a Morrisons bag-packing event.

Sixteen members of the community team helped customers pack their shopping between 10am and 4pm on Saturday July 2.

Town team secretary Sue Keen said: 'We raised a magnificent £880.55, which is a huge boost to our funds. We will put the money towards equipment, paint and plants that we need to keep the town looking the best we can.'

The team has also finished planting the sundial garden in the Parade.

Volunteers from the town team and staff from Tesco helped to get the patch completed.

The sundial shaped garden was planted up with pink, red and white begonias and geraniums, with help from volunteers at Fort William's Garden Stop.

The Lochaber Royal British Legion has also asked the team to plant six planters at the war memorial in the town, in the run up to judging for the war memorial competition, which Ms Keen said 'it would be great to win again'.

Lochaber unites to look ahead to UK's exit from European Union

LOCHABER has united at a public meeting to discuss the UK's recent vote to leave the European Union.

At a meeting on Friday (July 8), hosted by the Lochaber Common Weal, 30 people from around Lochaber came together to discuss what the vote to leave the EU could mean for them.

Consultant surgeon David Sedgwick expressed concern about the impact it could have on health and social care in Scotland.

He said: 'In this area there are a lot of people from Eastern Europe who work in social care. Where will we get these people from when we have left the EU? Where do we plan to recruit this number of people from?'

Other issues put forward were what Scotland could do as a country to generate income.

One attendee said: 'Manufacturing is what we need to generate wealth and income.'

Another suggested: 'What natural resources does Scotland have? Water

and renewables, that's where we need to be looking.'

A local teacher from France said: 'We [immigrants] bring more than we take.'

'My children are British, and they don't have dual citizenship, so I don't want to be deported now.'

But John Gillespie, who was hosting the public meeting, indicated that EU nationals who are already here will be protected.

A Czech Republic family who were on holiday in Fort William and had seen the meeting advertised were present.

One of the family's two daughters spoke openly at the meeting, discussing what life is like in her country and what the reaction to Brexit has been in Europe. She said: 'We didn't realise there was such a difference between the way Scottish and English people felt about the referendum.'

She continued: 'People move east to work for more money and better jobs. I want to be a doctor but the wages in Czech Republic are so bad, so people

move away, to the UK or Germany, for more money and a better life.'

Also discussed was the treatment of immigrants since the referendum.

Mr Sedgwick said: 'We as a country welcome immigrants. We don't use scare tactics to discourage people.'

Politics was described as 'divisive' by Eddie Morgan, who is part of the common weal. He said: 'They don't want us to have unity because then we can fight against them. They have split us on independence and now they have split us on this.'

A number of people at the meeting said they felt there was no plan in place following the referendum.

A few said they thought this was because most people expected to remain in the EU.

Mr Morgan said: 'There was no plan because there was no context to what would happen.'

Mr Gillespie added: 'We have entered into a process that we don't want to go down. We are in a nonsensical position with no plan.'



MARK BEAUMONT AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK TO ARGYLL

Corran Halls, Oban
3rd August 2016, 7pm for 7.30pm

He cycled the world. He cycled the Americas. He cycled Africa. And on 3rd August, straight after a 10-day epic adventure across Argyll & The Isles, Mark will be hosting an evening of short films, photography and stories.

Tickets £15 (concession £13) available from the Corran Halls Box Office.
01631 567333 or Corranhalls@argyll-bute.gov.uk

People power paves way for surgery

MONICA GIBSON
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk



Kate Forbes MSP believes companies like FAGCC empower and transform local communities.

A COMMUNITY company in Fort Augustus has raised more than £600,000 to replace a medical centre which was destroyed by fire.

Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company (FAGCC) has been working tirelessly to raise money to rebuild the medical centre on the Caledonian Canal following a devastating blaze on October 25 2015.

After the fire, NHS Highland said it did not have sufficient funds to replace the centre, but could potentially pay a lease on a building.

FAGCC is now seeking to buy and redevelop the site having raised £630,000 of the required £680,000 for construction of the new centre.

The money has been raised by FAGCC, with the bulk of the funding being donated from a community benefit scheme run by Flack Renewables and the SSE Glendow Hydro scheme. A total of £25,000 is believed to have been pledged by GPs from the practice and Glengarry Trust has donated £10,000.

The most recent total was reached after a grant of £98,724 from the Scottish Land Fund, which is funded by the Scottish Government, was confirmed last Thursday.

With the target amount in sight, FAGCC has held a number of drop-in sessions in Fort Augustus and Invermoriston to gauge public opinion on services for the centre, which has approximately 1,400 registered patients including children.

After analysing the surveys, FAGCC reported that dentistry and optical services were highlighted as being extremely important and sought after.

A company spokesperson said: 'We also sought the views from a number of groups in the village after it came to our attention that people did not attend [the drop-in sessions] as they had given the project its blessing at the initial meeting.'

GPs based in Fort Augustus have been working out of temporary accommodation at the village's Telford Centre since the fire.

Local MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, Kate Forbes, shared her thoughts on what the efforts of the company could do for the area but recognised more needs to be done to help.

She said: 'I commend Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company for its vision and entrepreneurial spirit in securing future medical services within the village. 'Community ownership like this empowers and transforms Highland and island communities and the award from the Scottish Land Fund demonstrates just how seriously the Scottish Government takes community empowerment.'

'In the community consultation, transport was a recurring issue, regardless of whether people were travelling to Inverness or Fort William for NHS or private appointments. 'I know myself, as I drive across the constituency, that fuel is costly and public transport is expensive, and sadly often infrequent and unreliable.'

'So developing transport links, as part of providing local healthcare, also needs to be a priority.'

Eight is magic number for those in need



The food bank team in their premises on Fort William High Street.

MORE than 300 meals were donated to Lochaber food bank in its first collection of the year.

The food bank has a permanent basket in the town's Tesco supermarket where people can donate whenever and whatever they can.

Volunteer Alex McConachie, who has worked at the food bank for three and a half years and was one of the original founding members, heads down to Tesco every two or three days to weigh the basket, with the supermarket adding 20 per cent to whatever it already has.

The food bank has two annual collections and last year it fed 681 people, 160 were children, some less than a year old.

After picking up the donations, volunteers at the food bank make up food parcels for those who come through the doors, giving them 10 meals which lasts roughly three days.

Restrictions limiting how often people can use the food bank have been lifted. Previously people could only use the service three times every six months.

On any given day the number of people requiring the service of the food bank varies but McConachie told *The Oban Times* that the most they have seen in one day was 18 people, while on other days they may see no-one.

The food bank aims to help people who are homeless, unemployed or on a low income.

Mr McConachie said: 'Living on the minimum wage is not good enough for families, it's not good enough if you're single, so we want to help those struggling. 'I never expected there to be this many people in need of food bank services.'

'And we are going to get busier because we can never get rid of poverty. But the fact

that we are going to be here is good for the people who need it.'

Mr McConachie has been helping people in need for more than 30 years.

As has Pat Leslie, also one of the original volunteers at the food bank, who has worked with Lochaber Red Cross for around 30 years.

The food bank has eight volunteers, two of which are Lochaber High School pupils who volunteer during their summer holidays.

Those in need of the food bank's services can access it on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from noon to 2pm.

Costa submits plans for drive-through outlet with restaurant

PLANS for a new Costa Coffee restaurant and drive-through in Fort William have been submitted to the Highland Council, writes *Ellie Forbes*.

The site at Nevis Square was set to be occupied by KFC with planning permission secured for the outlet in 2014.

Developers Herbal Eastern bought the land two years ago for KFC, but after the fast-food chain pulled out of plans to build on the site earlier this year, the company put in a bid for Costa.

Nevis Garden Centre and John Disher's floor coverings were the last businesses to occupy the site, and they were demolished to make way for KFC.

Plans for Costa include a restaurant and drive-through and outdoor seating.

Tim Stott, principal planner with the Highland Council, told *The Oban Times*: 'The site, which has had a retail use for a long



Nevis Square, the site intended for the new Costa Coffee restaurant and drive through.

time, has planning permission for similar drive-through retail use and is previously developed or brownfield land.

'Impact on Fort William Town Centre will be considered but it is not likely to be a major issue because there's already a Costa

unit in the High Street and this new unit appears to be for an additional, not replacement, drive-through, Costa.'

Decided
Mr Stott also said: 'It has only just been lodged as an application so no permission yet, but

it should be decided within two months.

'We don't know if and when Costa will implement any planning permission, but the construction period would typically be six to 12 months for this size of development.'

NHS work placements boost university success

NHS Highland has welcomed the first two groups of secondary school pupils for this year's Doctors at Work programme, writes *Katie Carabine*.

The programme, which has been running for five years, gives pupils an invaluable insight into their chosen career and an understanding of the realities of working in a hospital.

The programme is going from strength to strength, and with record numbers of applicants, the programme will now be running on five occasions across the year.

Dr Emma Watson, director of medical education for NHS Highland explained that the programme has been a success and has also increased the number of students from Highland being accepted into medical schools.

She said: 'The programme is a five-day work placement for pupils who are intending to apply for medicine. This year we have 40 students over the five weeks, most of which are from the Highland

Council region, but we have also welcomed students from the Western Isles.

'Those taking part get to experience a variety of clinical settings, including wards, theatres and clinics across a range of specialities including surgical, orthopaedics, diagnostics and medicine.'

'The students also have the opportunity to talk to medical students who are working in the hospital and can give them an insight on what their medical school life will be like.'

Historically, Highland pupils have been at a disadvantage when competing for places in medicine and healthcare careers but this trend is beginning to change as a result of initiatives such as this. Since 2012, 63 per cent of pupils that have taken part in this programme and have then applied for medical school have been successful.

The course has proved popular with students, with comments given including 'liked the variety that medicine has to offer'; 'like the

academic and research side that medicine offers' and 'there is nothing better than seeing a patient getting better and knowing you've helped with that.'

Dr Watson added: 'This programme is open to young people from all backgrounds and we are going to further grow this initiative by identifying bright, caring and compassionate school pupils who for reasons outwith their control may not achieve the traditional requirements for medicine or have the ability for medicine but are from areas which have no tradition of university entrance. We want to encourage and help them to apply to gateway medicine courses.'

'We would like more young people from Highland to consider medicine as a profession. 'By encouraging young people from this area to enter into medicine we hope students we see taking part in these programmes are the doctors we will see coming back to work in the area.'

Fort William funeral directors under new ownership



JOHN McLELLAN & CO. LTD Funeral Directors Est. 1923

FUNERAL firm John McLellan and Company Ltd in Fort William has been bought over by the company's senior funeral director Scott Greenlees, above.

Mr Greenlees bought the company from Mr and Mrs MacPhie, who have owned the business since 2000.

Mr Greenlees has worked

ADVERTORIAL

at the funeral firm for four years and said he is looking forward to supporting the community and families in the area, continuing the established traditions of quality service and support for the families in their time of need.

TIMESLINE

Late licence has no impact on call outs

POLICE in Lochaber say there 'has not been an increase in call outs' following the Crofter bar extending its licence to 2am on a Saturday.

Inspector David Campbell told *The Oban Times*: 'There has been no negative impact because of the later licence.'

The Crofter's bid to extend its opening hours was secured back in May and police have confirmed their figures are 'pretty steady compared to last year'.

Plockton office bearers re-elected

ALL OFFICE bearers of the Plockton and district community council were re-elected at the June AGM.

Among the items discussed were repairs needed to the Durnish Bridge, clarification over grass-cutting in the village, visibility at wee Strathy - the junction with the main road which needs improvement - the new digital speed limit sign needing repairs and parking in Plockton. The next community council meeting will take place on Monday September 5.

Smokehouse shortlisted

A SOUTH UIST smokehouse has been shortlisted in the prestigious Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards.

Salar Smokehouse at Loch Carnan was mothballed in April 2015 with the loss of seven jobs, but has been revived by former staff who bought the business from previous owners Loch Duart.

Iain Macrury, managing director, said: 'We are delighted to be shortlisted for the awards.'

'To be shortlisted in four categories is a fantastic achievement and is a testimony to the skills, hard work and dedication of our staff who continue to ensure we offer only the finest quality products.'

Morvern Games and Gala Week

THE ANNUAL Morvern Games and Gala Week are about to kick off at Knock Park in Lochaline.

Saturday July 16 will mark the beginning of the games, with a host of events, from falconry to chainsaw crafts and the traditional heavy weight events. Food and local craft stalls are sure to keep all the family entertained throughout the day.

Programmes are now available to buy in Lochaline Stores and Ardornish Information Centre.

Email us with your news items
FORT@OBANTIMES.CO.UK

Fèis Lochabair Lochaber Cèilidh Trail 2016

Cèilidh air chuairt

Cèil traidiseanta air a chluich le cuid den òigridh as fheàrr aig Fèisean Lochabair
Traditional music from some of the best young musicians and singers from Fèisean Lochabair

Cuim latha	Ainm	Balla	Tachartas	Uair
Date	Venue	Town / Village	Event	Time
Friday 15th July	Clachalg Inn	Glencoe	Session	9pm
Saturday 16th July	Tresalg Hall	Tresalg	Family Cèilidh Dance	7.30pm
Sunday 17th July	Knoydart Village Hall	Knoydart	Family Cèilidh Dance	
	Steam Inn	Mallaig	Session	
Monday 18th July	Eigg Community Hall	Isle of Eigg	Family Cèilidh Dance	7.30pm
Tuesday 19th July	Glenuig Hall	Glenuig	Session	7pm
Wednesday 20th July	Astley Hall	Arisaig	Session	7pm
Thursday 21st July	Muck Community Hall	Isle of Muck	Family Cèilidh Dance	7.30pm
Friday 22nd July	Feis nan Garbh Crichean	Acharacle	Family Cèilidh Dance	7.30pm
Saturday 23rd July	Roy Bridge Hotel	Roy Bridge	Session	9pm
Sunday 24th July	Glenfinnan House Hotel	Glenfinnan	Session	9-6pm
	Lochalbert Inn	Lochalbert	Session	7pm
Monday 25th July	Ben Nevis Inn	Achninnee	Session	8.15pm
Wednesday 27th July	Clachalg Inn	Glencoe	Session	9pm
Thursday 28th July	Loch Shell Hotel	Acharacle	Session	9pm
Friday 29th July	Invergarry Village Hall	Invergarry	Family Cèilidh Dance	7pm
Saturday 30th July	Roy Bridge Hall	Roy Bridge	Family Cèilidh Dance	7.30pm
Sunday 31st July	Sunny's Sports Bar	Fort William	Session	8pm
Wednesday 3rd August	Feis Lochaber Tutors Cèilidh	Bun-Spoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar	Family Cèilidh Dance	7pm
Friday 5th August	Mod Lochaber Fundraiser	Caol Community Centre	Family Cèilidh Dance	7.30pm

Prayers for Leia and Seth as Argyll mourns loss of toddlers

LOUISE GLEN
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TRIBUTES to brother and sister toddlers who died after the car they were travelling in left the road and entered the water at Loch nan Druimnean, near Kilmelford, have been sent from across the globe.

Offers of financial support to the parents of Seth and Leia McCorrisken – aged two and three – have topped more than £13,000 as people have been donating to ensure the children receive a ‘beautiful send off’.

Messages of support for the children’s parents, Hazel Lancaster and Neil McCorrisken, who live and run their own business on the Isle of Luing, have come from as far afield as Australia, Asia, Europe and across the UK.

Three days after the accident, friend Sarah Stopford set up a crowdfunding page online with the message: ‘I set up this page as a gesture to Neil and Hazel to show that we are all thinking of them.’

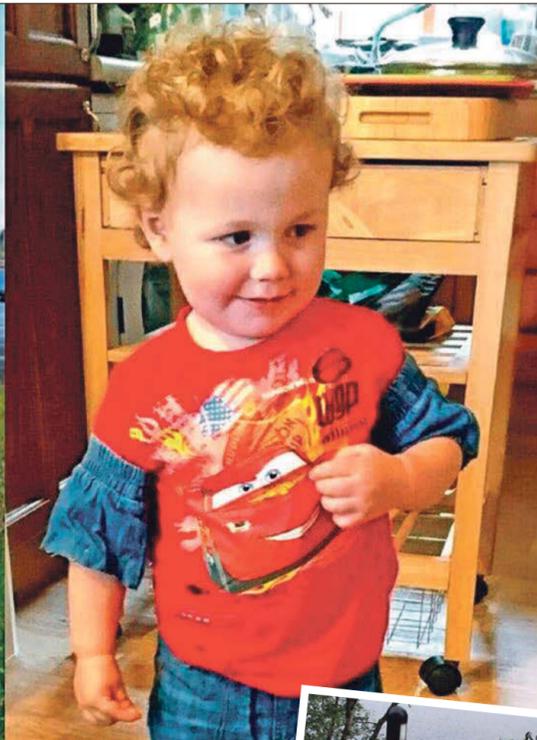
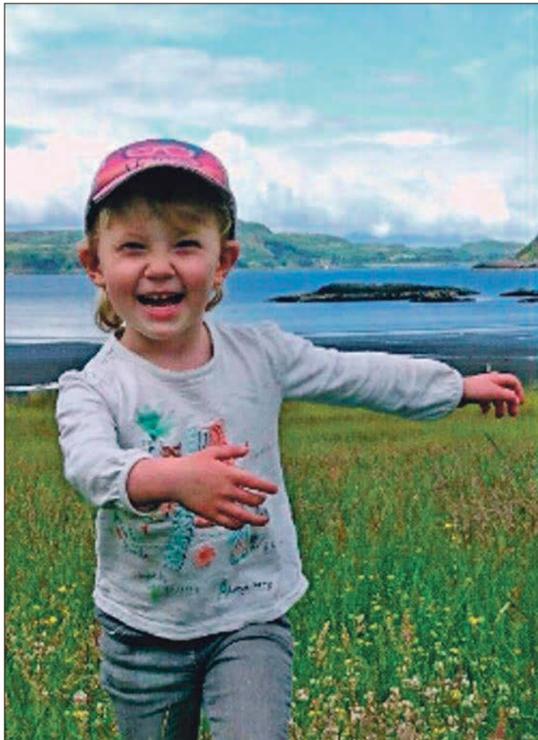
‘Donating money is the least that we can do in an effort to help them at this terrible time.’

In only a few hours the page had doubled its target of £500, with children giving their pocket money and adults sending condolences to the parents and family from across the globe.

Messages have also been sent via The Oban Times Facebook page.

Brenda and Mick said: ‘Our thoughts are with you and your family at this very sad time. We live in Cumbria now but know Kilmelford and that awful road from our time living in Oban.’

‘God bless you and your beautiful children.’



Toddlers Leia and Seth died after the car they were travelling in left the road and entered the water at Loch nan Druimnean, near Kilmelford, on the A816. Tributes to the two youngsters have been left by the roadside. Photograph (right): Kevin McGlynn

From Australia, an anonymous woman said: ‘Can’t imagine the sadness.’

Crowdfunding donor Angela Murray said: ‘My heart is broken for your loss. I am praying you will get through this and be stronger than before. Much love from our family to yours xx’

Kilmelford and Kilniver Community Council sent flow-

ers and sympathy to the family.

Cards, teddy bears and flowers have been laid by the roadside where the accident happened last Wednesday evening.

Islanders have rallied around the family offering help and support. They held a prayer service for the children and their family on Sunday.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon,

Argyll and Bute’s children’s champion, said: ‘Along with everyone else in Argyll, our thoughts and prayers go out to these two parents on the death of their beautiful baby children.’

‘No words will ever be able to express how much sadness we feel for them.’

‘In the coming days, months and weeks I know the communi-



ty will gather around the family and help to support them as they try to come to terms with their most dreadful loss.

‘If there is anything I can do, I hope they will be in touch with me.’

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell added his sympathy to the family, saying: ‘I think everybody is just completely stunned. It is a horrific thing to have happened. Nothing worse could be imagined for a family.’

‘I think there’s a general sense of shock, both in the local community and more widely in Argyll.’

‘It is a bad piece of road, it’s a difficult piece of road, and the weather was very bad.’

‘I do think that people are looking at this and saying it’s a terrible, terrible thing to happen and looking at the conditions and wondering whether they were contributing. But we don’t know any more and I think we should obviously wait to hear what the police have to say.’

The Reverend Kenneth Ross, of Luing Parish Church, said: ‘The tragic accident at Loch nan Druimnean that resulted in Leia and Seth losing their lives has greatly affected many people, not only in our immediate area but far beyond.’

‘Our hearts go out to their parents, wider family and friends. Leia and Seth were remembered in prayers at all the Netherlorn churches on Sunday July 10.’

A spokeswoman for Police Scotland said: ‘Inquiries are continuing to establish the exact circumstances of the incident and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.’

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Divisional Road Policing Unit at Campbeltown on 101.

■ A Lochgilhead man was one of the first ‘heroes’ on the scene of the tragedy. Read his story on page nine.

TIMESLINE

Caledonian Hotel sale ‘imminent’

THE SALE of the Caledonian Hotel, on Oban’s seafront, is ‘imminent’ but was not yet finalised at the time of *The Oban Times* going to press.

It is understood the 44 members of staff employed at the hotel will be required to be transferred to the employment of new owners under European legislation. Staff say they have been told their jobs may be under threat.

The hotel is likely to close for six months while a refurbishment of the 59-bedroomed premises takes place.

Lunch invitation for Beyoncé

THE world’s richest singer has been given an invite to Oban’s humblest abode.

A rumour that a mega yacht in Oban bay on Wednesday belongs to Beyoncé led to an open invite to Oban’s soup kitchen. Founding member Jess MacDonald invited the singer saying: ‘Beyonce, if you’re still in Oban, we’ll be open at 1pm today for some lovely homemade soup.’

‘Everyone is welcome in Hope Kitchen – even pop-stars!’

Correction

IN LAST week’s *Oban Times*, we ran a submitted report highlighting Oban High School’s Young Achievers.

The article should have stated that The Strachan Trophy for Spanish was awarded to Julie Keen. We apologise for this error and would like to congratulate Julie on her achievement.

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Pokémon revivial comes to Argyll as people hunt down ‘creatures’ using smart phones

SANDY NEIL
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THE world seems to be catching Pokémon fever again, with many children – young and old – searching Argyll for fictional Japanese creatures on their smart phones.

The Nintendo-owned franchise Pokémon, which exploded in popularity in the late 1990s, is making a comeback with a free phone app called Pokémon Go, which was released earlier this month.

In just a week, its number of users is on the verge of overtaking Twitter on Android.

The app uses your phone’s GPS and clock to detect when and where you are in the game, and makes the Pokémon appear around you on your phone screen so you can go and catch them.

Depending on where you are and what time it is, different and more types of Pokémon appear. So far there have been 720 types of exotic, powerful monsters that look like rats, snakes, dragons, dinosaurs,



birds, eggs and trees. The idea behind the app round an area to catch Pokémon using interaction between the game and the real world – known as ‘augmented reality’.

The game seems to have taken America by storm, where there are stories of people hunting down Pokémon in inappropriate places, such as bathrooms, hospital rooms

Pokémon hunters in Oban have been seen hunting down the mythical creatures on their smart phones.

and even coffins at funerals.

A New York woman also used the app to catch her cheating boyfriend, while police in Missouri claimed four suspected robbers lured in victims with the possibility of Pokémon.

However, back in Argyll, 20-year-old Fergus Glen from Taynuilt followed the app to the village’s Nelson Monument, where he found it busy with Pokémon hunters aged from nine up to adulthood.

Oban has been featuring in the game, too, with 30 people seen around the town on Tuesday tracking down the mythical Japanese beasts.

Fergus Glen said: ‘I didn’t think anyone else would be looking for Pokémon in Argyll. I was very surprised.’

‘It was great fun, and I even saw old pals.’

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Argyll pays tribute to former councillor

OUTPOURINGS of grief for Councillor Duncan MacIntyre have been coming into *The Oban Times*.

Mr MacIntyre's funeral is due to take place in St Columba's Cathedral on Saturday.

The former councillor passed away on Tuesday July 5, surrounded by his family.

Leading the praise for Mr MacIntyre's work and commitment to his civic duties was Oban Community Council.

Chairwoman Marri Malloy said: 'It is with great sadness to hear of the death of Councillor Duncan MacIntyre.'

'Duncan was an excellent councillor for his constituency, and he was a true son of Oban, he will be missed greatly.'

'He was a friend, and often adviser, to Oban Community Council.'

'He was the one person that I, as convener could rely on if I needed support with community issues.'

'He worked hard for his electorate and everything he was involved in was always for the benefit of Oban and the surrounding area. In fact he had the welfare of the whole of Argyll very much at heart.'

'He was a true and honest Highland gentleman. May he rest in peace.'



Oban's youth set to benefit from Barcaldine investment

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

A NUMBER of businesses will need to be relocated from Barcaldine's Marine Resource Centre following the news that it is being redeveloped as a £35 million salmon hatchery.

However, many see the move as positive, saying it will bring new investment into the site, and will complement work to establish Oban as a university town.

Last week Scottish Sea Farms, Scotland's second largest salmon farmer, announced it had bought the marine business hub by Loch Creran, where it plans to build a new land-based RAS (re-circulating aquaculture system) freshwater facility, for rearing smolts until they are ready to transfer to sea farms, creating up to 25 permanent jobs.

Jim Gallagher, managing director of Scottish Sea Farms (SSF), said this new 'world class facility' would be important 'in securing employment for the company's 200 employees in Argyll and the 240 others across Highland, Orkney and Shetland. Feedback has been extremely positive and we are now preparing plans for a community consultation which should get underway after the summer holiday period.'

Construction work is due to begin after a series of open days and consultations on how

best to develop the site, and SSF anticipates the first fish reared in the new facility to enter the water in 2019.

Currently the campus serves a host of marine needs, including moorings, yacht coverings and business premises – some of which will need to be relocated, an SSF spokeswoman added.

'The previous owners of the site [Lithgow's Ltd] have been dealing directly with their tenants, and we are doing what we can to accommodate a number of the businesses who will continue at the site,' she said.

'Extended notice periods have been provided to some tenants and dialogue has taken place with Highlands and Islands Enterprise and [Argyll and

Bute] Council on helping these tenants to relocate within Argyll, with a number of potential locations already identified.'

Stephen Divers, managing director of Fusion Marine, which employs 17 people at the site, said: 'From our perspective, we see this as a positive development as it will bring new investment into the site that will deliver a modern facility well-placed to support the sustainable development of our vitally important aquaculture sector.'

'We have been in dialogue with SSF and are exploring options and developing a plan that will enable Fusion Marine to continue our manufacturing activities at Barcaldine.'

David Smart, head of special projects with Highlands and Islands Enterprise, which was involved in the discussions, welcomed the news.

He said: 'The aquaculture sector creates attractive high-value job opportunities, particularly for young people, in rural locations. The creation of 25 permanent posts therefore is a very welcome prospect.'

'We are now exploring with Scottish Sea Farms the potential for education, training and development opportunities linked to this project. This would complement the work that is under way to establish Oban as a university town and strengthen the area's appeal to young people.'

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POLICE FILES

FLAT and balding tyres on a passenger vehicle cost a driver an extra trip to the police station.

The 30-year-old man was charged and fined after being found to have defective tyres on Soroba Road on July 10.

A WOMAN spent the weekend in police cells after being charged with a serious assault.

The alleged incident took place shortly after 10pm on Friday July 8 near to High Street, Oban, when police were called.

The 26-year-old woman was detained in Oban Police Station, while a man was treated in hospital for lacerations on his left cheek.

A report has been made to the procurator fiscal.

THE THEFT of a 'five-figure' sum of cash from a caravan in Tobermory is being investigated by police.

The money was reported missing on Sunday July 17. Police Constable Sharon Carr is appealing for information and witnesses to the incident. She can be contacted on 101 or at the office in Oban.

A WOMAN who went out with a quantity of suspected cocaine has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

The 20-year-old was stopped in the early hours of Sunday on George Street.

A PRISONER released on licence on Thursday July 7 went straight back to jail after spending less than 24 hours in the community.

The man, 24, is alleged to have broken the terms of his parole licence and was back in custody on July 8.

A report has been made to the procurator fiscal.

Lochgilphead man tells of efforts to reach tots

A LOCHGILPHEAD man 'didn't think twice' before plunging into an icy loch to try to save two young children, writes *Eala MacAlister*.

Leia McCorrisken, three, and her two-year-old brother, Seth, died when the car they were travelling in crashed into Loch nan Druimnean, near Kilmelford, at around 4pm on July 6.

Painter and decorator Jimmy McMahon came across the chaotic scene on his way back from shopping in Oban.

Mr McMahon said: 'I heard this woman screaming. It just sent a shiver up your spine. You could tell something bad had happened.'

He arrived about 10 minutes after the car had gone off the

road, plunging into the loch. A number of passers-by had already gone into the water but had been unable to reach the car, which was believed to be around 40 feet below the surface.

When Mr McMahon heard there were children trapped in the car he realised he wanted to help.

He said: 'I couldn't wait around, so I just went in. I didn't realise how deep it was.'

'I could hear the sound of the engine rattling but I couldn't see a thing. I couldn't get down more than about 12 feet.'

After about 15 minutes, Mr McMahon realised there was nothing more he could do.

'I think I went down three

times. When I came up the third time I realised there was no way I could get down that deep,' he said.

Mr McMahon is familiar with the road and frequently drives along it.

He said that the day the incident happened had been very wet, leading to treacherous road conditions.

He continued: 'I really think they should put barriers up at that part of the road. It's a slippery surface and one of the most bendy bits of the road.'

The Coastguard helicopter at the scene of the accident last Wednesday afternoon.

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn



Call for Seaside Tzar to save coastal towns

A SEASIDE tsar should be appointed to help Britain's forgotten coastal towns fight back from decades of decay, according to new research, writes *Louise Glen*.

But the report, *Creating Coastal Powerhouses*, paints a grim picture of the problems facing many coastal communities, and does not reflect Argyll and the Isles, said Arduaine's Calum Ross, a board member of VisitScotland.

From *The Oban Times* Facebook page, readers say the report is insulting and that no more gurus or tsars are needed.

Mr Ross, who runs Kilmelfort House Hotel, said: 'I am on holiday on Mull at the moment, looking around me I think I like Tobermory the way it is ... it doesn't need to become a 'coastal powerhouse'.'

'I don't think any of Argyll's seaside towns can be put in the same box as Blackpool or Brighton. But having said that, all our coastal towns would benefit from additional investment.'

'If any money is to be made available, I would like Oban to get a share of it. It should be invested in infrastructure, transport connections (especially improved roads) and improved facilities for everyone who lives here and also for those who choose to visit this wonderful part of the world.'

The report, commissioned by the British Hospitality Association (BHA), said that people living in seaside towns are more likely to be poorly

HAVE YOUR SAY on seaside tsar plans

Cecile Piveteau, 27, from Nantes, returning to Oban with Raphael Fouche, 28, after living here for a year in 2010/11, pictured right:

Cecile: 'It was nice to see some things haven't changed: restaurants are just as full five years later. Some shops have closed, but others have opened. There's still many, many tourists.'

Raphael: 'It's the most important city on the West Coast. It feels very lively, and wild.'

Anonymous couple, who live south of Oban:

(Male): 'There's a lot that could be done to make it bet-



ter, such as the long-awaited pontoons. It's tragic they didn't retain old buildings. There's a struggle here to have enough economic viability for young people to stay, so there are long-term challenges. Why

within a few miles of the seaside, the coast is a fundamental part of both the Scottish economy and our livelihood.

'I welcome the BHA's report and urge the government to do all it can to support investment in one of this country's greatest assets.'

The BHA report says that the collapse of shipbuilding and fishing, the decline of the traditional annual holiday by the seaside, growing drug use, and cutbacks in budgets affecting maintenance of public places, street cleaning, tourism promotion and the provision of education have all contributed to the situation.

The BHA wants to establish coastal action groups and

have a seaside tsar? What's the council meant to be there for?' **(Female):** 'There's a lot of closed shops, but I wouldn't say it's rundown. It's busier since we came in 2006. We would like it to be trendier.'

investment in physical and broadband infrastructure.

David Adams McGilp, regional director VisitScotland, said: 'The seaside is always popular with visitors, but it is important that destinations offer products, services and experiences to satisfy market demand.'

'Traditional coastal industries have changed and continue to change, and the social wellbeing of communities depends on a healthy economy.'

'Tourism, recreation and leisure developments present potential growth opportunities around the marine environment, as well as improved facilities for local people.'

Fishermen say leaving EU brings opportunities

THE Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF) met with rural economy secretary Fergus Ewing last Tuesday July 4 in Glasgow, where it underlined the positive impact leaving the European Union (EU) would have on the way fisheries are managed in Scotland.

The SFF had campaigned to leave the EU and had the

resounding support of its membership to do so after a series of consultations.

Bertie Armstrong, SFF chief executive, said: 'We outlined to the minister the unanimous view of our membership of the real and positive opportunities that leaving the EU would bring to our fishing communities.'

'In effect, much in the

same way as our oil and gas sector benefits from the UK's territorial reach, it brings the opportunity of making Britain the controlling partner in the northern continental shelf where we would be able to exert a positive influence on the way that fisheries are managed, working with other nations in a partnership approach.'

'The minister listened carefully to our points of view and we both acknowledged that there was a significant divergence in our approach to EU membership.'

'However, there was also recognition from both parties of the need to maintain close dialogue and a good working relationship.'

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Swinney plans to give more power to schools

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

ARGYLL schools could be given more power on funding following measures announced in a newly-published Scottish Government report.

But union representatives are already concerned at the 'centralisation' of education to the central belt.

Scottish Government education minister John Swinney announced his plans in Delivering Excellence and Equity in Scottish Education at the end of last month.

On the minister's list for Argyll and Bute is putting in place support for children of the poorest families, attainment and empowerment to individual schools.

When implemented over the next 18 months, this will mean a place for two-year-olds in every nursery and continuing focus on the home and school with an increase in the role of health visitors, the school and the child.

Employment opportunities in individual areas will be a focus of the curriculum.

Mr Swinney calls for a curriculum that delivers for the community and for the workforce required by each school and area.

The government minister has said 'more decisions' will be made by children, teachers, families and the communities around schools.

Argyll and Bute Council announced plans for cluster schools in its 2016/17 budget. But to date no plans for these have been brought before elected members.

Asked about its proposals for the future of education in light of the Scottish Government report, a spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council told *The Oban Times*: 'This is a newly-published report and as you would expect we are taking time to review its content.'

'The council is currently in recess but we will be taking appropriate action over the coming months.'

Scotland's biggest teaching union, the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), said it welcomed any measures that would 'cut bureaucracy and reduce excessive workload'. EIS general secretary Larry Flanagan said: 'If there is any suggestion of centralising control of schools and reducing the role of democratically-elected local authorities in running education, that would be a huge concern for the teaching profession.'

Families take fight to Downing Street



Yvonne MacHugh, in white dress, with family members and MP Brendan O'Hara, far right, as they deliver the petition to the Prime Minister in Downing Street. Photograph courtesy of Yvonne MacHugh.

FAMILY members of an Argyll man detained in India have delivered a petition to the Prime Minister in Downing Street.

Billy Irving was arrested along with five colleagues and the petition, Free the six British ex soldiers from Indian jail

#FREESG06, with more than 375,000 signatories, was handed over to mark 1,000 days since the men were locked up.

Handing over the petition, Mr Irving's partner, Yvonne MacHugh, said: 'We understand fully that one country cannot intervene in another's

judicial process. But when innocent men are being prosecuted for a crime they have not committed, they should have an obligation to protect the human rights and freedom of these men and have them released and brought home. 'These men devoted their

lives protecting others. They fought for the British government, now the British government must fight for them.'

MP Hugo Swire, Foreign Office minister, pledged again last week that he is doing everything he can to 'secure the men's freedom'.

Holyrood to reform planning to deliver more homes

THE SCOTTISH Government has promised to reform planning policy to help deliver more homes and speed up the planning process.

Housing and Planning minister Kevin Stewart said this week the Scottish Government had identified areas that could be tackled immediately, such as extending permitted development rights - where planning permission is not needed - to more types of development, introducing pilot simplified planning zones for housing,

so that planning permission is granted for housing up front, allowing developments to progress more quickly and flexibly.

The Scottish Government will now work with local authorities, including Argyll and Bute Council, developers and community groups to develop more detailed proposals for reform, which will be fully consulted on later this year. This will pave the way for a new Planning Bill to be brought forward to the Scottish Parliament in 2017.

MP takes 'breath test' to highlight campaign

ARGYLL and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara is supporting the British Lung Foundation's upcoming lung health awareness campaign.

Having taken part in an online 'breath test' in the houses of Parliament on July 4, Mr O'Hara is encouraging others to do the same.

The UK-wide Listen to Your Lungs campaign aims to raise awareness

that feeling out of breath doing everyday tasks could be a sign of lung disease.

The breath test allows people to check their lung health through 10 simple questions based around the Medical Research Council breathlessness scale.

It is hoped this will reassure those with healthy lungs and guide those with suspected problems to make an appointment with their GP.

Council refutes visitor claims that Mull is neglected

A REGULAR visitor to the island of Mull says the rest of Argyll and the Highlands is streets ahead when it comes to improvements and the state of the roads in particular.

Barry Turner, a retired holidaymaker, contacted *The Oban Times* to share his experience of a holiday to the area last week where he found huge differences between one area and another.

Mr Turner, who has been holidaying on Mull three times a year for the past 20 years, said: 'It seems that you can drive around Lorn, Skye, Oban, Ardnamurchan and Morvern and make use of excellent facilities. 'Mull, however, seems to be

the victim of prolonged neglect, a malaise in its attitude to visitors and a concerted will by anybody to improve anything.'

'I don't understand why. Is it because Mull as a visitor destination doesn't really need to put any effort in to welcome visitors as it gets a good income from tourism without having to?'

'Perhaps funding café culture harbour side projects in Oban to the tune of £6.5 million is more important because visitors keep going to Mull no matter what the infrastructure is, so why waste council money improving anything?'

Argyll and Bute Council has refuted Mr Turner's claims, saying his impressions could not

be further from the truth.

A council spokeswoman said: 'Over the last few years, the council has undertaken considerable investment on Mull in a wide range of projects, including an almost £3 million investment in the roads.'

'The council has also worked closely with Transport Scotland, CalMac and the local community to ensure the road equivalent tariff was delivered smoothly to Mull so the island could reap economic benefit from this enhancement connectivity.'

'Mull is a thriving community with a growing population. There are a range of award-winning businesses on the

island in a variety of different sectors, including engineering, construction, tourism and aquaculture. The council continues to assist the growth of these industries with our partners in Highlands and Islands Enterprise and is pressing for further investment in critical infrastructure for the island such as improved ferries, digital connectivity and affordable housing.'

'The local community is extremely proactive.'

'Tobermory Harbour Association is now in phase six of its developments which to date have included car park improvements and pontoons, as well as Europe's first catch-

and-release aquarium. The community has also raised the money for its own swimming pool and has an active rugby club.'

'North West Mull Woodland Company and the South of Mull Development Company are both well regarded in the local community too, with all the proceeds being put back into the local area.'

On top of this, the spokesman said: 'Mull has a highly active community and the council continues to work with them at a number of different levels to address local concerns and tackle potential barriers to growth, such as ferry capacity and tourism facilities.'

'Oban is the gateway to Mull and other islands. A major part of the visitor experience has been through the town of Oban, which has to compete with a number of other destinations for the visitor trade.'

'The new public realm, together with all the other facilities the town offers, including a range of first-class tourism businesses, will help attract people to Oban and in turn to our island communities.'

'Both Oban and Mull experience huge numbers of visitors annually who have a wonderful experience and talk highly about the tourism and business opportunities that exist in these locations in Argyll and Bute.'

Lidl to open new store in September

THE LIDL of the Future (LOF) supermarket, the first of its kind in Scotland, currently being built in Oban on Soroba Road, is on track for opening in September.

The supermarket is relocating from its current premises on Lochavullin Drive and construction is on schedule.

The company is looking to recruit a further 10 employees in full and part-time positions to add to the existing pool of current staff and those already recruited.

The supermarket will boast state-of-the-art facilities including a bakery, eight tills and 120 parking spaces.

Lidl UK's Head of Property Gordon Rafferty said: 'We would like to thank all those who have played a part to date in bringing this new Lidl store to Oban.'

'It is wonderful for us to be able to create more jobs and investment opportunities in the area, and we can't wait to open the doors to this new Lidl of the Future store and serve our multi-award winning products to the local community.'

Jura phone artefact goes on display

A MANUAL telephone exchange used on Jura from the late 1940s to the mid-1970s is among more than 3,000 objects going on display at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh as part of the opening of 10 new galleries within the museum.

From 1949 until 1974, Effie Macdougall was the only telephone operator for Jura. Effie ran the Jura exchange from the main room in her house, connecting calls made to or from the island or between subscribers on Jura.

At first, with only 20 subscribers, Effie was on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year. Her parrot, Patsy, kept her company from its cage on top of the exchange. As well as speaking Gaelic, Patsy regularly used operator phrases such as 'number please', 'hold on' and 'you are through'.

The manual exchange was replaced by an automatic system in 1974. The last call in the UK connected through a manual exchange was made on the island of Skye in October 1976.

The 10 new galleries are opening following a £14.1 million redevelopment in the National Museum of Scotland's 150th anniversary year.

Oban Times
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01631 568000

Transport minister visits Argyll

TRANSPORT minister Humza Yousaf is open to 'reasonable arguments' to improve Oban's roads, he said during a fact-finding trip to the Inner Hebrides this week, writes Sandy Neil.

Mr Yousaf, the Scottish Government's minister for transport and the islands, was on his first visit to Islay, Kerrera, Luing and Seil - after being moved into the role following a Cabinet reshuffle in May - to hear about the challenges and opportunities of island life.

Kerrera ferry's new £1.7million breakwater and slipway extension, which were scheduled to be completed by the end of June, will 'bring real benefits to the Kerrera community,' Mr Yousaf said, 'improving ferry resilience by lessening the impact of tidal and poor weather conditions.'

In October last year a new ferry pricing system, the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET), slashed the cost of travel to Mull, with a resultant surge in traffic.

'The whole point of RET was to increase traffic,' said Mr Yousaf. 'We want people to visit the islands, but with every positive there's a challenge.'

He said ferry capacity for island passengers can be limited as a result, but this would be addressed in CalMac's contract discussions, adding: 'These

are problems I'd rather be having.'

Asked whether there was any cash available to improve road infrastructure to and from Oban given the increase in traffic, the transport minister said: 'We are already spending a heck of a lot.'

Since 2007, more than £35 million has been spent maintaining the A85 main route into Oban, a Scottish Government spokeswoman later clarified.

Mr Yousaf said any major improvements would be discussed within the Scottish Government's Strategic Transport Projects Review, which sets out its transport investment priorities from 2008 until 2032.

'Every single local authority area asks for investment. The budget is limited, but I'm open to reasonable arguments,' he said.

After visiting Islay Museum and Luing's Atlantic Islands Centre, Mr Yousaf travelled to Oban's Northern Lighthouse Board, the A83 and the Rest and Be Thankful.

Next month he travels to the Western Isles to continue his engagement with island communities, to 'help develop and inform future legislative proposals.'

Humza Yousaf said he is 'open to reasonable arguments' on extra roads funding for Argyll.



Fèis Latharna Argyll Cèilidh Trail 2016

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Ceann latha	Aite	Baile	Tachartas	Uair
Date	Venue	Town / Village	Event	Time
Tuesday 19th July	Inveraray Castle	Inveraray	Highland Games	1:00PM
Tuesday 19th July	The George Hotel	Inveraray	Session	8:30PM
Wednesday 20th July	Uig Hall	Dunoon	Cèilidh Dance	7:30PM
Thursday 21st July	Atlantic Islands Centre	Isle of Luing	Concert	7:30PM
Friday 22nd July	An Talla	Isle of Tiree	Tiree Show Dance	7:30PM
Saturday 23rd July	Bunessan Village Hall	Isle of Mull	Cèilidh Dance	7:30PM
Tuesday 26th July	Victory Hall	Benderloch	Cèilidh Dance	7:30PM
Wednesday 27th July	An Cridhe	Isle of Coll	Cèilidh Dance	7:30PM
Thursday 28th July	The George Hotel	Inveraray	Session	8:30PM
Friday 29th July	Lismore Public Hall	Isle of Lismore	Cèilidh Dance	8:00PM
Saturday 30th July	Tayvallich Village Hall	Tayvallich	Cèilidh Dance	7:30PM
Sunday 31st July	The Creagan Inn	Appin	Session	3:00PM
Tuesday 2nd August	Craigish Village Hall	Ardfern	Cèilidh Dance	7:30PM
Wednesday 3rd August	Gigha Villa Hall	Isle of Gigha	Cèilidh Dance	7:30PM
Thursday 4th August	Port Charlotte Hotel	Isle of Islay	Session	8:30PM
Friday 5th August	Lochranza Village Hall	Isle of Arran	Cèilidh Dance	7:30PM
Saturday 6th August	Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Oban	Cèilidh Dance	7:30PM

www.feislatharna.org

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Lochaber Phoenix Club boxer wins place in European schoolboy team

LOCHABER Phoenix Club boxer Cameron Whyte, fresh from becoming GB schoolboy champion a fortnight ago, received more good news last weekend when he was officially named as one of a four-strong team to represent Scotland at the European Schoolboy Championships.

Although only 14 years old, Cameron has great pedigree, having been Scottish champion for four years and now the reigning GB champion. His achievements are such that he has won every single championship he has ever entered on the British mainland.

This won't be his first visit to the European championships, to be held in Zagreb in Croatia over eight days beginning next weekend, having reached the quarter-finals last year when the tournament was held in Russia.

The Lochaber youngster really pushes himself to the limit in his quest for success. Three mornings a week he is up before 7am for sprints and is in the boxing gym for six sessions a week.

These sessions incorporate

technical and open sparring, bag work, pad work, floor exercises, core strength work and technical shadow boxing.

By the time he leaves for Croatia, Cameron will have travelled to the Boxing Scotland high performance gym in Glasgow six times in the three weeks prior to leaving for squad training with the Scotland team.

His dedication to his sport is not confined to his training as he takes particular care with his diet and has held his weight for four months through healthy eating.

The reason there is such a small squad going to these championships is that, because of the high cost of travelling to such a prestigious event, only boxers believed to have a chance of winning medals have been selected.

The Scotland camp has high hopes of Cameron doing well due to his talent and preparation but, of course, with the judging being subjective due to the nature of the scoring he will also have to rely on a little luck to help make his aspirations become reality.



Caol-based building firm backs Cameron with £500 donation

Recently crowned schoolboy boxing champion of Great Britain, Cameron Whyte is presented with £500 by Caol-based DMD Construction to help him meet expenses for training and equipment.

Fourteen-year-old Cameron, from Spean Bridge, trains locally every day, but also has to attend specialised sessions in Glasgow, Inverness and other locations, for which no financial assistance is provided. Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club make sure he is taken to every session and has the right equipment, meeting these costs from club funds and from Cameron.

The donation from Ewan, left, and Chris Donnelly was warmly welcomed by Cameron and the club to help ensure he has the right specialist equipment and can continue to represent Lochaber, Scotland and GB in the sport.

Photograph by Alba Photos.



Bowling club pairs winners celebrate

Winners of Fort William Bowling Club's Craig Nevis Guest House Balloted Pairs Kevin Douglas, right, and Kenny McInnes, second right, with runners-up Alan Lawrie, second left, and Eddie Downs. The Thursday night competition went ahead, although the previous two competitions were cancelled as a result of heavy rain. Photograph by Anthony MacMillan Photography.

Hamilton family trophy presentation

Jim Hamilton, second right, presents the B R Hamilton Pairs Trophy to winners Ian Rodger, third left, and George MacKay. The runners-up were Kevin Douglas and Andy Ramsay. The trophy is presented by the Hamilton family in memory of their father and this is the 12th year the competition has been held. The event drew a good turn out of Railway Club bowlers, family and friends and, despite the weather, a good competition was enjoyed by everyone involved. Photograph by Anthony MacMillan Photography.



Glengarry shinty teams enjoy success

The Glengarry shinty team, below, beat Inverness 7-0 in the MacBain Cup following the Highland Games and the Under 17s, above, won their Fraser Cup game.



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Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday April 21, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm		
Thur	00.24 2.9 07.33 1.9 13.49 2.9 19.15 1.8	Ardrishaig -5.35 Mallaig +0.25		
Fri	01.53 3.0 08.45 1.8 14.50 3.1 20.19 1.7	Campbeltown -5.30 Portree +0.55		
Sat	03.01 3.1 09.41 1.6 15.38 3.2 21.22 1.6	Crinan -0.47 Tobermory +0.16		
Sun	03.52 3.3 10.23 1.4 16.22 3.4 22.17 1.4	Islay Port Ellen 2.00 Dover +5.30		
Mon	04.37 3.5 11.00 1.2 17.03 3.6 23.04 1.2	Lochboisdale +0.30		
Tues	05.19 3.6 11.35 1.0 17.41 3.8 23.48 1.0	Ferry Crossings/Sea States		
Wed	05.57 3.7 12.09 0.9 18.18 3.9 *** **	Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate		
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)			Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate	
			Kennacraig to Islay Moderate	



Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban