

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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WEST HIGHLAND YACHTING WEEK

70TH ANNIVERSARY SIX PAGE PREVIEW INSIDE – PAGES 15-20



Tiree Music Festival

Review on pages 12-13

Argyll tourism shake-up needed, says media boss

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ARGYLL'S foremost government-backed and-funded tourism management group has wasted £100,000 on promotional videos, some of which have been watched just three times, according to a private-sector social media boss.

But Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC) says the films are 'not for a local market' and are keeping the campaign fresh by targeting them throughout the year.

Marine Blast Media – owned by Iain Hurrell and Catriona Craig – which runs a social media campaign to attract people to Argyll and the Isles, set up an app so that people could log in and find out what was going on in the area.

With contacts throughout the marine tourism industry, it quickly built up a bank of followers from across the world.

But the company was shocked when, months later, AITC, a collective of tourism operators in Argyll and the Isles, brought out its own social media, paid for with government funding.

A spokesperson for Marine Blast Media told *The Oban Times*: 'The group are just not performing in a social media world.'

'For instance, last week I was looking up a video and, at the bottom of the page, videos paid for by the AITC to the tune of £100,000 came up.'

'I was surprised because we are always looking for content for our Argyll and the Isles app and social media. I then noticed that some of the films only had three views and had not been shared.'

'Now these films were supposed to be finished last October, and

then it was February but for them to go up in mid July, when the tourist season is in full swing, is just ridiculous.'

'The AITC have all the money, but none of the expertise to get people to engage with them. I can see that they employ a manager, a person who deals with the media, destination managers for each of the areas and a PR company. Did not one single person think about a campaign to manage the films?'

'A consultant was also appointed to write a report costing £26,000, paid for by government agencies. I have asked for a copy of the report numerous times but I still have not seen it. How can this be?'

'The blame is from the top management and not from the person who deals with the social media.'

'There needs to be a complete shake-up of this industry in Argyll and someone needs to learn how to use and promote social media properly.'

'At the moment, what we have is a disjointed digital tourism network that doesn't create any digital growth.'

'To fix this we need to have a tourism digital audit that identifies exactly where we are now and what needs to be done to get it on track. This does not need grant funding. It just needs every group to sign up to this and really work together.'

'The fact the AITC seem to have been ignoring statistics for years is not helping. We all want to increase tourism, so why are we not working together?'

In response to questions about the money spent on the campaign, an AITC spokeswoman said: 'Wild About Argyll is a multi-level, multi-layered year-

Sun blesses games as stalwart Margaret stands down



Margaret Mather, the secretary of Inveraray Highland Games, is stepping down after 26 years in the role. Margaret has been at the centre of everything that happens during the event, one of the biggest in Scotland. She is flanked here by some of Scotland's premier Highland dancers from Argyll. Deanne Hagan will be taking over the position from Margaret. Inveraray games saw a near-capacity crowd at the event on the hottest day of the year so far on Tuesday. See next week's *Oban Times* for a picture special.

long, £100,000 campaign, funded by VisitScotland Growth Fund, Argyll and Bute Council and AITC. It is primarily digital and is aimed at raising awareness of Argyll and the Isles, and positions it as Scotland's Adventure Coast.

'The campaign is targeted at a much younger market and is the

first campaign for Argyll rolled out in such a scale.

'The group are using celebrity cyclist Mark Beaumont and bands such as Skerryvore to market the Wild About Argyll campaign.'

'Over three weeks (including Easter), cinema audiences of 196,000 in the central belt viewed

our Wild About Argyll cinema trailer.

'Online, the main edits have been viewed by at least 460,000 people but more importantly more than 6,100 people have actively engaged with the content.'

The spokeswoman added that the campaign had already reached one million people in

the target audience, and a digital agency has been employed to give 'strategic advice'.

She continued: 'The digital activity that they are delivering is not visible in Argyll – it is not aimed at local residents.'

A report into the campaign will be presented to members later in the year.

INSIDE YOUR OBAN TIMES THIS WEEK

In tune

A MULL man in his 90s is proving to be perfectly in tune with island life as he builds a reputation as a violin maker. Full story – page two.

Emotional letter

BILLY IRVING'S fiancée Yvonne MacHugh has written a heartfelt letter to *The Oban Times* urging people to keep up their support. Full story – page three.

Water downpour

THE rain may have been incessant on Saturday but the Rotary Club's ducks still took to the Black Lynn for their big race. Full story – page four.

Quarry blasted

THE GMB trade union has blasted the new operator of Glesanda quarry for 'sticking two fingers up' at employment regulations. Full story – page five.

Games on

THE Highland games season is in full swing, with the Morvern event taking place on Saturday despite the downpour, and Inveraray on Tuesday in the sun. Picture spread – pages 10 and 11.

Lismore special

THEY are hardy lot in the farming community – and they needed to be for the third Lismore Agricultural Show on Saturday. Picture special and full results on pages 22 and 23.



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Highland Arts sold to store boats

IT IS described by visitors as 'unique', 'strange', 'hilarious' and 'an unlikely survivor of artistic (sic) hubris', but it looks like an era is ending for the Isle of Seil's cult Highland Arts centre, which has been bought for boat storage.

For decades the 'eccentric and eclectic' souvenir shop in Ellenabeich has exhibited the works of the late poet, artist and composer C John Taylor, attracting coach-loads of visitors.

However, Tony Hill, who runs marine tour company Seafari Adventures from a quarryer's cottage nearby in the historic village, told *The Oban Times* that Seafari had bought the building

and planned to create a winter boat storage facility and provide local jobs.

'We at Seafari have outgrown our ticket office,' he said.

'We have a winter boat facility at Ballachulish, which is too far away. Our wish is that part of the [Ellenabeich] facility will allow us to store our boats during the winter. Seafari bought it with the hope we can centralise what we do. We would hope to move into Highland Arts around 2020.'

Seafari employs several staff to book, drive and guide tourists on its high-speed RIBs, and Mr Hill is hopeful the new facility can create more skilled jobs maintaining and increasing

the fleet. Tourism has replaced slate quarrying as Ellenabeich's major employer, he said, and 'for jobs to be created there has to be some form of development.'

'Whatever is developed it will not be flavour of the month to everyone. We are working with the Slate Island Heritage Trust and the Oyster Bar to maintain coach traffic.'

The trust's chairman, Mike Shaw, said it would 'keep an eye on' any developments in a conservation area, which can bring 'threats' but also 'many considerable opportunities'.

Visit Scotland regional director David Adams McGilp welcomed this 'outstanding

opportunity' which could 'transform the economic fortune' of the area.

'Seafari's acquisition of the Highland Arts centre heralds an exciting prospect for developing the visitor economy,' he said.

'Moving into new premises will allow the business to handle growing numbers of passengers.'

He said Mr Hill also hoped to provide workshop and gallery space, food and drink production, and holiday accommodation, adding: 'Tony and his team will make every effort to make sure developments are sensitive.'

C John Taylor's son John, who runs the centre, declined to comment.

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Staying in tune with island life

DEREK MACADAM
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TOBERMORY is known for many things. A famous car rally, a rousing music festival, a busy harbour full of yachts and visiting cruise ships, whale and dolphin trips, a brightly painted main street with welcoming bars and restaurants and, of course, the Tobermory Cat.

What few people realise is it is also home to a talented violin maker.

For Duncan MacGilp making violins is a hobby – an all-absorbing, time-consuming hobby, which can keep him in his tiny workshop, tucked away in a corner of his lovely garden with expansive views across Tobermory Bay, Calve Island and Morvern.

Always welcoming, he points out the spider webs around the workshop windows. ‘Look at those,’ he says rather proudly. ‘They are so useful. Cut yourself and they are just the best thing to stop any bleeding.’

This is a real danger as violin making involves intricate work with many sharp tools. Yet the sheer number of webs suggests he does not need to use them very often.



I talk to everybody, telling stories about Mull”

Duncan MacGilp

The interest in building these beautiful musical instruments came late in life for Duncan. Both he and his wife Morag turned 91 this year. It's an age when few people are pursuing hobbies demanding high levels of concentration, not to mention a keen creative eye.

Duncan is something of an institution in Tobermory and, more widely, across Mull and the Gaelic-speaking world, a quietly-spoken gentleman commanding respect with a mild manner.

For many visitors to the island, Duncan was the man who owned the local garage by the distillery. He might repair their car or serve them fuel or even hire them a car for a day or two.

What they wouldn't know,



Duncan MacGilp makes beautiful violins in a tiny workshop in his garden overlooking Tobermory, below, Duncan playing one of his first violins, which he made for his daughter, with his 10th one in the making.

quite apart from his unusual hobby, is that he is one of just a few remaining true Muileachs; born in the bank house on the Main Street, Tobermory, now known as Failte, where his father was the bank manager, and schooled on the island. Duncan's father was born at another famous island location, the Bellachroy Hotel, Dervaig.

His mother was born in Campbeltown but brought up in Tobermory by the headmaster of the local school and his wife, and later played the organ in the church for more than 30 years. As Duncan is happy to acknowledge, his roots run deep into the very fabric of island life.

Although not a native Gaelic speaker, unlike his wife Morag, who hails from Kilchoan on the Ardnamurchan peninsula, he has embraced the Gaelic world for most of his life. Along with Janet MacDonald, he was a founding member of the Mull Gaelic Choir in 1978, regularly performing on the island, at Mòds around Scotland and usually at the Royal National Mòd. He sings not just with the choir but also as a soloist and, in 1982, won the gold medal, having taken the silver medal the previous year. ‘I shouldn't really have won it,’ says Duncan. ‘My Gaelic isn't good enough.’

Duncan's fine baritone voice



has been prominent in the church choir where he has enriched the music each Sunday for more years than most can remember.

Olive Brown, a prominent member of the local community, says: ‘He has been an elder of the church since 1977 and until recently was a cornerstone of the choir. He doesn't sing with the choir any more and it just does not seem the same without him. We miss his wonderful bass tones.’

‘And few people remember now that, together with another famous Mull musician Cally MacLean, he composed the lovely song *Sunset on Sunart*.’

Duncan is a great storyteller. In his soft burr, he tells how significant November 4 has been to him over the years. He said: ‘It was November 4, 1943, when I was 17, I joined the army, the Royal Signals, and then on November 4 a year

living off the island. He was awarded an apprenticeship with Albion Motors at their famous Albion Works at Scotstoun, Glasgow, starting five years training in mechanical engineering in 1948.

By 1953 and now a qualified engineer, he was back on his beloved island working for Donald MacLean of Langmuir, in a garage behind Failte, where he was born. He wanted his own business and eventually moved to the premises of the Tobermory Distillery where he opened MacGilp's Garage. He remained here for more than 30 years until he retired in the late 1980s.

In his retirement, Duncan became a driver for Bowman's Buses, taking his passengers every day from Craignure to Iona or Tobermory: ‘Just the best time,’ he remembers. ‘I used to talk to everybody, telling stories about the island, reminiscing on its history and even singing to them when it seemed they might enjoy it.’

His interest in violins was kindled about this time. He enthusiastically joined the Mull Fiddlers and played for the Scottish National Fiddlers.

Over the years it had become a tradition for many fiddlers to make their own instruments and he became keen to join this exclusive club of craftsmen.

He names two men who influenced him more than any

others. Pat Murphy from Oban, a boxer and golfer, and James MacPherson, of Bishopbriggs, a telephone engineer working regularly on the island.

‘They talked of the craftsmanship and art involved in making these fine instruments and the joy of the rich, varied tones which could be coaxed from inanimate pieces of timber,’ remembers Duncan. ‘It appealed to me immediately and I made my first in 2001 and gave it to my daughter Moira.’

Duncan has since made a further eight violins and is now working on his 10th. All have been sold except for Moira's and one other, but mostly they have stayed on the island.

Duncan said: ‘So far as I can recall only two ever left for owners off the island.’

Each of these beautiful instruments takes 35 hours of painstaking work over a 42-week period. The framework of each violin is constructed from island sycamore while the front and back are carefully fashioned from spruce. ‘I cannot use island spruce,’ says Duncan. ‘It grows too fast here and the grain becomes coarse. The best is alpine spruce where the slower growth produces a fine timber.’



So far as I recall, only two have left the island”

Duncan MacGilp

The base bar is sycamore while the finger board is carved from ebony.

Each piece of timber is closely examined for texture and quality before Duncan even thinks of lifting a tool.

‘I keep the violins the same size always. I find this size creates lovely rich, low notes.’

One of his lasting ambitions today is for a musician to play a MacGilp violin in Fingal's Cave on the Isle of Staffa. ‘The original name for Fingal's Cave is Uamh Bhinn which in the Gaelic means Cave of Melody. Isn't that appropriate?’ Hopefully, this ambition will be realised before too long.

Meanwhile, Duncan MacGilp's beautiful violins will bring music and happiness for many years to come.



The sale includes the mansion.



Island of Ulva for sale at £4.25m

ONE of the finest private islands in northern Europe is up for sale for the first time in 70 years.

For the asking price of £4.25 million, Ulva offers a unique combination of peace and privacy while being easily accessible by boat from the nearby Isle of Mull.

The second largest island of the Inner Hebrides, Ulva extends to approximately 4,583 acres and is approximately 7.5 miles long and 2.5 miles wide and its highest point is 313m above sea level at the summit of Beinn Chreagach.

The main residence, Ulva House, is a grade B-listed property built in the neo-classical revival style. It was built in 1950 to replace a previous property destroyed by fire.

The island also includes a Telford designed church, a small restaurant and tea room, a restored blackhouse and nine other residences, ranging from traditional bothies to a sporting lodge.

Ulva has incredible wildlife, birdlife and sea life, and is home to 123 different bird species, including the white-tailed sea eagle. Minke whales, porpoises and dolphins are among the sealife that can be found around Ulva.

Ulva is situated just off the mainland and is accessed across the Sound of Ulva (a few hundred metres) from the settlement of Ulva Ferry on Mull to the pier on the Ulva.



Iain Robertson.

Raasay distillery appoints new man

YOUNG whisky brand R&B Distillers has now appointed the first whisky distiller for the forthcoming Isle of Raasay Distillery, which will open in September.

The search for Raasay's first distiller began in January, receiving applications from around the globe. The brand is now delighted to announce the appointment of Iain Robertson.

Mr Robertson is a recent honours graduate of the Heriot-Watt Brewing and Distilling school. During his studies, he took a placement at North British grain distillery and worked at Edinburgh's Scotch Whisky Experience as one of its highly-knowledgeable tour guides.

Mr Robertson is not only formally educated in the art and science of distilling but is innovative and enthusiastic about respectfully pushing the boundaries of the spirit.

He will be relocating to the island to join the team.

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HANNAH PREPARES TO SWAP MULL FOR MEXICO



Hannah is heading for Guadalajara.

A WOMAN from Mull will embark on a trip of a lifetime in September, when she spends a month studying in Mexico.

Hannah Jayne, 23, from Tobermory, won the F and A Bradshaw Award that is given to a graduate of the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design.

Hannah, who makes jewellery under the name Hanye Jewellery, was chosen after she submitted a proposal to study in Guadalajara for two weeks to work with a prestigious designer.

‘I still don't know how they picked me,’ she said.

‘The course I'm attending is in the Hard To Find Jewellery studio which is a new and contemporary studio that opened roughly five years ago

in Guadalajara, Mexico. The course I'm doing is a jewellery illustration course which is taught by Barbara Brocchi, whose illustrations have featured in Vogue, Grazia and various other publications.’

The former Tobermory High School pupil added: ‘My proposal was to spend two weeks in Guadalajara, studying under Italian artist Barbara Brocchi and to explore the city. They awarded me a full £2,816 to do it.’

‘I'm gobsmacked that I've been chosen. It was an absolute surprise. I've never travelled this far before and I'm excited to see and explore Mexico.’

‘My goal is to come back to Mull and create a new collection of work inspired by my time in Guadalajara.’

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Blind visitor raises fears over paving in Oban centre

DAVID MCPHEE
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A BLIND man has labelled the tactile paving in Oban's Combie Street as dangerous, saying someone is going to get killed.

John McQuade, who visits family in Oban on a monthly basis, first noticed the problems with the textured paving at the traffic lights three months ago.

'A bumpy' surface is in place in order to help visually impaired people feel where the road starts and stops.

However, in some places in Oban it has been worn down and is difficult to feel.

Mr McQuade said: 'You can't feel it under your feet. Someone is going to get killed - that's what is going to happen. I first noticed it a couple of months back. It's dangerous.'

Mr McQuade also highlighted another problem he faces in Combie Street. The 57-year-old said: 'There's no barrier, so you

don't know if you are at the lights. It's a nightmare.'

Mr McQuade uses the barrier as a guide to find the next crossing, but because there's a gap on the island in Combie Street, he finds himself walking in the wrong direction, towards the floral planters.

'The last time I was up here,' he added, 'I ended up at the pier. If I had not spoken to someone, I could have ended up in the sea as there's no barrier there.'

'The planners think it is wonderful as long as it looks nice. They don't see the dangers.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We have made a number of improvements in Oban town centre, including additional seating in Stafford Street, extra bus shelters at Station Square, and widening and extending dropped kerbs to disabled parking bays.'

'Elsewhere, in any areas where natural wear and tear occurs, such as if paving becomes worn,

this will be addressed as part of our ongoing maintenance programme. Any local resident who would like to raise an issue regarding barriers or worn surfaces can do so and we will look into those concerns.'

A spokesperson for Guide Dogs Scotland said: 'Kerbs and tactile surfaces represent a major source of information for orientation and navigation for blind and partially-sighted people when moving around. They inform key decision points along a route.'

'We urge local authority planners to follow recommendations set out in the Department for Transport's guidance on the use of tactile paving surfaces.'

'It's important that tactile surfaces are maintained to a good standard to remain effective.'

Visibility, a charity visually-impaired people in the west of Scotland, advocates town planners speak to blind and partially-sighted residents to seek their opinions.



John McQuade with his guide dog Simpson at Combie Street in Oban.

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

Off-road offences

ABOUT 2pm on Monday July 10, on a public footpath near Dalintart Drive, Oban, an off-road quad bike and an off-road motorcycle were stopped and two riders, men aged 19 and 28, were charged with riding the vehicles on the path, having no insurance and not having the correct driving licence.

Both men were also issued with anti-social behaviour warnings. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

The 19-year-old man was also charged with possession of a small amount of cannabis, and was issued with a recordable police warning in relation to this.

Break-in to shed

BETWEEN Saturday June 24 and Saturday July 8, a shed on a building site in Dalmlach was broken into and a window was smashed. Nothing was stolen from the shed.

Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

Theft from van

BETWEEN 7pm on Wednesday July 12 and 9.10am on Thursday July 13, a wing mirror cowl was stolen from a Fiat Tipico car which was parked in a car park on Craighard Road, Oban. Police are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

Drugs possession

ABOUT 8.30pm, on Friday July 14, in Longdale Crescent, Oban, a car was stopped and searched and a 23-year-old man was allegedly found to be in possession of a small quantity of cannabis. The man was charged and issued with a recordable police warning.

Careless driving

About 7.30pm on Tuesday July 11, on the A83 in Inveraray, a motorist was stopped for careless driving. The driver, a man 64, was issued with a fixed penalty ticket for £100 and three penalty points.

Anyone with information about these or other incidents is asked to call police on 101 or anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Jailed Connel man's fiancée pleads for continued effort to free Billy

YVONNE MACHUGH, the partner of Connel man Billy Irving, who is doing five years' hard labour in India, has written a heartfelt letter following the news that there might finally be some intervention from the British government.

Yvonne writes: 'Last week we learned that Prime Minister Theresa May had raised our case with the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the G20 summit and we finally we heard from Boris Johnson, the Foreign Secretary.'

'Mr Johnson vowed to 'leave no stone unturned' in the case of the Chennai6 Billy and his fellow British soldiers serving time.

'These are words we have been waiting to hear for far too long now.'

It has ignited a light in our campaign that was slowly starting to dull with years of campaigning yet the men still languishing in prison.

'We must say a massive thank you



Yvonne MacHugh with her and Billy's son William on their way to India.

to all our MPs for their continued support and a big thank you to Chris Matheson MP, who raised the case in parliament last week along with

former Foreign Office minister Sir Hugo Swire.

'Sir Hugo knows more than many of the struggles we have faced as fami-

lies and the fears and torment the men face daily.

'He has been involved from day one. He has even travelled to India to visit the men in prison to see for himself the horrific conditions they face and to lend his support.'

'He has been extremely forthcoming with all the families, travelling to meet us all and has used every opportunity possible to raise our case.'

Our hope is that Boris will embrace some of the passion Sir Hugo and every MP involved has for this case and put those words into action to bring our men home.

'This really hasn't come out of the blue though. The support everyone has shown us in this campaign has been relentless and humbling.'

We had huge support from Parachute Regiment veterans supporting their fellow veterans through donations and protests.

'We had a number of individuals

taking part in sporting events raising both funds and awareness.'

'I don't know where we would be without all the generosity and kindness shown to us individually and our campaign as a whole.'

Writing to your local MPs, not to mention all those thousands of post cards that landed on the desks of Theresa May, Boris Johnson and the Indian high commissioners.

'All those actions together have resulted in our case finally being heard.'

We must keep up the momentum and ensure we don't lose the attention the men have gained. That can only be done with your help.

'Please continue to use social media to spread the word. Get writing letters again and buy a couple more post-cards - we can't allow those words not to lead to action.'

'Thank you everyone, we would be lost without you.'

Comment: At Random - page six

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Packed programme of event planned for Oban

WE'RE heading into another really busy weekend, and it's so busy that I don't think you could do it all no matter how hard you tried, writes Oban town ambassador Kay MacDonald.

It's starting with a performance by the Fox and Hound Theatre

Company on Friday night in the Corran Halls, a Tennessee Williams double-bill and a new piece after which there's the chance to speak to the cast and ask questions.

On Saturday it's all go starting with the weekly parkrun at Ganavan Sands for runners and walkers at 9.30am. Then it's on to the summer craft fair in the Corran Halls from 11am to 5pm. There's a tea dance in aid of Cancer Research UK in Glencruitten Parish Church Hall at 2pm for those who fancy a wee dance and nice tea and cake and, to top off the events in Oban, Skipinnish Ceilidh House has the West Coast whisky feis from noon till 6pm for those of you who, like me, enjoy sampling the best Scotland has to offer in whisky and gin.

That's not all, though. It's also Tainuit Highland Games day - if you're not already exhausted at the thought of running round all the things availa-

ble to see and do - and not forgetting that Waterstone's has a fantastic book signing between 2pm and 4pm with author Brooke Magnanti.

In the evening there's time to relax at Oban Phoenix Cinema with a live screening of *Andre Rieu*. I can't

think of a better way to finish off a busy day.

Of course there are lots more things available to do, including boat trips, Atlantis Leisure Centre, the sealife centre, the marine centre at SAMS which is fabulous ... the list goes on and on, including my highlight of last week, *Despicable Me 3* at the cinema. I think I laughed louder than all the children there.

Enjoy your weekend everyone, however you choose to spend it. I may well have to try to get round as much as I can so I may be a wee frazzled heap by Sunday.

I think last week's photo was too easy as everyone seems to recognise it from the statue of Neptune on the Railway Pier. Hopefully, this week's will have you guessing again.

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OT

£3,500 raised to pay for funeral of 'lovely big guy'



Joe Devaney loved the outdoors and dogs.

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcphoe@obantimes.co.uk

MORE than £3,500 has been raised to cover the funeral costs of a 'lovely big guy'.

A total of £3,561 was donated in less than five days to help pay for the funeral of Oban man Joe Devaney, who died suddenly this month.

When Mr Devaney passed away aged just 40, his friend Allan Strang decided to start a campaign to raise money to help with the funeral.

He originally set a target of

£2,500, but thanks to the Oban community rallying round this was reached in a day. He increased the target to £3,000 and, again, this was surpassed. Just under 160 people donated.

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Mr Strang said: 'I started it to respect a great, lovely big guy who would do anything to help anyone. He knew a lot of people. He had a big circle of friends.'

'I met Joe in Oban when he first arrived about 15 or so years ago and he was a great guy to get on with.'

'He wouldn't harm a fly. He

loved his outdoors and his love for dogs was more than his love for human beings.

'Thank you everyone for donating,' Mr Strang added after the targets had been met. 'We reached £3,501 [now £3,561] to go towards Joe's funeral costs.'

'This really goes to show the figure he was to everyone he met. I must thank you all ... RIP big man.'

The fundraiser is still open, and people can donate by visiting: <https://www.gofundme.com/cpy6eb-funeral-costs-for-joe-devaney-rip>.



Left to right, Atlantis Leisure directors and staff Andrew Mead, Julie Didcock, Claire Hutchison, Dave Bleazard and Nick Wesley are part of a team raising funds for a new changing room.

Atlantis Leisure plans anniversary fundraiser

ATLANTIS Leisure celebrates its 25th birthday this year and has launched a fundraising drive to pay for building repairs.

The social enterprise's mascot, Alf, is also retiring, and school pupils have been invited to design a new mascot in a competition.

General manager Nick Wesley said: 'We all decided this was an opportune anniversary to raise awareness of our fantastic community asset and use this birthday to help raise funds to bring our changing rooms into the 21st century over the next year.'

An event organising committee, aided by new patron John MacPhee plus Oban High School's head girl and boy, has

also been formed and its first challenge was to organise a competition to design the new mascot.

Mr Wesley said: 'We look forward to the winning design being ready for our birthday party. The committee will be organising lots of great activities over the year-long celebrations, which starts with a birthday cake competition, fun day and the official opening of the play park on September 30.'

'This will be a fun day for all the family bringing everyone together.'

If anyone has any great fundraising ideas or would like to join the committee, call into to Atlantis Leisure and ask for Nick Wesley.

Ducks take to water in Oban for race down the Black Lynn



Rotary president Graham Fraser sets the ducks racing while, inset, Rotarian Graham MacQueen collects them at the finish.

As part of its fundraising activities for good causes, the Rotary Club of Oban resurrected the Oban duck race at the weekend.

Despite atrocious weather, the race took place on Saturday, and involved 500 plastic ducks entering the Black Lynn at Combie Street bridge to emerge in Oban bay from the tunnel across from

the Lochnell slipway. The ducks were then gathered by Rotarians.

The ducks were coloured red, green, blue and yellow, each colour numbered one to 125, with the ducks being sold three times at £2 a duck so there would be three firsts, three seconds and three thirds, provided all the ducks were sold. Saturday's race had two firsts, three

seconds and one third, each receiving £50, £25 and £15. The winners were: 1. Oban and Lorn Group Riding for the Disabled and N Allan (£50 each), 2. Teena/Markie Dans, Nancy MacDonald, Alistair Shaw (£25 each), 3. K McGuinness (£15).

A total of £1,773, minus prize money of £190, was raised for good causes which was regarded as a superb effort given

that very few ducks were sold on the day due to the dreadful weather. In addition, the incessant rain also affected the public turnout on the day, who regard this as a fun event, particularly for children.

Race organiser and Rotarian Iain MacIntyre said that despite the poor weather conditions the intention would be to make this an annual event from now on.

O2 and Vodafone reveal 4G for Oban

MOBILE phone networks O2 and Vodafone have said they are bringing a 4G service to Oban.

The companies said they are aiming to bring high-speed mobile internet to customers in more rural areas and will start work next week to bring a 4G service to Oban, as well as improving their 2G and 3G network.

The O2 work is scheduled to start on Monday July 24. The firm said that, subject to successful implementation and testing, customers will see the new and improved service in the following weeks.

During the work, there may be times when customers experience intermittent service. That was the case last week for Vodafone users, who had their service disrupted.

The news brought comment on *The Oban Times* Facebook page.

Helen Whitelaw posted: 'You would think they could schedule things like this for outwith the working day.'

Catherine Carnie complained: 'No service on phone today [Wednesday July 12].'

Kyle Murchison wrote: 'Just a shame now that it's back on Oban is still stuck in the stone age with 2g service!'

Linsey Johnstone said: 'They are upgrading the mast to 4G for Vodafone and O2.'

David Livingstone retorted: 'They've been saying that for 5 years +.'

Customers can download the O2 TU Go app which enables them to make and receive calls on any wifi-connected device using their mobile number.

More information can be found at the O2 website <http://www.o2.co.uk/apps/tu-go> or www.o2.co.uk/4G.

Final three of Atlantis mascot competition

THE Atlantis Leisure mascot competition has been narrowed down to the final three.

Mr Cookie, Leo the Lion and Tigger are all in the running to become the face of Atlantis.

The three to five years category was won by Persephone Crooks, five, from 1st Steps Nursery with Mr Cookie. His mascot's superpower is 'being yummy'. Mr Cookie likes to run around and doesn't like being on the floor.

The six to eight years category was won by Sarah Home, six, from Rockfield Primary School with her rendition of Tigger. He likes to play all sports and his superpower is getting stronger with exercise. He likes basketball and is a little scared of deep water.

And the nine to 12 years category was won by Aimee



Left to right are Mr Cookie, Tigger and Leo the Lion.

Didcock, nine, from Rockfield Primary School with Leo the Lion. 'I was inspired by a lion for my mascot because they

are strong, powerful and full of courage,' she said.

'Leo likes to exercise and to keep active with his friends.'

'He is not keen on his vegetables, but likes to use his superpowers which make him run extra fast.'

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WHITE VAN Man

THIS week I want to look back at my younger days but before I do I will focus on 2017.

These days we all seem to communicate by mobile phone and online. Gone are the days when people sent hand-written letters. When families sit down at the dinner table, the young people are still texting then, meal finished, disappear to their rooms to spend time on their computers or gaming devices.

I thank God that when I was young there was no such things as mobile phones, computers or gaming machines.

At the age of 12, three of us from the white city (Glencruitten) joined Oban Junior Pipe Band. We were Davy MacAdam, who is now in America, and Colin Forgievie, who is now in Dunoon, and me.

I spent fantastic years with the band, which I will never forget. We were all great mates who spent nights having a laugh and playing games like hide and seek.

I would go round to Dalintart Drive to the Forgievie home where we played various instruments and where great

ceilidhs took place with the occasional appearance of Cathie Gemmell giving us a song. Then there was the tying door handles together and running away. Brilliant times.

I remember the three-day fog in Oban. We were all fed up but out of it the Oban Misty Evening Pipe Band was formed. Davy, Colin and I were joined by piper Donnie Files. We grabbed some metal bin lids and played some great snare effects at the top of the golf course.

The neighbours in Glen-

cruitten Drive whooped and clapped, though Archie Gilchrist, a sergeant in the Argyllshire Constabulary, was not amused.

There was the weekly dance with Oban's own Crystal Heavens mobile disco and the highlight of the week was playing postman's knock in Dunbeg Village Hall.

Those times are long gone but they were happy days with self-made entertainment. If only we could turn back the clock.

George Berry

GMB union dismisses company assurances over Glensanda jobs

MARK ENTWISTLE
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THREE-QUARTERS of the workforce at the Glensanda quarry, near Oban, have now formally lodged grievances with new operator Oban Earth Works over the threat of redundancy and changes to their terms and conditions.

Last week new assurances by the company that it was 'unlikely' there will be any compulsory redundancies at what is Europe's biggest granite quarry were dismissed by union officials.

GMB Scotland was responding after Oban Earth Works accused the union of 'ill-advising' workers to raise grievances.

GMB Scotland had already slammed the firm for what it claimed was the blatant disregard of employee protections enshrined under TUPE regu-

lations - rules that govern the transfer of staff between businesses - by planning to axe 25 employees, equivalent to more than half the workforce.

Oban Earth Works, a new Spanish company, was recently awarded the primary load-and-haul contract at Glensanda by Aggregate Industries, which operates the quarry site.

The new company is due to take over on August 1 and last month, in an anonymous letter, members of the worried workforce said they had been informed there would be 25 job losses.

GMB Scotland has accused Oban Earth Works of 'sticking two fingers up' at employment regulations and the hard-working former Hargreaves employees.

And union leaders have now threatened litigation against the incoming Spanish company

to force it to respect the TUPE regulations.

In a statement issued last Thursday on behalf of Oban Earth Works, director Jon Simarro said the company was a considerate family employer which was conscious of the impact job losses would have on the Oban community.

'We are keen to reduce these as far as possible and employ as many local people as we can. We are excited about the five-year contract on Glensanda and realise we can't do that without experienced, motivated staff working with us to make this contract a success,' he said.

The statement went on to allege that the union had incorrect figures, claiming: 'It is likely 23 or more members of staff will remain from 38.'

'There is a question over the number of transferring staff and

we are working with Hargreaves to confirm this.

'It is unlikely that there will be any compulsory redundancies and we are working hard to re-deploy any affected employees to vacancies at Glensanda or any other opportunities near Oban and Scotland-wide.'

'The GMB has ill-advised its members on the intricacies of TUPE to the extent they have encouraged them to raise grievances which have no case in law. Hargreaves, their existing employer, has thus said it will deal with the grievances,' added Oban Earth Works.

Speaking to *The Oban Times* after reading through the statement, GMB Scotland organiser Gary Cook was dismissive of the company's latest comments over the number of redundancies.

And on the accusations of ill-advising union members, Mr

Cook said: 'Why would we not encourage employees to raise grievances? It is the only way employees can challenge things.'

'And claiming these changes can all be made for an ETO [economic, technology or organisational] reason under the TUPE legislation is wrong.'

'Perhaps you could change the logo on overalls or the date on which people are paid but it doesn't mean you can slash the workforce in half.'

And Mr Cook confirmed that 37 union members employed at Glensanda have now lodged grievances with the company over possible redundancies and what he called the 'tearing up of workers' terms and conditions.'

'That's virtually three-quarters of the workforce which has lodged grievances and I will be writing to the company seeking union recognition for our mem-

bers as a collective bargaining unit,' he said.

Highland Council leaders are also to seek clarification from the quarry operator over the jobs threat. Council leader Margaret Davidson said that, along with Lochaber area leader Councillor Andrew Baxter, she would be seeking clarification from Aggregate Industries about what the impact will be on jobs.

'Both Councillor Baxter and I are concerned at news reports claiming that up to half of long-term jobs could be lost at the quarry and we will be seeking further information and reassurance on what TUPE arrangements will be in place. These are vitally important jobs in a fragile rural economy,' she said.

'We also wish to discuss with the GMB union what their concerns are for their members.'

Support hub to be created at Beatson

SCOTLAND'S biggest cancer centre, vital for patients and their families across Argyll, is creating 'a world-class support hub'.

Cancer charity Macmillan is investing £2.2 million to transform the entrance at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre in Glasgow to provide range of support services for people with cancer and their families.

The Beatson offers its services and care to 60 per cent of Scotland's population and more than 8,000 new patients are seen at the centre every year. This figure is increasing steadily as the number of people being diagnosed with cancer continues to rise.

It is the second largest cancer centre in the UK and will remain open during the improvement works with changes to access and entrances, as well as parking at the site on the Gartnavel campus.

Among the planned changes are a new dedicated family area for children and teenagers visiting family members, a landscaped garden and a refurbished 'sanctuary' area for relaxing in a peaceful and quiet environment. Both the cafe and waiting area will also be improved, making them more user-friendly and comfortable.

Macmillan's Information and Support Centre, currently in a small alcove of the Beatson, will be expanded to an area where patients and carers can drop in for emotional support or to ask questions about cancer and its treatments in privacy.

In addition, an area will be created for Macmillan Cancer Support's specialist benefits advice team to help cancer patients and their families receive the financial support they are entitled to.

Party for Myra's 100th birthday

A FORMER nurse from Easdale celebrated her 100th birthday last Friday.

Myra McLachlan (MacCallum from her first marriage), who was formerly known as MacQueen, was born on Easdale Island on July 14, 1917, during the Great War.

Her father Donald was one of the well-known MacQueens who were boat builders on the slate island for many generations.

Myra trained as a nurse in Glasgow before returning to Oban, where she worked in several of the different Oban hospitals in the 1950s and 1960s, becoming well-known as Sister MacQueen.

Myra is now a resident at the North Argyll Care Home. She was delighted to celebrate the milestone with her family and friends - especially when she received a birthday card from the Queen.



Friends and family helped Myra celebrate - as did the Queen's birthday card.

Motorists warned to expect delays on A82

DAYTIME traffic will be disrupted on the A82 south of Ballachulish Bridge until tomorrow (Friday) for road re-surfacing.

The improvement works are scheduled to take place between 7am and 7pm from today and tomorrow, with the project expected to be completed before the weekend.

The £75,000 investment by Transport Scotland will see improvements to a 400m section of the A82, 'creating a smoother and safer journey for motorists'.

The A82 will remain open throughout. However, a 10mph

convoy system of traffic management will be in place to allow the works to be carried out safely for the protection of the motorists as well as road workers.

The convoy system will be removed outside of working hours though a temporary speed restriction of 30mph will remain as traffic will be running on a temporary surface.

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's north-west representative, said: 'We would encourage road users to plan their journeys ahead by checking the Traffic Scotland website for up to date information.'

Builder pays price for assaulting former client over unpaid debt

A 35-YEAR-OLD builder from Oban has been fined £800 for assaulting a man over an outstanding payment.

Calum MacLeod repeatedly kicked and punched the victim to the head and body on December 17, 2016.

He appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday July 18, where he was told that it was only by the grace of God that he didn't receive a custodial sentence.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court that MacLeod was walking home after a night out when, at around 1am, at

the top of George Street, he spotted the victim, who was leaning against a wall eating. MacLeod crossed the road and confronted him. During the heated discussion, MacLeod punched the victim on the head. He then continued to kick him on the head and face a number of times while he was on the ground.

MacLeod's solicitor said that he acted out of character and that he approached him regarding an outstanding payment of £5,481, saying the work he carried out was done to a high standard.

And on the night in question,

the solicitor told the court, MacLeod was laughed at and was told he was not getting any payment.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'I have these photographs and I am quite shocked by seeing them.'

'I have seen cases go to the High Court where people have been killed by a single strike and people are put away for a long time.'

'It is only by the grace of God that you are not in that position.'

MacLeod received a reduced fine of £800 because of his early guilty plea.

12-month ban and fine after driver crashed

A MAN has received a 12-month ban from driving and a £850 fine after he crashed on the A85 near Connel and refused to give a blood sample.

Ewen MacPherson, 22, of Laguvlin, Shore Road, North Connel, pleaded guilty to careless driving when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday July 18.

MacPherson lost control of his van at 11.20pm on April 8 as he was headed towards Connel.

He clipped the road's verge before drifting onto the opposite side of the road and crashing into a wooden fence and stone wall.

Emergency services arrived on scene and MacPherson was taken to hospital due to a number of cuts on his head, which required stitches.

Police then wanted to bring him into the station, but the doctor wanted to keep him in hospital for observation.

This led the police to ask him to take a sample of blood, but MacPherson refused. He was fined £350 and received six points on his driving licence. He was subsequently disqualified from driving for 12 months and received a £500 fine for failing to provide a specimen of blood without reasonable excuse.

Oban drug dealer is fined £500 for supplying cannabis to friends

A 19-YEAR-OLD Oban man has been fined £500 for supplying cannabis.

Brandon Ferris, of 4 Hynish Crescent, also had to forfeit £335 after it was found in his possession in relation to the crime.

He appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday July 18.

The court heard that on April 11, 2017, police obtained

information that Ferris was supplying the drug. Upon obtaining a warrant, they went to his address and he complied with the police, handing them a number of wraps containing cannabis.

He also surrendered £35, saying it was money he obtained from selling 'weed'. He also provided the police with a digital scale.

Police also found £300 in the property, as well as 11 small bags with cannabis, each worth around £20.

Ferris's solicitor said that at the time the offence was committed, he was using the substance regularly, purchasing it in large amounts, and selling some to a small number of friends in order to fund his own use.

Police also found £400 at his home, which was confiscated by the court. Sheriff Patrick Hughes described the substance as the most toxic of all drugs, leaving him with no option but to issue a custodial sentence.

Man found with 17g of heroin

A 32-YEAR-OLD man has been imprisoned for 12 months after being caught with just under 18 grams of heroin.

David Ogilvie, a prisoner in Greenock, appeared in front of Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday July 18, where he pleaded guilty

after police found him with 17.7 grams of the class-A drug.

Police attended his home on April 9 this year, before taking him to the Lorn and the Islands Hospital, where they discovered the drugs, which had a value of between £800 and £1,200.

WIN lunch for 4 people at The Deck Restaurant

Isle of Eriska
Hotel, Spa & Island

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

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

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

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

OT

Rothesay

A GRANT of £1.9 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund will regenerate Rothesay town centre. The Isle of the Bute town's seafront will now benefit from almost £3 million of repairs and improvements, with Argyll and Bute Council having already committed £200,000 to the scheme and £500,000 being secured from Historic Environment Scotland to be invested in the town, around Victoria and Montague Streets. This next phase of the

scheme will be delivered between now and October 2022. The focus of the scheme will be to repair five priority buildings and traditional windows, and restore eight shopfronts. It will also deliver heritage and maintenance and growing and supporting a creative industry activity, skills and capacity building programmes. There will also be improvements made to town centre wayfinding signs and connectivity.

Kilchrenan

THE Kilchrenan Art Group meets weekly in Kilchrenan Village Hall. Members live in Kilchrenan, Dalavich and Taynuilt. This year the group has chosen to be involved in the Argyll Artmap and is mounting a show of work in the Robin's Nest Tea Room in Taynuilt, by kind permission of owners, Mr

and Mrs Murray Sim. The Argyll Artmap weekend is August 25 to 28. There are 13 members of the group who work in a variety of media, so there should be an interesting variety of paintings to enjoy. Some will be for purchase at very reasonable prices, but this is not the group objective.

Lochdonhead



Alex Geddes receives her award.

THE awards ceremony for an annual school safety competition to raise awareness of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning has taken place at the Palace of Westminster. The competition was launched in January by the companies which are responsible for running the gas networks across Great Britain. The winners and their

guests were given a tour of the House of Commons in the Palace of Westminster before receiving their prizes at a special ceremony hosted by Barry Sheerman, MP, who co-chairs the all-party parliamentary carbon monoxide group. Each winner receives a cash prize for themselves and for their school/organisation.

Stornoway

THE Mackenzie Lane housing development near Stornoway has opened. Mackenzie Lane is the third stage of the Mackenzie Park housing complex on Melbost Farm, and comprises 24 new homes. This development brings the total number of completed houses at Mackenzie

Park to 81, of which 51 are for affordable rent. The final phase is under way and is expected to be complete by September 2019. When the development is complete there will be a total of 131 homes and Scottish Government grant funding totalling £9.4 million.

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Dunbeg



Sine MacVicar taught three generations of one family. She is with James MacDonald, his children Vicky and Jamie, and grandchildren Carley and Chloe.

Prize guys are given awards

DUNBEG Primary School's annual end-of-session service and presentation of prizes was held in the village church on Friday June 30 and was conducted by the Rev George Cringles, who very kindly came out of retirement for the day. Prizes were presented by Keira MacIntyre, a former pupil who had worked with at the school this session as part of Oban High School's Pathways programme. Retiring head teacher Sine MacVicar said: 'We wish her all the very best as she moves on to Glasgow University in September. We are very proud of Keira.'

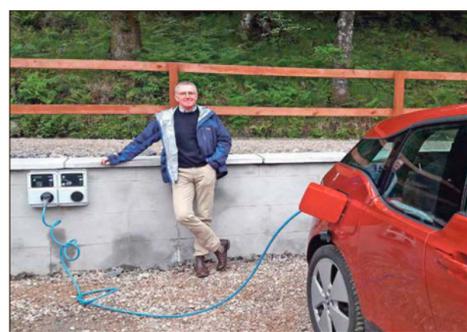
Citizenship Shield for Peer Support, CD of primary years, Heartstart certificates, Inspiring Purpose certificates, P7 third place nationally - Angus Brack, Katie MacEwan, Holly Bryce, Ross MacKay, Jason Carroll, Craig Ogilvie, Tilly Clark, Charis Simpson, Rosie Dairon, Ailsa MacKichan and Beekie Jeffery. Inspiring Purpose, P6 certificates: Fergus Beard, Carley MacKay, Cara Duncan, Andrew MacPhail, Calum Drummond, Emma McCahey, Kaitlin Hunter, Rosie McCallum, Abbie MacCorquodale, Ellie McTaggart, Malcolm MacIntyre and Tayler Robison. I Cycle badges and certificates: Beekie Jeffery and Angus Brack.

Mr MacInnes Trophy for cycling proficiency: Jason Carroll. Roots of Empathy: P3, Brooke Byars, Ethan Campbell-Black, Preston Campbell-Black, Finlay Cottier, Rosie Cuthbertson, Innes Gemmell, Isla Hausrath, Melody Hwang, Tristan Jeffery, Garry Lawson, Madison MacCormick, Innes MacKay, Ava McAuslan, Daniel Morrison, Rowan Stewart, Ewan Saunders and Mya Thomson. James Johnstone Quach for art: Angus Brack, Gordon MacPherson. Memorial Shield for best beginner swimmer: Euan Sinclair. Swimming cup: Rosie Dairon, Gordon MacPherson. Memorial cup for clan

football: Lorn - captain Ross MacKay. Sports Shield: Etive - captains Tilly Clark and Craig Ogilvie. MacLean Family Shield for musical achievement: Rosie Dairon, Katie MacEwan and Ross MacKay (pipers). Miss Watson Cup for gardening: Liam Duffy, Grace Lloyd and Steven MacAulay. Jordan Family Cup for caring: Holly Bryce. Mary Graham Cup for citizenship: Charis Simpson. Helen Paton Cup for endeavour: Katie MacEwan. Presentations were made by Ailsa MacKichan to ASN assistants Jennifer, Susan, Deirdre and Gael in recognition of her care over the past 10 years, to Claire Fleming on completion of her probationary year and to Keira MacIntyre with best wishes for her future career.

Morvern

IN A new move to tackle climate change and air pollution, Ardtornish Estate in Morvern has introduced an electric vehicle charging point - powered from its own hydro turbine. Seen here in use for the first time, by Ardtornish Estate Company chairman Dennis Overton and his BMW I3 electric car, the charger is able to top up an average vehicle at 22KW per hour. It draws power from the neighbouring Archimedes screw turbine - another first for Lochaber - a low-head, high-volume hydro scheme that produces 100 kilowatts of power from 4.4 metres of water pressure ('head', in the technical term), which powers a 10-metre cork-screw over 2.5 metres wide,



Dennis Overton charges his car.

set at a 26-degree angle to the horizontal. The scheme and charging point were formally opened in June at Achranich, Ardtornish, which now has more than 3MW of renew-

able hydro power, and is the largest employer in the parish of Morvern. Mr Overton said: 'I've driven electric for three years now, and on all my previous trips to Ardtornish I've trickle charged over several hours from a normal three-pin power socket beside the estate office. 'Now I, and our other electric vehicle visitors can recharge - for no cost - in a fraction of the time, confident that the power we are using is locally-generated and carbon free. 'Hydropower has already made a huge difference to Ardtornish, enabling us to invest in a wide range of building and infrastructure improvements, providing local community benefit, more employment, and better job security. This is a logical next step - prior to us moving our own estate vehicle fleet away from dirty fossil fuels and over to electric.'

Western Isles

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar is looking for foster carers for children and young people who are unable to remain in the care of their birth families. A spokesperson said: 'We believe all children have the right to live in a family, but if they are not able to live with their birth family, fostering can provide a positive alternative. 'We need foster carers for a range of children, from babies to teenagers, for short weekend breaks to a more permanent "forever" home. We need foster carers from all walks of life and backgrounds, including people who have children and those who don't. 'Anyone can be a foster carer as long as they have the qualities, skills and experience required to look after children in care. 'We ask that all applicants, single or couples, must be over 21 years old and have a spare room. 'Applicants do not have to be employed or own their own home. 'All applicants will be subject to local authority, health, employment and protection of vulnerable groups (PVG) checks. 'We know that the main motivation for becoming a foster carer is not about the pay but we recognise the valuable contribution that foster carers make to the lives of children and young people who require to be looked after away from home and we reflect this

in how we pay and support our carers. We believe that our carers should be properly trained and supported, equipped with the skills and confidence to fully benefit the children in their care.' Contact the fostering and adoption team on 01851 822748 or email fosteringandadoption@cne-siar.gov.uk.

Survey results

THE Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership has been consulting communities throughout the islands during the spring looking at feedback to inform the priorities it will focus on trying to improve over the next few years. As well as the online survey, the group met with residents in two locality areas to look at the information from the survey in more detail. Norman A MacDonald, chairman of the planning partnership, said: 'We had an excellent response from the community and this was a very worthwhile exercise. 'It was very clear from the survey results what the main priorities for people are and we will continue to work closely with our communities and partners to ensure that we have a joined-up approach moving forward.' Details on the survey's findings can be found at www.ohcpp.org.uk.

Norman A MacDonald, chairman of the planning partnership, said: 'We had an excellent response from the community and this was a very worthwhile exercise. 'It was very clear from the survey results what the main priorities for people are and we will continue to work closely with our communities and partners to ensure that we have a joined-up approach moving forward.' Details on the survey's findings can be found at www.ohcpp.org.uk.

Presentations were made by Ailsa MacKichan to ASN assistants Jennifer, Susan, Deirdre and Gael in recognition of her care over the past 10 years, to Claire Fleming on completion of her probationary year and to Keira MacIntyre with best wishes for her future career.

Campbeltown

TWO community projects in Campbeltown are to benefit from funding from Argyll and Bute Council. Grants will go towards the restoration of The Picture House in Campbeltown, and to help set up a new water activities centre in the town. A total of £40,000 will go to The Picture House, and £20,000 to Kintyre Seasports, subject to various conditions being met. The funding will come from surplus Campbeltown regeneration funds. The Picture House is one of the oldest purpose-built cinemas in Europe and the project to restore the A-listed building to its 1930s glory is already at an advanced stage, with the construction phase almost complete. This funding will help meet a shortfall in the restoration costs and with the fitting out of the foyer and catering facilities. The money follows financial support of £190,000 already approved by the council for the group behind the project, Campbel-

town Community Business (CCB). Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has also increased its funding in the project, from £300,000 to £371,388. The grants combined with other local fundraising will ensure the completion of this ambitious and exciting venture. On completion of the £3.4 million renovation, The Picture House will provide a 193-seat restored historic cinema auditorium which can also be used for live music, theatre and other events; a new 52-seat auditorium; new foyer and cafe; an exhibition area; and a meeting committee room. The council has already invested £190,000 in the project, with other supporters as well as HIE including the Heritage Lottery Fund, Creative Scotland, the Coastal Communities Fund and Historic Environment Scotland. Kintyre Seasports is a 14-strong partnership with Campbeltown Sailing Club the lead partner.

At Random

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

Shame on our national leaders

I DEFY anyone not to have been moved emotionally by the powerful letter from Billy Irving which we published last week. His eloquent account of hearing his son, William, speak for the first time will have stirred even the hardest of hearts. And Billy's heart-rending plea for help to bring him home from the Indian prison in which he is languishing was poignant, to say the least. It is two years this month since Billy and his anti-piracy colleagues were jailed in Chennai. During all that time his fiancée, Yvonne MacHugh, has fought a doxy campaign to have him freed. Yvonne has had consistent support from a broad spectrum of society, including *The Oban Times* and Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara. Where she has had scandalously little backing has been the British government. The government, in fact, has been worse than useless. Then suddenly last week, Boris Johnson, the Foreign Secretary, lumbered into the issue by pledging to 'leave no stone unturned' in his efforts to have Billy freed. Prime Minister Theresa May also jumped onto the bandwagon by announcing she had raised the matter with her Indian counterpart at the G20 summit.

Oban Rotary president Graham Fraser presented a cheque for £725.10 to Mary's Meals manager Marie Rowan. Also in the picture is Mary's Meals volunteer Maureen Drummond and Am-Am convener David Mudie.



Anne May and Faye MacPhee from the Friends of Oban Hospice manned the stall selling handbags, scarves and jewellery in Tesco car park to raise funds.

Parking mad

MONTHS after the new £1 coins came into circulation, Argyll and Bute Council's parking meters still don't accept them. Yet the council is continuing to issue fines for people who find themselves stuck for change. Introduced back in March, the new 12-sided £1 are replacing the old coins, which are now becoming increasingly rare as they are steadily withdrawn. Why is the council so far behind the times? It is evident to me that the local authority should stop issuing parking fines until its outdated meters are replaced. It is clearly unfair to expect motorists to pay with coins they no longer have in their pockets or purses.

Apologies

OOPS! Didn't we make a mistake last week? Readers will have spotted, of course, that on page 13 two photographs were inadvertently placed with the wrong stories. Sadly, human error does creep in at times and we can only apologise for the mistake and publish the pictures with the correct stories.

What do you think?

Write to me at mlaing@obantimes.co.uk or *The Oban Times*, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4 HB.

A cynic might wonder at their belated interest and consider their motivation. Do they suppose there might be a populist angle here? For two years, they have both ignored Billy's plight, despite the high profile nature of the cause and the manifest injustice of it. That criticism aside, their new-found involvement is to be welcomed, particularly if it helps to expedite Billy's release. Pressure from the British government is long overdue but is the very best Yvonne and little William deserve. Our national leaders - and the Foreign Office especially - should hang their heads in shame.



Christina McKellar kept a diary of the dances she attended between 1919 and 1927.

Dance Diaries turn back time to a forgotten era

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

IN A world where we hear more about twerking than Highland dancing, there is a wonderful treat in store for those who would like to find out what the social people of Inveraray and Upper Lochfynside were doing in the years between 1919 and 1927.

The Dance Diaries of Christina McKellar is a detailed insight into the dance scene in a time that may seem unrecognisable to our modern eyes.

Christina, was of her time – a lady's maid to the Noble family in both Scotland and England – and kept a detailed list of the dances she completed and who her dance partners were.

Her son, Gordon Simpson, has meticulously copied out the dancing information from two exercise books he inherited from his mother when she died in 1989. Gordon had not looked through

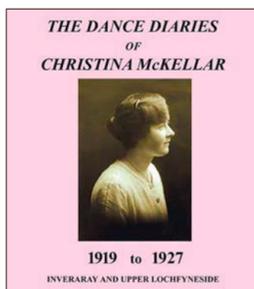
the books until he picked them up again in May 2015 and realised they held within them a 'legacy of that world, one which disappeared forever, lost in the Highland mist'.

Christina's diaries are a privileged and rare insight into the ordinary life of a young woman emerging into society from her life on a large estate on the west coast of Scotland.

Between the notes Christina, or Teenie as she was known, has meticulously made about dances and partners are the nuances of love and romance – not to mention flirting and good fun.

She was 16 when the diary begins on April 25, 1919. Dances and their venues are listed with names such as Triumph, Flowers of Scotland, Common Schotische, Quadrilles, Eightsome Reels, the Military Two-Step and the La Varsoviana.

The names of long-forgotten partners are also recorded.



The book cover.

Christina also makes notes on the social events including 'four dances past before we arrived. Kate and I cycled round and came away early at 1.30am with car'.

On January 29, 1924, the castle staff dance was held in the Jubilee Hall in Inveraray. Supper was eaten with Donald Campbell and he featured heavily as a dance partner. The notes from

Christina say: 'All went down in St Catherine's car with Bealdie and Annie and Peter McCrae (arguments). Home about 4.30. Duncan had his fiddle with him.'

Comments made by the transcriber state: 'There would seem to be some sort of argument. Duncan must have played the fiddle.'

On February 15, Christina writes: 'Beautiful moonlight night. K and I cycled round. Met J MacNicol and J McMillan at McNairs. Cycled to the hotel. The St Catherine's car came as we came. Kate causing sensations with W McC. Eyes on cheek bones. Bob Anderson, J Rodgers, B McNab and Mrs McVicar and K and I and Barb cycled home. In bed at 5 o'clock. Shinty match between Kyles and Inveraray the next day (Sat) Inv. winning by 4-3. Lovely day also. Had great fun (home early) "the long and the short" of it disappointed.'

The diaries also contain a

mystery for Gordon, as he writes in his wonderfully unpretentious foreword: 'There are references to "tickets" in the dance list. On some of the original diary pages, stapled onto them with now rusty pins and a small piece of ribbon, are small pieces of serrated paper that appeared to be them. There are a few words written on these. Examples are "Mistress Jean, find the Laird of Cockpen", "The Cook seeks the Policeman" and "Echo find Narcissus". Obviously these have an explanation, but what? Is it some form of early flirting?'

But the real beauty is the dairy itself. John MacKenzie features heavily in more than 120 dances, and the provider of the tea is often noted.

Books can be bought locally in Here We are In Clachan, The Tree Shop in Cairndow, Inveraray Castle gift shop and from the author himself, Gordon Simpson, on 01724 720111.

So many Kitchens to choose from but only you can decide dear reader...



Option 1



Option 2



Option 3



Option 4



So it's over to you the reader, which of the four options above would you choose for Mike and Lisa's new kitchen?

For your chance to win, simply choose your favourite kitchen from the choice above fill in the entry form on the right and send to: **Meet the Cairns Kitchen Competition**, New Century House, Stadium Road, Inverness, IV1 1FG. Or email your answer to: promotions@spp-group.com with the subject Meet the Cairns Kitchen Competition along with your name, address and contact telephone number. Or text *CAIRNGORM along with your answer, name and address to 64343

Texts cost £1.00 plus standard network rates. Entries received after the closing date will not be counted but may still be charged. If you do not wish to receive details of any other products or services, please text EXIT at the end of your message.

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#MeetTheCairns

MORVERN lines

A remarkable cairn and its doughty builder

LAST week I drove across to Lochailort to meet a remarkable man called Jimmy MacDonald, who was putting the finishing touches to a very special cairn commemorating 13 men who died when their plane struck a nearby hill on December 21, 1967.

Jimmy, who now lives on Skye, has spent most of his working life as a shepherd, stalker, ghillie and ace dry-stone dyker at Lochailort, Achnacarry, Morar and Meoble, and remembers vividly when the RAF Shackleton of 206 Squadron, RAF Kinloss, crashed on the lower slopes of Creag Bhan between Lochailort and Loch Morar, killing everyone aboard.

The plane was taking part in an anti-submarine training exercise off Tiree, flying by instruments co-ordinated through the Moray radar control centre. The captain, Squadron Leader Michael McCallum, and first navigator, Flight Lieutenant Bruce Mackie, had been warned of a weak cold front with low temperatures above 8,000 feet and of the onboard, untested stall-warning system.

In addition to a normal crew there were two passengers, Harry Harvey from RAF Kinloss and Iain MacLean, who went along for a jolly. The aircraft took off from Kinloss at 12.30 and climbed to 8,000 feet. It had contact with Scottish air traffic centre at 12.59 before disappearing from the tracking system five minutes later.

The RAF board of inquiry concluded the most likely cause of the accident was that the route took it through a weather front where there were severe icing conditions slightly worse than those predicted in the weather briefing with the freezing level some 2,000 feet lower than expected.

The aircraft had accumulated ice on the propellers and undersides of the wings and tail planes. As the crew were



Jimmy MacDonald putting the finishing touches to the cairn. Picture: Iain Thornber



Mrs Cameron-Head of Inverailort OBE. Picture: Chris Bryant

flying the outward leg of the flight the aircraft would have been heavy and its power-to-weight ratio meant that there would not have been much power reserve available from the engines to overcome drag caused by icing.

The aircraft's speed had fallen too low due to the ice build-up and it eventually stalled while still flying at around

8,000 feet. It then went into a vertical dive from which it never recovered, evidenced by the scar on the hillside.

It was completely destroyed on impact and immediately caught fire. Two of the engines remained more or less intact while the starboard engines were wrecked. One of the reduction gears was reported to have been found nearly 300 yards to the east of the site, having been flung there by its own inertia.

Angus Cameron, a county council roadman from Glenfinnan, was working near Arieniskill, about a mile below, when he heard two loud explosions and saw a bright flash. He rushed down to Inverailort Castle to inform Mrs Cameron-Head who, straight away alerted the police and rescue services and sent her companion, Miss Barbara Mackintosh, racing to the site.

Mrs Cameron-Head, who had been stationed in the area as an ambulance driver with the commandos during the Second World War, followed but from what the ladies saw they soon realised there was nothing they could do.

In an act of public spiritedness and generosity for which she was well known, Mrs Cameron-Head, for a prolonged period, turned her home

over to the RAF air accident investigation teams and crash guards. For this, she later received the Order of the British Empire.

This year is of course the 50th anniversary of the crash. In keeping with the late Mrs Cameron-Head's philosophy, and because he felt it the right thing to do, Jimmy set about rebuilding the temporary cairn which had all but disappeared from the site in the winter frosts and high winds. No mean feat given the spot lies almost 1,000ft up a hillside – too steep for any all-terrain vehicle and reached only by a boulder strewn, bracken-covered, path which skirts along the west side of the Allt Na Criche from Arieniskill to the water-shed.

But, as Edgar Albert Guest, the English-born American poet wrote, 'Somebody said that it couldn't be done', but he with a chuckle replied, 'that maybe it couldn't, but he would be one who wouldn't say so till he'd tried'.

The only source of suitable stone lay a mile away at the bottom of the track. Equipped with a small rucksack and a stout pair of boots, the intrepid Jimmy set about lifting as much as he could carry on his back for the journey up the hill from Arieniskill until he had almost a ton of it on site.

The dry-stone cairn is now finished and incorporates stones from the previous one with small pieces of wreckage gathered around its base. It is capped with a thin layer of cement into which Jimmy has embedded a wooden cross and 13 pieces of white pegmatite carefully chiselled from a boulder by the side the path. That is one for each man who died on the side of Creag Bhan: Michael McCallum, Terence Swinney, David Evans, Bruce Mackie, Ralph Fonseca, Malcolm Jones, John Verner, David Harris, Michael Bowen, Charles Matthews, Kenneth Hurry, Harry Harvey and Iain MacLean. RIP.

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

OT

Viewpoint



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

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

It is very difficult not to have sympathy with the predicament brought to our attention this week by blind man John McQuade over what he perceives to be the dangerous condition of roads in Oban for visually-impaired people.

Mr McQuade has justifiably highlighted his concerns, particularly over street 'furniture' – or the lack of it in places – and the worn-away condition of what are known as tactile surfaces at crossing points on our streets.

The vast majority of us can have little comprehension of the myriad difficulties encountered on a daily basis by blind or partially-sighted people as they go about their everyday business. For them to have to put their

lives in jeopardy to do something as straightforward as cross a road, even at a designated crossing point, is clearly unacceptable.

That said, Argyll and Bute Council has only recently completed significant, and very welcome, improvement works across the town centre. And the council has quite correctly pointed out that the works have been done with disabled people very much in mind.

In addition, the council has said that it has an ongoing maintenance programme designed to avoid such problems arising. However, given Mr McQuade's claims, this is something that should be addressed with urgency.



Days gone by – 1997

This week we go back to 1997 and a great picture of ladies on Lochaber Agricultural Show's committee. Left to right are Nora Gillies, Linda Campbell, Lianne Campbell, Linda McEwan and Isabel Campbell.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



From St Kilda to Stuttgart – part two

AS THE whole of the last piece only got us as far as Eriskay, I'll need to ramp up the pace of travel a bit or I'll be writing till September getting us all the way from St Kilda to Stuttgart.

Because the ferry from Mallaig to Lochboisdale was late, the rest of the St Kilda voyagers didn't arrive at the harbour in Eriskay till well after 11pm. A mixture of cups of tea and nightcaps were had and, as we were staying aboard the St Olave, sleeping arrangements were made.

I won't mention names involved in the following except that the main instigator is the father of a well-known piper who plays in a Scottish band I also happen to play in and is part owner of the boat. Anyway, as there was a shortage of bunks for the five of us, someone was going to have to sleep outside. As my four companions were all on the wrong side of 60, I bravely volunteered, but in no uncertain terms was told by the gentleman described above that I was to sleep below, and he, along with another of the crew, would sleep on the foredeck.

I had visions of these poor old fellows shivering and shaking, maybe becoming hypothermic and catching pneumonia, or at best, being severely uncomfortable.

How wrong I was! As I tried to sleep in the very comfortable double bunk, I was kept awake for hours by the two on the deck above me laughing, giggling and carrying on like teenagers on a school trip. Eventually after the excitement settled down I got to sleep. A few hours later, about 5am, I was woken by the said fellow, fresh as a daisy and well rested, saying: 'Come on, MacPhail, this is no time for a lie-in.'

Worrying about their safety and comfort was akin to worrying about two battle-hardened Achnacarry-trained commandos. So up I got and we headed out of the Acairsaid Mhòr, through the Sound of Barra in the early morning sun and, once clear of the many rocks and reefs, set course for St Kilda.

The looming majesty of this remote, rugged outcrop of rock grew steadily on our horizon and around 10.30am we dropped the anchor in the clear, calm shallow waters of Village Bay. I had never been to St Kilda before and it had always held a certain magic and mystery for me. My father fished for

lobsters there in the years just before I was born so I had heard a lot about it. I have been told many stories in more recent years about his fishing trips there, and that, coupled with the rich and fascinating history of the island and its hardy population created a strong feeling of familiarity and déjà vu. We were made very welcome by the warden and, after a very interesting and enjoyable few hours ashore exploring the village and visiting the museum, we weighed anchor and retraced our course to Eriskay to refuel before returning with all on board to Dunstaffnage.

A close sighting of a large and beautiful basking shark and again the appearance of the happy harbour dolphins gave good omens as we returned across the Sea of the Hebrides.

We tied up at the marina around 1am with a very satisfied feeling and, for me, the desire to return to St Kilda soon to spend more time exploring and soaking in the powerful atmosphere.

A few hours in the bunk again, then a refreshing shower, a drive to Achnaba by Lochgilphead and then off to Ireland on a much newer faster boat. To be continued.



Social media

There was a furious reaction to a post on our Facebook page about parking meters in Oban still not accepting the new £1 coins.

Nikki Warham blasted: 'I've not got a ticket because I was lucky enough there was someone there I could swap a coin with but it's ridiculous! There's not enough free parking on town never mind the parking we have doesn't take the new coins! In my opinion if anyone has received a ticket it should be scrapped and any money paid should be refunded! How is it a drivers fault that the meters don't take the coins?'

Ruari Armstrong wrote: 'The parking situation in general is a problem in Oban. Multi storey car parked is the answer or do we need to wait another 30 years just like the pontoon. Location??? Old rockfield school grounds.'

Amira Trehan posted: 'It's a crazy situation. I had a stock of old pound coins but have used them all myself and helping out other people. I suppose we all have to carry a sack of 50p coins around now. Fix it, or get machines that accept a card payment - but you can't fine people in the meantime.'

Sian Griffiths said: 'It's not very long ago that some of the machines did not accept the 'new' 10p and 5p pieces so I dread to think how long it will be before they update for the pound coins. Also parking is now so expensive that they should have machines that accept card payments. How many people actually carry £8 of change with them nowadays?'

Jenny Low explained: 'I tried to buy a ticket with a new pound coin the other day but the machine wouldn't

accept it. Luckily for me I had enough in 5p's to pay for a ticket! Not so lucky for whoever empties the machine. Oh well... Maybe if everyone does the same they'll get their finger out and do something about it!'

Kerryanne Ramsay offered: 'There is a parking meter right outside my work, and without fail at least once a day if not more we have people in asking us to change pound coin, this is fine if we have them but a lot of the time we don't. We have also has a lot of tourists and foreign holiday makers in asking us for directions to machines where the new coins are accepted. So not only have strangers to the town, to know to have old coins for the meter, but they are to know where to find other machines in streets in a town they've most likely never been.'

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

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

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

We were let down by the MV Balmoral

Sir,
I am writing to you with regards to a complaint owing to a missed trip on MV Balmoral Saturday July 8.

We were booked on the Coll, Treshnish and Staffa trip from Oban.

On arrival at North Pier, one of two designated pick-up points as clearly stated on White Funnel official website, we noticed that the Balmoral was at the Northern Lighthouse Board pier.

Being concerned, we approached the tourist information officer for further information. The young lady my wife spoke to confirmed as per the website that the Balmoral was picking up at North Pier as well. We duly waited only to see the Balmoral sail out of the harbour without collecting from North Pier.

We returned to tourist information officer and were informed that due to vessels already berthed there, collection from North Pier was cancelled.

Had we been informed of this at 9.03am, we would have been able to catch the vessel at the Northern Lighthouse Board pier.

We have been in contact with the Balmoral management, who bizarrely is stating that the misinformation is not its fault, despite it clearly stating on its official website: 'For more information, go to the tourist information centre,' which we did and as a consequence of which we are being refused a refund.

As they are a cruising operation, it is up to them to ensure that any information regarding a change of pick-up point is correctly passed on to relevant tourist information centre so that this does not occur again.

Philip James Whale,
by email.

Money-saving ideas the council can adopt

Sir,
Surely the problem with Argyll and Bute Council is not that we pay their top staff too much. Isn't the issue really that we must pay more to find people who know about business and live in the 21st century?

The local authority would save money by having video links in libraries to councillors and officers to cut down on travel time and cost. UHI Argyll College has this technology and could provide user support.

Similarly, instead of paying postage, using email would reduce council tax bills and other unnecessary costs.

The council could copy money-saving ideas from other authorities and sell off Lorne House in Oban for flats and let staff 'hot desk' at other offices or working from home ad having phone calls there. No travelling time and decent coffee definitely have their advantages and Skype allows everyone to keep up with the gossip and scandal.

But, hey, it's only residents' money so why do executives need to bother themselves?

Mike Foster,
Sannox, Crannaig a Mhinister,
Oban.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



'THA MI AIR MO NÀRACHADH leis mar a tha na daoine sin air an dualchas a ghlèidheadh agus sinne air uimhir dheth a chall!'

Tha corra bhliadhna a-nise bho chuala mi boireannach ag ràdh sin aig cèilidh beag ann am Bòrnais air Uibhist a Deas aig àm na fèise Ceòlas a bhith a' gabhail àite. Bha sinn uile a bha an làthair air ar beò-ghlacadh le fear à Ceap Bhreatainn a bha còrr air ochdad bliadhna a dh'aois ri dannsa ceum is e cho aotrom ri uiseig, is a mhac a' cluich na fìdhle is ogha dha cuideachd a' dannsa.

Cha robh an duine sin air a bhith ri amh roimhe san 't-seann dùthaich' ach bha a chuid Gàidhlig, a thàinig thuige tron teaghlach bho a sheanair a dh'fhalbh à sgìre Loch Abair, cho sìubhlach ri comas fìleantach sam bith a bha san talla. Abair eisimpleir air dìlseachd dualchais, agus abair toileachas dhan duine seo aig nach robh, thuige sin, tuigse sam bith gun robh coimhearsnachdan fhathast beò

Police face challenges from centralisation

Sir,
New figures have shown that the number of grievances made by police officers to their bosses in the past year has doubled.

In 2016/17, 29 officers lodged formal complaints with Police Scotland, compared to just 14 the previous year, and only seven in 2014/15.

And when the statistics include grievances submitted by other staff, the total number for last year increases to 59, which is 10 more than in 2015/16 and considerably higher than the 32 made three years ago.

The statistics were obtained by the Scottish Conservatives through Freedom of Information. Shadow Justice Secretary Liam Kerr said the figures pointed to a decrease in morale among officers as Police Scotland continues to be hit by negative publicity.

This doubling of grievances goes to show how morale is suffering at Police Scotland.

It is well known that our police take risks most of us never have to think about.

Our police deserve better than this constant centralisation obsession and indifference to the challenges facing our police by the SNP.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Isle of Islay.

Tobermory needs Glen Iosal care home

Sir,
I joined the huge crowd of local people outside the Glen Iosal care home in Tobermory to hear the explanation from an Argyll and Bute Council official of why Glen Iosal is to lose funding.

The warden is to lose her job and consequently the aged and infirm will lose the human touch.

Residents will be on a monitored system to where? Edinburgh?

This warden is a lifeline but that doesn't seem to matter to the well-paid powers-that-be.

Tobermory needs this facility to continue but, as with all funding, islands don't seem to matter.

The local people provide so much in Tobermory, which is freely given to places such as Oban. If we want flowers around the town, we do it. If we want the harbour railings painted, we do it.

Now it seems the council can no longer afford the wage of a prime carer, who is relied on by the elderly and infirm at Glen Iosal.

I wonder what they will spend her salary on? Oh dear, I forgot. They will have to foot the bill for these expensive call monitors so that the elderly and infirm can talk to somebody hundreds of miles away.

Where is the logic in dismantling a system that works to install machines for communication?

Where is the humanity? Where is the money? It is there because we have seen it spent on the wonderful (unnecessary) landscaping in Oban town centre with its beautiful flower displays. Where is the justice?

Pat Sands,
Breadalbane Street, Tobermory.

Your columnist is years out of date

Sir,
I read Martin Laing's cheesed-off remarks about early years graduation in his At Random column (*The Oban Times*, July 13).

My friend Amie is now aged 24 and I have a photo of her as a beautiful four-year-old in her graduation mortarboard. The custom was new then – that's how out-of-date he is.

It was explained to me like this: many of these children will never get the chance to graduate from universities.

Now their achievements will be celebrated, too, and their parents will have photos to show to friends.

The occasion was a very happy one of love and valuing of each child. I was glad to be there.

Lorna Cammock,
by email.

Call to supports Dog Trust campaign

Sir,
The Dogs Trust is calling on the government to take immediate action to address the illegal importation of puppies into Great Britain, after an undercover investigation discovered smugglers across Central and Eastern Europe continuing to abuse the system.

The UK's largest dog welfare charity is urging people to contact their local MP via the Dogs Trust website to insist that the government revise inadequate legislation to put a stop to this horrific trade. Undercover footage revealed a vet in Lithuania selling sedatives to allow puppies to be smuggled across the British border. Puppies as young as four weeks old were also transported with their umbilical cords still attached during a cramped 1,000 mile, 30-hour journey across Europe.

In another shocking case, puppies were observed vomiting and another eating their own faeces during a journey in a packed mini-van from Lithuania. Confined to pet carriers stacked amongst other packages in the back of the van with no air conditioning, and outside temperatures of 25 degrees, the puppies were given water just twice and not fed at all.

Paula Boyden, veterinary director for Dogs Trust said: 'These shocking cases clearly show that urgent action is needed to stop the puppy smuggling scandal.'

'It remains as serious an issue for animal welfare and public health in 2017 as it did in 2014.'

'The number of prosecutions is far too low and the lack of visual checks at ferry ports and borders is unacceptable.'

Television and radio presenter Dermot O'Leary is backing the campaign and says: 'As a dog lover myself I was horrified to learn that puppies are being smuggled into Great Britain in such terrible condition.'

'I fully support Dogs Trust's campaign to increase awareness of the puppy smuggling scandal.'

Paula Boyden,
Veterinary Director, Dogs Trust.

Ailean Caimbeul

ann an Alba far an robh a' Ghàidhlig na cànan làitheil.

B' e coinneachadh brosnachail a bha seo dha gach taobh den Chuan an Iar. Bha coinneachadh brosnachail cuideachd aig Colaiste na Gàidhlig ann an St Ann's ann an Ceap Bhreatainn bho chionn chola-deug nuair a chruinnich riochdairean bho choimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig Alba, Èirinn, agus Alba Nuadh, gus còmhraidh a dhèanamh air mar a dh'fhaodte coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig na cruinne a dhùthachadh ri chèile. Mar a bha fìor ann am Bòrnais air an fheasgar ud bliadhnaichean air ais, cha robh an seo cuideachd ach cruinneachadh beag ach ann am beachd chuid againn theagamh gun deach ceum cudromach a ghabhail air sliغه mhòr eadar-nàiseanta.

'S i an ùine a dhearbhas sin, ach bha e da-rìribh misneachail a bhith a' faicinn Colaiste Gàidhlig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig a' daingneachadh Aonta Tuigse dà bhliadhna le Colaiste na Gàidhlig ann an Ceap Bhreatainn, ag ùrachadh agus a' neartachadh nan ceanglaichean a th' air mòran òigridh a thoir mar-thà ghu ruige foghlam àrd-ìre Gàidhlig ann an Alba.

Mar bu dual an sin bha an fhàilte a fhuair sinn blàth agus coibhneil le ceòl aighearach Fèis a' Chidsin na bhunait air na bha a' dol. Cha b' iongnadh annas a bhith oirbh le ainm na fèise, ach 's e tha seo ach fèis ciùil a tha ceangailte ri foillsachadh agus margaidheachd biadh sgìre Ceap Bhreatainn, agus ma bha na h-àireamhan sluaigh a chunnaic sinn aig na cuirmean nan tomhas, b' e tachartas soirbheachail da-rìribh a bh' ann.

WHEN A FLUENT Gaelic-speaking octogenarian from Cape Breton stepped and sang at the Ceolas festival in South Uist some years ago, locals expressed shame that such culture had survived emigration while it had been lost in its homeland.

Stimulating meetings for Canadian and Uibhisteach alike and a similarly encouraging gathering of international Gaelic community representatives took place at the Gaelic College in Cape Breton two weeks ago aiming for a 'Greater Gaidhealtachd' unity.

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

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

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

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

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must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not

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

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Dunbeg scientist appeals for help from sea anglers

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

SEA ANGLERS who have fished for common skate off the West Coast could have photographs that could help scientists.

Anyone who has fished in a West Coast Marine Protected Area (MPA) could have valuable information stored on their phones, computers or in family albums.

Marine scientists studying the

world's largest skate species in the Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura MPA are asking anglers to share any photographs they have of common skate, sometimes known as flapper skate, which were caught and released in the area during the past 10 years.

The species has suffered a serious decline in population numbers over recent decades and the fish is the main focus of marine biologists' research in the MPA.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) at Dunstaffnage and the Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network (SSACN) are working together on a project looking to see if individual skates can be identified by the spot patterns on their backs.

So far this research has focused on an archive of more than 400 photographs taken between 2011 and 2016 by angling charter boat skipper

Ronnie Campbell, who comes from Oban.

From these photos, more than 200 individual skate have already been identified.

Dr Steven Benjamins from SAMS, who is leading the research, said: 'We have found that spot patterns vary a lot between individuals. Some fish are almost completely dark brown all over with hardly any spots, some are completely covered in tiny spots in a type of mottled pattern and some have

distinct patterns of large spots.

'Typically, the spots themselves are very clear but they can sometimes be blurred at the edges, or spots might have a dark centre, forming rings or doughnuts. Any and all of these features may allow identification of individuals.'

Anglers with photos they are happy to share with the project should contact skates@sams.ac.uk or visit the dedicated SAMS website at <https://skates.sams.ac.uk>.

Pupils see creatures from the deep in Dunstaffnage



PRIMARY and nursery children got their hands on a variety of creatures from the deep at the Ocean Explorer Centre at Dunstaffnage on Wednesday.

Blair Watson brought in a number of deep sea 'beasties' such as spiny spider crabs, sea slugs, a fangtooth fish and a warty octopus, to name just a few.

In the morning, pupils from Gigha made their way to Dunstaffnage to look at the creatures, and in the afternoon the Little Learners Nursery explored the centre.

The 21-year-old marine science graduate answered questions from the children and showed them a

series of live specimens that he found in the ocean in the morning.

The children also enjoyed a number of other activities, such as looking at organisms through microscopes, watching films in the cinema and drawing different types of species.

The display was part of Blair's internship at Capturing Our Coast Scotland.

The project aims to survey and protect the coastlines, in particular to investigate how the marine environment is responding to climate change. It asks people who live near the coast to get involved and help document their findings. To take

part, email cocoast@sams.ac.uk.



Scotland is hotspot for breeding seabirds

WHEN British seabirds aren't on land, it is likely they are feeding in the coastal waters around Scotland, new research has revealed.

A five-year project tracked more than 1,300 breeding seabirds and results reveal the majority of the 'hotspots' are concentrated in the coastal waters around Scotland.

The study, headed by the RSPB in partnership with more than a dozen scientists from leading research institutes, estimated the areas used by four species: kittiwakes, shags, razorbills and guillemots.

Dr Ewan Wakefield, lead author of the research, said: 'Many seabirds are at the top of the marine food web.

'They feed on sand eels and other small fish but that prey is declining because of human pressures, including climate change. The result is that thousands of seabird chicks are dying each year because their parents can't feed them.

'For the first time, this study provides us with a full map for each breeding colony of the

feeding areas for some of our most important seabird species.

'That means we can now protect the places these birds catch the fish they need to feed their hungry chicks, securing the fate of future generations of these amazing creatures.'

The information obtained could play a major role in helping to understand seabirds, as they are among the most endangered birds in the world.

Ellie Owen, who led on the tracking work, said: 'The sight and sound of hundreds of thousands of seabirds flocking to our shores is an amazing natural spectacle and something that we must help protect for future generations to enjoy. The methods used in this study could be applied to other seabird species, to show where they go at sea.

'This will be an invaluable tool in helping to protect seabirds, as it will improve our ability to assess the likely impacts on breeding seabirds of offshore wind farms, oil spills and other potentially harmful activities in our increasingly industrialised seas.'

Attenborough urges Scots in Highlands to count butterflies

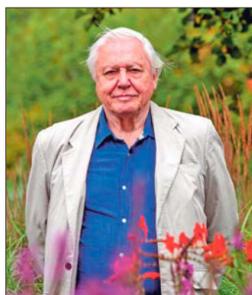
SIR David Attenborough is urging people across the Scottish Highlands to take part in the Big Butterfly Count this summer.

Sir David has warned that UK butterflies face a critical summer after many common species continue to decline in numbers. Last year was the fourth worst on record for butterflies.

Common species such as the small tortoiseshell, peacock, meadow brown and gatekeeper experienced declines in 2016, but the warm, dry spring and early summer experienced over much of the UK so far this year could offer butterflies some respite if the good weather continues.

The Big Butterfly Count is the world's largest butterfly survey, which encourages people to spot and record 18 species of common butterflies and two day-flying moths during three weeks of high summer.

Families are being invited to take part in their gardens, local parks or at a free event at the



Sir David Attenborough.

Land, Sea and Islands Centre in Arisaig, Lochaber, from 10.30am until 4pm on Sunday July 30.

A guided butterfly walk will take place, with tea and cakes provided. Find out more at www.butterfly-conservation.org/Arisaig.

Butterfly Conservation president Sir David said: 'The next few weeks are a vital period for our butterflies. They need to make the most of this chance to feed and breed.

'In the past decade our butterflies have experienced several poor years and, although resilient, they simply cannot sustain repeated losses, especially if the habitats they need in order to rebuild their populations are also under threat.

Sir David added: 'Taking part in the Big Butterfly Count is good for butterflies and it is also good for us all.

'The count is good for butterflies because your sightings will tell us which species need help and in which areas we need to help them.

'But the Big Butterfly Count is also good for you because 15 minutes spent watching butterflies in the summer sunshine is priceless. Spending time with butterflies lifts the spirits and reinvigorates that sense of wonder in the natural world.'

The count runs until August 6. To take part, find a sunny spot and spend 15 minutes counting the butterflies you see and then submit sightings online at www.bigbutterflycount.org or via the free Big Butterfly Count app.

THIS WEEK'S WALKS

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

Today (Thursday July 20) Meall na Teanga and Sron a'Choire Ghairbh, Clunes, Loch Lochy.

Start from the CP at Clunes on the NW bank of Lochy at NN204886. Head E on the forest track, soon forking left and climbing gradually NE to reach the upper track. Continue NE for 3km to the Allt na Faing. Follow the burn up NW through the forested area to reach Coire Lochain. From the shore of the lochan, climb S up the ridge to Sron Bheac, turning W, and gaining height, follow the rim of Coire Lochain, which curves N to reach the summit of Meall Coire Lochain, 906m. Descend steeply NE on the narrow ridge, across the col and climb to the summit of Meall na Teanga, 918m.

Descend its N ridge to about NN219929, then turn NE and descend to a col at the head of Coire Leacachain. Contour around the base of the NW spur of Meall Dubh and descend about 80m to the head of the Cam Bhealach at NN222936. N from here, a good stalker's path zig-zags up to a col just SE of the summit of Sron a'Choire Ghairbh. Climb up to the summit, 937m, and return to the col. Head NE, over a small summit, 908mEX. The narrow ridge widens but keep to the high ground, heading E to Sean Mheall, 887m. Descend steeply E on rough and bouldery ground to a small lochan at 684mEX.

Turn NE on similar but more level terrain, and make for Meall nan Dearcag, 693m. Descend steeply NE again until the angle eases, then turn ESE down the slopes to the GGW where it crosses the Kilfinnan Burn. Follow the GGW to Laggan Locks and cross the canal to the CP.

Distance: 20km, height to climb: 1,405m.

Meet at Fort William Woollen Mill at 9.30am.

Saturday July 22 Little Bonnet of Lorn, Lochaline.

An interesting walk on the crest of an impressive rocky scarp, set between the wilderness of Morvern and the Sound of Mull.

Distance: 13km, height to climb 1,150m.

Suggested by Gavin Theobald; co-ordinated by Ken Stevenson.

Splendid views of the coast and islands of the inner and Outer Hebrides. Remains of a village of 21 houses, forcibly cleared in 1824. Start on the cycle trail at NM681504. Head S then SW on the forest track to turn right at the first junction then sharp right at the next. Follow this branch around the corrie, taking the left fork at the next junction.

Head up NE to find the start of a rough track at NM6756049700 and follow it N up the slope to exit the forest at NM6742449970, on An t-Sreang. Follow the broad ridge W to Aoineadh Beag, then NW over Sgurr na Gréine and Aoineadh Mór to reach the summit of Sithean na Raplaich. Head NE, along the rim of the scarp to the source of a small burn at about NM643523, which tumbles SE down the slope. Negotiate the scarp where convenient to follow the burn down on its N side until it crosses a forest track at NM6469652102. Follow the track SE, turning left at the first junction towards the Township. Fork right at NM6547551707 on to an old track that soon ends.

Negotiate rough ground and dense undergrowth N for about 100m to reach the footpath at the township. Follow the footpath to the CP at the public road NM668517.

Distance: 14km, height to climb: 520m.

Meet at Corran ferry slip at 9.15am.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Please see full walk details at www.nevishillwalking.club.

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

Sunday July 23 Sgurr Thionail (906m), Am-Bathaich (892m), Sgurr a' Mhaoraich (1,027m).

Start from Coireshubh. Follow path along Allt Coire Sgoireadail to head of Coire. Join stalker's path at NG980903.

Follow path to summit of Sgurr Thionail. Head S down ridge to either summit of AmBathaich and descend E down stalker's path to Glen Quoich and second car at NH014040, or continue S to summit of Sgurr a' Mhaoraich. Head W to 948m spot height. Head SW and then S down to Meall an Uillt Bhain.

Head WNW to pylon. Then S to loch and car.

Distance: 13km, height to climb 1,150m.

Suggested by Gavin Theobald; co-ordinated by Ken Stevenson.

Travel fast and light when heading outside

THERE'S a big movement in the outdoor world and it is one that everyone can benefit from.

'Fast and Light' is a term welcomed in mainland Europe and North America with open arms. In the UK, we are a traditional market and, if it is not designed to be passed down through generations, then it is too flimsy.

I used to wear big heavy boots, because I was told that, when on the hill, that's what I needed: ankle support and durability are key. Then I saw runners blasting up technical routes in no more than a vest, shorts and shoes that weighed 200 grams.

Why, then, was I wearing boots that weighed five times as much, and carrying a 30-litre pack with everything imaginable inside?

Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying we should all drop this kit and take it to the nearest charity shop. Heavy gear still has its

place and benefits. But if I'm going out and there's a chance of rain, I don't take my beefy 500g waterproof, I take my 190g trail shell.

And it's not just about buying shiny new kit. I go further: I take my car key off the keyring, I take a credit card and a £20 note. I don't need the whole wallet.

It is important to understand that, when shedding weight, you increase risk. This can be from lack of ankle support (which, if you lack experience or confidence, is inadvisable) to risking not having enough cash for the victory meal at the pub.

But light is right and it is good to lose weight. Now all I need to do is lose some myself.

By Simon Pitman from Ellis Brigham Mountain Sports, Fort William.

ellisbrigham
MOUNTAIN
SPORTS

Arena

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

Highland games will be a measure for the rest

IT MAY have been the wettest Highland games in the history of Highland games but that did not deter the folk of the Morvern peninsula who turned out to enjoy the day.

The full range of events took place with people appearing as if from out of the rain clouds to take part.

Organisers said they had thought about cancelling the event and said with such a busy games and gala week

planned it might not go ahead at all.

It was just as well as it seemed that many people had travelled to take part in the social side of the event – if not for the events themselves.

The beer tent was packed full of people watching events from the relative dryness.

It will certainly be an event that people now mark other Highland games

upon. ‘Och, it is not as wet as Morvern in 2017’.

Even the heavyweight competitors struggled through the rain to take part in the events but they still competed under the guidance of Brian Robin.

One of the organisers, Riona Whyte, thanked everyone for coming out and taking part despite the weather. She said: ‘We are looking forward to a drier games day next year.’



Running the good race against the wind, rain and the very muddy and slippery grass. 29_t29 morvern 13



Peter Lindsay, chieftain and master of all weathers, with his massive broly and Biere De Luxe. 29_t29 morvern 8



Crenia and Clem were on the door and sheltering from the pelting rain. 29_t29 morvern 2



Calum MacDougall, piper, and Riona Whyte, organiser, are all smiles despite the rain. 29_t29 morvern 5



If all else fails, eat some candy floss and smile about your medal. 29_t29 morvern 14



Cameron Anson looking dapper with his sun specs and beer. 29_t29 morvern 1

ADVERTORIAL

Iona Abbey Library Project: Saving Scotland's Heritage



In this year of Heritage, History and Archaeology, the Cathedral Church of St Mary on Iona remains the destination for thousands of present-day pilgrims who flock to the Benedictine monastery, site of St Columba's church and early Christian community.



The Very Rev Finlay Macdonald, chairman of the Iona Cathedral Trust outside Iona Primary School with a copy of the Book of Kells and some of the older children.



Working with dip pens and ink, learning foundation hand-lettering to understand the work of the monks in the Iona scriptorium.



Pupils from Bunessan and Iona Schools attend workshops at Iona Abbey.



THE early monastery of St Columba, founded in the sixth century, famously produced the Book of Kells, among other notable manuscripts at a time when libraries were a symbol of wealth and education uniquely owned by an elite few. The current library, restored during the rebuilding of the Iona Abbey claustral buildings by George Macleod and the Iona Community, is thought to occupy the same position as the former monks' library which was sited in the cloisters above the Chapter House.

In Iona Abbey, the Argyll tomb is a memorial to the Duke and Duchess who transferred ownership of the abbey buildings and the nunnery to the care of the Iona Cathedral Trust in 1899.

The trust restored the Abbey Church and, after the rebuilding of the library, a fledgling collection of books donated by the Ritchies (a local island family) became the founding collection which, since the 1940s, has grown in size and significance.

Now, with a £100,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Iona Cathedral Trust has created the Iona Abbey Library Project, with the library collection being restored and the contents of the library being catalogued.

As part of the project, several hundred library items are being uplifted to conservators on the mainland for restoration and repair over the next two years, supported by a number of organisations including Historic Environment Scotland,

the Iona Community, the University of the Highlands and Islands, and Iona Community Council.

What is known as the Cathedral Trustee's Collection will be re-organised into a new Heritage Collection, which it is envisaged will contribute to the Scottish archive and remain a research resource available to academics and local communities alike.

The project is taking history and heritage out into local communities and schools with a series of creative and conservation workshops.

Recently Iona and Bunessan primary schools spent a day focusing on monuments, visiting the abbey and museum and making their own clay monuments, finishing with learning to write in ogham

and using calligraphy dip pens to recreate early manuscript writing.

Monday July 24 sees a conservation workshop on Iona with a master binder, who will be making notebooks and training on basic conservation cleaning and repairs.

Information events in the Argyll and Bute area are planned to keep local communities updated with progress.

A public exhibition will be created on Iona in the final year to showcase all the hard work, fun and play generated by the project before its expected completion in October 2018.

Join the Iona Abbey Library Project on Facebook at @abbeylibrary to stay informed about news and workshops.

Iona Abbey Library Project Saving Scotland's Heritage

Conservation workshops, book-making, working with schools and local communities. Exhibition planned on Iona summer 2018 and new Heritage Collection opening September 2018. For open days, information, and workshops visit facebook.com/abbeylibrary or email ionaabbeylibrary@gmail.com

Iona Cathedral Trust Scottish Charity No SC017989





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Friday 21 - Thursday 27 July

ALL EYEZ ON ME | 15 | 159 MIN

Fri: 18.45, Sat: 20.00, Sun: 19.30, Mon: 18.45, Tues: 18.45, Wed: 18.45.
Tells the true and untold story of prolific rapper, actor, poet and activist Tupac Shakur. The film follows Shakur from his early days in New York City to his evolution into being one of the world's most recognized and influential voices before his untimely death at the age of 25. Against all odds, Shakur's raw talent, powerful lyrics and revolutionary mind set propelled him into becoming a cultural icon whose legacy continues to grow long after his passing.

ANDRE RIEU MAASTRICHT CONCERT 2017 | 185 MIN
Sat: 19.00

Known to millions as 'The King of Waltz', André Rieu is one of the world's most popular music artists. His legendary annual Maastrecht concert is the most eagerly anticipated cinema event of the year, last year setting new box office records in several countries. Set against the stunning medieval backdrop of the town square in André's Dutch hometown, the spectacular Maastrecht concert features the maestro in his element, along with his 60 piece Johann Strauss Orchestra, sopranos, tenors and very special guests. André delivers an unforgettable musical experience full of humour, fun and emotion for all ages.

ANGELS IN AMERICA: PART 2 PERESTROIKA | 15 | 225 MIN
Thurs: 19.00

Part 2, Perestroika America in the mid 1980s. In the midst of the AIDS crisis and a conservative Reagan administration, New Yorkers grapple with life and death, love and sex, heaven and hell. Andrew Garfield plays Prior Walter along with a cast including Denise Gough, Nathan Lane, James McArdle and Russell Tovey. This new staging of Tony Kushner's multi award winning two part play is directed by Olivier and Tony award winning director Marianne Elliott.

DESPICABLE ME 3 | U | 110 MIN

Fri: 12.00, 14.00, Sat: 13.15, 15.15, Sun: 11.45, Mon: 12.00, 14.00, Tues: 12.00, 14.00, Wed: 12.00, 14.00, Thurs: 12.30, 14.30.
The team who brought you Despicable Me and the biggest animated hits of 2013 and 2015, Despicable Me 2 and Minions, returns to continue the adventures of Gru, Lucy, their adorable daughters Margo, Edith and Agnes and the Minions. The animated film is produced by Illumination's Chris Meledandri and Janet Healy, and executive produced by Chris Renaud.

KIDS CLUB: MINIONS MOVIE | U | 91 MIN
Sat: 11.30

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

SILVER SCREEN - CHURCHILL | GB | 118 MIN
Sun: 14.30

Silver Screening - Last Chance to See. Concessions (age 60+) entry just £3!
June 1944. Allied Forces stand on the brink: a massive army is secretly assembled on the south coast of Britain, poised to retake Nazi occupied Europe. One man stands in their way: Winston Churchill.

SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING | 12A | 153 MIN

Fri: 16.00, Sat: 17.15, Sun: 16.45, Mon: 16.00, Tues: 16.00, Wed: 16.00, Thurs: 16.30.

A young Peter Parker/Spider Man, who made his sensational debut in Captain America: Civil War, begins to navigate his newfound identity as the web slinging superhero in Spider-Man: Homecoming. Thrilled by his experience with the Avengers, Peter returns home, where he lives with his Aunt May, under the watchful eye of his new mentor Tony Stark, Peter tries to fall back into his normal daily routine

distracted by thoughts of proving himself to be more than just your friendly neighbourhood Spider-Man

Man but when the Vulture emerges as a new villain, everything that Peter holds most important will be threatened.

TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT | 12A | 169 MIN

Fri: 12.30, 19.00, Sat: 15.45, Sun: 12.30, 19.00, Mon: 12.30, 19.00, Tues: 12.30, 19.00, Wed: 12.30, 19.00, Thurs: 12.30, 19.00, Fri: 15.45, Sat: 12.30, Sun: 15.45, Mon: 15.45, Tues: 15.45, Wed: 15.45, Thurs: 15.45.

Optimus Prime finding his home planet, Cybertron, now a dead planet, which he comes to find he was responsible for killing. He finds a way to bring the planet back to life, but in order to do so he needs to find an artifact, and that artifact is on Earth.



Quite a crowd for the Drakes of Hazard display. 29_129 morvern 9



Heavyweights were not put off by the rain. 29_129 morvern 12



Brendan, the big drummer from The Keel Row, decides it cannot get any wetter. 29_129 morvern 6



The crowd was very hardy in Lochaline. 29_129 morvern 10



After everyone had dried off the party in the social club really got started. 29_129 morvern 16



Murdo MacKenzie with his working umbrella. 29_129 morvern 4



Mull and Iona Pipe Band found a dry-ish place to play. 29_129 morvern 11



The beer tent was packed. 29_129 morvern 15

Flamenco guitarist is to entertain at Craignish Village hall

CRAIGNISH Village Hall is only a few months into its 2017/18 arts programme but is already proving to be one of Argyll's top creative venues.

Following recent packed-out concerts, the music continues at Ardfern on Tuesday August 1 when flamenco jazz-fusion guitarist Eduardo Niebla makes a special appearance at Craignish on his tour.

In a career spanning four decades, Eduardo has collaborated with musicians across the globe including the late Lol Coxhill and pop musicians George Michael and Craig David.

As well as this, Eduardo has been acclaimed as one of the most potent forces in flamenco jazz-fusion. His highly lyrical style, with explorations into Indian, Arabic and classical music, has resulted in the most electrifying and poignantly poetic guitar playing on the world circuit.

His concert appearances have included the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, the Olympic Games in Greece and Glastonbury, as well as extensive concert tours around the world.

His concert appearances have included the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, the Olympic Games in Greece and Glastonbury, as well as extensive concert tours around the world.

Katherine Alvarez Management presents
Eduardo Niebla
with Matthew Robinson (guitar)

Craignish Village Hall
Ardfern
Tuesday 1st August 7.30pm
Tickets £10.00 & £6.00
01852 500746 craignish.org.uk

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THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- Rotating shaft in a tape recorder (7)
- Fish or weapons (5)
- Sausage dish (4-2-3-4)
- Break a law (7)
- Nervousness (6-7)
- Unusual thing (6)
- Shiny cotton fabric (6)
- Group together to worship (6,7)
- Posh sittingroom! (7)
- High nest (5)
- Risen edge (5)
- (Doing an activity) wildly (4,3)

Down

- Trick (5)
- Something very small (7)
- Blanket from North American Indians (6)
- Where to walk on board (9,4)
- Uniform shade (5)
- Offspring by marriage (7)
- Theoretically (2,5)
- Satirical poem (7)
- Unprincipled (6)
- Sharp (5)
- Avarice (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

Your local radio listings

OBAN Community Radio - your local radio station
Tune in to 103.3 or listen live at www.obanfm.com

For requests, competitions or questions please email: studio@obanfm.org.uk or call us on 01631 570057

MONDAY: 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 09:00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11:00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 13:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drivetime, 18:00 Drivetime, 19:00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20:00 John McLuckie's Show, 21:00 David Cullen Show, 23:00 station close, midnight Clyde 2

TUESDAY: 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 10:00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13:00 Macky on FM, 15:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 19:00 Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers, 20:00 Elaine Lamb, 22:00 Northern Soul with Gordon Cove, midnight Clyde 2.

WEDNESDAY: 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 09:00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10:00 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 11:00 Comfort Zone, 12:00 Comfort Zone, 13:00 Clyde 2 15:00 Elaine Lamb, 17:00 Drivetime, 17:30 Drivetime with Campbell Cameron, 19:00 Country Meets Rock & Roll with Len & Ken, 21:00 Gordon's Grooves, midnight Clyde 2.

THURSDAY: 08:00 Breakfast with Laura, 10:00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13:00 Elaine's Time Capsule, 15:00 Gordon Covey, 17:00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19:00 Christine's Collection, 21:00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22:00 Margo till midnight, midnight Clyde 2.

FRIDAY: 08:00 Breakfast with Laura, 10:00 Teeny and Tiny, 13:00 Clyde 2 16:30 Archie Darling, 18:00 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 19:00 New Country Show with David Entwhistle, 21:00 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott, 23:00 Station close, midnight Clyde 2.

SATURDAY: 08:00 Breakfast show with Archie Darling, 10:00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Cosher, 13:00 Clyde 2 18:00 Sports View with the Dream Team, 19:00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20:00 Dave Lewis, 22:00 Margo till midnight, midnight Clyde 2.

SUNDAY: 09:00 Sunday morning with Breege, 11:00 Sunday Morning with Archie, 12:00 Sunday Brunch, 13:00 Clyde 2 16:30 Archie Darling, 18:00 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 19:00 New Country Show with David Entwhistle, 21:00 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott, 23:00 Station close, midnight Clyde 2.

Arena

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

Tents and audiences are blown away at Tiree Music Festival

THE eighth Tiree Music Festival has been hailed as another fantastic success with thousands of people coming to be part of a fun-packed weekend of top class entertainment, good food and great craic.

Tiree Music Festival welcomed the most campers over its eight years, with an increased capacity family campsite, campervan site and glamping tents all being sold out. More campers than before also stayed on the island for the full five nights that the campsites were open.

The weekend finished with a day full of sunshine but the first night of the festival brought

with it rain and wind and a few campers were displaced due to their tents being affected by the weather.

Once again, TMF went out of its way to ensure these campers were re-homed and a large group from Bremen, London, Lesmahagow and Bridge of Allan were all provided with an alternative tent to sleep in on Friday and Saturday night before the TMF team helped them repair their own tent on Sunday.

The island's new Tyree Gin was officially launched at this year's festival and was such a hit with the TMF audience that the festival and every shop on the

island ran out of tonic. The new addition to the Hebridean gin is a true taste of Tiree with the flavour coming from six local botanicals.

The weekend kicked off on Friday with a full house for a number of local bands. The audience then enjoyed music from CalMac culture winners The Sea Atlas, enthusiastic five-piece Dosca, singer-songwriter Marianne Fraser, The Saw Doctors Anto, young and energetic folk band Heron Valley, Glasgow's Have Mercy Las Vegas, singer-songwriter Dean Owens and his trio, Ireland's Jig Jam, crowd-pleasers

Jam Sandwich and, finally, the night finished with a bang with the island's own Skipinnish.

Saturday welcomed Scottish legend Dougie MacLean, who is one of Scottish's longest serving performers with more than 40 years under his belt. On the newer end of her musical career, TMF also welcomed Tamzene, the first signing to new label Belladrum Records, who wowed the crowds with her amazing vocals. Tide Lines celebrated their first birthday with an energetic audience after performing their first gig at last year's festival. The second night drew to a close

with million selling British pop band Scouting for Girls who went down a storm.

Sunday opened with the sun shining and the legendary Gunna Sound revving up the crowd. England's Gentlemen of Few performed their last gig of the festival and Highland born accordionist and founding member of Mánran, Gary Innes performed.

Multi-award winning Skerryvore, who formed on Tiree in 2004, closed the festival with a lively crowd singing, cheering and foot-stomping.

As a preview to the festival TMF followed the journey of

some festival go-ers on the way to this year's festival, you can watch their journeys to the beautiful island here - <https://youtu.be/iMzLYFBE65M>

TMF director Stewart MacLennan said: 'This year has been amazing. The audience has been one of the best yet and the acts that performed have been unforgettable.'

'The sunshine finally came out for us but we were really pleased to be able to help the campers who needed it on Friday night. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our 100-strong team of volunteers, some of whom took a number of the tent-less fam-

ilies into their own homes on Friday night. Without them, the festival would not be possible and we really can't thank them enough.'

The full 2017 line-up included Scouting for Girls, Dougie MacLean, FunBox, Skipinnish, Skerryvore, Tide Lines, Siobhan Miller, Gary Innes, JigJam, Gunna Sound, Trail West, Heron Valley, Gentlemen of Few, Have Mercy Las Vegas, Dean Owens and The Whisky Hearts, Dosca, Jam Sandwich, Cornaig Ceilidh Band, Dùn Mòr, The Defenders, Tamzene, Sophie Rogers, Marianne Fraser and The Sea Atlas.

The eighth year of the Tiree Music Festival 2017. Photographs by Alan Peebles.



Glasgow Letter

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



Sir Francis Chichester, on becoming the first person to circumnavigate the world single-handedly in a sailing boat, was asked to name the quality to which he attributed his success. His answer? Gin.

And he added that the saddest day of his whole nine-month trip was the day he ran out of his favourite tippie. Ian Smith and Alain Campbell, two of my good friends down here in Glasgow, best known perhaps for their starring roles in West Coast band Trail West, have embarked on their own metaphorical journey as they launched their latest venture: Tyree Gin.

After pre-orders sensationally sold out, the product was officially launched at the weekend at Tiree Music Festival.

Gin, of course, is experiencing something of a Scottish renaissance at present - particularly in the Hebrides. Since The Botanist burst onto the scene from Islay in 2011 and quickly found its place behind most bars in the country, there have been popular gins emerging from Harris, Jura, Skye and Colonsay - which now has two different gins.

There will also soon be a Barra gin and, thanks to Ian and Alain, of course, Tyree

Gin is very much on the horizon.

Were Sir Francis Chichester alive today, he would surely be wishing he had circumnavigated the Hebrides rather than the world - as there would certainly have been no fear of his running out of gin. You may be thinking that the Island of Tiree is more synonymous with whisky than with gin - and you'd be right. It is said that the island was once home to no fewer than 50 distillers.

Tiree Whisky Company Ltd was originally formed by Ian and Alain to preserve and promote this whisky heritage, with a view to re-establishing

the connection the island once had with the Scotch whisky industry.

The company's first product, The Cairnsmuir (a limited edition 19-year-old Highland single malt whisky, named after an iron-screw steamer that ran aground off Hough on Tiree in 1885 while carrying a 100-ton cargo of spirits and beer), was such a resounding success that the boys were inspired to produce a bottling of gin.

Many may question why there are suddenly so many Hebridean gins but, if you ask me, it has been a long time coming. Gin has always been a drink suitable for islanders.

Just ask the Philippines. These islands account for almost half the world's annual gin consumption - going through 25 million cases of the stuff each year. That is staggering - especially if drunk all at once.

Joking aside, I know Ian and Alain have used their profound knowledge and deep understanding of the history and culture of their native island to create a gin of which fellow islanders will be very proud. I wish the two of them all the best for this exciting venture - and, to all those who either pre-ordered or grabbed a bottle or two at TMF: slàinte mhath!



BBC ALBA

A' cur 's a' Buain

Listings for Thursday 20 July - Thursday 27 July 2017

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

- The rivalry between Airbus and Boeing
23.30 **Ceòlraidh** (rpt)

DIHAOINE 21 IUCHAR FRIDAY 21 JULY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
18.35 **Machair** (rpt)
19.00 **An Là** - News
19.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
19.30 **O Mo Dhùthaich** (rpt)
20.00 **Look Stranger**: Gigha and Rhum (rpt)
20.45 **Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber** (rpt)
21.00 **Jock Stein** - Award winning story of the miner, the man and the football legend (rpt)
21.40 **Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber** (rpt)
22.00 **Ceòl Country** (rpt)
23.00 **UR | NEW**: An Klondike - Dominion Creek - Drama, S1, Ep1
23.50 **Dhan Uisge** - Loch Coruisk (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 22 IUCHAR SATURDAY 22 JULY
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Machair** (rpt)
19.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
19.30 **Craic** - Women's panel discussion (rpt)
20.00 **Ceòlraidh** (rpt)
20.25 **Binneas** - Na Trads (rpt)
20.30 **Puirt-adhair** - S1, Ep5 (rpt)
21.00 **Ceòl Country** (rpt)
22.00 **Jock Stein** - Award winning story of the miner, the man and the football legend (rpt)
23.00 **An Klondike** - Dominion Creek - Drama, S1, Ep1 (rpt)
23.50 **Eadar-chluich** (rpt)
00.00 **Gun Sgot?** (rpt)

DIDOMHNAICH 23 IUCHAR SUNDAY 23 JULY
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
18.30 **UR | NEW**: Geamannan nan

Eilean 2017 - A look back at the Island Games 2017
19.00 **Seachd Là** - News Review
19.30 **Alleluia!** (rpt)
20.00 **Bean a' Mhinisteir** - A look behind the door of the Manse (rpt)
20.30 **Eileanan Fraoich** - Heather Dewar visits Colonsay (rpt)
21.00 **Farpaisean chon-chorrach** - Sheepdog Trials (rpt)
22.00 **Ceòl Country** (rpt)
23.00 **Aghaidh ri Aghaidh** - The rivalry between Airbus and Boeing (rpt)
23.50 **Dhan Uisge** - Loch Coruisk (rpt)

DILUAIN 24 IUCHAR MONDAY 24 JULY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Turas a' Bhradain** (rpt)
19.30 **Beul Chainnt** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **O Mo Dhùthaich** - From Uist with Love (rpt)
21.00 **Trusadh** - Coltach ris an

t-saoghal - Exploring options for young adults with Autism (rpt)
22.00 **Hòro Gheallaidh** (rpt)
22.30 **Gruth is Uachdar** - A timeless rite-of-passage story about a young boy in Harris. Ep3/3 (rpt)
23.30 **Cuide ri Cathy** - Keith Duffy (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 25 IUCHAR TUESDAY 25 JULY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Gach Creutair Beò** - Vets (rpt)
19.30 **Beul Chainnt** - (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **Puirt-adhair** - Highland Airports (rpt)
21.00 **Farpaisean Chon-chorrach** - Sheepdog Trials (rpt)
22.00 **Trusadh** - Coltach ris an t-saoghal - Exploring options for young adults with Autism (rpt)
23.00 **Craic** - Women's panel discussion (rpt)
23.30 **Alleluia!** (rpt)

DICIADAIN 26 IUCHAR WEDNESDAY 26 JULY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Turas a' Bhradain** (rpt)
19.30 **Beul Chainnt** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **Bean a' Mhinisteir** - A look at life behind the door of the Manse (rpt)
21.00 **Nationwide an Alba** - An Taobh an Iar (rpt)
22.00 **Buskers** (rpt)
22.30 **Hòro Gheallaidh** (rpt)
23.00 **Peter Tobin** - Murtair Bitheanta (rpt)
23.50 **Binneas** - Na Trads (rpt)

DIARDAIN 27 IUCHAR THURSDAY 27 JULY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Gach Creutair Beò**: Vets (rpt)
19.30 **Beul Chainnt** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **Eileanan Fraoich** - Heather Dewar visits Mull (rpt)
21.00 **Angus Sinclair** - An Dà Chunnart? (rpt)
21.55 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
22.00 **UR | NEW**: Belladrum 2016 - Bombskare
22.30 **UR | NEW**: Dhan Uisge - Easdale
22.40 **UR | NEW**: Aghaidh ri Aghaidh - The rivalry between Castro and Guevara
23.30 **Ceòlraidh** (rpt)

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Singer songwriter Marianne Fraser gets a little help from her young friends Xander, three, and Ollie, four, on the way to her performance on opening day of this year's Tirie Music Festival.



Scouting for Girls playing the main stage at the 8th year of the Tirie Music Festival.



Dougie MacLean during his set at the Tirie Music Festival.



Roy Stride of Scouting for Girls was a crowd-pleaser.



Enjoying the sunshine and games.



Having a great time watching Scouting for Girls.



Dancing in the sunshine.

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For more information please contact:
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01631 562168 info@northargyllhouse.org
www.northargyllhouse.org

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Bean an Taighe: Ishbel Banks **Piper:** Emma Hill
Morag MacNeil, Fumiko Millar, Graeme Campbell
Rosie Stevenson & Sara Melville - Fiddle
Neil Angus - Accordion, Rebecca Hill - Clàrsach
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 Please tick this box if you would like to be sent offers and promotions from Wyvex Media.
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Closing date is August 31 2017. Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Usual Wyvex Media rules apply.

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Brendan O'Hara and Fergus Murray visit the new transit berths in Oban with Michelle Van der Stighelen, the MP's parliamentary assistant, and Kirsteen McDonald, project manager, Oban berths.

MP in talks on economic regeneration of Oban area

ARGYLL and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara has met Argyll and Bute Council's economic development team leader Fergus Murray to discuss initiatives to boost the area's economy.

Mr O'Hara and Mr Murray met in Oban to tour the various redevelopment projects under way in and around Oban and Connel, including the new transit berthing facility, proposed housing redevelopment and the prominent and recent aquaculture investments in the Argyll coastline.

Mr O'Hara said: 'I was delighted to see the work already well under way to reinvigorate Oban and the surrounding area.

The future for what is after all a university town is inspirational.

'Argyll and Bute is probably one of the best placed constituencies to take advantage of the boom in marine tourism, our coastline exceeding that of the whole of France. It stands to reason that our economy should take advantage of all that our marine environment has to offer.

'Not only do we have an exceptionally scenic coastline and townships but also our access to an immense natural resource that our surrounding waters can offer. The developments in and around Oban is nothing short of inspiring.

'I do feel Argyll and Bute is on

the cusp of becoming a beacon for marine and maritime industries, while retaining our heritage assets. What's not to like?

'Working in tandem with other agencies such as Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the future and potential for the second biggest constituency in the UK is immense.

'Oban has a distinct buzz about it. Things are happening and I'm really excited for the town. Of course, there are many challenges - but if we all get behind the potential of the town and have a realistic conversation about what the challenges are and how to address them, everyone stands to benefit.'

Interface: connecting businesses

Do you want to create or develop a new product, service or process to take your business forward, but need help to overcome some of the technicalities or de-risk the idea? If so, Interface could help you.

Interface connects businesses and organisations to Scottish universities, research institutions and colleges that can best provide the knowledge you need.

This free and impartial matchmaking service started in Scotland in 2005 and is designed to save businesses time and money. It has already helped hundreds of organisations across all sectors, including tourism, creative industries, energy and food and drink, to increase their profits, maximise their exports, and become more competitive in the marketplace.

Lorraine Thomson, who heads up Interface's Highlands and Islands team explained: 'We have worked with many businesses and organisations across the region and the feedback has been positive about their experiences of partnering with academics. We would love to help more local businesses meet their goals in this way.'

Among the businesses Lorraine and the team have supported are Craine Communications, Johnnie Mac's Oysters, Zing Organics and Staffin Community Trust which were connected with Heriot-Watt University, Scotland's Rural College, University of Strathclyde and The University

of the Highlands and Islands respectively, for different projects to develop their business or organisation.

With the team travelling widely to meet business owners, you don't even have to leave your premises - they can come to you. And you can work with any one of the 23 universities or research institutions in Scotland, as well as colleges.

Lorraine explained: 'We are really fortunate in this country to have some of the world's top performing universities; five Scottish universities are listed in the world's top 200 and eight in the top 50 in the UK - and they want to work with businesses large and small all over Scotland.'

'People sometimes think of research and development as being just for large corporates, however we have matched the very small microbusinesses to academic expertise many times with really positive results for both the business and the academic institution,' said Lorraine.

Interface has introduced more than 2,500 businesses from across Scotland to academic partners, and almost a quarter had less than 10 employees.

'We are here to support businesses through their collaboration with academic expertise and make the process of finding a suitable partner as straight-forward as possible; we really are matchmakers for businesses,' Lorraine added.

From kitchen table enterpris-



Lorraine Thomson.

es to family-run companies, academics are seeking many businesses to partner with. And it is more than just academic expertise on offer; business can also access specialist facilities. 3D printers, microscopy, human performance labs, wave tanks, virtual reality and textile printing are just some of the types of facilities and equipment that are available to help your business to grow.

All you have to do is contact Interface. The team will establish your needs and prepare a brief which will be shared among the appropriate departments within universities. Those that are keen to help, register interest and you choose the best match for your needs.

The impacts of business-academic collaboration range from increasing turnover, reaching new markets, being able to take on more staff, launching

new products, saving money on processes or improving services. Universities really benefit from real business interaction as well as they can apply their world leading research in the commercial world.

More than three-quarters of businesses that collaborate with academic expertise report an increase or expected increase in turnover and many continue to partner with academics, progressing feasibility studies or looking at further aspects of developing a product.

Also, 83 per cent of businesses collaborating with academia recorded reduced operating costs, increased productivity, profits, export, turnover or new/safeguarded employment. For areas where the economy is fragile, academic collaborations are making an important contribution.

The Interface team can help with information about funding options to offset the cost of collaborating with academia ranging from funding aimed at early stage feasibility studies and testing, to support for larger projects.

For more information on Interface please visit www.interface-online.org.uk/oban-times, or contact the team in Inverness: Lorraine.Thomson@interface-online.org.uk tel: 01463 245263 (for businesses in Argyll and the Isles) or Carol-Ann.Adams@interface-online.org.uk tel: 01463 245262 (for businesses in Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross).

Highland Blast joins Guild of Master Craftsmen



Volvo a25c - dumper

Highland Blast, a mobile abrasive blasting and coating service based in Drumna-dochit, is the first business of its kind to become a member of the Guild of Master Craftsmen.

This family-owned business provides a full range of blasting and coating services, from stone and timber rejuvenation to heavy plant work throughout the Highlands and Islands and further afield.

'We were delighted to pass

every stage of assessment with top marks on all aspects. It's amazing to know we are the first abrasive blasting and coatings company in Scotland to achieve such a prestigious accolade. We work super hard, so having that title not just for us, but for a Highland business, we are very proud indeed.'

Sarah and Dominic formed Highland Blast in 2013 after Dominic, who worked offshore, spotted a gap in the market for doing his trade onshore, and started doing it part-time. 'Then, as time went on, and Highland Blast got busier and offshore got quieter, it made perfect sense to have Highland Blast running full-time,' Sarah said. 'Dominic built a good reputation for being a hard worker and for knowing his stuff in his industry.'

Sarah has an impressive

marketing background, and takes care of the business end of Highland Blast. 'I like to think I'm letting people know what abrasive blasting actually is and its benefits. Lots of people have heard of blasting, but haven't got a clue what it is or how it can be beneficial to them as a service. I hope I'm showing people that our services are suitable for regular people, as well as commercial and industrial clients.'

Even the couple's four daughters help out on occasion. 'It's a complete family affair,' Sarah shared. 'Having four children is all fun and games at the best of times, let alone adding a business in the mix! We hope we are showing them you have to be pro-active to achieve your goals.'

Dominic is usually on each project himself from start to finish, working with clients all over Scotland. 'One week we could be doing stone

I find it rewarding when people say abrasive blasting or coating is something they have wanted done for ages, but didn't know it was possible or how to go about it until they heard of Highland Blast.

rejuvenation on someone's family home on Mull, or maybe a rally car shell blast for

a young lad in Aberdeenshire or there could be someone wanting us to blast some cast-iron bench ends at our base in Inverness for them to upcycle, paint themselves and sell on to make some cash towards their child's school trip.'

Dominic can add beauty and value to most any surface. He can restore stone and brickwork to its former colour and glory without losing its integrity, by removing unwanted paint or rendering, surface or fire damage or graffiti - perfect for residential homes, churches or B&Bs. Using oak beam blasting, he can achieve the client's exact shade and texture specifications. They also serve heavy plant and seasonal marine needs, with new services being added all the time.

'Every client is completely different, wanting projects done for different reasons,' Sarah explained. 'I find it rewarding when people say abrasive blasting or coating is something they have

wanted done for ages, but didn't know it was possible or how to go about it until they heard of Highland Blast.'

'Along with lots of other Highland businesses, we hope to show to people you can receive a top quality service at a good price and live in the Highlands. When you get in touch with Highland Blast, you will deal with either me or Dominic - no middle man in a Glasgow office, who knows nothing about the area or the people. Highland Blast is our business, we are the face of it and we are accountable for every aspect of it. Every job we carry out, we are proud to put our name to it.'

Highland Blast offers free site visits and quotes throughout the Highlands and Islands, as well as the rest of Scotland. Visit them at www.highland-blast.co.uk, join them at www.facebook.com/highlandblastltd, on Twitter and Instagram @Highland_Blast or email them at mail@highlandblast.co.uk or call 07717 487 889.



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- Red sandstone blasting
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- 3.5 tonne dumper truck
- 40 foot low loader
- Paint Removal / Stone Rejuvenation
- Upcycled mangle
- Corroded steel beam blast and prime
- Rally car shell blasting
- Farming plant and equipment refurb
- Sandstone window recess blasting
- Massey Ferguson full blast and re-coat



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WHYW celebrates its 70th birthday!



WEST Highland Yachting Week (WHYW) celebrates its 70th anniversary this year and the regatta, running from July 28 to August 4, is set for a spectacular birthday party, both on and off the water.



WEST Highland Yachting Week (WHYW) celebrates its 70th anniversary this year and the regatta, running from July 28 to August 4, is set for a spectacular birthday party, both on and off the water.

Set in the stunning surroundings of the Argyll coast, WHYW is a leading international yachting event and offers a winning combination of round the buoys and passage racing, complemented by an excellent après sail social programme.

Tunnock's remains the major sponsor of WHYW for this special birthday year with support from Argyll and Bute Council, Malin Waters, Tobermory Harbour Association, Owen Sails, Gael Force Marine Equipment, Scottish Canals, Birlinn Books and West Coast Motors.

Over the 70 years of the event, WHYW has always tried to offer something for everyone. From highly competitive racing with a full points series, to the opportunity to take part for just a day or two, the event can appeal to those who just enjoy passage sailing or want to try competitive racing for the first

time. In addition, competitors can choose to race with or without spinnakers for the series.

Event flexibility has therefore been at the heart of the WHYW success story as is the format of being a 'moving regatta' with passage races linking all three ports of call – Craobh, Oban and Tobermory. The event gives the opportunity for all the family to take part, either in the non-spinnaker classes – the Argyll fleet – or for those seeking on the edge competition in the spinnaker classes – the Tunnock's fleet.

All yachts muster at Craobh Marina for the start of the regatta. The feeder race from the Clyde has been re-instated for the 70th event with yachts sailing from Largs to Ardrishaig. Yachts then make passage through the Crinan Canal to Craobh. Scottish Canals is offering a 10 per cent discount for outward and return passages through the Crinan Canal for all entries. Also on offer will be a special prize from Scottish Canals for the winner of the Clyde Feeder on handicap. Those coming from Ireland and the south can take advantage of the Gigha race to Craobh with the northern placed yachts racing to Craobh from Oban.

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A warm welcome to all

Craobh Marina manager Alastair Spence said: 'Holt Leisure Parks, and the Craobh Marina staff, are again honoured to be accommodating the fleet for two nights at the opening of this special anniversary West Highland Yachting Week.'

'As always, we wish the race committee, the sponsors and all the behind the scenes volunteers a very successful week and thank them all for their labours and support. A warm welcome is afforded to all and we remind all competitors that if they require any kind of assistance or have any special requirements, please be relaxed at approaching any of the marina staff who will be in attendance to ensure a memorable time is had by all.'

Facilities for yachts before and after the regatta are also available at nearby Kilmelford, Crinan and Ardfern.

It is perhaps the camaraderie of the event that is so striking.

With an après sail social programme that extends its appeal to all ages across the week, there is a range of activity to enjoy. From ceilidhs to barbecues, an open mic night to family swimming as well as general boat to boat socialising, the event is as alive off the water as it is during the day's racing activities. Seventy years of sailing amid stunning West Coast scenery bringing people together with a common aim will be celebrated in style for 2017.

Change in racing format for Sunday and the Round Lismore Race returns.

For the 70th anniversary, there will also be a change in format for racing off Craobh Marina on the first day. While the Argyll fleet will circumnavigate Shuna Island, the Tunnock's spinnaker fleet race on a Round the Buoys course to the south of Craobh.

Enhancing the 70th race programme this year is the return of the popular Round Lismore Race from Oban – an island circumnavigation held only when tidal conditions allow.

The Joint Regatta Committee is inviting everyone who has taken part in the past and those who would like to be part of this historic event in 2017 to come onboard for a very special 70th birthday party.

Chairman Andy Knox said: 'We look forward to welcoming familiar faces as well as those who are new to the event to celebrate WHYW 70. We already have participants from all over the UK and beyond taking part in this amazing event.'

'Not only is WHYW a unique regatta to be part of but it brings a significant revenue boost to all the local communities of the area.'



An auspicious history

WHYW traces its history back to 1882 when the newly formed Royal Highland Yacht Club held its first regatta in Oban. These were successful events with only two classes – one for yachts under 40 tons and the other for those over 40 tons! The regatta provided a great spectacle in Oban Bay. Oban Sailing Club, formed in 1935, also started an annual regatta as did Western Isles Yacht Club, formed in 1936.

In 1947, a decision was made to bring all the regattas together into one event organised by a Joint Regatta Committee (JRC). The new six-day event was called West Highland Yachting Week and is what we know today.

The early regattas had a feeder race from Crinan to Oban and a day in Oban. Joining with Western Isles Yacht Club the race to Tobermory started and the 'moving regatta' from one port of call to another with a race day off each, was born. Due to changes in the aims of the Western Isles Yacht Club, they no longer form part of the JRC.

Today the fleet musters at Craobh Marina instead of Crinan with the fleet spending two days here. In the early days classics like Dragons, Cruiser-8s, GP14s and many one-off boats made up the fleet. The modern fleet of today presents a different picture with up to ten classes racing separately on handicap.

Tunnock's head up WHYW 70

In 1980, West Highland Yachting Week entered into a 30-year-long sporting partnership with Tennent Caledonian Breweries, probably the longest sponsorship ever of a yachting event.

In more recent years, the JRC has formed a firm association with Tunnock's who have acted as the main

sponsor of the regatta and the famous Scottish biscuit manufacturers will be the headline sponsors of the 70th anniversary event. Additional sponsorship is provided by Argyll and Bute Council from which the Argyll fleet takes its title, and Tobermory Harbour Association. More recently support has been added from Owen

Sails, Malin Waters, Gael Force Marine Equipment, Scottish Canals, Dunstaffnage Marina, Webcraft UK Ltd and Birlinn Books.

Boyd Tunnock CBE, grandson of the founder Thomas Tunnock, has been a regular and successful WHYW competitor in his Moody 38 Lemerac.

He said: 'We are delighted to be associated with WHYW 70 and will be providing each competing boat with the famous Tunnock's survival pack of biscuits – something that each competitor should not be without. This will be a special event to mark the anniversary and everyone is very much looking forward to it.'

The Joint Regatta Committee

Andy Knox chairs the current Joint Regatta Committee (JRC) with his wife Ruth as treasurer. Eric Chapman is vice-chairman and Douglas Newton the event secretary. They oversee a strong JRC committee from participating clubs. The members input a huge amount of work throughout the year to make WHYW the regatta it is.





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Family friendly

Although the earliest days of WHYW saw the tradition of male-dominated racing, the later inclusion of white sail classes allowed women and the family to come along and be part of the week. Today WHYW is noted as one of the UK's leading family-friendly events with several boats boasting three family generations that have taken part.

This popular mix of the serious and the not so serious continues the tradition begun at the very first regatta in 1882 when, in addition to yacht racing, the event included rowing races and ended with a 'duck hunt' – a sort of pursuit race.

In the evening, yacht owners and their guests attended a huge Highland ball that mirrors the prize-giving dances of today. This is perhaps not quite the dazzling event of those early

years, with the guests in their full finery, but it is not so easy to carry full Highland dress aboard today's somewhat smaller yachts.

In days of yesteryear, it would only have been the owners attending the ball – the paid crews would have entertained themselves at the local public house. The pub tradition still continues – now for owners and crew alike – with the added entertainment of a wide-ranging social programme to accompany the 'craic' and camaraderie that is so much part of WHYW. The regatta celebrated a golden and diamond jubilee with more than 200 yachts competing in these memorable events. Now, having been on the crest of a wave for 70 years, the JRC eagerly looks forward to celebrating the platinum jubilee.

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The race team

The event is renowned for its excellent race organisation. The race team is headed up by principal race officer Malcolm MacGregor, who has been involved for more than 10 years. Malcolm was last year awarded the prestigious Endeavour Trophy for his commitment to WHYW over such a long period.

Malcolm said: 'We are all looking forward to this year's regatta. WHYW offers such a variety of racing to suit everyone and we are delighted to welcome back so many previous competitors plus all the newcomers. From

the race team point of view, we are pleased the tides enable us to run the popular Round Lismore Race and, in order to compensate the spinnaker classes for the loss of the Round the Buoys races off Oban, we will have a day of competitive racing off Craobh on Sunday. We hope everyone enjoys this 70th birthday event.'

A past winner of the Endeavour award and one who has had more than 40 years involvement with the event is Julia Heap. Julia first became involved alongside her parents, Roger and Liliias, who previously headed

up the event organisation. She took over the secretary's post in her own right when her father retired in the eighties.

Julia now oversees the organisation of the race team and is a familiar face to regular competitors. Well-kent David Wilkie, a past commodore of RHYC, is race officer for the white sail Argyll fleet with David Preston also helping with the event. The race team volunteers give up their week's holiday to run the racing. The organisation and course setting is heralded as second to none by all competitors.



Photographs at WHYW 70

Ron and Graeme Cowan, the well-known yachting photographers of Yachting Images, will once again be at West Highland Yachting Week for the event.

Selections of their photographs from last year are on www.yachtingimages.co.uk as well as www.whyw.co.uk. This year video clips will also be made.

To mark the 70th year of the regatta, competitors will be able to download free of charge jpeg files of the photographs taken at the 2017 event by Ron and Graeme Cowan of www.yachtingimages.co.uk for a period of four weeks after all the photographs

are identified and named. Ron and Graeme have covered the event since 2009 and this year they will also be producing a series of short videos of each day's racing.

If you have a particular query about your boat picture contact Ron or Graeme either via the website or Ronald M. Cowan ABIP, Incorporated Photographer, 85 Eastwoodmains Road, Clarkston, Glasgow, G76 7HG For further details, please contact ron@yachtingimages.co.uk.

Full information on WHYW 70 on www.whyw.co.uk and www.facebook.com/WestHighlandYachtingWeek.

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West Highland Yachting Week Sailing Programme 2017

SUNDAY 30TH JULY

The Craobh race

The Craobh race marks the start of the points series for the week and all yachts race off Craobh in Loch Melfort. The Tunnock's fleet will race a Round the Buoys course to the south while the Argyll fleet will circumnavigate the island of Shuna.

MONDAY 31ST JULY

Craobh to Oban Passage Race sponsored by Owen Sails

This passage race must rate as one of the most scenic in the world over the 20-mile course taking in a mix of island and mainland scenery including the tidal races between Fladda and Luig. The finish is to the north of Kerrera.

TUESDAY 1ST AUGUST

Round Lismore Race

All yachts circumnavigate the island of Lismore.

WEDNESDAY 2ND AUGUST

Oban to Tobermory Race sponsored by Gael Force Marine Equipment

The Oban to Tobermory passage race is probably the most popular race of the week Tobermory is an iconic destination for sailors offering renowned hospitality for WHYW competitors. Stunning scenery complements the racing against the backdrop of the island of Mull and the Morvern peninsula.

THURSDAY 3RD AUGUST

Sound of Mull Races

The Tunnock's fleet race two Olympic style courses in an area bounded by Rubha nan Gall and Mingary Bay while the Argyll fleet race out to Kilchoan, Ardmore, Quinish Point and Ardnacross Bay before sailing south to the Green Isle and back to Tobermory Bay.

FRIDAY 4TH AUGUST

Tobermory to Oban Race sponsored by Thomas Tunnock Ltd

The final day's racing marks the end of the regatta with the fleet heading to Oban down the Sound of Mull. This race is the final one to decide the Points Series for the week. The final prize-giving is this year being held at Dunstaffnage Marina.

WHYW 70 - SOCIAL PROGRAMME

WHYW 70 sees an improved social programme for everyone. Craobh is the setting for the grand opening party hosted by the Lord of the Isles (LOTI) on Saturday as the fleet muster. As goes hand in hand with traditional highland hospitality there will be a range of food on offer from hog roasts to special WHYW dinners. Music and games add spice to a famous 'get together' party with the famed LOTI camaraderie and traditional fireworks to round off the evening. A special anniversary prize giving reception on Tuesday of the week will be held in The Argyllshire Gathering Halls in Oban whilst in Tobermory there is the return of the much loved Tobermory ceilidh dance in the Aros Hall.

FRIDAY 28TH JULY

Isle of Gigha Boathouse Restaurant - a bottle of wine and a seafood platter to each table of four competitors on the evening of Friday 28th July prior to start of Gigha to Craobh feeder race the following morning. Tel 01583 505123.

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The Joint Regatta Committee gratefully acknowledges the support of all sponsors ensuring the success of the 70th West Highland Yachting Week.



TUNNOCK'S

World renowned biscuit makers, Tunnock's is the major sponsor of WHYW and the 70th anniversary year of the event marks a decade of support from Tunnock's for this special regatta. The unique range of Tunnock's products complements what is internationally recognised as a 'unique moving' regatta. When the yachts race in separate fleets, the spinnaker classes are known as the Tunnock's fleet. Tunnock's also sponsor the Tobermory to Oban passage race on the final day of the event and award the Thomas Tunnock Trophy for the winner in IRC Class 3 on Friday.

The Lemarac Cup is also awarded on Thursday in recognition of the support given by

Thomas Tunnock Ltd. The famous Tunnock's survival boxes will be given out to each boat to mark WHYW 70 and many yachts do not set sail without a healthy supply of teacakes and caramel wafers! Boyd Tunnock CBE, managing director and grandson of the founder of Thomas Tunnock Ltd, has been a regular competitor at West Highland Yachting Week in his aptly named Moody Lemara* (caramel spelled backwards).

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

The restricted sail classes are known as the Argyll fleet on the days the yacht fleets race separately pointing up the many years of support Argyll and Bute Council has given to the

event. This is in recognition of the economic and community benefit the regatta brings to Oban, Craobh and Tobermory. WHYW is a community event as well as a racing regatta with social events open to the public. The regatta, or yacht week as it is known, is a real attraction for locals and visitors with businesses recognising the economic input to the area over the week. WHYW welcomes the generous support from Argyll and Bute Council to keep WHYW on a winning course.

MALIN WATERS

MalinWaters.com is delighted to support WHYW, one of Scotland's most celebrated sailing events and in particular in its 70th

anniversary year. WHYW has introduced many people to the unforgettable beauty of the Scottish Malin Waters region. Malin Waters support is in keeping with the commitment to nurturing the development of marine and coastal activity in particular sailing in the Malin Waters regions.

Malin Waters wish all those taking part the very best of luck and look forward to many more annual WHYW events. The event is a significant addition to the Malin Waters maritime calendar of events for 2017 and one which they are very pleased to support.

Malin Waters is funded by the Malin Waters partnership consortium covering the shared maritime waters of North West Ireland including Donegal & Sligo, the maritime counties of

Northern Ireland and Western Scotland. Malin Waters promotes opportunities for sailing, surfing, diving, kayaking as well as other water based activities as well as providing innovation in the development of new marine tourism products and services. Visit www.malinwaters.com for more information.

TOBERMORY HARBOUR ASSOCIATION

The Tobermory Harbour Association (THA) looks forward to welcoming crews for West Highland Yachting Week 2017. The fleet has access to anchorage, moorings and pontoon berths with full facilities as well as fantastic onshore facilities in the Taigh Solais building, including showers, toilets and laundry room. In

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the past few years, THA has installed several new moorings, including two in the beautiful Aros Bay, and is in the process of building a new extension to the pontoons. Ashore, the picnic benches next to a new shelter are well used by all and the aquarium inside the Taigh Solais building is now a major visitor attraction on the island being the first catch-and-release aquarium in Europe. THA has a friendly and expert team of staff, always happy and obliging to help and has been a supporter of WHYW for many years.

OWEN SAILS

Owen Sails, Scotland's largest sail maker and one of the major players in the UK market, is famous not only for sails for racing and cruising but production of a wide range of covers and upholstery as well as repair and rigging services. Owen Sails is delighted to assist with prizes for this year's event. Owen Sails is supporting West Highland Yachting Week throughout the event with repair services aimed at keeping all afloat for the duration.

Gael Force Marine Equipment

Gael Force Marine Equipment claims to be the fastest growing marine equipment supplier in the UK, stocking one of the widest ranges of leisure boating, commercial fishing and aquaculture products available anywhere in the land. Gael Force has marine outlets across the UK with their flagship Marine Megastore in Inverness, a Marine Centre in Glasgow serving leisure and commercial customers on the West of Scotland and a commercial outlet on the south coast in Plymouth. To add to this, they have a team of field representatives offering customer service and product

expertise right across the UK. Gael Force is delighted to be supporting West Highland Yachting Week with many of its customer base involved in taking part in the event. Gael Force looks forward to a continuing strong partnership with one of Scotland's premier yachting events.

DUNSTAFFNAGE MARINA

Dunstaffnage Marina is hugely excited to be part of the 70th anniversary of West Highland Yachting Week. The marina has a discounted competitors' berthing rate for the duration of the week, coupled with a range of discounted Dubarry items within the chandlery. With the recently completed berthing extension there will be plenty space for all involved. Dunstaffnage also has an engineering department to assist with any last-minute repairs. The marina team look forward to meeting everyone involved!

WEST COAST MOTORS

West Coast Motors is again providing a special transport service between Dunstaffnage and Oban to link up with après sail events when the fleet is in town. West Coast Motors has been bringing people together via their transport system since 1923 much as WHYW has been attracting sailors for 70 years. A bus and ferry timetable is included in competitors' packs.

WEBCRAFT UK LTD

Webercraft UK Ltd has been in the web design business in Scotland for more than 20 years. Originally based in Aberdeenshire, they moved to Oban in 2003 largely because of the

owner's interest in sailing. They have seen the internet go from dial-up to fibre, from Front Page to WordPress and from HTML to CSS, javascript and PHP. Working almost exclusively with WordPress now, the world's most widely used content management system, they offer attractive search engine friendly sites hosted on UK servers with rapid response, personal support and back-up you can rely on. Webercraft is delighted to support this prestigious yachting event by providing web hosting, email facilities and technical support.

SCOTTISH CANALS

Scottish Canals is supporting the 70th anniversary event with a 10 per cent canal discount in each direction for those taking part in the Clyde feeder race from Largs to Ardrishaig. Scottish Canals is offering a free return passage to the winner of this race.

BIRLINN LIMITED

Birlinn Limited is an independent publishing house based in Edinburgh. Established in 1992 by managing director Hugh Andrew, Birlinn Limited is composed of a number of imprints, including: Birlinn, which publishes Scottish and general UK interest books, from biography to history, military history, and Scottish Gaelic; Polygon, publishes literary fiction and poetry, both classic and modern; BC Books is dedicated to publishing children's books; Arena Sport is a sport imprint and is designed for the general trade; and John Donald publishes academic books. Birlinn has kindly donated a number of copies of *Scotland - Mapping the Islands*, which will be presented within the special trophies category for the week.



West Highland Yachting Week

Social Scene 2017

SATURDAY 29TH JULY

Craobh Marina & Lord of the Isles Pub & Restaurant - grand opening party
Food, live music with Mudslide. Outside catering from Argyll New dining marquee, WHYW dinners - booking essential at LOTI 01852 500 658. Breakfast rolls available.

SUNDAY 30TH JULY

Craobh Marina & Lord of the Isles Pub & Restaurant - The Party continues....
Food, live music with Hollow Mountain String Band. Outside catering from Argyll Hog Roasts. Breakfast rolls available.

MONDAY 31ST JULY

Oban Sailing Club - Early evening Barbecue Party: Burger and Bar at Oban Sailing Club 1830hrs to 2030hrs
The Wide Mouthed Frog, Dunstaffnage Marina - Restaurant: special menu www.widemouthedfrogofficialsite.co.uk
Skipinnish Ceilidh House & Night Club

www.facebook.com/SkippinshOban
Oban Marina - The Waypoint Bar and Grill 1800hrs to 2300hrs

TUESDAY 1ST AUGUST

Argyllshire Gathering Halls Oban - 70th Anniversary Prize giving and Dance
Doors open at 2000hrs followed by Prizegiving at 2100hrs. Dancing from 2130hrs to 2400hrs with Stillwater Band - 70s theme. Special prize for the best seventies outfit. Bring along you flares and let your hair grow long....
The Wide Mouthed Frog, Dunstaffnage Marina. Bar open till midnight. Selection of bar meals/dinners.
Bacon rolls and coffee for Wednesday am - pre-order at bar or 01631 567005
Oban Marina - The Waypoint Bar and Grill 1800hrs - to 2300hrs
Atlantis Leisure - Free family swimming 18.00hrs to 20.00hrs - The chance to go swimming with all the family at Atlantis. Relax in this excellent pool after a hard day's racing.

Other facilities ie gym, sauna, classes are all available at Atlantis Leisure Centre at cost.

WEDNESDAY 2ND AUGUST

Bacon Rolls from The Wide Mouthed Frog Tobermory
West Highland Yachting Week Dance organised by Aros Hall Committee at Aros Hall 2030hrs to 2200hrs. Full list of other entertainment and facilities: www.mull.co/tobermory-restaurants-shops
Macgochans - www.magochans-tobermory.co.uk Food 12noon to 2200hrs
The Mishnish - www.themishnish.co.uk Food 12noon to 2200hrs

THURSDAY 3RD AUGUST

Live music/entertainment/food in Tobermory at various venues
Pubs: Events are posted on facebook
Macgochans - www.magochans-tobermory.co.uk Food 12noon to 2200hrs
The Mishnish - www.themishnish.co.uk Food 12noon to 2200hrs

FRIDAY 4TH AUGUST

Dunstaffnage Marina - Grand BBQ provided by Dunstaffnage Marina starts 1830hrs; £2.00 Final prizegiving for week at 2000hrs Dram tasting courtesy of Oban Distillery. Music by Ross MacPherson Band 1900hrs to 2000hrs and 2100hrs to 2300hrs.
The Wide Mouthed Frog, Dunstaffnage - food and bar open till midnight
Oban Marina - The Waypoint Bar 1800hrs to 2300hrs; food until 2100hrs
Water taxi in Tobermory - a RIB water taxi service operated by a licensed commercial operator will be available until about midnight, weather dependent. Contact 07900 607451 or 'Tobermory Water Taxi' on VHF Ch 08. £5 per person for round trip.
Ferry to Kerrera - Times will be arranged with the marina to provide ferries to fit in with the events in Oban.
Bus from North Pier, Oban to Dunstaffnage on race days.



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Eat as much as you like

Sun - Thurs	£9.99 per person
Fri-Sat	£11.99 per person
Kids (3-6 years old)	£3.99 per person

Open 7 days 4pm - 10pm

Welcoming West Highland Yachting Week

WHYW 2017 at Lord of the Isles, Craobh Haven

the LORD OF THE ISLES
1947-2017
Experience it on sea and shore

WHYW 70th ANNIVERSARY

2 bars • Live music • New dining Marquee
Outdoor live music Marquee

Live music on

Friday 28th July - Jennifer Jamieson • Saturday 29th July - Mudslide
Sunday 30th July - Hollow Mountain String Band

Booking essential for indoor dining

Please call 01852 500658 to book your table in advance.

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Where to see the fleet

SATURDAY

Craobh Marina – with the mass of yachts mustered for WHYW's grand opening party.

SUNDAY

Watch the fleet head out from Craobh Marina from 0900 from the end of the causeway to the start off Craobh and racing in Loch Melfort.

MONDAY

See the fleet starting off from Craobh from 0700 onwards and sailing down Loch Melfort. Cullipool, Easdale Island and Ellenabeich offer good vantage points to see the racing where the fleet comes together.

When in Oban yachts berth at Oban Marina, off Oban Sailing Club at Oban Bay Community Berthing,

Oban Esplanade or at Dunstaffnage Marina.

TUESDAY

Fleet starts off the north entrance to Oban Bay for the Round Lismore Island Race. The fleet head out from Oban and Dunstaffnage Marina from 0900. See the race starting from Ganavan and best views at Port Appin when the fleet comes together through the Appin Narrows. Also

from all vantage points on Lismore.

WEDNESDAY

Views from Oban Esplanade, Dunollie Point, from 0830 to see the yachts head to Tobermory. Also Dunstaffnage Marina and Dunstaffnage Castle headland for the start of the race. Passengers aboard the CalMac ferry to Craignure gain a bird's eye view through the Firth of

Lorn and the entrance to the Sound by Lismore Light. The fleet musters in Tobermory Bay.

THURSDAY

Boats leave Tobermory from 0930. Head to Rubha nan Gall Lighthouse or Ardmore Point to see the fleets racing at the North entrance to the Sound of Mull.

FRIDAY

Watch from Tobermory Bay at 8.30 as the boats head down the Sound of Mull to Oban. Viewing from the east coast of Mull – the road from Tobermory to Craignure and the Cal Mac ferry from Craignure back to Oban.

Anyone wishing to check on best locations to see the fleet can phone 07879 646 170.

Results of each day's racing are posted on the website www.whyw.co.uk.

Eating out guide 2017

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Taigh Solais, Tobermory, ISLE OF MULL PA75 6PS
Email: mail@raclement.co.uk Tel: 01688 302 814

Wishing the 2017 West Highland Yachting Week every success

AULAY'S BAR

Enjoy a drink at Aulay's!
'The Bar that Cares'

Excellent bar meals, Large selection of traditional ales and lagers and an extensive range of Scottish Malts

Welcoming West Highland Yachting Week

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AULAY'S BAR

Lunch menu available from 12-3pm. Traditional Scottish food at reasonable prices
Tel: 01631 562596

The Manor House Hotel & Restaurant

A touch of fine hospitality overlooking the harbour. Bar lunches available 12-2.15pm. 5 course a la carte dinner. 6.45-8.30pm
Gallanach Road, Oban. Tel: 01631 562987

Oban Fish & Chip Shop

116 George Street, Oban
Local fish and shellfish. Fried fish made to order incl hake, sole, halibut. Good selection of Homemade meals
01631 567000

Everyone At Oban Fish & Chips Wishes West Highland Yachting Week 2017 Every Success

Oban FISH & CHIP SHOP

116 George Street, Oban
Tel: 01631 567000

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Award winning fish and chip shop and restaurant. Visit the most established and best chippy in town that uses fresh fish for sit in or takeaway.
86 George Street Oban
Tel: 01631 563736

The Mishdish Oyster Bar & Seafood Restaurant

The iconic 'Mishnish Bar', a must for Sailors with our traditional bar food
Great Food, extensive range of beers and spirits and live music from 'The Mad Ferrets'.....Where else would you go!
7 Main St, Tobermory, Isle of Mull PA75 6NU, Tel: 01688 302500

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First and Only buffet restaurant in Oban - Eat as much as you like for one fixed price.
Open 4pm - 10pm 7 days a week. Takeaway & dessert open 12noon onwards
Kids under 3 FREE
Tel: 01631 566885 / 563900



Pub & Restaurant

Kick starting the party on the Friday night with the wonderful Jennifer Jamieson followed by the fantastic Mudslide on the Saturday night with awesome Hollow Mountain String Band finishing off proceedings on the Sunday night.
Craobh Haven, Arduaine, Argyll, PA31 8UA. Tel: 01852 500658

The Boathouse Restaurant Isle of Gigha

Welcoming WHYW on Friday 28th July with a bottle of wine and seafood platter to each table of 4 competitors on the evening of Friday 28th July prior to start of Gigha to Craobh. Tel 01583 505123. www.facebook.com/boathousegigha



Bar Rio

Relax & unwind in Bar Rio. Pastas & pizzas, traditional dishes & gourmet burgers, authentic Italian coffee & delicious desserts. Lots on offer.
North Pier, Oban PA34 5QD, 01631 562183

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Welcoming WHYW 2017 on Friday 28th July with a bottle and food to each table of 4 competitors



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HOME OWNERS MOVING HOUSE LESS FREQUENTLY IN UK



and they tend to be older, settled and hence less likely to move. However, there are still around 140,000 missing moves that can be attributed to a decline in the rates of moving among mortgaged home-owners.

The research report explains that three factors determine the moving rate among these groups; their desire to move, sufficient funds, and the availability of a home they want to buy. Of these three factors, the research suggests that the availability of sufficient funds, specifically sufficient equity, is the dominant factor holding back the mortgaged mover rate. It looks as though, as prices increase, confidence in the market will encourage more people to move but with Brexit on the horizon and uncertainty over job security, it looks as though people are looking to stay put for now.

People are moving home in the UK much less than they used to 30 years ago, which has consequences for the healthy function of the housing market, new research suggests. The reduced mobility is largely the result of missing movers, people who have a mortgage on their current home but are not moving up the housing market, according to the study commissioned by the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML).

The analysis from researchers Neil Hudson and Brian Green suggests that missing movers account for about 320,000 of the annual housing transaction shortfall. They point to a number of reasons for the decline, including the fact that there is a greater proportion of owners who own their property outright (ie. not mortgaged),

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PROPERTIES FOR SALE & TO LET

BROOKE COTTAGE, ISLE OF MULL

- Detached 1 1/2 Storey House
 - 3 Bed/1 Bath/1 Shower Rm
 - Sea Loch Views
 - Attached garage & private garden
 - Established holiday let
 - EPC Rating - E53
- £275,000**

Brooke Cottage is a well-presented 3 bedroom 1 1/2 storey detached house located in the desirable area of Lochdon on the Isle of Mull. The property currently operates as a successful holiday let property, achieving approximately 30 et weeks per year. The accommodation is arranged over 2 floors; on the ground floor, a sizable porch takes you into an open hallway area. Leading off the hallway, you find a bright, airy kitchen fitted with plentiful modern units and the large window allows you to enjoy views over the front garden to Loch Don.

BURNSIDE, APPIN

- Detached Bungalow
 - 6 Bedrooms/2 shower rooms
 - Stunning views across loch to Castle Stalker
 - Private situation with sizeable garden
 - EPC Rating - F
- £240,000**

A well-proportioned detached bungalow situated in a sizeable garden and enjoying far reaching views across Appin towards Castle Stalker. In need of modernisation the property offers six double bedrooms, two shower rooms, a large open reception room with lounge area with a large window, where far reaching sea views can be enjoyed. The kitchen offers plentiful storage cupboards and a dining area. Heating and hot water is provided via an LPG fired boiler located in the kitchen with large external storage tank located within the boundary.

RIVERSIDE COURT, TOBERMORY

- Semi-Detached House
 - 3 Bedrooms/1 Bathroom/1 WC
 - Walk-in Condition
 - Garden and Private Parking
 - Ideal Family Home
 - EPC Rating - D62
- OIRO £180,000**

32 Riverside Court is a superb 3 bedroom semi-detached house located in the beautiful town of Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. This modern home has been tastefully decorated and is in walk-in condition, offering spacious family accommodation arranged over 2 floors. On the ground floor, the spacious hallway leads to a large, bright lounge which features a big bay window giving plentiful natural light. The sizeable kitchen/diner is also on the ground floor, complete with immaculate fittings and generous space for a family dining table and breakfast bar.

LAND FOR SALE, CONNELL

- Building Plot situated within the heart of Connell Village
 - Highly desirable location, just five miles from Oban
 - Planning Permission in Principle for a two storey house
- OIRO £70,000**

This desirable plot is situated in the centre of the village, less than 100 metres from Connell Village Store and Post Office. As well as offering restaurants, pubs, primary school, church, large medical practice and a village hall, Connell benefits from a railway station and regular bus services to Oban, Glasgow and beyond. Planning Permission in Principle for a three bedroom, two storey house. Argyll & Bute Reference: 15/02122/PPP.

LORN DRIVE, GLENCOE

- Mid-terrace house
 - 3 Bed/1 bath
 - Unfurnished
 - Long Term Let
 - EPC Rating - D59
 - LL Reg 379042/270/01391: 379037/270/01391
- PCM £595**

Unfurnished 3 bedroom mid-terrace house in highly desirable, residential area of Glencoe village. Recently refurbished to a good standard with neutral decor throughout. The property consists of 3 double bedrooms, lounge with wood burner, modern kitchen, bathroom with shower over the bath, garden to front and rear of property. The property is unfurnished throughout. Council Tax Band B. Deposit & references required. Available Now.

GLENSPEAN PARK, ROY BRIDGE

- Detached Bungalow
 - 3 En-suite Bedrooms
 - Furnished
 - Available for Long Let
 - EPC Rating - D 42
 - LL REG 531702/270/17051
 - EPC Rating 68 (62)
- £1100 PCM**

This beautiful detached house is located in Roy Bridge, just outside of Fort William. The accommodation comprises 3 en-suite bedrooms, lounge, dining area and fully fitted kitchen with utility room. Oil central heating throughout. Available now for long term let. Viewing is highly recommended.

FLAT 1, 4 STEVENSON STREET, OBAN

- 1 Bed/1 Bath
 - Unfurnished
 - First Floor Flat
 - Long Term Let
 - EPC Rating - D
 - LL REG 91986/130/31040
- £440 PCM**

One bedroom, first floor flat in Oban Town Centre. A bright flat comprising of lounge/kitchen area, bedroom and bathroom. Freshly decorated in neutral colours and has laminate flooring throughout. This property is unfurnished with 1 hob, 1 oven, 1 fridge and 1 washing machine included in the kitchen only.

MORAY PLACE, FORT WILLIAM

- Top floor flat
 - 3 bed/ 1 bath
 - Furnished or Unfurnished
 - Long Term Let
 - EPC Rating - E (62)
 - LL REG: 453035/270/19181
 - White goods included
 - Separate WC
- £625 PCM**

Top floor, three bedroom flat with stunning views out towards Loch Linnhe. The property is in a highly desirable residential area of Fort William and is within easy walking distance of town centre & Lundavra primary school. Recently refurbished to a good standard with modern & neutral decor throughout. The property consists of large hallway, 2 large double bedrooms, 1 smaller double bedroom, lounge, kitchen/dining area, bathroom with shower over bath & separate WC room.

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FOR SALE

OIRO £185,000

CHERRY LODGE, LOCHGILPHEAD

- Detached Bungalow
- Quite location
- 4 Bedroom/2 Bathroom
- Plenty of scope to extend
- Lifestyle & Income opportunity
- EPC Rating - C

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Condition - Fencing conditions.
S & L Nadin
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0.07 ha
Reason - Existing croft house site & garden ground
Condition - Fencing conditions.
S MacNaughton
51, 53 & 55 Banavie, Kilmallie 77293
0.092 - Existing house site
Condition - Fencing conditions
Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
Amendment to layout of existing marine farm, Gorsten, Loch Linnhe

Notice is hereby given that Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of amendment to layout of existing marine farm at:

Cost	£2500	
Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Gorsten, Loch linnhe		
Moorings Area	56° 47.459' N 56° 47.359' N 56° 47.071' N 56° 46.961' N	005° 10.329' W 005° 10.065' W 005° 10.903' W 005 10.651' W
Boat Moorings	56° 47.253' N 56° 47.223' N 56° 47.333' N 56° 47.340' N	005° 10.728' W 005° 10.745' W 005° 10.511' W 005° 10.509' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Post Office Ardgor, Ardgor Stores, Fort William, Inverness-shire, PH33 7AB.
Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:
Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference:
MCMS No/05066
Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd

Argyll and Bute Council
DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (MILLPARK ROAD, MILLPARK AVENUE AND MCCALLS TERRACE, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2017

On Monday 17th July 2017, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for any person to cause or permit a vehicle to wait between the hours of 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday on the lengths of road as detailed in the schedule hereto. The restrictions imposed by this Order which are required in order to permit the unhindered passage of vehicles, will be in operation from Monday 24th July 2017 until Friday 18th January 2019.

Schedule
Prohibition Of Waiting Monday To Friday 8am To 6pm

- Millpark Road south side, from Soroba Road A816 extending westerly for a distance of 180 metres or thereby;
- Millpark Road north side, from Soroba Road A816 extending westerly for a distance of 8 metres or thereby;
- Millpark Road north side, from a point 90 metres or thereby from Soroba Road A816, extending westerly for a distance of 90 metres or thereby;
- Millpark Avenue both sides from its junction with Millpark Road extending in a southerly direction for a distance of 56 metres or thereby;
- McCall's Terrace, both sides from Soroba Road A816, extending in an easterly direction for a distance of 93 Metres or thereby.

Jim Smith, Head of Roads & Amenity Services,
1A Mansie Brae, LOCHGILPHEAD, PA31 8RD
To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

First registration of a croft

Samuel John MacNaughton has registered his croft at 51-53&55 Banavie, Kilmallie on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person wishing to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 29 March 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.rso.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is I2179

First registration of a croft

Samuel John MacNaughton has registered his croft at 61a Banavie, Kilmallie on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person wishing to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 24 November 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.rso.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is I2182

Argyll and Bute Council

Councillor Kieron Green (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)

Councillor Green will be holding a surgery on Friday 21st July 2017 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm. He can be contacted by email - Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 562 444

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Highland Council in pursuance of their powers under Section 1 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 intends to delete the length 70 metres of road specified in the schedule hereto from the List of Public Roads.

Any person wishing to make representations regarding the above proposal should do so in writing to the undersigned within twenty-eight (28) days of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE

U1661 CORRIBEG ROAD 0.17 miles

00668, 78528 NN 00 78
00460, 78661

Commencing at its junction with the Fort William - Mallaig road A830T at a point 349 yards east of the bridge over the Abhainn Bheagig, a single track road with passing places extending in a north westerly direction terminating at a point between at the west boundary fence of Druim-Fada and Drumbeg Cottage a distance of 295 yards (270 metres) or thereby.

Richard Porteous
Roads Operations Manager
Carr's Corner Industrial Estate
FORT WILLIAM
PH33 6TL

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Regional Press

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Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

Caledonian MacBrayne
Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS

Ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) is inviting applications from residents of the rural communities covered by the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services (CHFS) contract to form a Community Board which will have the primary purpose of being a voice of the communities on strategic issues.

The Board will comprise 12 members plus an independent, paid, chairperson. It will be separate from the CalMac Board with secretariat services provided by CalMac's Community and Stakeholder Engagement Directorate. CalMac will not be represented on the Board.

Membership will be for 12 months in the first instance while the Board is set up, with the expectation that after that membership will be for 24 months, with the option of an extension.

The Board will meet twice a year with travel and reasonable out of pocket expenses reimbursed. The first Board meeting is proposed to take place in early October 2017.

For details of the Board's full terms of reference and an application form, please visit:
www.calmac.co.uk/careers/community-board

CALMAC
FERRIES
Operators of Caledonian MacBrayne

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Assistant Finance Manager – Accountancy Lochgilhead
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We have an exciting opportunity to join our finance team as Assistant Manager – Accountancy. For further details and to apply visit the recruitment section of our website www.acha.co.uk
If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team:
Tel 01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk
For more information, please contact Allan MacDonald on 01546 605877 or email allan.macdonald2@acha.co.uk
Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 4 August 2017
Interviews will be held in Lochgilhead on 17 August 2017



Community Support Assistant MacDougall Place, Mull
£9.11 - £10.71 per hour 4 hours per week
Community Support Assistant Dunmar Court, Oban
£9.11 - £10.71 per hour 8 hours per week
Community Support Assistant Ford Spence Court, Oban
£9.11 - £10.71 per hour 6 hours per week
To apply visit the recruitment section of our website at www.acha.co.uk
If you cannot access the website, please contact the recruitment team:
01546 605817 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk
CVs are not accepted.
For more information, please contact Brian Murphy on 01546 605932 or email brian.murphy@acha.co.uk
Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 28th July 2017
Interviews will be held on 8th August in Oban.



Scottish Sea Farms are an internationally recognised farmer of superior quality Scottish salmon. We pride ourselves in providing industry leading and highly personal development paths which build into fulfilling professional careers. If you are committed to developing our industry and are driven to put your strengths to work we would very much like to hear from you.
We are currently recruiting for the following positions at our Marine Farms at
Loch Nevis, Mallaig and Sound of Mull.
Senior Husbandry Staff - with Critical Equipment Specialisation (Nevis)
Earnings Potential for this Role: (£29,000 - £32,500) + Bonus
A unique role designed to undertake planned preventative maintenance of site equipment including generators, vessel engines, outboards, small plant, net cleaners, feed systems, incinerators forklifts etc. Showing leadership in health & safety and working with site staff to keep critical equipment in optimal condition. Would be ideal for an aspiring engineer keen to become involved in Scotland's highly successful aquaculture industry. Specialist training will be provided. Applicants to be dynamic, meticulous and excellent communicators.
Candidates will be Day Skipper qualified (or equivalent) and ambitious enough to pursue a Yacht-Master coastal. Relocation package will be available for the right candidate.
Experienced Husbandry Staff, with Feed, Fish Health & Net Specialisation (Nevis & Sound of Mull)
Earnings Potential for this Role: £27,000 + Bonus
Applicants should have at least 1.5 years' practical salmon farming experience and are looking to develop into a practical specialisation of Feed, Fish Health or Net Management.
You should be able to demonstrate competence across a wide range of farming disciplines including: fish health monitoring, stock appetite assessment, boat handling skills, whilst being proactive in health and safety. Above all you should have the drive and ambition to further your career through training and development. A formal boat qualification would be desirable. Relocation package can be available for the right candidate.
Trainee Husbandry (Nevis & Sound of Mull)
Earnings Potential for this Role: £23,750 + Bonus after 6 months
Applications are also invited by candidates looking to begin their career in the Aquaculture Industry. We are looking for ambitious individuals who are team players, proactive in health and safety and who have high expectations for themselves and of their employer. In return, we will provide you with a Mentor who will guide you through your first months of employment and a detailed training plan whilst facilitating your progress through an SVQ that will enable you to kick start your fish farming career.
We are also recruiting for Summer Casual Staff to work on our Marine Farms at various locations, please contact us to find out more.
Flexible working hours can be considered to suit your personal circumstances.
A full clean driver's licence is essential.
Other benefits on offer are: pension support, life cover, subsidized gym membership and occupation health support.
To apply for any of the above exciting opportunities please contact Angela Hand, Recruitment & HR Coordinator on 01786 445521 or email angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com for an application pack.
Closing Date: Wednesday 2nd August 2017



Fusion Marine Ltd is well established as one of the leading manufacturers of high quality, maintenance free, professional equipment for marine and freshwater environments all over the world, particularly in the fish farming and hatchery industries. Our business development programme includes recruitment for the following vacancies:
Operations Manager
Managing the day to day running of the workshop and site operations, this role requires an individual with proven performance and people management experience who will take control of the planning and allocation of work, stock levels, and deliveries, maintenance of equipment, quality control and health and safety issues.
Team Leader
Supporting the Factory Manager in the day to day running of the workshop, you will ensure the team works to the requirements of operational policies and procedures while undertaking your own duties in our fabrication department. Ideally you will have worked in a similar fabrication environment and had some previous supervisory experience.
Site Fabricators
If you enjoy working outside and are prepared to be away from home, these vacancies may be of interest to you. We are looking for committed and responsible individuals who will be experienced in using tools and machinery to complete pipe and fabrication work on site in accordance with technical drawings, have a high level of Health and Safety awareness and be able to carry out quality control checks. A full clean driving licence is essential and fork lift truck licence desirable.
Workshop Fabricators
Working predominantly within the workshop with some degree of flexibility to meet the needs of the business during holiday periods, we are looking for semi-skilled and skilled fabricators to carry out extrusion, cut/prepare pipe and manufacture and weld fabrications in accordance with technical drawings. Involvement in booking stock in, despatch and deliveries may also be required and a full clean driving licence and fork lift truck licence are desirable.
Store/Yard person
An experienced stores person is needed to organise the workshop in a systematic and logical way. Responsibilities will include monitoring and requisition of stock, goods in, picking of orders, organising transport for the despatch of goods and accurate completion of all associated documentation using in house systems and procedures.
These positions offer the opportunity for the right candidates to play a part in the evolution of Fusion Marine's business. The salaries will be negotiable, dependent on experience and qualifications. If you are looking for a career move linked with opportunity for advancement and possess the above requirements please send a covering letter enclosing a current C.V.
Closing date: No later than Friday 4 August 2017
To apply please send your C.V. to Mrs C.Martin or email cmartin@fusionmarine.com
FUSION MARINE LTD, Barcaldine, By OBAN, PA37 1SE
Tel :01631 720730 www.fusionmarine.com

Driver/Pupil Escort (16 hours, Term-Time, Permanent)
£15,819 - £16,765 (pro-rata)
Bunessan/Fionnphort Isle of Mull Ref: CTF01197
Driver/Pupil Escort (30.25 hours, Term-Time, Permanent)
£15,819 - £16,765 (pro-rata)
Lochbuie/Lochdonhead, Isle of Mull Ref: CTF01198
☎ 01546 604334
Closing date: Friday 4th August 2017.
To apply visit our website  
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Home Carer (Part-Time, Permanent)
£17,305 - £18,887 (pro-rata) Mid-Argyll Ref: HAW00480
☎ 01546 604334
Closing date: Friday 4th August 2017.
To apply visit our website  
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs



REF565 SUPERVISOR
REF566 GENERAL ASSISTANTS X 2
SPAR SPEAN BRIDGE, INVERNESS-SHIRE, PH34 4EP
REF567 GENERAL ASSISTANT
SPAR, GRANGE ROAD, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6JH
Evening and weekend work will be required to meet business needs.
Due to Licensing Laws, applicants must be age 18 or over
Our retail Supervisors are the vital link between our General Assistants and the Store Manager. As a Supervisor, you will be involved in many aspects of running a store, from stock management to motivating staff to deliver outstanding customer service; all with the benefit of working with our trusted brand, SPAR.
Our General Assistants deliver a positive shopping experience to our customers every time they visit, carrying out retail, Subway and Post Office activities and contributing to the selling process within the store. In return, we offer varied hours and many benefits, including 10% staff discount, generous holidays, comprehensive training and career opportunities for those who sparkle.
If you are motivated and have a flexible approach to work, one of these roles could be the ideal opportunity for you.
We look forward to receiving your online application at www.cjlang.co.uk/jobs/asp
Closing date for applications is 4 August 2017.

RECRUITMENT HIJOBS

Deck, Engine and Retail Trainee Rating Programme
Caledonian MacBrayne are now recruiting for our Deck, Engine and Retail Trainee Rating Programme.
The successful candidates will be among the first in Scotland to enter training delivered by the City of Glasgow College following its multimillion pound transformation.
You will be paid a generous salary and all college, travel and accommodation fees are paid by the company. We are proud of our supportive working environment; trainees will have a trainee mentor and on-going support from the company and college.
Successful completion of the Trainee Rating Programme will see you fully certified in whichever role you choose to pursue.
For more information and to apply for one of these exciting roles, please visit our website at <https://www.calmac.co.uk/article/4372/Trainee-Vacancies>
Caledonian MacBrayne Crewing (Guernsey) Limited is an equal opportunities employer.


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Staff Nurses - £14.50 - £16.00 p/h
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Housekeeping Assistants - for 30 hours of work per week and 20 hours of work per week.
Please contact Jennifer Foote Home Manager for application form or further information. Tel: 01631 720278 or email lynnoflorne@mckenziecare.com

WYVEX MEDIA
Promotions Executive (part-time)
A very rare opportunity has arisen for the right person to join our team in Oban as a Promotions Executive. The successful candidate will be responsible for designing and implementing a regular series of promotions and offers for the readers of the Oban Times, Argyllshire Advertiser, Campbeltown Courier, Arran Banner and their websites. They will also be heavily involved in using our large social media following to maximise both newspaper and digital sales.
Ideally with a background in promotional marketing, the right candidate will be able to demonstrate that they are full of creative ideas, have a flair for copy writing and have the organisational skills to see complex promotions through from conception to implementation. You will also liaise with retailers and promotional partners to source offers for our readers and attend relevant events in our circulation area. A full, current driving licence is essential.
This is an incredibly exciting opportunity for the right candidate and they will be involved with all departments within the business, from editorial, and production to advertising. As such, being a team player and having first-class communication and interpersonal skills are an absolute must.
The position on offer is currently on a part-time basis and we are happy to discuss working patterns and flexibility with the right candidate. The role will be based in our Oban office.
If you fit the bill, send your CV (including current salary) to ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk by 28th July 2017

RECRUITMENT HIJOBS RECRUITMENT HIJOBS

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Apostleship of the Sea (AoS)



Registered charity in Scotland number SCO43085

Part-time Regional Port Chaplains: Diocese of Argyll and the Isles

Salary: £23,000 per annum pro rata to 3 days per week

"I call on the chaplains and volunteers of the Apostleship of the Sea to continue with their commitment to the pastoral care of their brothers and sisters"

Pope Francis, July 2014

AoS would like to appoint two part-time regional port chaplains to work in the diocese of Argyll and the Isles, predominantly with the fishermen who work in the busy fishing industry out of ports scattered throughout the diocese. It is envisaged that two appointments will be made, one based on the mainland, the other in the Western Isles. Both appointments will be reviewed after 12 months.

The task of AoS regional port chaplains is to be alongside the People of the Sea, to make visible our care for their pastoral and spiritual well-being through a hands-on, practical expression of the Catholic Church's mission.

- AoS regional port chaplains are priests, nuns, permanent deacons and lay chaplains.
- A Catholic faith, belief in our mission to seafarers and fishermen working within a globalised industry and excellent interpersonal skills are essential.
- Experience in chaplaincy is desirable.

For an application pack or an informal chat contact Martin Foley, National Director, on 07941 231628 or martinfoley@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk.

For information about AoS please visit our website: www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk.

Port visits can be arranged with a working regional port chaplain.

Deadline for applications: Friday 28 July 2017

Interviews: In Oban, 8 August 2017

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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SCOTTISH HYDRO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION PLC ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

THE ELECTRICITY (APPLICATIONS FOR CONSENT) REGULATIONS 1990

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, (company registration number SC213461) and whose registered office is situated at Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3AQ) has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent under Section 37 of The Electricity Act 1989 to install and keep installed for a temporary period (of no more than two years) approximately 660m of 132kV wood pole trident overhead line between existing Tower FF134 (Grid Reference NN 16370 78436) and Tower FF136 (Grid Reference NN15811 78067) situated on the Fort William to Fort Augustus 132kV Overhead Line near Torlundy, Fort William, Inverness-shire. The proposal will provide a temporary diversion whilst the existing Fort William to Fort Augustus Overhead Line is reconducted. Within a period of no more than two year from its installation, the temporary overhead line referred to above, would be removed.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc has also applied for planning permission to be deemed to be granted under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it is available for inspection, free of charge, during normal opening hours at:

Highland Council Service Point
Lochaber House,
High St,
Fort William
PH33 6EL

Highland Council
Planning & Development
Glenurquhart Road
Inverness
IV3 5NX

(The application can also be viewed at The Scottish Government, Local Energy and Consents, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU and through the Scottish Government portal <http://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationSearch.aspx>)

Any representations to the application should be made by email to The Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit mailbox at representations@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, through the Scottish Governments portal as referenced above

or
by post to The Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU, identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for representation, no later than 28 August 2017.

Representations should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making representations.

Only representations sent by email to the address stipulated will receive acknowledgement.

As a result of a statutory objection from the relevant planning authority, or where Scottish Ministers decide to exercise their discretion to do so, Scottish Ministers can also cause a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) to be held. Following receipt of all views and representations, Scottish Ministers will determine the application for consent in one of two ways:

- Consent the proposal, with or without conditions attached; or
- Reject the proposal

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government Local Energy & Consents processes consent applications and consultation representations under The Electricity Act 1989. During the process, to support transparency in decision making, the Scottish Government publishes online at www.energyconsents.scot. When making an email or paper representation you will automatically be opted in to its publication unless you choose to mark it as confidential. We may share your personal data with DPEA and local Planning Authorities but will not publish your personal data (e.g. your name and address) as this is removed beforehand in compliance with the Data Protection Act. Should you choose not to provide your personal data in an electronic or paper representation then your representation will only be considered by Scottish Ministers and will not be shared for consideration with any other party. If you have any concerns about how your personal data is handled, please email us at: energyconsents@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or write to Local Energy & Consents, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

PUBLIC NOTICES

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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
17/02426/FUL	Land 240M SW of Shop, Seven Heads, South Laggan, Spean Bridge	Formation of all ability paths and new layout carpark, reduce the area of hard standing, increase parking
17/03111/FUL	Land East of St Pauls, Wades Road, Kinlochleven	Proposed 2no. dwelling houses & garages
17/03160/FUL	Easter Mandally, Invergarry	Installation of telecommunications apparatus and fenced compound
17/03214/FUL	Site 310M South of Managers House, North Ballachulish, Onich	Marine Fish Farm - Atlantic salmon - Alterations to reposition 3 pen groups, add 4 pens to create 16 x 24m pens

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: elplanning@highland.gov.uk

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

MARINE FISH FARM - ATLANTIC SALMON - ALTERATIONS TO REPOSITION 3 PEN GROUPS, ADD 4 PENS TO CREATE 16 X 24M PENS AT SITE 310M SOUTH OF MANAGERS HOUSE, NORTH BALLACHULISH, ONICH

The Council has received an application from Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd for Marine Fish Farm - Atlantic salmon - Alterations to reposition 3 pen groups, add 4 pens to create 16 x 24m pens at Site 310M South of Managers House, North Ballachulish, Onich (17/03214/FUL). The application is supported by an Environmental Statement.

The application, the accompanying Environmental Statement and its addendum are available for public inspection online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> (search using the application number (17/03214/FUL))

Copies of the Environmental Statement can be purchased for £50.00 for paper or £5 for Electronic. Please contact Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, Stob Ban House, Glen Nevis Business Park, Fort William PH33 6RX, tel: 01397 715000. The Non Technical Summary and DVD can be obtained free of charge.

Any person who wishes to make a representation on the application, Environmental Statement and addendum can make them online by visiting <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> or by writing to The Head of Planning and Building Standards, ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. The deadline for receipt of comments is 28 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The Council will acknowledge receipt of comments but is unable to respond individually to points or questions raised. Please note that your comments will be published online. Please quote the application reference number in your correspondence.

J. Stuart Black, Director of Development and Infrastructure

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 Notice under Regulation 7(2)

Pre-application consultation by the prospective applicant

Formation and operation of a new silt storage and fresh water lagoon site and ancillary operations at Glensanda Quarry, Morvern, Oban, PA34 5QB

Yeoman Glensanda intends to apply to The Highland Council for planning permission for the creation and operation of a new silt storage site and fresh water lagoon including creation of 4 no. finger lagoons by the phased extraction of approximately 4 million tonnes of rock, the subsequent infilling with silt and ancillary operations, including creation of a new on-site access track, water pipes and electricity generation plant on land at Glensanda Quarry.

Yeoman Glensanda is committed to ensuring local stakeholders are kept fully informed of our plans with opportunities to learn more and comment on the proposals. Staff from Yeoman Glensanda will be available to provide further information at:

Community Consultation Drop-In Event
27th July 2017
1:00pm - 7:00pm
Lochaline Village Hall, Lochaline, Morvern, PA34 5XT

Persons wishing to make comments on the proposal or obtain further information should do so by Monday 31st July 2017 via attending the community consultation event, by emailing gareth.mills@aggregate.com or by writing to Gareth Mills, Yeoman Glensanda, Aggregate Industries UK Ltd, Trilogy 3, 21 Woodhall, Eurocentral, Holytown, Motherwell, ML1 4YT.

This notice does not relate to a planning application. Any comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the planning authority. If a planning application is subsequently submitted to The Highland Council, normal neighbour notification and publicity will be undertaken at that time and you will have the opportunity to make formal representations regarding the proposal at that time.

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984

ACQUISITION OF LAND (AUTHORISATION PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1947

THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (CLIFTON CULVERT REPLACEMENT) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2017

Notice is hereby given that the Scottish Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred by the above mentioned Acts, on the 4th July Two Thousand and Seventeen prepared a Compulsory Purchase Order entitled "A82 Trunk Road (Clifton Culvert Replacement) Compulsory Purchase Order 2017" which affects the land described in the Schedule hereto for the purpose of improving the A82 Dalnottar to Inverness Trunk Road, lying between Tyndrum and Bridge of Orchy in the vicinity of Clifton, Stirlingshire.

The Order is about to be made and comes into operation only if made. If the Order is made, a conveyance registered in implement of the Order may vary or extinguish rights to enforce real burdens and servitudes affecting the land.

Copies of the draft Order and of the map referred to therein may be inspected free of charge from 11th July 2017 until 1st August 2017 at: The offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF, The offices of Stirling Council, Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET, and The Village Store, George A Brodie and Co, Tyndrum, Crianlarich, Stirlingshire, FK20 8RY during normal business hours.

ANY PERSON may object to the making of the Order, in writing stating the grounds of objection, to the Director of Trunk Roads and Bus Operations, c/o Mark Paterson at Transport Scotland, Trunk Roads Network Management Directorate, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF quoting reference NW/A82/CLIFTON/CPO/MP. Any objections must be received on or before 1st August 2017.

H D GILLIES
A member of staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House,
58 Port Dundas Road, GLASGOW G4 0HF

This is the Schedule referred to in the foregoing Notice dated 4th July 2017 relating to the A82 Trunk Road (Clifton Culvert Replacement) Compulsory Purchase Order 2017.

SCHEDULE

In this schedule the plot references and areas referred to below correspond to those given in the Schedule and the map annexed to the A82 Trunk Road (Clifton Culvert Replacement) Compulsory Purchase Order 2017.

Plot Nos	Land in the County of Stirling
1	890 square metres or thereby consisting of the solum and verge of the A82 Glasgow to Inverness, by way of Fort William, Trunk Road including the existing Clifton Culvert
2	84 square metres or thereby consisting of the verge, up to the masonry wall, lying to the north of the A82 Glasgow to Inverness, by way of Fort William, Trunk Road at Clifton Culvert
3	195 square metres or thereby consisting of private garden, scrub/long grass/rough ground to the south of the A82 Glasgow to Inverness, by way of Fort William, Trunk Road at Clifton Culvert and the bank and bed of the burn to the midway point to the west of the A82
4	Not used
5	4 square metres or thereby consisting of private garden, scrub/long grass/rough ground to the south of the A82 Glasgow to Inverness, by way of Fort William, Trunk Road at Clifton Culvert

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
17/01746/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and soakaway, formation of vehicular access.	Land North East Of Ard Na Mara Croft Craighouse Isle Of Jura Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura
17/01091/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and shed and installation of septic tank	Croft 1 Ichrachan Taynuilt Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
17/01726/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse to form integral residential annexe and relocation of garden shed	Dalantober Isle Of Iona Argyll And Bute PA76 6SP	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
17/01744/LIB	Internal alterations, erection of extension, formation of window opening and installation of flue	The Old Mill Craighouse Isle Of Jura Argyll And Bute PA60 7XS	Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura
17/01775/PP	Renovation of planning permission 14/01740/PP (conversion of sawmill to residential dwelling)	The Steadings Tiroran Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA69 6ES	Sub Post Office Bunesan Isle of Mull
17/01825/PP	Formation of new access from public road and creation of additional 5 car parking spaces	Highland Apartments Broadalbane Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5PA	Oban Area Office

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

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Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 INSTALLATION OF SHELLFISH FARM, INVERSANDA BAY, LOCH LINNHE

Notice is hereby given that Fassfern Mussels Limited has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of the installation of a shellfish farm at:

Location	Latitude	Longitude
Inversanda Bay,	56° 40.91' N	05° 20.19' W
Loch Linnhe	56° 41.07' N	05° 19.93' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at The Post Office, Ardgour Stores and Tearoom, Clovullin, Ardgour, Fort William PH33 7AB. Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to: Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: **MCMS No. 06423**

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Jim MacCormick with his texel sheep, which was crowned overall sheep champion. 16_t29Lismore02



Organiser Neil Carmichael with helpers Iris McColl and Anne Livingstone. 16_t29Lismore04

Soggy but smiling at third Lismore show

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcphoe@obantimes.co.uk

IT WASN'T third time lucky for the Lismore Agriculture Show weather wise, but the soggy conditions didn't dampen any enthusiasm.

In fact, it was the most successful year to date in terms of money raised – although this might have something to do with a lot of people seeking refuge in the beer tent.

The commendable competitors, however, got on with the day and showed off their livestock with pride.

First it was sheep, then cattle and finally the dog show.

But it was the children who embraced the less than ideal conditions the most, dancing in the rain or, in one case, jumping in muddy puddles.

'The show went very well,' organiser Neil Carmichael said. 'Except for the weather.'

'We made plenty of money and I was surprised about how many people turned up.'

'Last year, they stayed a bit

longer, but that can't be helped – it's the weather.'

'We made more money this year, but there were fewer people. It's hard to compare the two, though, because it's only the second year there have been animals.'

The Lismore Agricultural Show was re-established in 2015 after it stopped in the 1930s.

However, it's inaugural return didn't feature any animals.

'People are getting used to it now,' Neil added, 'whereas before they were not taking part. It's great and everyone seems to enjoy themselves.'

'A lot of work goes into organising it, but it was a bit easier than last year. There are lots of volunteers who help.'

Also making it a little easier was the £9,000 grant the show received from the Big Lottery Fund. This was used to purchase equipment and a storage container.

'It will make such an incredible difference to the community show that we host on this

small island,' organisers posted on the official Facebook page. 'In the past we have had to beg and borrow in order to obtain equipment to hold the show. Now with your kind donation we have a great footing to continue to grow.'

Results were as follows:
Blackface champion, John Carmichael; reserve, Donald MacColl.

Pure-bred sheep champion, James MacCormick; reserve, Calum MacGillvray.

Cross sheep champion, John Carmichael; reserve, Donald MacCormick

Female sheep champion, John Carmichael with his mule ewe lamb and reserve overall champion sheep.

Male sheep champion, James MacCormick with his texel tup and it was overall sheep champion.

Junior cattle champion, Donald MacCormick with his bull calf; reserve, John Carmichael with his heifer calf.

Breeding cattle champion, Archie MacGillvray with his cow; reserve, John Carmichael with his heifer.

Overall cattle champion, Donald

MacCormick; reserve, Archie MacGillvray.

Dog champion, Alan Mackellar with Tarka; reserve, Gilly Dixon-Spain with Lottie. Special prize for the least biddable dog went to John Carmichael with Rosie.

Overall show champion was Donald MacCormick with his bull calf.

Home industries: adult baking – most points, Rosemary MacCormick; best exhibit, Rosemary MacCormick; dumpling, Rosemary MacCormick. Children's baking – best exhibit, Ruairidh Maclean-Fleming; most points, Ruairidh Maclean-Fleming

Best jam, Kate Murfin.

Children's handicrafts: most points – Ealasaid Maclean-Fleming; best exhibit – Ealasaid Maclean-Fleming.

Senior handicrafts: most points – Sarah MacDonald; best exhibit – Rose Howard.

Best floral exhibit: Memory MacDonald.

Most points, fruit and veg: Gilly Dixon-Spain

Painting: best exhibit – Carol Wormleighton.

Photography: best exhibit – Tee-nie Wilson.



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Around the markets

STIRLING – Caledonian Marts on Thursday July 13 sold 126 cattle comprising 77 prime bullocks and heifers, five young bulls, and 44 cast cows and bulls. All classes of prime cattle again short of buyers' requirements would be dearer on the week. Likewise cast cows met the dearest trade so far this year. Prime bullocks averaged – 215ppkg

Prime heifers averaged – 232ppkg
Young bulls averaged – 186ppkg
Beef cows averaged – 128ppkg
Dairy cows averaged – 108ppkg
Cast bulls averaged – 100ppkg

Bullocks sold to 250ppkg for a British Blue from Todhall, Cupar, purchased by J Hastie, Butcher, Markinch, and to £1671 for a Simmental from Molemound, Galston.
Heifers sold to 258ppkg for a Limousin from Learielaw, Broxburn, purchased by T Johnston,

Butchers, Falkirk, and to £1587 for a British Blue from Todhall, Cupar, to J Hastie, Butcher.

Bullocks ppgk:
248p (twice) Learielaw & Meadowend 245p Main of Culmalundie 240p & 238p Brockwoodlees, Meadowend & Mains of Culmalundie 235p Over Inzievar & Brockwoodlees 225p (twice) Rathillet Heifers ppgk:
252p Todhall 250p Learielaw & Meadowend 248p Over Inzievar 245p Wallaceton & Meadowend 242p (three times) Brockwoodlees & Moorfield 240p Rathillet 238p Moorfield 235p Gelvan View, Moorfield & Meadowend Also, forward were 44 cast cows and bulls.

Beef cows sold to a top price of £1200 for an Aberdeen Angus from Hume of Overton Farm Ltd and to 157.5ppkg for a Limousin from W Dandie & Sons, Learielaw.

Dairy cows sold to a top price of £1060 for a Friesian from G Millar & Son, Gallamuir, and to 124.6ppkg from the same home. Cast bulls sold to £1050 for a Beef Shorthorn from H Greer, Gelvan View, Kinross.

Other leading prices:
Beef cows per head:
£1150 Learielaw £1090 Cultybraggan £1080 Lomondmuir £1000 Gartfairn, Overton & Broompark.

Beef cows ppgk:
154p Lomondmuir 147p Easter Langhill 145p Cultybraggan 142p Broompark
Black and Whites per head
£930 Broompark £830 Gallamuir £750 Walton

Black and Whites per kilo
123p & 122p Gallamuir 120p Broompark 113p Walton
A smaller show of 10 dairy-bred calves were forward selling to a top price of £290 for a Simmental

X heifer calf from E Erskine, Inchie.

Leading prices per head:-
Ayrshire bull calves
£75 & £58 Badenheath
Friesian bull calves £60 Nyadd, £55 Barbeth.

STIRLING – United Auctions on Thursday July 13 sold 4381 prime sheep including 2913 new season lambs selling to an average of 211.9ppk, and 1468 ewes and rams.
Spring lambs (2913) Little Raith (Suff) £125; West Lethans (Btex) £119; Easter Greenhill (Tex) £118; Penston (Char) £116.
Spring lambs (2913) West Lethans (BTex) 253p; Easterton (Tex) 251p; South Flanders (Suff) 248p; Penston (Char) 223p.
Ewes (1468)- Lochhouse (Tex) £117; Woodhouse of Cairness (Suff) £116; Broadleys (BFL) £112; Forest (Chev) £104;

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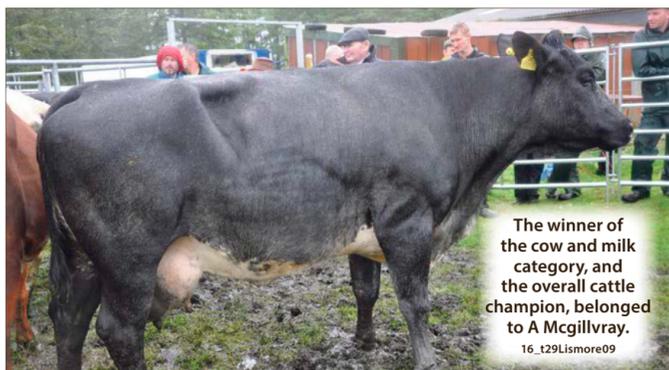
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The cross ewe lambs are lined up for inspection. In the end it was J Carmichael who took the top two prizes, with A McGillvray taking third place. 16_t29Lismore01



The winner of the cow and milk category, and the overall cattle champion, belonged to A McGillvray. 16_t29Lismore09



The winning spring-born bull calf belonged to D MacCormick. 16_t29Lismore05



Artist Andrew shelters as he sketches what is happening at the show. 16_t29Lismore03



The junior cattle champion belonged to D MacCormick. 16_t29Lismore10



Nine-year-old Ruan MacColl has fun the puddles. 16_t29Lismore08



Father and son, Calum and Archie McGillvray. 16_t29Lismore11



After Rosemary MacCormick forgot to bring her dog to the show, she improvised and, with the help from John Carmichael, who found her a 'lead', she entered herself. 16_t29Lismore12

Northfield (BTeX) £102; Assloss (Mule) £96; Marvingston (BF) £78.
Tups - Wester Mye (Tex) £124; Gartinceaer (Char) £106; Gartinceaber (BFL) £105.

STIRLING - United Auctions on Wednesday July 12 sold 553 store cattle, 160 cast cows and 49 breeding cattle.
Bullocks (350) averaged 233.63p to 260.50ppk for a 334kg LimX to 289.00ppk for a 257kg SimX from Genoch and to £1430 for a 594kg AAX from Ledrishbeg. Heifers (189) - averaged 224.31p to 260.50ppk for a 334kg LimX from High Bent and £1325 for a 570kg LimX from Auchencloigh. Young bulls (14) - averaged 183.25p to 251.70ppk for a LimX from Carslae and to £1220 for a SimX from Overton. B&W Bullocks (59) averaged 165.56p to 207ppk for a 570kg AyrX from Low Drummore and

£1180 for a 570kg AyrX from Low Drummore. Cast cows (146) averaged 138.74p to 195.90ppk for a BRBX from Gatehead and £1710 for a ChX from 6 College Terrace. Dairy cows (14) averaged 102.63p to 125.00ppk for a HFX from East Gartmillan and to £1070 for a HFX from East Gartmillan. Bullocks: 301-350kgs- Genoch £840, 289.90p; 351-400kgs- Barlaughlan £980, Garvald Mains 262.40; 401-450kgs- Auchencloigh £1100, Bougang 263.30; 451-500kgs- 5 Glenartney £1150, Mains of Balhall 246.20p; 501-550kgs- Graystale £1280, Ledrishbeg 244.60p; 551-600kgs - Ledrishbeg £1430, 241.0p; 601-650kgs- Crookedstonmuir £1370, Creechan 223.80p; 651kgs-700kgs- Belstruther £1410, 213p. Heifers: 251-300kgs- Duirland £710, 258.20p; 301-350kg-

High Bent £870, 260.50p; 351-400kgs- Whitehill £960 Drumoider 254.10p; 401-450kgs- Skelpie £1060, Genoch 241.90p; 451-500kgs- Scone Palace £1140, Auchencloigh 139.50p; 501-550kgs- Netherton £1240, Auchencloigh 244.10p; 551-600kgs- Auchencloigh £1325, 232.50p. OTM Cows: £ per head- West Lethans (AA) £1150; Scone Palace (LR) £1050; Mid Cambushinnie (Sal) £1070; Woodhall (Sim) £1550; Garvald Mains (Cont) £1150. PPK- Kipperoch (AA) 185.50p; Gatehead (BRB) 195.90p; 6 College Terrace (CH) 165.10p; East Gartmillan (HF) 125.0p; Gowstone (Lim) 189.80p; Scone Palace (LR) 141.10p; Mid

Cambushinnie (Sal) 143.0p; Woodhall (Sal) 163.40p, Garvald Mains (Cont) 141.60p. OTM bulls: £ per head- Graystale (AA) £1070; Fingask (BS) £1190; 6 College Terrace (CH) £1690; Quixwood (Lim) £1490; Drumoider (Lui) £1060; Woodhall (Sim) £1470. PPK- Graystale (AA) 98.70p; Fingask (BS) 151.80p; 6 College Terrace (CH) 191.60p; Quixwood (Lim) 151.10p; Drumoider (Lui) 182.30p; Woodhall (Sim) 128.0p. Breeding cattle Heifers and calves- Lim & bull calf Aitkenhead £1950, Cont & bull calf Merkland £1600. Cows & Calves- Lui & hfr calf Ballygowan £1350; Sim & bull calf Ballygowan £1280. Reduction of Hardlaw AA Herd Cow (AA) & hfr calf £1850; cow (AA) & bull calf £1700; cow (AA) & bull calf £1750.

Sunart and District Agricultural Show

LOCH Sunart provides the lovely backdrop for Sunart's annual show on August 12 at Strontian show field, where stock judging of cattle, sheep and poultry takes place alongside crafts and home produce. A special feature of this year's show will be an after party dance featuring Wee Ewan Henderson and friend. Always a family-friendly and fun show, it is the highlight of the local social calendar and a must-see for visitors to the area.

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Subaru Forester scooped Gold Awards for Ride & Handling and Safety Features with Outback also picking up a Silver Award for Practicality and Boot Space.

Steve Fowler, Editor-in-chief, Auto Express commented "This is an outstanding result for Subaru, with the Outback making its owners very happy indeed. Topping the ride and handling and safety categories is hugely impressive, while second place in practicality and in the family car class confirms how highly owners rate their cars."

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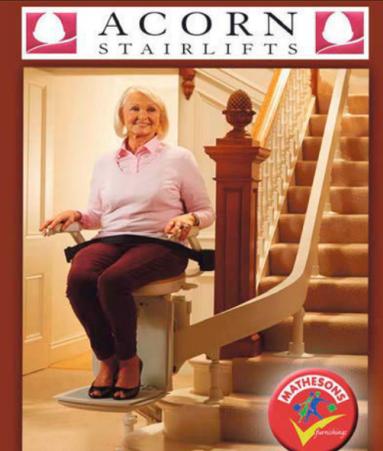
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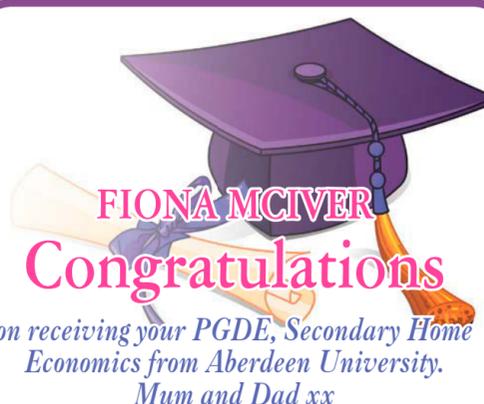
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on receiving your PGDE, Secondary Home Economics from Aberdeen University.
Mum and Dad xx

GOLDEN WEDDING

PEARSON – MITCHELL – At Oban Old Parish Church on July 19, 1967, Jim to June. Present address 3 Millpark Avenue, Oban.

DEATHS

EMERY- Passed away suddenly at home in Scotland, on July 14 2017, James Emery, aged 27 years. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held in Fortingall Parish Church, Aberfeldy on Saturday July 22 at 1pm. All welcome to attend. James will be laid to rest privately with his father in Fort William by his mother, sister and brother.

FRASER - Suddenly at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary on Saturday July 8, 2017, Florabelle (formerly of United Nations, Geneva), dear sister of the late Mairi and a much loved aunt and great-aunt of the family. Funeral service to be held at Warriston Crematorium, Cloister Chapel, Edinburgh on Monday July 24, 2017 at 1.30 p.m. to which all are welcome. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the British Red Cross.

MACLELLAN - Peacefully on July 4 2017, James (Jimmy), Aged 78 years. Beloved brother, uncle and a dear godfather. Sadly missed by his loved ones. The Funeral service will take place at 10am on Wednesday July 26 2017 at St Mary's Cathedral, York Place, Edinburgh, thereafter to Mount Vernon Cemetery.

MILNE - Peacefully at home on the July 16, 2017 Jimmy Milne, Salen Isle of Mull. Husband of the late Janette, partner of Sylvia. Loving father of Angus, Iona and Eilidh, much loved papa and brother. Funeral service to be held at Salen parish Church on Friday July 21, 2017 at 11.30am thereafter to Pennygown Cemetery.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACCOLL - Maude would like to thank family and friends for flowers, cards and messages of support received following Duncan's passing. Thanks to Rev Johnny Paton, Lorn MacFadyen, Brian MacRae and Duncan MacKinnon (Piper) and to all who attended the grave, making the interment of Duncan's ashes so memorable and special. Thank you also to Salen Hotel for catering.

MEMORIALS

ARCHIBALD - In loving memory of our dearly loved daughter, sister and niece Michelle, died July 25, 2002 aged 25 years. Another month, another year Another smile, another tear Another winter, summer too But there will never be another you.

- Love always mum, dad, Lisa, Mila and uncle Angus.xx

COUTTS - In memory of our dear friend Fay, who died on July 23, 2016. Remembering the fun and the laughs.

- Mary and Maggie.

DOHERTY - in loving memory of my dear friend Gerry who passed away July 20th 2014. Missing you is a heartache that never goes away.

- Mary

HAMILL - Treasured memories of Margaret, a loving mum and nanna, who passed away July 23, 2014. Close to our hearts you will always stay

Loved, missed and remembered every day - Isobel, Nicholas and Ryan.

KERR - Special memories of our mother, mother-in-law, granny Flora who died July 26, 2004. Also remembering

my brother Jamie who died July 9, 1977.

- Love John, Morag and family.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of Caroline, who passed away July 20, 2015. We think of you in silence

We often speak your name But all we have are memories And a picture in a frame.

- Ken, Iona and Catherine.

MACKICHAN - In loving memory of my much beloved and adored husband Cameron who passed away on July 24, 2014. Dearly

loved father, stepfather, grandad and great-grandad. A smile for all, a heart of gold One of the best this world could hold

Those we love don't go away They walk beside us every day.

- Your loving wife Ann.

MACRAE - It broke our hearts to lose our lovely young daughter, Mairi Anne MacRae on July 18, 2014.

We miss her sorely every day.

- Katie Mary and family, Ballygown.

GRADUATIONS



BLAIR JOHNSTON
Graduated with a BSc Honours in Physiology and Sports Science from University of Glasgow – Son of Landel and Janet Johnston, Luncarty, Perth. Grandson of Tommy and Helen Gibson, Dalmally, Landel and Sheena Johnston, Methven.



MORGAN ANNE NICOLL
Graduated from Heriot-Watt University with a BSc (Hons) in Chemistry, she is the daughter of Mark Nicoll and Lynda MacPherson, Fort William and is a former pupil of Inverlochry Primary and Lochaber High Schools.



RYAN WOODS
Graduated from the University of Dundee with a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Product Design, son of Stephen and Jacqueline Woods.

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Obituary – Neil ‘Nonny’ MacInnes 1970 - 2017



Neil 'Nonny' MacInnes.

NEIL 'NONNY' MacInnes was known for many things – his shinty accolades, his charitable work and running Coasters bar – but to his family he was so much more than that.

He was a family man, the life and soul of the party and a practical joker right up to the end.

Nonny passed away on Tuesday March 28, aged 46, following a battle with cancer. But he left behind a legacy that will help others defeat the dreaded disease.

He founded the DMI Cancer Trust charity after losing his dad to the illness.

DMI raised around £47,000 through three charitable concerts titled We'll Walk This Road Together, which featured Scotland's top traditional music bands. His wife, Karen, will now continue the tradition in memory of Nonny, as will John Scott, who organised a charity football match We'll Play This Game Together.

Nonny was born in Oban on December 26, 1970, and went to Rockfield Primary School, before attending Oban High School. It was in primary school that his love of sport developed. Over the years he accumulated a number of medals playing the sport he loved – shinty.

His most prestigious award came in 1996, when he captained Oban Camanachd to victory in the Camanachd Cup final, beating Kingussie 3-2.

Upon leaving school, Nonny served an apprentice painter and decorator, attaining his qualification at Clydebank College.

However, this career wasn't for him and he started working in fish farms, where he remained for around a decade.

Proving that he can turn his hand to anything, Nonny worked his way up to become site manager in his time there.

In 2004, the opportunity

arose for him to take on a new challenge – running Coasters. This came about after Karen saw that it was for lease and convinced him to get into it.

The original plan was that Karen was going to run the bar, but Nonny took to it like a duck to water and in the end it was he who was more suited to the role. Karen said it was a massive change from what he was used to – standing at the other side of the bar.

As a child, Nonny was a keen singer and accordion player and, in his younger years, he competed in competitions such as the

Royal National Mòd. His competing days might have stopped as he got older, but his love for music remained. Karen recalls one party in particular where he played 'the box' until 'stupid o'clock' in the morning, playing the same song on repeat – one that he had composed himself.

Another major part of Nonny's life was travelling and going on holiday – whether it be bathing in the sun, or visiting his family in Barra and exploring the island. He went from not being able to sit in the sun, to loving it 'as long as he had his music and a pint'.

Throughout his illness, Nonny's friends provided him with a great amount of loyalty, in particular Jocky Martin and his family.

Jocky and Nonny were best friends since they met each other in primary one – and throughout his final illness they remained close. Jocky and his family continue to be there for the MacInnes family.

The Oban Times extends its deepest sympathy to Nonny's wife Karen, daughters Jenna and Kirsty, his mother Rhoda and brothers Ian and Ally, as well as the extended family.

Pilgrim Ways steering group is set up

AT A meeting in Oban on Wednesday June 21, local member organisations of the Scottish Pilgrim Routes Forum (SPRF) agreed to set up a steering group of local volunteers to develop and promote pilgrimage walking routes linking the many historic centres of Christian heritage in all parts of Argyll.

This important step follows an earlier meeting hosted by SPRF at Dalmally last autumn, and is part of the forum's expanding work across Scotland.

The new steering group,

comprising representatives of local faith tourism, heritage, churches, youth work and walking group bodies, plans to upgrade the status of existing routes like the Kintyre and Cowal Ways for pilgrimage use and to create others using existing core paths where possible.

In time, this network will create a distinctive addition to the western section of the coast to coast Iona-St Andrews Pilgrim Way, which is a recognised priority of the National Walking and Cycling Network promoted by the Scottish Government.

Jonathan Sheldrick, chairman of the Heart of Argyll Tourism Association and convener of the steering group, said: 'We are excited to be a partner of the broader Columba Way/Slighe Chaluim Chille discussions along with partners Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll Long Distance Routes Forum and others which sets out to link communities in Ireland and Scotland, developing language and associated heritage as a basis for tourism, especially faith tourism,

economic development and education.

'We would invite all persons and local organisations willing to help to contact us at chairman@heartofargyll.com.'

The steering group will operate under the auspices of SPRF in developing a new website and literature for the Argyll routes and will help promote essential local services such as accommodation, transport links and food outlets. Meetings will be held in different venues to engage with local people.

Thought for the week

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love
1 Corinthians 13:13

TWO weeks ago, the Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute officially opened Hope Kitchen's new premises. As many in Oban know, the charity serves those who need help in many ways, for example, some suffering the effects of addictions, some who are homeless, some who are on the breadline, some who find it hard to cope and some who are just lonely. Although officially called Hope Kitchen, the name above the new premises is 'New Hope', not because of the recent move but because the desire of the staff, volunteers and trustees is to give new hope to all who enter.

Everyone is important, everyone is special, everyone has something to offer and when I spend time talking with those who use our services, I find each person has a story and something valuable to offer. Sometimes you have to dig a bit deeper, but the gold nugget is there. That's why I think this verse is so appropriate to the opening of New Hope. In the King James version, the word love is translated 'charity'. This word has been misused over the

past century whereas today when offering it, many would say: 'I don't want your pity. Keep your charity.' No-one is pitied at New Hope. What is done is given in love. Who would reject love?

Our volunteers don't get paid yet we have a great number who give selflessly every week, offering hope in so many ways to those who come in without any. We believe, trust, have faith that what we offer will make a difference and are ready to give those who seek help in whatever way, a hand to reach their goal, whatever it is.

The Lord Lieutenant told me that wherever he is, he represents the Queen. His conduct exemplified that in every way. It reminded me that as a Christian-led charity, we also have to represent our King in every way, in our action, speech and thoughts. But without love, the greatest of these three, there would be no motivation to achieve what we have, and then go on to greater things.

Dr Stuart Chalmers, Oban Baptist Church

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The Western Isles team returned with a record medals haul.

Western Isles athletes break record for medals in Sweden

WESTERN Isles athletes have flown back home with an impressive haul of medals from the Island Games in Sweden.

The 2017 WIIGA (Western Isles Island Games Association) squad returned to Stornoway following a successful and thoroughly enjoyable week of international competition at the NatWest Island Games XVII Gotland 2017.

Happy memories

They returned with a record haul of 10 gold medals, two silver medals and a bronze, as well as an abundance of happy memories both of competition and the beautiful island of Gotland.

And all of the medals were won by women.

The squad also achieved its highest finish in the final medals table – seventh – ahead of the two other Scottish islands teams for the second games running.

A total squad of 88, including coaches, management and physios, represented

the Western Isles at the biennial event, with 73 participants competing in eight different sports – athletics, badminton, cycling, golf, football (men's and women's), shooting, swimming and triathlon. And 35 of the participants were under 20 years old.

The medallists were: Swimming: Kara Hanlon, 50m breaststroke, gold; 200m breaststroke, gold; 200m individual medley, gold; Kathryn Offer, 100m backstroke, bronze; 50m freestyle, gold; 50m backstroke, gold.

Mountain biking: Kerry Macphee, MTB XCcountry, gold; MTB Criterium, gold; Kirsty Macphee, MTB XCcountry, silver; MTB Criterium, silver; Kerry and Kirsty Macphee, team MTB XCcountry, gold; team MTB Criterium, gold.

Athletics: Eve Carrington, shot putt, silver; Heather Mackinnon, triple jump, gold.

There were so many highlights through the week, but one that definitely stands out is the gold medal won

by young Eriskay triple jumper, Heather Mackinnon. In a field that included a former Olympian, she produced the jump her life in the first round to set a target of 11.06m for the rest to aim at – with five jumps to go.

Heather twice beat her previous personal best in a terrific series of jumps and still held the lead when the second last competitor produced a big jump. The large crowd of Western Isles supporters feared the worst as 11m went up on the scoreboard, but when that was followed by .02, emotions were let go and the gold was confirmed.

Special

What made this medal special was that she was able to share the win with her father, mother, brother and sister who had made the trip out to Gotland.

There were many successes beyond the medals, with new talent emerging, personal bests achieved, athletes just missing out on medals and personal challenges overcome.

Prior to leaving for Gotland WIIGA's

main sponsor, The Scottish Salmon Company, presented the WIIGA squad with their official kit. With costs approaching £170,000, the support of a main sponsor is invaluable and contributes towards WIIGA's efforts to make attending the games as affordable as possible to our talented island athletes.

Team manager Iain GG Campbell, said: 'Our partnership with The Scottish Salmon Company has certainly benefited WIIGA over the past two games. Friendships have been formed and we have shared many positive images of our competitors, showing what a successful community partnership can provide.'

'We understand the need for businesses to continuously review their priorities but I look forward to meeting with Craig Anderson's team to thank them for their support and provide feedback on the Gotland Games.'

Craig Anderson, chief executive of The Scottish Salmon Company, said: 'A huge congratulations to the Western

Island games

Isles team on their fantastic achievement at the recent Games in Gotland.

'We are very proud to support this year's record-breaking team and hope the athletes go from strength to strength at the next island gathering in Gibraltar 2019.'

Support

Many of the WIIGA sports teams received financial support from local businesses, organisations and individuals. To date the following have given support: Charles Macleod (Butcher), Harris Tweed Hebrides, Engebret Ltd, Ishga, Point and Sandwick Trust, MG ALBA, Lewis Builders, Baltic Book Shop, Uig Lodge, Big Husky Lodge, Maciver Consultancy Services Ltd, John Roe, ACES (Electrical), Yesss Electrical, Schneider Electric, Ohh! Ohh!, Horshader Community Development, Duncan Mackay and Sons Ltd and Galson Motors.

Glasgow Warriors camp on Friday

Youth rugby

YOUNG rugby players from Argyll and Bute will be given the chance to learn from the best as Glasgow Warriors' Young Warriors camp returns to Oban.

The one-day camp, for P4-U15 boys and girls, will be held at Oban RFC on Friday and will provide a valuable opportunity for budding rugby players to enhance and develop their skills under the eyes of Glasgow's experienced community coaches.

The club's last visit to Oban came in August 2015.

Places can be booked now at www.glasgowwarriors.org, with each participant receiving a Glasgow Warriors kit pack and individual action plan.

Golf News



Taynuilt

CLUB Championship – third round, medal and order of merit played on Sunday July 16: 1 Les Crossley 83-22=61; 2 David Howie 64-03=61; 3 Alan Wilson 72-09=63.

Tobermory

HIGHLAND Games Cup – 1 William MacCrone 34 points; 2 Alastair Currie 32 points; 3 John Weir 31 points.

Gents nine-hole stableford – 1 Calum MacLean 20 points; 2 Lewis Brown 18 points; 3 Mike Campbell 17 points.

Dalmally

RECENT results from Dalmally golf club: MacIntyre Greensomes – 1 W Dougal and G Melvin 65; 2 G Wilson and M O'Keefe 72; 3 J Livingstone and T Graham 78.

Cowan Cup round two – 1 G Wilson 72 (17); 2 T MacNair 74 (15); 3 J Livingstone 78 (13).

Overall winner of the Cowan Cup was Terry McNair with a combined two round net total of 143, two ahead of Gary Wilson.

Dalmally members took on Oban Rotary Club on Tuesday July 11. The match, enjoyed by all, was an honourable draw. Both teams are pictured below.

Mull rally driver is denied win in Wales

TOBERMORY'S Alasdair Currie was denied victory at last weekend's Nicky Grist Rally in Builth Wells when his Fiesta ST came to a halt after losing a wheel.

Fiesta ST Trophy front-runner Currie has been hot on the pace and battling for victory over the last few championship rounds.

The rear right stub axle sheared off the car on a slow corner, immediately launching the Fiesta into a ditch. The team knew their day was over as the wheel flew past the car as they came to a stop.

Alasdair said: 'I drove clean and made sure I made no mistakes, and this is how I was



Alasdair Currie in action. Photo: RallySport Media

rewarded. Clearly, I am gutted not to have finished. However, there are plenty of positives to take from the weekend.'

Currie's championship hopes have been dented, and with two rounds remaining the crew need to finish on the podium on the final two events to secure second place overall in the championship.

'I have proved my pace this year and always drove with a sensible head. All we can do is keep fighting and make sure we can go to the last two rounds in September. We will learn from this and hopefully prevent the same thing happening again,' said Currie.



SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2100

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

J Macdonald
Glen Gardens
Callander

N MacKenzie
Monemore
Killin

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



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SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Fort William win Balliemore Cup after penalty shoot-out drama

Summer weather causes a number of postponements

Balliemore Cup Final

Caberfeidh 4 Fort William 4
(After extra-time - Fort William won 5-4 on penalties)

Fort William won the Balliemore Cup following a penalty shoot-out win over Caberfeidh after their thrilling Balliemore Cup Final at Blairbeg ended 4-4 after extra-time.

There was disappointment for Caberfeidh defender Ryan MacKay who missed out as he served the final match of a three-game ban. Defender Ryan Symonds was on holiday.

Fort William suffered a blow as Bryan Simpson was sidelined after picking up a knock in the league win over Beaulie the previous weekend. Alexander MacMillan remained out with a hand injury.

Caberfeidh went into the final as five-time Balliemore Cup winners - a record they share with Bute - whilst Fort William were bidding to win the trophy for the first time. Although having spent most recent years in the top flight, they rarely played in the tournament.

It was first blood to Fort William when Jack Fraser scored a great goal after five minutes. Seamus Gall played the ball in from the right and Fraser did well to win possession and control the ball as he ran across the penalty spot and drifted the ball from the left over defender Blair Morrison before it dropped into the net to make it 1-0.

Caberfeidh had the ball in the net on 17 minutes when Kevin Bartlett did well to keep the ball in play and his cut-back found Craig Morrison who ran in to score. However, goal judge Russell Ross flagged as Martin MacDonald was inside the 'D' before the ball so the effort was ruled offside.

There was plenty of endeavour from both sets of players during the first half but the game never really hit the heights. That all changed when referee Andy MacLean got what was to prove to be a thrilling second half under way.



Caberfeidh's Ben Macdonald is closed down by Fort William's Seamus Gall during the Balliemore Cup Final.

Craig Morrison equalised on 50 minutes when he had time to control a low cross from the right before moving the ball onto his left side and beating keeper Paul MacKay with a swerving shot to make it 1-1.

Caberfeidh took the lead for the first time in the final on 54 minutes and it was captain Craig Morrison again who made the difference. Caberfeidh once more worked the ball onto their right flank and when Kevin Bartlett drove the ball into the danger-area, Morrison stopped the ball and struck it into the net to make it 2-1.

The final was now flowing from end-to-end and Jack Fraser got his second on 64 minutes to make it 2-2. Caberfeidh had a chance to clear the danger but, when they didn't, Jack Fraser was quickly in to win the ball and slipped it past the on-rushing Caberfeidh keeper Ewan Pilcher.

Kevin Bartlett finished off a Caberfeidh move on 75 minutes. However, as the players celebrated, referee Andy MacLean brought play back as goal judge Billy MacLeod had flagged for a Fort William 'kick' inside the 'D' so the referee pointed to the penalty spot. Kevin Bartlett kept his nerve to send his spot-hit low into the net, beating the keeper on his left side, to put Caberfeidh 3-2 in front.

Fort William fought back though and Lewis Clark made it 3-3 on 82 minutes. A Jack Fraser free-hit asked questions of the Caberfeidh defence and Graham Campbell's shot was deflected into the path of Lewis Clark on the Fort left. Shepherd's initial effort was blocked but he calmly steered the rebound low into the net to the delight of the Fort William support.

With no further scoring, referee Andy MacLean, who gave a great display throughout, took the tie into extra-time.

Fort William took the lead for the second time in the match on 93 minutes. Calum Shepherd took a brilliant touch to take a ball forward onto his right side before steadying himself and sending a glorious shot past the keeper to make it 4-3.

Fort William full back Mark Grant had the chance to take the trophy to An Aird. Grant barely broke stride as he marched forward, placed the ball on the spot and thumped it into the roof of the net to win the shoot-out by five goals to four.

There were a number of good performances, notably Fort William Mark Grant, who played very well against Kevin Bartlett, and his team mates Sean Cruickshank and Calum Shepherd.

Blair Morrison, a tower of strength at buckshee back, and three-goal Craig Morrison were best for Caberfeidh.

Fort William did enough to deserve the win and the trophy win is an important achievement as Victor Smith and Adam Robertson look to build a squad to take Fort William back into shinty's top flight.

Fort William captain James Tangney stepped forward to be presented with the Balliemore Cup by Camanachd Association president-elect Keith Loades.

Caberfeidh still have plenty to play for this season and the sides



The victorious Fort William team with the Balliemore Cup. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

With five minutes of extra-time remaining, Craig Morrison made it 4-4. Morrison's hat-trick goal came following a Caberfeidh shy on the left and, when Kevin Bartlett found Craig Morrison, he showed good control before blasting the ball past the keeper to level the contest once more.

The full-time whistle signalled a penalty shoot-out and the drama continued.

Caberfeidh's hat-trick hero Craig Morrison stepped up first and confidently fired the ball home.

Jack Fraser took Fort William's first penalty and smashed the ball into the net to make it 1-1.

Kevin Bartlett and Arran MacPhee both finished well to make it 2-2.

The defining moment came next when Ally MacLennan's spot-hit came off Paul MacKay's right post and rebounded to safety.

As Bobby MacMillan strode forward, he knew he could give his side a vital advantage and he sent the ball high into the net to make it 3-2 in Fort William's favour.

The standard of penalties was top notch and Caberfeidh's Blair Morrison and Fort William's Sean Cruickshank both converted to make it 4-3.

Caberfeidh's Gavin McLachlan had to score - and he did - so Fort William full back Mark Grant had the chance to take the trophy to An Aird. Grant barely broke stride as he marched forward, placed the ball on the spot and thumped it into the roof of the net to win the shoot-out by five goals to four.

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Caberfeidh still have plenty to play for this season and the sides

meet again this Saturday, this time in the Marine Harvest National Division at Castle Leod.

Strathdearn Cup - semi finals

Skye Camanachd 2 Kingussie 4

A strong first half performance helped the Kingussie colts reach the Strathdearn Cup Final as they beat the Skye Camanachd colts 4-2 at Paire nan Laoch, Portree.

Skye suffered a blow on the morning of the game when experienced defender Allan MacLeod was forced to call off as he was unwell. Connor Gilpin dropped back into defence, with Shockie MacLennan, back after injury, replacing him in the forward line.

Kingussie had John Gibson, Rory Fraser and Kevin Thain providing the experience in what was an otherwise youthful side.

Conditions were difficult in the lead-up to the game with a swirling wind and heavy rain showers. The pitch was playable though and referee Iain Kennedy had no hesitation in calling the game on.

Kingussie were held up in a queue of traffic following a road accident on the mainland so throw-up was delayed by 20 minutes.

Kingussie attacked from the start and took the lead on 21 minutes when James Falconer finished off a fantastic flowing move up the away side's right wing.

Dylan Borthwick added a second on 30 minutes after Skye goalie Ryan Morrison had made a brilliant save to keep out a Kevin Thain piledriver, parrying the ball above his head with his caman, but Borthwick knocked the rebound home.

When Dylan Borthwick got his second on 35 minutes, after playing a one-two with Kevin Thain, Kingussie had one foot in the final.

There were harsh words in the Skye dressing room at the interval and the islanders made a solid start to the second half.

Ross Gordon went close following a Kenny MacLeod corner on 50 minutes with Skye knowing they needed to score next.

There seemed little danger when Shockie MacLennan ran onto a ball on the left, but his early strike flew into the net to make it 3-1 with 67

minutes on the clock. Kingussie extinguished any home hopes of a Skye comeback when they scored again three minutes later.

Rory Fraser played a free-hit forward into the goal area and Liam Borthwick's cross from the left picked out Dylan Borthwick who gave Ryan Morrison no chance, scoring from close in, to complete his hat-trick.

Skye pulled another goal back from the penalty spot on 78 minutes. Ross Gordon ran across the Kingussie goal and was bundled to the ground inside the 'D'. Connor Gilpin, who had by this time been pushed forward into attack, thumped the resultant penalty over Kingussie keeper Robert Shiells' left shoulder to make it 4-2. Ross Gordon was injured in the challenge and Daniel Morrison came on in his place.

Kingussie deserved the win and, with an Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final already in the diary, they now have a second cup final to look forward to.

Glengarry 4 Newtonmore 5

The Newtonmore reserves eventually overcame Glengarry, running out 5-4 winners in an epic battle at Craighard.

Cameron McNiven, who usually plays in the Newtonmore defence, opened the scoring on three minutes and added a second to make it 2-0 on 23 minutes.

Glengarry's Daniel MacLennan made it 2-1 on 25 minutes but when Cameron McNiven completed his hat-trick on 40 minutes and Duncan Gorman made it 4-1 a couple of minutes later, Newtonmore looked to have a comfortable half-time lead.

Glengarry came right back into the tie at the start of the second half and a Nick Dalgety brace on 51 and 54 minutes made it 4-3.

Newtonmore's Calum Stewart was on target on 65 minutes to stem the fight-back.

Daniel MacLennan got his second on 77 minutes to make it 5-4 and set up an exciting finish but Newtonmore stayed in front to reach the final.

Newtonmore's Cameron Bin-

ed but, given the final is now a derby between the Kingussie and Newtonmore second teams, the clubs may be tempted to request a toss of the coin to decide who hosts the game, a move sure to attract a large number of local supporters.

Bullough Cup - semi final

Kyles Athletic P Strachur P

The Bullough Cup semi-final tie between the Kyles Athletic seconds and Strachur was postponed as an unplayable Tighnabruich pitch led to a Saturday morning call-off.

The tie has been re-scheduled for this coming Saturday.

The winners will play the Inveraray seconds in the Bullough Cup Final.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Newtonmore 3 Kyles Athletic 1

Newtonmore proved they remain very much in the title race by beating Kyles Athletic at The Eilan for the second successive Saturday.

Newtonmore were 4-1 winners when the sides met in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter-finals a week earlier and this week's 3-1 victory was Kyles' first league defeat of the season.

Paul MacArthur and Drew MacDonald remained out injured for Paul John MacKintosh's Newtonmore side. Jamie Robinson was fit enough to take up a place on the bench.

Kyles Athletic manager James Perlich was unable to call on injured duo Innes MacDonald and Cammy Keith, whilst Grant Irvine didn't play either. Roddy MacDonald, who has been nursing a shoulder injury, lined up in a strong defence, allowing Andrew King to go to wing back.

Newtonmore took the lead on 22 minutes. The goal came from a free-hit after the ball was looped over to the back post where Glen MacKintosh found half a yard to poke the ball into the bottom corner of the net.

Newtonmore netted a crucial second goal a minute before the interval. Iain Robinson hit a shot following a corner. The ball deflected to Evan Menzies at the back post who sent a shot into the bottom left corner of the net to make it 2-0.

Kyles gave a much better showing than a week earlier and Sandy MacKenzie pulled the Tighnabruich men back into it when he made it 2-1 on 60 minutes.

Glen MacKintosh had to go off with a calf problem and he was replaced by Connor Jones.

Newtonmore lost another forward when Evan Menzies was sent off by referee Graham Cameron for two yellow cards.

It was left for Connor Jones to settle the game with a goal a couple of minutes from time when he sent the ball past keeper John Whyte from the left of the 'D'.

Newtonmore have now come through two tough games against Kyles Athletic and there is now a genuine title race.

The reigning champions seem to have always been missing two or three players each week since the start of the season but they are now nearing full strength and, if they can stay clear of injuries and suspensions, they could peak at exactly the right time.

The big games keep coming for both sides. Newtonmore travel to neutral Braeview Park this Saturday to play Lovat in the Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-finals whilst Kyles Athletic face Oban Camanachd at Mossfield in the last four of same competition.

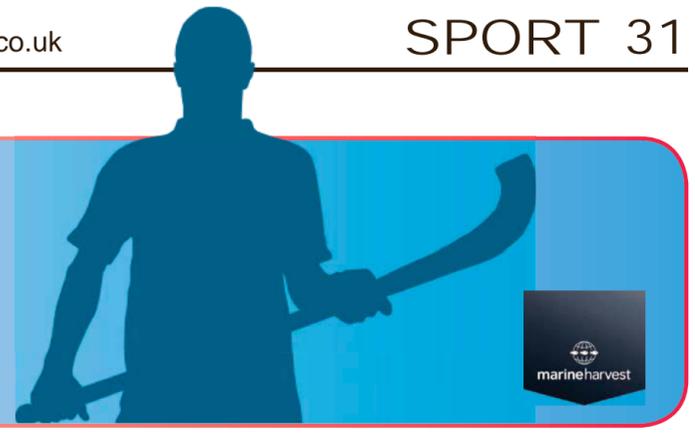
Oban Camanachd P Kilmallie P

The game between Oban Camanachd and Kilmallie at Mossfield was postponed shortly before throw-up as referee Lachie Wood ruled the heavy pre-match rain had left the pitch water-logged.

The pitch passed a Saturday morning inspection but the wind and rain that followed would have made for farcical playing conditions and, with puddles forming on the pitch, referee Wood was left with no option but to call the game off.

Remarkably, this was to be Oban Camanachd's first game at Mossfield since Saturday April 8 when they beat Glenurquhart 5-0. They have played 11 consecutive matches away from their home patch since then.

Oban Camanachd will try again for a home fixture this Saturday when they have an Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-final meeting with Kyles Athletic at Mossfield. Camanachd didn't do themselves justice when the sides met in the Gregor Cameron Glasgow Celtic Society



Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

Cup Final so they have an early opportunity to put on a better showing. Gary McKerracher, Matt Rippon, who would have missed the Kilmallie clash, will return, as will Marc MacCallum but, with the Kilmallie game postponed,

**Kingussie 5
Lochaber 2**
Kingussie stay third in shinty's top flight after they beat Lochaber 5-2 at The Dell.

Lee Bain scored the only goal of the first half, his effort coming five minutes before the break.

Lee Bain got his and Kingussie's second three minutes into the second half but Zandz Ferguson pulled a goal back with 55 minutes played.

Kingussie manager Dallas Young's decision to switch Lee Bain to the forward line is paying dividends and he completed his hat-trick on 71 minutes.

Lochaber were never out of it though and Stuart Callison made it 3-2 a minute later.

Kingussie pulled away though as Ruairidh Anderson on 74 minutes and Ryan Borthwick on 81 minutes rounded off the 5-2 win.

Kingussie are just a point behind Kyles Athletic and Kinlochshiel but have played three games more.

**Kinlochshiel P
Glasgow Mid Argyll P**
The match between Kinlochshiel and Glasgow Mid Argyll at Kirkton was postponed as the wet weather on Saturday morning left Kirkton unplayable.

GMA had reached Fort William before the mid-morning call-off.

Marine Harvest National Division

**Beaully 3
Strathglass 1**
Beaully go fourth in the Marine Harvest National Division after they defeated Strathglass 3-1 in their noon throw-up at Braeview Park.

The start time was brought forward to allow both clubs the chance to attend the Balliemore Cup Final later in the afternoon.

Beaully manager Alan MacRae went into the game without Marc MacLachlan, Ross Forbes, Liam Girvan and Barrie MacDonald, but Jack MacDonald, Robbie Brindle and keeper Josh Grant were amongst those who returned after missing the previous week's defeat at Fort William.

Strathglass boss Dave Balharry was again without Lewis Douglas, whilst Michael Stokes and Darren Reid were also unavailable.

There was an early goal-rush and Beaully's Sandy Elrick caught out visiting keeper Ally MacAdams with a shot from far out with only 10 seconds played.

Strathglass responded in the best way by levelling with only 65 seconds on the clock when Josh Fraser turned and hit a dipping shot which dropped just inside Josh Grant's left post.

The end-to-end nature of the early exchanges continued and Beaully went back in front on 10 minutes when Sean Stewart threw himself to scoop home a rebound off the keeper's chest to make it 2-1.

That's the way it stayed until three minutes into the second half when Daniel Lamont and Sean Stewart combined to create a chance.

The Strathglass defence cleared the ball but it fell for Sandy Elrick, who'd lost his marker, and he blasted the ball high into the net, giving the keeper no chance.

Strathglass created chances before the end and it took a couple of brilliant stops from Beaully keeper Josh Grant to preserve his side's two-goal advantage.

There was a late red card for Strathglass defender George Phimister with referee Willie MacDonald sending him off following a challenge on Jack MacDonald.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

**Aberdeen University P
Beaully P**
The game between Aberdeen University and the Beaully seconds at Balgownie was postponed as the visitors were unable to raise a team.

Beaully have been deducted two points and the match will be re-scheduled for a later date.

This is the second time this season Beaully have been unable to fulfil this particular fixture.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

**Lochside Rovers P
Taynuilt P**
Lochside Rovers missed the chance to bounce back from the previous weekend's surprise Strathdearn Cup semi-final defeat to the Inveraray colts when their match against Taynuilt at Ganavan was postponed shortly before throw-up because of an unplayable pitch.

**Col Glen P
Kilmory P**
The meeting between Col Glen and Kilmory was postponed on Saturday morning because the pitch was deemed unplayable.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

**Boleskine 1
Lovat 3**
The Lovat colts won their third game in a row, beating Boleskine 3-1 at Smith Park.

Boleskine's Craig Pirrie and Keith Nicolson were both banned for this encounter.

Lovat included former Inverness player Chris Johnston at wing centre.

It looked as if it would be an uphill task for Lovat when James Fraser was sent off by referee Martin MacLean with only five minutes gone.

A Darren MacLeod goal on 35 minute gave the hosts a 1-0 interval lead.

Raymond Rennie equalised five minutes after the restart and Rory Campbell made it 2-1 on the hour.

Raymond Rennie sealed the win when he made it 3-1 on 74 minutes.

**Lewis Camanachd 1
Strathspey Camanachd 1**
Lewis Camanachd move off the bottom of the table at Boleskine's expense after they drew 1-1 with Strathspey Camanachd at Shawbost.

Both teams had chances before Donnie Ross gave Strathspey the lead on 25 minutes with Lewis claiming for a foul in the lead-up to the goal.

Lewis Camanachd equalised 7 minutes after the restart when a corner fell for Craig MacLeod and he flicked the ball into the net to make it 1-1.

Kilmallie A Lochaber A

The game between the Kilmallie second team and the Lochaber second team at Canal Parks started, but referee Graham Fisher was left with little option but to abandon the match as the conditions worsened.

WCA round up

The Ladies focus was on their shinty/camogie international against Dublin County Ladies at Na Fianna, Dublin, last Saturday.

**Dublin County Ladies 10
Scotland Ladies 19**
Scotland Ladies returned from Dublin with the win they wanted after beating the Dublin County Ladies Select 19-10 in their latest shinty/camogie clash, a 2pm throw-up at Na Fianna, Dublin.

This was the second game of a three-match series. The 'Dubs' were convincing winners in Inverness last year.

Two goals from Skye Camanachd captain Lorna MacRae and had the Scots 7-4 ahead but



A delighted Fort William captain James Tangney with the Balliemore Cup.

the 'Dubs' fought back to draw 7-7 at the interval.

When Lorna MacRae scored for a third time, Scotland led 11-8 and they stayed in front with Lovat's Laura Gallacher and Badenoch's Zoe Reid also finding the back of the net before referee Karl O'Brien's final whistle confirmed Scotland's 19-10 win.

A strike over the bar from Kirsty Deans and three more points from Lorna MacRae, taking her tally to an impressive 12 points, also counted for the Scots.

The player of the match honour was shared between Dublin captain Louise O'Hara and Scotland's Katy Smith.

Scotland captain Katy Smith was presented with the trophy by Dublin camogie chairman Patrick Martin.

If this proves to be head coach Stuart Reid's last match in charge, he is certainly going out on a high and the 2018 meeting between the teams in Inverness will decide the outcome of this three-match series.

Scotland Under-17 squad announced

The Scotland U17 squad has been announced for this year's shinty/hurling tour of Ireland.

There are places again for Oban-based trio Lochside's Cameron Sutherland, Celtic's Ross MacMillan and Camanachd's Daniel MacVicar, who all played in the squad which beat Kilkenny and Dublin last year, whilst Oban Camanachd's Daniel MacCuish is called up for the first time.

Skye's John Gillies, Lovat's Scott MacKenzie and Beaully's Robbie Brindle were also part of the successful 2016 squad.

Newtonmore forward Iain Robinson has the honour of captaining this year's tour.

The Scots travel to Dublin on Sunday July 23.

They will play Waterford U17 the following day and Dublin U17 on Tuesday July 25 before returning home.

The annual tour, which has been taking place for more than 20 years, sees elite shinty players, many of whom attended the previous year's National Development Camp, make up the squad.

Camanachd Association youth director Willie MacDonald said: "The District Select Under 17 Squad, and the tour itself, is an integral part of shinty's player pathway."

"It is the last opportunity for players to test themselves before

preparing to step up to Scotland U21 and senior level.

"This year's squad is made up of highly skilful players, many of whom already hold spots in their own club's first team. I am in no doubt we will see some excellent displays of shinty/hurling skill."

Scotland U17 from: Cameron Sutherland, Oban Camanachd; John Gillies, Skye Camanachd; Ross MacMillan, Oban Celtic; Connor Gilpin, Skye Camanachd; Alexander Michie, Kingussie; Ross Montgomery, Inveraray; Scott MacKenzie, Lovat; Daniel McCuish, Oban Camanachd; Liam Arnott, Lochcarron; Calum MacDougall, Kilmallie; Robbie Brindle, Beaully; James Pringle, Skye Camanachd; Daniel MacVicar, Oban Camanachd; Ruairidh Anderson, Kingussie; Scott



Fort William players celebrate the winning penalty, scored by Mark Grant, front centre.

MacDonald, Kyles Athletic; Roddy Young, Kingussie; and Iain Robinson, Newtonmore, captain.

Shinty photos exhibition

Acclaimed shinty photographer Neil G Paterson is hosting a month-long exhibition of prints of images taken during his nine seasons covering the sport.

The exhibition will take place at Eden Court Theatre, Inverness, and starts on August 1.

The exhibition lasts for the month.

Annual Inverness Sixes tournament

Inverness Shinty Club hold their annual sixes at The Bught Park on Sunday July 30.

Men's teams will compete for the Jubilee Shield and the Rosedeane Shield; Women's teams will compete for the Alistair Gow Shield and U14 teams will contest the Ken Ross Trophy

For more information, including how to enter a team, visit the Camanachd Association website www.shinty.com

Lovat member's fundraiser

Members of Lovat Shinty Club are to tackle a 400-mile fundraising cycle around all ten Marine Harvest Premiership shinty clubs.

The Lovat cyclists will be led by manager Fraser Gallacher who is joined by first team players Stuart MacDonald, Drew Howie, Daniel Grieve, Callum Cruden and Greg Matheson and they will hold a penalty shoot-out at each pitch.

The journey, which has a 16,000ft climb, begins on Monday July 31 at 8am at Glasgow Mid Argyll's Yoker pitch.

From there, the players make their way to Oban Camanachd's Mossfield Stadium via a stop-off at Kyles Athletic's Tighnabruich ground - 127 miles in total.

The following day, the group head up the A82 to visit Kilmallie at The Canal Parks before branching off to Lochaber's Spean Bridge ground and then finishing the day at The Eilan, Newtonmore and Kingussie's The Dell, covering another 104 miles in the process.

The third day, Wednesday August 2, consists of a 91-mile cycle west to Kinlochshiel's Kirkton home.

The fourth and final day is on Thursday August 3 when the players add the last 78 miles to their total, setting off at 8am to Glenurquhart's Blairbeg pitch at Drumnadrochit. The players will then be greeted at the nearby Belladrum Music Festival main stage once they complete the challenge on their home turf at Balgate. All proceeds from the challenge will be split between Highland Hospice and the Lovat Shinty Club New Community Clubhouse Fund.

You can support the challenge by donating at the Lovat website www.lovatshintyclub.co.uk



Fixtures

**Saturday July 22
Artemis Macaulay Cup
semi final**

Oban Caman v Kyles Athletic
Deek Cameron
Newtonmore v Lovat
Archie Ritchie

Bullough Cup semi final
Kyles Athletic v Strachur
Des McNulty

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kilmallie v Kinlochshiel
Robert Baxter
Kingussie v Glasgow MA
Innes Wood
Lochaber v Glenurquhart
Lachie Wood

Marine Harvest National Division

Inveraray v Skye
John Wood
Caberfeidh v Fort William
Martin MacLean
Strathglass v Oban Celtic
Andy MacLean - 3pm

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Fort William v Glenurquhart
Brian MacKay
Newtonmore v Skye
Scott McNeil
Kinlochshiel v Kingussie
Ross Brown

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Kilmory v Tayforth
Graham Fisher
Lochside Rovers v Bute
Euan Pearson

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Glengarry v Kilmallie
Steven MacLachlan
Lochcarron v Boleskine
Iain Kennedy
Lovat v Inverness
John Matheson
Strathglass v Lochaber
John Matheson - noon
Strathspey v Caberfeidh
Ronnie Campbell 1.30pm

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour v Inveraray
Calum Girvan
Dunoon v Oban Lorn
John Angus Gillies 1.30pm
Throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated.

Results

Saturday July 15

Balliemore Cup Final
Caberfeidh 4 v 4 Fort William
Fort William won 5-4 on pens

Strathdearn Cup semi final
Skye 2 v 4 Kingussie
Glengarry 4 v 5 Newtonmore

Bullough Cup Semi Final
Kyles Athletic P v P Strachur
Unplayable field

Marine Harvest Premiership
Kingussie 5 v 2 Lochaber
Kinlochshiel P v P Glasgow MA
Unplayable field

Newtonmore 3 v 1 Kyles Ath
Oban Caman P v P Kilmallie
Unplayable field

Marine Harvest National Division
Beaully 3 v 1 Strathglass

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Aberdeen Uni P v P Beaully
Beaully unable to field a team,
tie to be rescheduled

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Col Glen P v P Kilmory
Unplayable field
Lochside Rovers P v P Taynuilt
Unplayable field

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Boleskine 1 v 3 Lovat
Kilmallie A v A Lochaber
Due to conditions
Lewis 1 v 1 Strathspey

Machrihanish success for Oban rally team

AN OBAN rally driver and his Mull co-driver roared to victory and the top of the podium at the fourth Mach 1 race last weekend held at Machrihanish.

Like Lewis Hamilton who won the British Grand Prix, at Silverstone, on Sunday, Shaun Sinclair, and Fred Maclean's Subaru WRC 2,000cc motor was in a class of its own across all but one of the road race's 12 tarmac stages at the former RAF base.

Clerk of course, Colin Harkness, said: 'Shaun and Fred have put on a sterling display all weekend.'

Spectators had a feast too, as organiser David Hattrick and Dunfermline Car Club, the Mach 1 promoters, of this fifth stage of the Scottish Tarmac Rally, had changed the route in conjunction with MACC Developments Ltd.

En route to their win in a total of 106 minutes 36 seconds, Sinclair and MacLean led from the second stage and accelerated away to finish 1:26 ahead of the nearest challenger, second placed Nigel Feeney and John Sandham's Mini Countryman 1,600cc.

Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship leader Alan Kirkaldy and co-driver Cameron Fair, in a 2.5 litre Ford Escort, had to settle for third in 108.47.

The superlative drive came after Sinclair, 48 and MacLean, 42, failed to finish in the same car last year due to gearbox problems.

At the prize giving ceremony Sinclair, the owner of Sinclair Plant and a father of four, said: 'Thanks to Fred we did what we had to do and put last year's disaster behind us.'

Rallying

At the Mach 1 rally's inaugural year, 2014, Sinclair and co-driver Ruaridh Allan, campaigning a Ford Escort 1.8, finished a creditable 39th. The following year, 2015, in the Escort, but with a capacity boost to 2.5 litres, and a new co-driver Sarah Sinclair, they failed to finish.

Their Subaru World Rally Car (WRC), sponsored by B Watson and Son Haulage, with its flat four engine and four-wheel drive, is one of the greatest rally cars of all time, coveted by many a boy racer.

Sinclair added: 'It is a great rally, I am surprised there were not more cars attending this weekend.'

Ardrihaig's Donald Bowness and co-driver Chris Lees, in a Vauxhall Corsa 1400, were popular winners of class one.

Campbeltown's Neil McAllister and Stephen Lang, driving the Campbeltown Motor Company-sponsored Peugeot 205 1360, finished 31st, more than 30 places higher than their first year in 2016.

Glenbarr mum, Lois Fell, driven by her son George in a Ford Puma 1600, also had a great Mach 1, finishing 34th.

Muasdale's John Kean and Malcolm MacDonald failed to finish for the first time since they first entered the race in 2015.

The clash with British motorsport's biggest event of the year might explain why the entries were down by about 20 cars compared to last year.

It did not put off the spectators and more than 600 people,



Sinclair and MacLean's matt black Subaru lifts a wheel as it pushed through a corner. 25_c28mach07

judging by ticket receipts, braved Saturday's persistent drizzle. On Sunday an even larger crowd basked in the sun to support the racing teams.

MACC Developments Ltd, business manager, Malcolm McMillan said: 'Dunfermline Car Club worked with us on changing the route for this year and it has been great for the spectators.'

'From the spectators' point of view it has been the best Mach 1 event ever and next year we hope to further improve with some sort of covered spectating area.'

Shaun Sinclair and Fred MacLean at the prizegiving. 25_c28mach09



Saints back in action

Football

AFTER a well-earned break, Oban Saints players will get back to serious pre-season training over the next few weeks.

After a reasonable showing in the D & K Cup tournament where they finished third behind winners Hamilton Accies and Dundee United, the Oban lads will want to pick up the pace of things before the season starts on August 12.

The first 90-minute match of the pre-season will see Saints take on Vale of Leven Juniors at Glencruitten rugby pitch this Saturday, kicking off at 2pm. Referee is John Stobo.

The Central League junior outfit have already played two friendlies, drawing 1-1 with West Calder United and beating Saints' old friends Thorn Athletic 3-2 so this should be a tough test for the Oban side.

The following Saturday South Lochaber Thistle will be the visitors to Glencruitten, kick-off 2pm. Referee John Scott.

On Wednesday August 2 Lochgilphead Red Star are the opposition at Glencruitten, with a 6.30pm kick-off. Referee Jimmy Litster.

To finish off the pre-season, Saints will take part in the Argyll and Bute Cup tournament to be held in Lochgilphead on Saturday August 5.

Saints have been drawn in a tough group alongside Rothesay Brandane, Dunoon and Neilston.

Although failing to pick up any silverware last season, it was still a great effort by the players, reaching the semi-finals of the Scottish Amateur Cup for the second time in two years, losing out in a penalty shoot-out in the final of the Jimmy Marshall Cup and finishing second in a very competitive SAFL Premier Division.

Manager Alex Craik is still looking to strengthen his squad and is asking any new players to turn up to any training session on a Wednesday evening at 6.30pm at the rugby club.

14-goal thriller at Atlantis

Indoor football

DUE TO several call offs for a variety of reasons, only one game took place in the Atlantis Leisure five-a-side league.

Hakuna Juan Mata 8 - 6 Menzies Parcels

It might have been the only fixture of the weekend, but it was a fantastic game none the less.

Again, a much improved Menzies Parcels started extremely well going 3-1 up thanks to some superb long distance strikes and solid defending.

A penalty and another quick goal from man of the match Daniel MacCuish saw the youngsters level the match at 3-3 going into half time.

The second half saw another see-saw battle between the two sides, with both teams giving as good as they got.

In the end it was Hakuna Juan Mata who took the well deserved victory and the three points as they look to push into the top positions of league.



Iain Rodger proudly wearing his new 6th dan black belt presented to him recently at the National Summer Training Camp in England where he was one of the senior instructors.

MARTIAL ARTS WITH IAN RODGER

BJJ
Oban BJJ coach Coogie Potter is preparing his competitors for the upcoming events in the BJJ calendar, full reports to follow. The club is run by Iain (Coogie) Potter who trains under Marcos Nardini. For any enquiries contact Coogie on coogiepots@gmail.com

Kyokushinkai Karate
On July 7 seven members from the Argyll Caledonia Kyokushinkai clubs along with others from the Stirling and Perth clubs made the long journey south to the National Summer Training Camp in the Peak District in England. Local instructor Iain Rodger was one of the senior instructors at the camp.

After arriving on Friday afternoon and settling in, the training started at 7pm with a tough session. Saturday consisted of training at 6.45am until 8am, 10am-noon, 2-5pm, then 7-8pm.

Sunday was 6.45-8am followed by 10am-noon. After lunch on the Sunday everyone departed tired and aching to make their way home.

After the last training session, Wallace Simpson and Mhairi Weldon from the Lochgilphead club were presented with their new dan grade certificates. Also at the camp, local instructor Iain Rodger was awarded with his sixth dan black belt by the Executive Committee of the IKKU.

If you are interested in learning Kyokushinkai karate please contact Iain Rodger on: 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk

Shukokai Karate
All three clubs under Argyll Martial Arts had their grading and prize giving last week. The following students received awards for student of the year in their respective clubs. Senior (Oban) Gregor Warnock, Junior (Oban) Conan Burns, Senior (Inveraray) Archie McColl, Junior (Inveraray) Douglas Cameron. Senior (Dalmally)

Tina Bell, Junior (Dalmally) Emily Wragg. Club Instructor Kenny Gray said: 'Thanks to assistant instructors Flo McBurnie, Andrew Buchanan, and Andrew Lawson for their dedication to the club over the past 12 months. We start again after the summer break on August 22. New students aged 5+ are welcome to start any time although the beginning of the session is preferred.'

For more info call Kenny Gray on 07884 183905 or 01838 200419 or Flo McBurnie on 07765 931902

Kickboxing
Sessions continue as normal with the Juniors at 6.30pm and Seniors 7.30pm on Wednesdays, Juniors 11am and Women Only at 2pm on Sundays.

For further information contact Wullie Rodger on 07588 513618 or senshidokb@gmail.com



Shukokai grading and prizewinners. Back L-R: Harry Frew, Emma Bell, Tina Bell, Sam Martin, Matthew Jaimeson, Jaden Hall, Emily Jaimeson. Front: L-R: Ellis McKenna, Finlay Henderson, Charlie Wragg, Emily Wragg.

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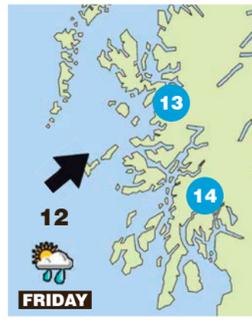
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WEATHER

Thursday	Sunshine and showers Winds moderate west south westerly Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.
Friday	Heavy rain showers Winds moderate westerly Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.
Weekend Outlook	Heavy rain showers on Saturday Light rain showers on Sunday Winds moderate west north westerly Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday July 20, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm							
Thur	02.56	3.4	08.55	1.2	15.15	3.4	21.28	1.2	Ardrihaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	03.57	3.6	09.55	1.0	16.10	3.6	22.32	1.0	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	04.49	3.8	10.48	0.7	16.58	3.9	23.27	0.7	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	05.34	3.9	11.37	0.5	17.42	4.0	***	**	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	00.17	0.6	06.17	3.9	12.23	0.4	18.24	4.1	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	01.04	0.6	06.58	3.9	13.07	0.4	19.06	4.1	Ferry Crossings/Sea States			
Wed	01.49	0.7	07.38	3.8	13.50	0.5	19.46	4.0	Oban to Barra/South Uist			Moderate
									Oban to Coll/Tiree			Moderate
									Kennacraig to Islay			Moderate

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

LOCHABER TIMES

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Wide load causes mid-day roads mayhem on A82



Serving Royal Marines join annual Spean Bridge parade

Corran Ferry breakdown leads to road traffic chaos

Latest shambles likely to lead to new calls for fixed crossing

MARK ENTWISTLE
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

DAYS of chaos caused by the breakdown of the Corran Ferry and the unavailability of its back-up vessel will reignite calls for a fixed crossing and whether a ferry is still a long-term sustainable solution.

That was the view of Andrew Baxter, councillor for Fort William and Ardnamurchan, yesterday as the ferry shambles entered its fifth day.

Mr Baxter said: 'There has been talk about a fixed crossing of some sort. I think this will focus minds about whether a ferry is a long-term and sustainable solution.'

Engineers working to repair the crippled vessel, which is operated by Highland Council, were said to be waiting on a software specialist to arrive from Germany yesterday (Wednesday).

No hull damage was apparent on the ferry, however, this was to be confirmed by divers and the steering still needed to be checked by systems support engineers so the vessel could be signed off by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) for a return to service.

Saturday's transport problems began when a fault with the Corran Ferry's steering saw the vessel 'briefly touch the rocks' beside Nether Lochaber slipway



The Corran Ferry.

at 12.36pm. The real difficulties started, however, when it emerged the usual back-up ferry, the *Maid of Glencoul*, was also out of action.

The *Maid of Glencoul* has still to return from her spring refit and is moored at Bute, waiting for the manufacture of a special part for its steering.

After the Corran Ferry service was suspended on Saturday, dozens of stranded cars, vans and other vehicles clogged up roads round Ardgour, Morvern and Ardnamurchan for hours.

There were even reports of one local rigid inflatable boat being pressed into service to retrieve some ferry foot passengers.

One visitor said it took his family hours to get back to Fort William from Ardgour, saying: 'There were cars, vans, motor-homes - you name it - all trying to use the single track roads. It was chaos.'

As the *Lochaber Times* went to press yesterday (Wednesday), it was still not clear how long the Corran Ferry would be out of

action, meaning residents on the Ardnamurchan peninsula were still faced with postponing trips involving the ferry or making a 35-mile road trip.

At the start of the week, Highland Council said it was liaising with third parties to find a solution and by yesterday (Wednesday) morning still could not say when it expected the ferry service to resume.

Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron said the problems meant residents in some of the most rural communities in Lochaber had been without a lifeline service.

'Not only that, but given this is one of the busiest times of year for tourism, it will have a significant effect on visitors to Ardgour, Morvern and Ardnamurchan,' he said, adding there needs to be a full investigation as to why this happened and why no replacement vessel was available.

Mr Cameron said he intended writing to Scottish Government Transport Minister Humza Yousaf and Steve Barron, chief executive of Highland Council, on the issue.

Mr Baxter, meanwhile, has asked council officers to look at alternative services, including other ferries, a pedestrian only service with connecting bus shuttles and even help from the Royal Navy, if it looks like the situation will not be resolved quickly.

Man, 20, assaulted police officers

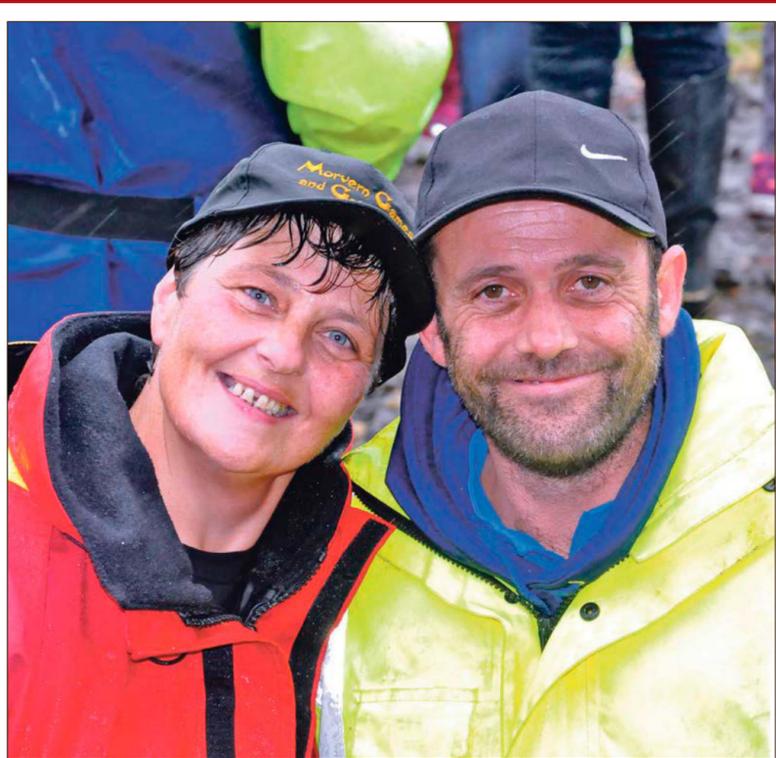
A 20-YEAR-OLD Fort William man has been ordered to carry out 80 hours of community work and has been placed on the sex offenders' register for 18 months.

Igor Sliwinski, of 4 Cameron Terrace, Mary Street, Fort William, appeared before Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald on Tuesday July 18 for sentencing after admitting throwing salt at a police officer and biting him; repeatedly spitting on another officer and engaging in an indecent offence while in a cell at Fort William Police station.

Sliwinski also admitted breaching one of the conditions of an earlier community payback order by not showing up for unpaid work in the community on one occasion. The sheriff revoked this order and put in place a new order to complete 60 hours of work in three months.

His defence agent Hamish Melrose said Sliwinski had no previous convictions and while he had committed the 'most unpleasant of offences' he had never behaved in that manner before and had not done so since the incident.

Sheriff MacDonald sentenced Sliwinski to 80 hours of unpaid work in the community, to be completed in six months, another 60 hours for breaching one of the conditions of an earlier community payback order and placed him on the sex offenders' register for 18 months.



Day-long deluge fails to dampen spirits at 2017 Morvern Games

It was so wet, organisers considered cancelling this year's Morvern Highland Games - but local residents were having none of it. The show went on last weekend and organisers thanked everyone, including hardy spectators Mairi and Ally Nudds from Lochaline, above, for taking part. Turn to pages 10 and 11 for report and photographs.



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Soldiers Bridge revamp is completed

IMPROVEMENTS to a vital community link in Fort William have been completed.

Positive comments about the new-look Soldiers Bridge have been coming in, but concerns have been raised about the Inverloch side of it which has not been upgraded.

Sustrans Scotland, on behalf of Transport Scotland, provided £400,000 of funding from its National Cycle Network Development Fund to replace the northern ramp and replace the bridge deck and handrails.

Sustrans told the *Lochaber Times* that due to landowner issues at the Inverloch end of the bridge, it has not been upgraded. It said it would continue to look at further improvement for the bridge in the future where possible.

Sustrans Scotland engineering and design manager Paul Matthews said: 'Soldiers Bridge is a vital link in the community and connects locals and visitors on the National Cycle Network Route 78, the 'Caledonia Way'.

'We are delighted to see the improvement works complete and the bridge open again for use.

'The upgrades to the Soldiers Bridge have been delivered by The Highland Council and a local access group has been involved in the improvements.

'Due to landowner issues, the Inverloch end of the bridge has not been upgraded.

'However, the Inverloch ramp has been in place and used for many years and remains safe and accessible for use by the public.

'Sustrans will continue to work with the council and all partners involved to maintain and improve the route and consider options for further improvement, such as the southern ramp, where possible.'

A Highland Council spokesperson added: 'Before the work started, access had been restricted to the bridge crossing for some time due to the failure and subsequent closure of the northern ramp. The new ramp is wider and the bridge deck and handrails have also been replaced.

'We thank walkers and cyclists for their patience during the works and for using the diversion while work was under way. Now the Soldier's Bridge has re-opened, this popular route can once again be enjoyed by locals and visitors to the area for many years to come.'

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Blood service concerns

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Donald Cameron has raised concerns over proposals to stop blood collection services in Stornoway.

Following a review on rural service provision, the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service will no longer make visits to Stornoway or Campbeltown due to logistical issues and will reduce the number of visits to Lochgilphead from twice a year to once a year.

The MSP has written to the shadow cabinet secretary Shona Robison to seek assurances that the Scottish Government is giving its full support to the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service.

Islands Bill support

LEADERS of three island councils have re-affirmed their commitment to the proposed Islands Bill during a meeting with Humza Yousaf.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Orkney Islands Council and Shetland Islands Council leaders met with the Minister for Transport and the Islands last Tuesday (July 11).

Mr Yousaf chaired a meeting of the Islands Strategic Group, which looks at issues facing the inhabited island communities of Scotland and ensures greater involvement of the relevant councils in helping to find solutions.

Roddie MacKay, leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar said the meeting marked 'productive political engagement between the councils and the Scottish Government'.

'We are committed to fully utilising our islands' resources and to see the islands thrive and contribute to national wellbeing throughout the 21st century in Scotland. The measures in the Islands Bill underpin this aim.'

'We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Islands Minister, Humza Yousaf, the Scottish Government, our island colleagues and everyone who is contributing to this historic, empowering and progressive step forward in the futures of island communities.'

Lochaber Times 01397 703003

Fiona Hyslop set to visit Skye for tourism meeting

ELLIE FORBES
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

THE CABINET Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs has accepted an invitation from constituency MSP Kate Forbes to visit Skye.

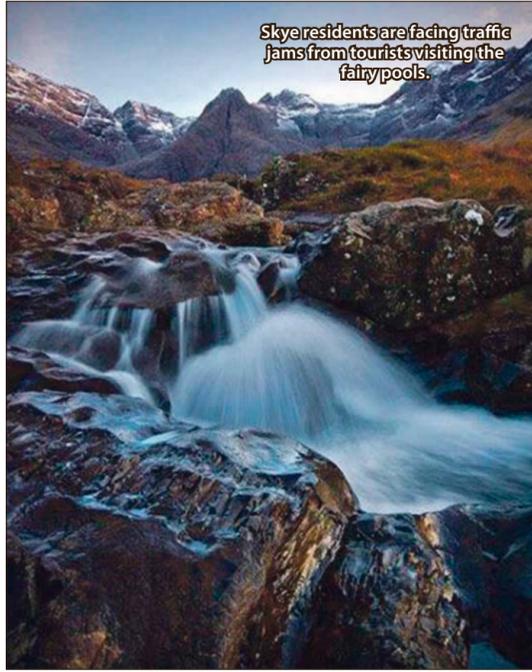
It is hoped Fiona Hyslop will address a gathering of community representatives, local businesses and public bodies at the second of a series of meetings organised by Ms Forbes.

A date has yet to be finalised. The meetings are part of an ongoing process, led by Ms Forbes, to identify and find solutions to the pressures on Skye caused by increased tourism on the island.

Last month, the first of these took place in Portree and gathered expertise from local businesses and residents in a bid to cope with growing numbers of visitors.

Ms Forbes said she is delighted Ms Hyslop will visit the island.

She said: 'I am delighted Fiona Hyslop has accepted my invitation to come and visit Skye, which I firmly believe is the



Skye residents are facing traffic jams from tourists visiting the fairy pools.

jewel in the crown of Highland tourism, as evidenced by the huge growth in visitor numbers.

'In previous discussions, the Cabinet Secretary has recognised the pressures on the island's infrastructure and the need to make the visitor experience excellent so that they return.

'We have been very successful in attracting people to the area, with marketing campaigns and fantastic natural scenery.

'However, there's never been a forward-thinking strategy that prepared for all the visitors so Skye desperately needs a strategy that manages the influx of tourists.'

The Skye MSP said the islands infrastructure is 'creaking at the seams', adding: 'Ordinary residents who have to get to the shops or pick up children from school are facing traffic jams in the most remote areas of Skye because of the number of cars.'

'That's even more dangerous if emergency vehicles can't get past, then it can become a matter of extreme urgency.'

'It is also making a mess of the

landscape, with a number of stories about unpleasant presents left behind by those who can't find a bin or a toilet.'

Ms Forbes said a number of issues have 'fallen through the cracks', with no strategy allocating responsibility for improving infrastructure.

She added: 'Take toilets or roads for example, these are the responsibility of local authorities, and yet we've seen toilets being shut across Skye in the last few years.'

'Recently, we've seen plans to resolve parking at the Old Man of Storr make progress, with Staffin Community Trust taking the lead. They've made use of the Scottish Government's Land Fund.'

'The Northern Lighthouse Board is also investing in Neist Point, another hugely popular area.'

'I welcome these efforts, but I firmly believe we need a robust plan and that's why I have kicked off a series of meetings to bring everyone round the table and actually draft a plan that we can track progress against.'

Stornoway Coastguard is final base to join nationwide search and rescue network

THE official transfer of Stornoway's Coastguard search and rescue (SAR) helicopter base has taken place.

It becomes the 10th and final base to enter the nationwide Coastguard SAR helicopter network operated by Bristow Helicopters on behalf of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

For the past four years the Stornoway base has been part of the Gap SAR contract, awarded to Bristow in 2012.

Stornoway and its island sister base at Sumburgh, Shetland, which joined UK SAR in April 2017, provide cover over land and sea radiuses of 250 miles.

Stornoway SAR was established 30 years ago and provides vital life-saving support to the fishing and other marine industries, as well as to land-based incidents, including missing persons and other medical emergencies.

Chief pilot, Captain Ben Clarke, said: 'This is a landmark year for Stornoway - celebrating our 30th anniversary, and now formally joining our colleagues as part of the UK's overarching strategic search and rescue response team provided within the UKSAR contract.'

He added: 'My teams' focus is always on bringing people home safely from a SAR operation, being dedicated to year-round training and living up to the incredibly high standard that the UK's search and rescue service has been renowned for delivering for more than 70 years, from both military and civilian operations.'

'Stornoway may be seen as a remote setting in the eyes of many people - but we are absolutely vital for that reason, as the provision of helicopter support to people living and working in and around the islands, is all the more important due to the location.'



Stornoway is the 10th and final base to enter the nationwide Coastguard SAR helicopter network.

Young Hebridean skippers' loan boost

SEVEN young skippers from the Outer Hebrides have been recommended for loans totalling more than £300,000.

The cash has been made available through the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's Fisheries Investment Scheme (FIS).

FIS provides loan assistance to fishers under 40 years old who acquire part or total ownership of a second hand fishing vessel for the first time.

The scheme aims to create and retain employment in the Outer Hebrides by encouraging business development in the fisheries sector. At a meeting of the fisheries panel last week the seven projects - three based in North Uist, one each in Benbecula and Barra, and two from Lewis were recommended to the Western Isles council for approval of loan funding requested from the FIS.

The projects have been valued at almost £1.75 million and will create 16 direct jobs, bringing 'significant positive economic impacts' on their communities.

Councillor Donald Crichton, chairman of the council's sustainable development committee, said: 'These applications will, if approved, bring much-needed sustainable employment to the Uists and Barra in particular and it is extremely heartening to witness so many young, first-time owner/ skippers across these islands bringing forward projects which support the continued development of the Outer Hebrides' fishing fleet.'

He continued: 'The FIS, which operates as a revolving loan scheme that has proven to be remarkably successful. 'That success is down to the innovative partnership between the Comhairle's Business Gateway service, WIFA and commercial lenders. 'Through that partnership approach close to £1 million has been invested by the Comhairle, over the past five years, in the modernisation of the local fishing fleet. 'This is a significant and important investment in local communities and in a critical sector of our local economy. 'I congratulate all those involved in FIS and I wish the young fishermen the best of luck as they set up their new ventures.'

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Western Isles affordable homes launch

THE THIRD phase of an affordable housing development by the Hebridean Housing Partnership (HHP) has been opened on the Isle of Lewis.

Housing and local government minister Kevin Stewart visited Sandwick, Lewis, on July 10 to launch Mackenzie Lane.

It is the third stage of the Mackenzie Park housing complex on Melbost Farm, and comprises 24 new homes.

The development brings the total number of homes completed to 81, 51 of which are now for affordable rent.

Mr Stewart was joined by HHP chief executive Dena Macleod, HHP vice chairman (Community) Calum Mackay, and Comhairle nan Eilean

Siar chief executive Malcolm Burr, who talked to tenants from one of the properties on the development.

Speaking at the opening, Mr Stewart said: 'Everyone in Scotland should have a safe and warm place to call home and I'm delighted our investment has helped to make affordable housing a reality at Mackenzie Park, Sandwick.'

'This development represents a significant investment and increase in housing for the Western Isles, with the provision of 131 homes on completion of the final phase and Scottish Government grant funding totalling £9.4 million. It has also made a positive impact on the

local community through creating jobs and is a great example of how partnership working can deliver high quality homes to suit the needs of people and families, allowing them to remain within their communities.'

The final phase of the project is under way and expected to be completed by 2019.

Last month it was announced that the Western Isles will receive £25million worth of investment for affordable housing over the next three years.

Alasdair Allan, Na h-Eileanan Iar MSP, welcomed the opening.

He said increasing the supply of affordable homes in the Western Isles

will 'play a vital role' in helping to tackle poverty and inequality in the Isles, adding: 'I am delighted with the progress that has been made at Mackenzie Park and that the latest phase has been completed.'

'This represents a significant increase in the housing stock for Stornoway - the area where demand for affordable housing is highest.'

'This follows last month's announcement that the Western Isles will receive £25 million worth of investment for affordable housing over the next three years which will help contribute to the Scottish Government's national target of 50,000 new affordable homes by 2021.'

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Manager for Skye project

ANGUS Murray has been appointed the new programme manager for Staffin Community Trust's (SCT) Ecomuseum II.

Angus, who previously worked for Museum and Tasglann nan Eilean in the Western Isles, will manage a wide-ranging activities programme for the project, including a new curriculum resource to be developed for Skye primary schools, children's craft and storytelling events, health walks for older residents, archaeology/wildlife events/workshops, a local history society, a walking festival, business forum, guided walks and tours.

It comes as the SCT has been awarded the final part of funding needed for the project, which includes a viewing platform and new car park at Lealt Falls, footpaths and interpretation.

See www.lochabertimes.co.uk

Extra cash to help GP practices get online

NHS HIGHLAND says additional government funding has been allocated to help it meet the national target of having 90 per cent of its GP practices offering online appointment booking and repeat prescriptions by the end of this year.

The health authority's comments come after a new report from the Reform Scotland think tank flagged it up as being one of Scotland's poorer performing health board areas when it comes to the 90 per cent target.

Currently only 28 of NHS Highland's 98 GP practices offers online appointment bookings and/or repeat prescribing.

Reform Scotland also revealed that only four Scottish health boards were on course to make the changes.

The Scottish government has said it is investing money in primary care to support the introduction of the latest technology.

Most GP surgeries are private sector contractors and as such are free to decide for themselves whether to offer online services.

Quizzed this week on the situation, NHS Highland said both it and NHS Scotland have recognised additional investment is needed so that the 90 per cent target by the end of 2017 can be achieved.

'To help meet this target, additional funding has been provided by NHS Scotland and this funding has allowed NHS Highland to offer these services to another 42 practices,' an NHS Highland spokesperson said.

'The additional 42 practices have yet to go live as there is a requirement to upgrade the version of the GP clinical practice system.'

'This work is being co-ordinated at a national level and when complete will allow the 42 practices to switch on their online services.'

The Scottish government has said it is committed to investing an extra £500m a year by 2021/22 to transform primary care and that this will include offering more services online.

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Fort William man placed on sex offenders' register

COURT REPORTER
fort@obantimes.co.uk

A 23-YEAR-OLD Fort William man who admitted sexually assaulting a woman has been placed on the sex offenders' register and is the subject of a social work report.

Andrew James Farquhar, of 52 Alma Road, Fort William, appeared at the town's Sheriff Court on Tuesday May 18, where he pled guilty to sexual assault charges which occurred on September 6, 2015.

The court heard how Farquhar, who was 21 at the time of the offence, was a student at the West Highland College in Fort William. He had returned to Fort William on September 5, 2015 to begin the next academic year.

On the night of September 6, Farquhar was drinking with friends and around 1am went to the Basement Nightclub in Fort William.

They returned home around 2.30am, after which one of the friends received a call to say

they should have a party at 52 Alma Road. Around 3.45am the victim turned up at the address with two other friends. She was said to have been drinking but, according to a witness, was not drunk.

The property contained one large and one small sofa. The court heard how Farquhar had sat on the small sofa with one of his friends.

When that friend went to bed later, Farquhar and the victim opted to stay up and then went for a cigarette.

When they returned they shared a sofa and sat under a blanket.

The victim was said to have fallen asleep between 8.15am and 8.30am.

When she woke up, she found a 'strange hand rubbing her stomach and back'.

The fiscal continued she had pretended to be asleep as she was scared what the reaction would be if she appeared to be awake.

She then felt her bra being unclipped, her naked breast

being touched and her trouser zip undone. The victim then ran to another room in the property where she told the occupant what had happened. Later that afternoon she went to the police station to report the assault.

The witness approached Farquhar, who appeared to be asleep on the sofa, and told him what the victim had said had happened.

Farquhar told the witness he couldn't remember anything after having a cigarette outside with the victim. He sent her a

Facebook message saying the last thing he could remember was 'going for a smoke' and apologised to the victim saying he was shocked to hear what she had said had happened and that it wasn't like him.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald deferred sentencing until August 15, 2017, for a Criminal Justice and Social Work Report and asked for sex offender programmes to be looked into.

She told Farquhar he has been placed on the sex offenders' register.

Wide load causes mid-day roads chaos on A82

THERE was chaos on Fort William's roads on Monday when a wide-load lorry held up queues of traffic, writes Ellie Forbes.

The lorry, believed to be heading to Glensanda Quarry, blocked the A82 between Ballachulish and Fort William around noon.

Queues of traffic built up on the trunk road over the lunch time rush as the load blocked the road.

To make matters worse, there was extra traffic on the road as a result of the Corran Ferry being cancelled.

Stewart MacLean from the A82 Partnership said: 'Common sense has gone out of the window. Who approved the movement of an extremely wide load between Fort William and Corran on a Monday morning?'

'The road was blocked/severely restricted bringing chaos once again to the Lochaber community, businesses and visitors.'

A police spokesperson told the



The wide load on the A82. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image. F29 wide load 01 1F

Lochaber Times the load did not have a police escort and that local police had not been made

aware of it coming. However Mr MacLean said it had been escorted by Police Scotland's Abnor-

mal Loads Team from Dundee. Mr MacLean said: 'We [the partnership] have had absolutely no

information about it coming. We have created a fuss about this in the past because of the timing of these loads coming up the A82. They should be coming at night time.'

'It's absolutely ludicrous it is coming through on a Monday morning.'

Responding to the news on the Lochaber Times Facebook page, readers were shocked, calling the situation a 'farce' and echoing the need for these wide loads to move at night.

Iain Davidson said: 'Why, oh why, would anyone do this through the day at this time of year? Staggering.'

Gwyn Moses from Gallery in the Fort said: 'It's almost like it's deliberately timed to make it most difficult for people who live here or are just visiting.'

Sandra Jamieson said: 'We got stuck in this. Why was this being moved during the day, causing ridiculous tail backs?'

Drivers face delays at Ballachulish

MOTORISTS using the A82 just south of Ballachulish Bridge are being warned to expect disruption next week.

Resurfacing works are scheduled to start on Wednesday July 19 and will take up to three days to complete.

The improvement works are scheduled to take place between 7am and 7pm each day, with the project expected to be completed before the weekend.

The A82 will remain open throughout the improvements, but a 10mph convoy system of traffic management will be in place to allow the works to be carried out safely for the protection of the motorists as well as road workers.

The convoy system will be removed outside of working hours though a temporary speed restriction of 30mph will remain.

Real-time journey planning information can be obtained by visiting www.trafficscotland.org or Twitter @trafficscotland.

Drug dealer given jail term for offences

A 28-YEAR-OLD Fort William man has been sent to jail for drug offences.

Jamie Lee Paul of 3 Shaw Place, Fort William, was sentenced at the town's court on Tuesday July 18.

Paul was charged with being concerned in the supply of the controlled drug cannabis, a class B drug, on May 6, 2016, to July 6, 2016, both dates inclusive,

at 3 Shaw Place. At the same place and dates, he was further charged with being concerned in the supply of controlled drug cocaine, a class A drug.

Procurator Fiscal David Morton told the court that police received intelligence there were drugs at 3 Shaw Place.

They were granted a drugs search warrant on May 6, 2016, and carried this out at the

property which was occupied by Paul, his mother and brother. The police recovered 143g of cannabis at the address, with a value of more than £2,000 and 137g of cocaine worth approximately £7,000.

Paul's mobile was analysed and was found to contain messages concerned with the supply of drugs to family, friends and acquaintances.

The sheriff was provided with a criminal justice and social work report which was taken into consideration.

Paul's defence agent said he had been offered a job in Perth, where he had intended to move, which would have removed him from friends in the area which had 'led him astray'.

His defence lawyer added Paul had 'grown up and now accepts

his responsibility to the court'.

On sentencing Paul, Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald said these were 'serious matters involving a significant amount of drugs'.

She added: 'I see no other alternative to a custodial sentence.'

On the first charge, Paul was sentenced to five months in prison and on the second he was sentenced to 12 months.

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Ardnamurchan Parish Church needs major renovations.

F29Kilchoan church exterior 1

Church working group takes shape

THE SETTING up of a working group, a move considered critical to a major renovation project for Ardnamurchan Parish Church, has been achieved.

Minister the Rev Fiona Ogg and members of her congregation currently have to put up with water running down the inside of some of the church walls every time it rains, extensive rot problems and collapsed ceilings.

But Mrs Ogg confirmed to the Lochaber Times this week that a three-strong working group has been formed.

'The group, which comprises one member each from the kirk session, congregation and the local community, has still to meet, but hopefully

that will happen soon,' Mrs Ogg explained.

Mrs Ogg said it was felt there was a need for a separate working group to focus solely on overseeing the restoration of the 186-year-old church at Kilchoan, which will be a major undertaking costing several hundreds of thousands of pounds.

A substantial sum was spent several years ago on stabilising part of the church and repointing work, with fundraising ongoing since.

'The original estimate for all the work was around £200,000, but we don't yet know exactly what the overall cost will be. But we have held a number of successful fundraising events, including an afternoon tea every Wednesday.'

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FW

Father Tom looks back on 60 years in the priesthood

MARK ENTWISTLE
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THE WAR against Nazi Germany still had more than six months to run when a young Tom Wynne entered the Catholic seminary in Aberdeen in 1944.

What followed was 60 years' devoted service to communities across the Western Highlands, culminating in more than two decades as the popular parish priest at Roy Bridge.

And in an emotional event staged at St Margaret's Church recently, its parishioners, along with those from St Joseph's and St Finnan's, bade farewell to Monsignor Wynne after 21 years as their priest and helped him mark his diamond jubilee as a member of the priesthood.

A native of Fort William, where his family were in the butchery trade, Father Tom is now settling into retirement at the home of his nephew and wife in the town.

This week he looked back over his life as a clergyman, sharing stories and memories with the *Lochaber Times*.

'I grew up in the Fort William of the 1930s and it was a lovely community to be part of,' said Father Tom.

'My parents were devout and we lived near to the Catholic church so we attended every service.'

'My father was a very good fiddler and I played the piano and we would often perform at

“ I first told someone I wanted to be a priest when I was only 10 or 11 ”

Monsignor Wynne

fundraisers for local Church of Scotland ministers. There was never any religious prejudice. We always saw ourselves as one big community.'

Father Tom said joining the priesthood had been something he had set his heart on at a young age.

'I first told someone I wanted to be a priest when I was only about 10 or 11. I had served as an altar boy and there was nothing I wanted to be more than a priest.'

One of three brothers, Father Tom's first posting was to Oban following five years in the senior seminary in France.

After eight years at the town's cathedral, he went to Rothesay for a year followed by a stint in Kingussie before returning to Oban in 1966 for the next 17 years.



Thomas Wynne with family at his retreat. Photograph: Iain Ferguson The Write Image, F29 Thomas Wynne 011F

'I was very sorry to leave Oban which I suppose isn't surprising after spending 25 years of my life there,' he recalled.

After the Oban years, it was Arisaig's turn to benefit from Father Tom's care and compassion, before he made the move to what would be his last parish in Roy Bridge.

He said: 'The country areas haven't really changed much at

all during all these years. If I had to point to one thing that has changed it would be the number of young people who leave the area to find work or go to college and then don't come back. It's one of the reasons I got involved with the setting up of Lochaber Housing Association, as a lack of affordable housing was a big issue.'

At last month's farewell event,

Father Tom was showered with gifts and there was a rendition of a new hymn composed especially for him.

A buffet was followed by the presentation of a beautiful painting of St Margaret's by local artist Helen Critchley and it is a sign of the deep affection in which he is held that Father Tom was then presented with a £3,000 cheque from parishioners and

friends from the community and elsewhere. Asked what his plans were for retirement, Father Tom, who will be 87 at the end of this month, said he hopes to read more.

And he added with a laugh: 'I have offered to play the church organ on Sundays when the regular organist is away so they haven't quite got rid of me completely just yet!'

Bill beats back bonxies on debut St Kilda marathon



Marathon man Bill Cameron makes his way round St Kilda.

LOCHABER High School teacher Bill Cameron was well prepared for St Kilda's harsh terrain and unpredictable weather on his recent successful attempt to run the first marathon round the island.

But he had to improvise when some of the local feathered residents of the World Heritage Site objected to his record-setting run through their territory.

Angry 'bonxies' - Great and Brown Skuas - took to constantly dive-bombing Bill during his two-and-a-half circuits of the island earlier this month.

'I ran a half marathon on St Kilda a couple of years ago and since then had always fancied having a crack at the full 26.2-mile run,' said Bill.

'As far as I am aware, I'm the first person to run a marathon there.'

Bill took care plotting his route, leaving supplies of water and food at strategic spots along the way.

He set off at sunrise on his chosen day, around 3.30am, and completed the marathon distance seven hours later.

What added to the challenge, however, was the constant aerial attacks by the seabirds trying to protect their young.

'Bonxies are not your average seabird.'

'They aim for your head and this lot were definitely out to draw blood!' laughed Bill.

As a way of combating his winged assailants, Bill found a stick and a bit of rope, which he tied together.

'I kept whirling this round my head as I ran to keep them back. I must've looked a right numpty if anyone saw me!'

This was the 43-year-old's sixth marathon and sixth visit to St Kilda, with which he has had a long fascination.

Bill says he was determined to complete his gruelling marathon as a way of commemorating Lochaber's connections with the last of the St Kilda islanders, who were evacuated in August 1930.

'I am delighted I completed a marathon on the island. It was tough going, climbing a total of 9,000ft over pretty rough ground and against some strong winds. Well worth it though - even with the bonxies!'

Problem trees to come down in Kinlochleven

RESIDENTS in the Wades Road area of Kinlochleven could soon see an end to the long-running saga of problems caused by nearby trees on local authority land.

Councillors have now agreed to fund the £15,000-plus costs of the clear felling of the conifers from the local authority's environmental improvement budget.

Although a felling licence will still need to be granted by the Forestry Commission, Andrew Baxter, Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor, is hopeful contractors will be able to start work soon.

'This has been a long-run-

ning problem for three or four years and involves a block of trees on the other side of the road from a group of houses,' he said. 'The conifers are quite densely packed together and were probably planted in the 1950s. As a result they are quite big now and it means they are blocking a lot of the light to these houses all year round.'

'Residents of the houses have also been concerned about possible damage to their properties, with the needledrop from the trees causing lots of issues with blocked up drains and gutters.'

Mr Baxter says it has taken a considerable time to finally get action approved to tackle the

problem. He said: 'It proves that persistence does pay off eventually and I am delighted this money has been approved and, although a licence will still need to be obtained from the Forestry Commission, hopefully these trees will now be felled fairly quickly.'

Mr Baxter says once the area of land is cleared of the trees, the ground will create a buffer zone along the river.

He added: 'I would be keen to see the West Highland Way re-routed along the area to be cleared, as at the moment it just goes along the side of the road and this would be a more attractive option.'

WHAT'S ON

AN ART exhibition will be held in Port Appin Hall until Saturday July 29. The Appin Art Group exhibition will be open six days a week, excluding Sundays, from 10.30am to 6pm. Admission is free.

THE LIME Tree Gallery will be hosting a Liz Myhill summer exhibition at the hotel. The exhibition will run until Monday July 31, seven days a week, from 10am to 10pm. Admission is free.

MEMBERS of St Andrew's Church, Colyton, Devon, will be coming to Fort William later this month to complete the Three Peaks Challenge.

They will also sing at a service in a church in each area. The group is tackling Ben Nevis on Tuesday July 25 and singing in Duncansburgh Macintosh Church at 2pm that day. They are raising money for Young Minds. The service will include an anthem specially written for the occasion, *Walk with me, O Lord*, which highlights physical challenges and mental health issues.

THE LATEST gig from not-for-profit community events group CREEL will see Colonsay singer, songwriter and guitarist Donald MacNeill playing a concert with guitarist Roberto Diana, from Sardinia.

The duo, together with Jen MacNeill and Giulia Cartasegna, are touring and performing their latest album, *Timeline*. CREEL is delighted Caol is one of the stops on their tour. They will be at the community centre on Friday July 21 at 7.30pm for 8pm. Tickets are £9. For more information about CREEL and to book tickets, email creelevents@gmail.com

PETER Bruntnell will be playing Glenuig Hall on Friday July 28. The singer songwriter will be accompanied by Iain Sloan on pedal steel/guitar and Danny Williams on double bass. Special guests will be Sadie Jemmett and Glenuig's Ali Begg. Tickets are £10, under 18s £8, available from www.glenug.org.uk

FORT William Town Team is looking for helpers to weed Belford Gardens. The team has put in a new fence and stone edging in the Belford Gardens in the last few months, but the weeds are growing fast. A weeding session will be held on Sunday July 23 from 2-4pm. If you are able to attend, contact Sue on sue@fortwilliam-townteam.co.uk

The Simpson's Memorial Box Appeal (SIMBA) 2017 butterfly release will be held on Saturday August 12 in Glen Nevis, starting at 11.30am.

Butterflies (painted ladies) must be ordered by Friday July 28. No butterflies will be available to buy on the day. This year is about child loss, not just the loss of a baby, so the lives of all children lost can be marked and celebrated.

The event will include music by Ingrid Henderson, crafts, face painting and butterfly glitter tattoos for children, followed by refreshments.

The event gives people the chance to gather in beautiful surroundings and remember the beauty of children alongside others who have lost a baby or child.

For more information on what SIMBA can offer and to order butterflies call Leah Whyte on 07482 724461 or lochabersimbacharity@gmail.com or search Fort William Butterfly Release on Facebook.

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View from the Chamber

DID YOU know the Chamber runs events that welcome new businesses to the community?

Were you aware members receive an online listing (with a link) to help interested parties find your business in searches? Both of those opportunities alone could give your company a significant boost.

Schools out... but the Chamber's in with a couple of new faces to welcome to the team. Lisa Wharton and Hannah Thomson have joined us as a job-share team working on membership and events.

Lisa takes up the reins of membership and events officer, while Fiona McCormick takes family time out to welcome



young McCormick number two. Lisa is an experienced marketing professional with a background in tourism, heritage and education, as well as communications for corporate clients including Chamber members the Underwater Centre,

Lochaber Geopark and the Forestry Commission.

Lisa has supported the Fort William Mountain Festival as programme editor and producer.

Hannah adds much-needed administrative support to the Chamber's events programme. Having completed a BA (Hons) degree at West Highland College, Hannah brings an enthusiastic and energetic spirit and will be a popular point of contact in the Chamber office.

New start enterprises looking to expand their business network are encouraged to contact either Lisa or Hannah for a free invite to a Chamber event.

Plan to cater for more visitors

THE NATIONAL Trust for Scotland (NTS) has applied to the Highland Council for permission to open a food stall in its Glenfinnan visitor centre car park.

The unit would sell coffees, teas, juice, sandwiches and snacks to the growing number of visitors to the centre, which is located opposite Glenfinnan monument - a popular spot for tourists.

The NTS told the *Lochaber Times* visitor numbers are up 5.5 per cent to June this year, compared to the same period last year. An NTS spokesperson added: 'The plan is to have it open all-year-round. The visitor centre serves food, but we need more space to serve more people. It's a standalone unit in the car park to supplement existing facilities. We've had 121,186 visitors from March 1 to June 30 this year.'

First whisky distiller

R&B DISTILLERS has appointed the first whisky distiller for its forthcoming Isle of Raasay Distillery, which will open in September.

The search began in January with applications from around the globe. The brand is now delighted to announce the appointment of Iain Robertson.

Mr Robertson is an honours graduate of the Heriot-Watt Brewing and Distilling school. During his studies, he took a placement at North British grain distillery and worked at Edinburgh's Scotch Whisky Experience as one of its tour guides. Mr Robertson is not only formally educated in the art and science of distilling but is innovative and enthusiastic about pushing the boundaries of the spirit.

He will be relocating to the island to join the team.

Firm's assurances on quarry jobs dismissed by GMB union

MARK ENTWISTLE
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THREE-QUARTERS of the workforce at the Glensanda Quarry, near Oban, have now formally lodged grievances with new operators Oban Earth Works over the threat of redundancy and changes to their terms and conditions.

Last week new assurances by Oban Earth Works (OEW) that it was 'unlikely' there will be any compulsory redundancies at what is Europe's biggest granite quarry, were dismissed by union officials.

GMB Scotland was responding after the company accused the union of 'ill-advising' workers to raise grievances.

GMB Scotland had already

slammed OEW for what it claimed was the blatant disregard of employee protections enshrined under TUPE regulations - rules that govern the transfer of staff between businesses - by planning to axe 25 employees, equivalent to more than half the workforce.

OEW, a new Spanish company, was recently awarded the primary load and haul contract at Glensanda by Aggregate Industries, which operates the quarry site. It is due to take over control on August 1 and last month, in an anonymous letter, members of the worried workforce said they had been informed there would be 25 job losses.

GMB Scotland has accused the firm of 'sticking two fingers up' at employment regulations and the

hard-working former Hargreaves employees. And union leaders have now threatened litigation against the incoming Spanish company to force it to respect the TUPE regulations.

In a statement issued last Thursday on behalf of Oban Earth Works, director Jon Simarro said the company was a considerate family employer which was conscious of the impact job losses would have on the Oban community.

'We are keen to reduce these as far as possible and employ as many local people as we can. We are excited about the five-year contract on Glensanda and realise we can't do that without experienced, motivated staff working with us to make this contract a success,' he said.

The statement went on to allege that the union had incorrect figures, claiming: 'It is likely 23 or more members of staff will remain from 38. There is a question over the number of transferring staff and we are working with Hargreaves to confirm this. It is unlikely there will be any compulsory redundancies and we are working hard to re-deploy any affected employees to vacancies at Glensanda or any other opportunities near Oban and Scotland-wide.'

'The GMB has ill-advised its members on the intricacies of TUPE to the extent they have encouraged them to raise grievances which have no case in law. Hargreaves, their existing employer, has thus said it will deal with the grievances.'

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times* after reading through the statement, GMB Scotland organiser Gary Cook dismissed the firm's latest comments over the number of redundancies.

And on the accusations of ill-advising union members, Mr Cook said: 'Why would we not encourage employees to raise grievances? It is the only way employees can challenge things.'

'And claiming these changes can all be made for an ETO [economic, technology or organisational] reason under the TUPE legislation is wrong.'

'Perhaps you could change the logo on overalls or the date on which people are paid but it doesn't mean you can slash the workforce in half.'

And Mr Cook confirmed that

37 union members employed at Glensanda have now lodged grievances with the company over possible redundancies and what he called the 'tearing up' of workers' terms and conditions.

'That's virtually three-quarters of the workforce which has lodged grievances and I will be writing to the company seeking union recognition for our members as a collective bargaining unit.'

Highland Council leaders are also to seek clarification from the quarry operator over threat.

Council leader Margaret Davidson said: 'Both Councillor Baxter and I are concerned and we will be seeking further information and reassurance on what TUPE arrangements will be in place. These are vitally important jobs in a fragile rural economy.'

New High Street book shop opens in Fort William

OWNERS of Fort William's new book shop say they hope it will become the 'centre for culture' in the town.

The Highland Book Shop was officially opened in High Street last week by author Alexander MacCall Smith, a British writer and Emeritus Professor of Medical Law at the University of Edinburgh. The High Street shop is the brainchild of owners of the Watermill Bookshop in Aberfeldy, Kevin and Jayne Ramage. Watermill has previously won UK independent bookshop of the year. The owners have transformed the eyesore building in six weeks. Kevin told the *Lochaber Times*: 'It's been a lot of hard work, but so enjoyable, and the response from local people has been overwhelming.' Plans

for shop, which houses a general selection of Scottish books, history and travel books, will see the upstairs of the building made into an exhibition space.

Lochaber-based author and entrepreneur Angus MacDonald is collaborating with the couple on the independent bookshop.

Angus, author of *Ardnish Was Home*, said: 'We would like the upper level to have a coffee shop and exhibitions. It could be used for books signings, talks and lectures. People say a good book shop can become the cultural centre of a town. I think a book shop was what was missing from Fort William.'

Kevin added: 'We are keen to use it as a lecture room or for talks on nature, mountaineering and world culture.'



Highland Bookshop owners Kevin Ramage, left, and Angus MacDonald with author Alexander MacCall Smith who performed the official opening ceremony. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image. F29 book shop open 01 IF

Ambulance in collision with motorbike on A82

AN AMBULANCE carrying a casualty from a crash on the A82 collided with a motorbike on the same road on Sunday afternoon.

Emergency services were called to a serious crash involving an ambulance and a motorcycle at 3.25pm.

The ambulance had earlier attended a crash on the A82 at Invergarry when a Mercedes Sprinter minibus went off the road at 1.25pm. One female passenger was airlifted to hospital with back injuries. A male casualty was taken by the ambulance, which later crashed. As a result of the

collision, the biker was taken to Raigmore Hospital with serious injuries.

The road was closed for investigations and was reopened at 8.35pm.

A police spokesperson said: 'Officers are particularly keen to trace the driver of a small blue Fiat who may have been travelling south towards Invermoriston but anyone who witnessed the collision and who has not spoken to police should contact us on 101 quoting reference number NE-9893-17 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 if you wish to remain anonymous.'

Drones to the rescue in Lochaber



Lochaber Mountain Rescue team has been using drones.

LOCHABER Mountain Rescue team (LMR) has been using drones to search for injured or lost climbers.

The Fort William-based team used the technology twice last week.

A drone was deployed during the search for a lost climber on the Long Climb and an injured walker on Sgur á Bhuic in Glen Nevis.

A team spokesperson said: 'On Sgurr á Bhuic, we had a female with leg injuries. The drone was deployed to locate the casualty, as there was no phone signal in the location, so the stretcher party could go straight to the casualty. While out in Glen Nevis, we used the drone to search selected areas and photograph. Software allows us to stitch together the pho-

tographs and we can then create a 3D image which allows us to visually check the areas covered by the drone at base.'

The area LMR searched was the potential location for missing walkers Eric Cyl and Tom Brown.

Eric Cyl, 62, from England, was last seen in May 2015 heading off the Mamore mountain range near Fort William.

Tom Brown, 65, has also been missing since 2015. His rucksack and contents were found about 1km east of Steall Falls, Glen Nevis.

The team spokesperson said use of the drone is now standard procedure, when conditions allow, with two members already trained in its operation.

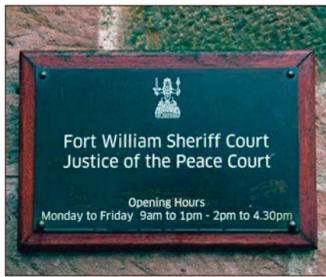
Sheriff describes retired police officer's behaviour 'shocking'

A FORT WILLIAM Sheriff has described a 76-year-old retired police officer's behaviour as 'shocking' as he delivered part of his sentence on Monday.

Thomas Allan Kirsop, of Brudair, North Ballachulish, was fined £1,000 for two breaches of bail and careless driving at Fort William Sheriff Court.

He was fined £250 and disqualified from driving for three months for careless driving for an incident on March 23, 2017.

Kirsop was found guilty of driving slowly in front of his victim, about 15mph to 20mph, positioning half of his vehicle in the opposing carriageway, preventing the victim from overtaking on the A82 at North Ballachulish. The court heard how Kirsop had then turned into the filling station 'at the last possible opportunity without indicating'.



Kirsop was also fined a total of £750 for two breaches of bail; £500 for one and £250 for another.

At an earlier court appearance, Sheriff William Taylor found Kirsop guilty of six charges, including swinging a chainsaw

with its engine running while staring at neighbours, uttering threats and shouting offensive remarks; staring at the head teacher of the village primary school in an intimidating manner; engaging in conduct which caused a husband and wife fear and alarm by following the wife's car, pulling alongside; banging into her at the village primary school; sending an anonymous letter containing a newspaper clipping and placing signs with an offensive slogan on a boundary fence.

The offences took place between January 1, 2015, and May 29, 2016, and were said to have followed a falling out within an extended family circle.

Sheriff Taylor deferred sentence on these charges until September 1, 2017, to get a restriction of liberty order assessment.

Board urged to drop scan photo charge

PREGNANT women in the Highlands are the only ladies in Scotland who have to pay £5 for a photo of their baby's ante-natal scan, Freedom of Information requests have revealed.

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes has now called on NHS Highland to reconsider the practice in light of almost all of Scotland's other health boards in Scotland providing a complimentary copy. Twelve out of 14 health boards issue one copy free, whilst NHS Lothian requests a voluntary donation. Ms Forbes said: 'Seeing your baby for the first time on a scan at the hospital is an exciting and happy moment for mums and dads-to-be, particularly when you can see their little hands and feet moving for the first time. But it is unfortunate pregnant women in the Highlands are the only women in

Scotland having to pay £5 for a photo of their baby at their ante-natal scans. When virtually all of the other health boards in Scotland are providing a complimentary photo, I think NHS Highland should follow suit.'

Ms Forbes has now written to the chairman of NHS Highland. 'Mums are often backed into difficult decisions because the burden falls on them and there isn't enough support in place. I believe that, as a society, we need to recognise the importance of motherhood and ensure we remove as many obstacles as possible for mums and dads. Tragically, some women go on to have miscarriages and often these scan photos can be the only meaningful record the families have of their baby.'

Ms Forbes said she recently heard about

a young mum from a deprived area who spent more than £50 on scan photos so she was able to 'show off her baby scan photo to her mum, sister and all her aunts'.

'Whilst I accept not everyone will be doing this, the point remains this young mum used a lot of money from precious little disposable income for once-in-a-lifetime scan photos.'

A health board spokesperson told the *Lochaber Times*: 'NHS Highland charges £5 for a copy of an antenatal scan and £10 for three copies. The scans are printed on high quality photographic paper for personal use by expectant parents and the current charges were put in place after an increase in 2014. Charging for photos has been in place for a number of years but in light of current information we will now undertake a review of this practice.'

WIN lunch for 4 people at The Deck Restaurant

Isle of Eriska
Hotel, Spa & Island

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

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

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

Answer.....

Name.....

Address

.....Postcode.....

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

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

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

FW

Western Isles

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar is looking for foster carers for children and young people who are unable to remain in the care of their birth families.

A spokesperson said: 'We believe all children have the right to live in a family, but if they are not able to live with their birth family, fostering can provide a positive alternative.'

'We need foster carers for a range of children, from babies to teenagers, for short weekend breaks to a more permanent "forever" home. We need foster carers from all walks of life and backgrounds, including people who have children and those who don't.'

'Anyone can be a foster carer as long as they have the qualities, skills and experience required to look after children in care.'

'We ask that all applicants, single or couples, must be over 21 years old and have a spare room.'

'Applicants do not have to be employed or own their own home.'

'All applicants will be subject to local authority, health, employment and protection of vulnerable groups (PVG) checks.'

'We know that the main motivation for becoming a foster carer is not about the pay but we recognise the valuable contribution that foster carers make to the lives of children and young people who require to be

looked after away from home and we reflect this in how we pay and support our carers. We believe that our carers should be properly trained and supported, equipped with the skills and confidence to fully benefit the children in their care.'

Contact the fostering and adoption team on 01851 822748 or email fosteringandadoption@cne-siar.gov.uk.

Survey results

THE Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership has been consulting communities throughout the islands looking at feedback to inform the priorities for improvements over the next few years.

As well as the online survey, the group met with residents in two areas to look at the information from the survey in more detail.

Norman A MacDonald, chairman of the planning partnership, said: 'We had an excellent response from the community and this was a very worthwhile exercise.'

'It was very clear from the survey results what the main priorities for people are and we will continue to work closely with our communities and partners to ensure that we have a joined-up approach moving forward.'

Details can be found at www.ohcpp.org.uk.

Lochaber

SCOTLAND'S largest community broadband network is expanding.

Locheilnet, set up to bring better connections to some of Lochaber's hardest-to-reach broadband spots, has received a £42,000 cash injection.

Community Broadband Scotland (CBS), a Scottish Government initiative delivered by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), is supporting the group with a second round of funding to help upgrade and extend core infrastructure.

The £42,000 will mean Locheilnet can upgrade its core network, including new masts at Tresslaig and Tulloch. The investment will see increased capacity

for the existing network and the opportunity to expand. This includes the delivery of superfast broadband to Kilmalieu and Tulloch, near Roy Bridge.

Jackie Wright, chairwoman of Locheilnet, said: 'This is really great news. We already provide a robust, fast broadband service to almost 400 rural householders and businesses.'

Calum Stiven at CBS commented: 'Locheilnet is a leading example of what a community can achieve for themselves and others. We're delighted that this investment will support them to expand, bringing the benefits of better broadband to more people in the Lochaber area.'

Stornoway



Enjoying the teddy bears' picnic.

GOOD quality breastfeeding support is important for mums, which is why local Stornoway group Bosom Buddies has been relaunched and recently held a teddy bears' picnic.

Organised by NHS Western Isles health visiting team as part of National Breastfeeding Celebration Week, the event welcomed more than 25 parents, including visiting grandparents from Colombia in South Amer-

ica, with their babies and young children.

Held in the recently renovated retirement centre, health visitor Anna Mackay says it was fantastic to see everyone having fun.

'A number of new mums and babies came along, many of which had never attended Bosom Buddies before, and all were welcomed into the group,' she said.

During the teddy bears' picnic

event, mums and mums-to-be were given the opportunity to help plan the group's future activities such as practical advice on weaning and healthy snack demonstrations, information on the Healthy Start scheme, first aid, music and movement, baby massage, keeping active, and talks from local services and groups to help families.

Staff from the library's Bookbug team also attended to host

a session featuring songs, stories and rhymes, with everyone taking part.

Bosom Buddies, meets every Wednesday from 10am-noon in the Retirement Centre on Bayhead, Stornoway.

Free swimming sessions are also held for Bosom Buddies members on the first Wednesday of the month at the Grianan Centre, Westview Terrace, Stornoway.

Spean Bridge



Serving Royal Marines joined veterans and charity event runners for this year's parade at the Spean Bridge memorial.

Serving Royal Marines join annual Spean Bridge parade

ROYAL Marines from 43 Commando, based on the Clyde, added an extra element to this year's Royal Marines Association (RMA) parade, held at the poignant Spean Bridge memorial on Sunday July 10.

The monument, originally built to mark the sacrifice of Commandos during the Second World War, dominates the surrounding countryside, much of which was used as a training ground for the famous wartime soldiers.

The serving marines, who joined members of the Royal Marines Association for the parade, came from 43 Commando Fleet Protection Group Royal Marines, Royal Marines Band Scotland, as well as runners taking part in the RM 1664 Challenge.

The RM 1664 Challenge, in aid of the Royal Marines charity, sees two runners joined by personnel from Royal Marines units across the country to complete 16.64 miles per day for 100 days.

The number 1664 has



Veterans took part in this year's parade at the Spean Bridge memorial.

always had symbolic significance for the Royal Marines, as it was the year of the force's birth, and this year marked their 353rd anniversary.

The parade, which also saw a number of veterans taking part, consisted of a short service conducted by the Reverend Richard Rowe RN, followed by a march past.

Taking the salute was Brigadier Richard Spencer OBE, deputy commandant general Royal Marines and vice-chairman of the Royal

Marines charity. Lieutenant Ryan Taylor, who was in command of the serving contingent, said: 'It's really important that we support the RMA and the wider corps family and today has been an excellent day despite the weather.'

43 Commando Fleet Protection Group Royal Marines is a 550-strong unit based at HM Naval Base Clyde at Faslane.

Its primary mission is to prevent unauthorised access to the UK's strategic nuclear deterrent through the provision of specialist military capability.

Additionally, maritime boarding and sniper teams and the very high readiness Fleet Contingent Troop are deployed worldwide to conduct specialist maritime security tasks in support of the Royal Navy.

On completion of the parade, all attending were invited back to the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William, for lunch and a chance for the serving personnel and veterans to exchange stories.

RETRO
roamer

Musing from summer of 1987

Did you notice that Banavie signal box was demolished in a single day? It came crashing to the ground on the sabbath. The speed with which it was 'unbuilt' was, however, more than matched by the alacrity with which souvenir hunters nicked the signboards proclaiming 'Banavie', which had been attached for decades to the sides of the cabin.

Norman's bike had a near one last week. There it was, perched on the back of the dustcart (as we would call it), ready for him to take it off and take himself off at the end of the day's collection. But a slight operational misunderstanding saw the bike getting perilously close to the jaws of the crusher. Only a timely intervention saved Norman having to transfer his bike into his haversack.

The Pierhead Piper's daily recitals are becoming famous the length and breadth of the country. As he plays to the tourists coming on and off the loch cruises, his repertoire is being 'broadcast' simultaneously to many other audiences, far and wide. What miracle of modern science is this? The answer is simple. In fact, 'the answer' is the operative phrase. You see, when the phone rings, and is answered, in certain local business premises grouped around Station Square, the callers can hear the bagpipe strains. So much so that one local secretary was asked by a supplier phoning from London - 'Do your employers have that bagpipe background music on all the time?'

I'd like to mention the speedy and brave actions of a local railwayman - an accomplished swimmer - last week. He went to the aid of two non-swimmer colleagues who had fallen into the river at Monessie Gorge. He insisted on 'no publicity'. But his courageous deed has not gone unnoticed.

And how about the wee Roy Bridge lad who was very late home for his tea? 'Where on earth have you been?', his irate mother stormed. 'Down in Glasgow,' piped up the wee fella, provoking a skite on the lug, along with the inevitable: 'Don't be so cheeky!' While you're at primary school, I suppose it isn't easy to be too convincing about something which seems commonplace to you. But our young local hero had, indeed, been to Glasgow and back after four o'clock, courtesy of the dad of two of his pals who flew his helicopter down to the city for spares, and gave the youngsters an 'airing'.

One local hotel has gone all cleanliness conscious. There are notices in its loos proclaiming 'Nothing at all is to go down this toilet.' Work that one out...

Minibus full of foreign gentlemen unloading their climbing gear at the road entrance to the Belford. All of them looked a bit surprised, obviously wondering: 'Is this really a parking area?' Well, they were in the right. The sign on the A82/Belford Road is wrongly positioned and points into the hospital, and not to Viewforth. Mind you, it doesn't say 'Climbers' Hospital', either.

One of our local sporting organisations received a rather sarky letter signed by the financial director of one of our local un sporting companies. The missive, most of the text for which was cribbed from an expert on 'how not to win or retain customers and influence their future spending' suggested that the sporting organisation should do the decent thing and pay their bill. This was met with a prompt response in similar vein, the bottom line being that, not only had the account been paid, nay, overpaid, but that a company signatory had endorsed this fact. Now, in view of the ensuing 'credit control' correspondence, the sporting organisations did not wish a credit note for the balance - they wanted a monetary refund, thank you.

It is accepted that the Highlander vies with the Spaniard as far as timekeeping goes - both favouring the mañana option. But, did you hear about the Lochaber contractors who, after saying their 'goodbyes' to their respective families, slowly made their way to a town in Middle England to attend a trade exhibition and conference? Well, they certainly weren't late. Indeed they were, in fact, a month early. They had mixed up their months. I wonder what everyone had to say when they got home.

New barmaid in one of our High Street pubs. Visitor comes in and when he got to the bar the new start greeted him with: 'I'm sure I've seen you somewhere before.' He replied, saying that as he had never ever been in Scotland, that did seem a bit unlikely. Nothing loth, the new barmaid went on: 'Well you must have a double.' To which, of course, the customer responded with a broad smile: 'That's very kind of you - could you make it a Glenmorangie, please?'

So much publicity these days about the various aspects of fish farming that I suppose the following tale has been inevitable. During the Highland Regional Council debate last week as to whether Loch Ness should be entered for the farmed salmon stakes, mention was also made of Loch Arkaig. I quote from the minutes: 'A case was cited in Loch Arkaig, near Fort William, where fish cages have been "tucked" into the loch, and are not even visible from the nearby Glenfinnan Monument.' Sounds a bit fishy to me. Or else, someone in the region is a proper Charlie when it comes to the geography of Lochaber. But, then, what changes?

If Lochaber District Council's finance director is not permitted to make money for the ratepayers by 'on-lending', then should the region be allowed to accept the large profits generated by unsuspecting tourists who feed our (no payment required) car parking machines after hours and on Sundays? Perhaps the region will use this extra cash to place binoculars on fixed stances within the car parks so that visitors can read the small print on the notices attached to the bottom of the machines. That would save me my Sunday ritual of telling them - 'No need to pay on Sundays!'



Fort William Senior Secondary School staff after a relaxing break from badminton in the gym.

Morvern

IN A NEW move to tackle climate change and air pollution, Ardtornish Estate in Morvern has introduced an electric vehicle charging point - powered from its own hydro turbine.

The charger is able to top up an average vehicle at 22KW per hour, drawing power from the neighbouring Archimedes screw turbine - another first for Lochaber - a low-head, high-volume hydro scheme that produces 100 kilowatts of power from 4.4 metres of water pressure ('head', in the technical term), which powers a 10-metre corkscrew over 2.5 metres wide, set at a 26-degree angle to the horizontal.

The scheme and charging point were formally opened in June at Achranich, Ardtornish, which now has more than 3MW of renewable hydro power, and is the largest employer in Morvern.

Ardtornish Estate Company chairman Dennis Overton, who drives a



Dennis Overton charges his car.

BMW I3 electric car, said: 'I've driven electric for three years now, and on all my previous trips to Ardtornish I've trickle charged over several hours from a normal three-pin power socket beside the estate office.'

'Now I, and our other electric vehicle visitors can recharge - for no cost - in a fraction of the time, confident that the power we are using is locally-gen-

erated and carbon free. Hydropower has already made a huge difference to Ardtornish, enabling us to invest in a wide range of building and infrastructure improvements, providing local community benefit, more employment, and better job security.'

'This is a logical next step - prior to us moving our own estate vehicle fleet away from dirty fossil fuels and over to electric.'

Kinlochleven

A KINLOCHLEVEN man has received one of the highest accolades from the Pope.

Allan MacIsaac was awarded the Benemerenti Medal, an honour awarded to members of the clergy and laity for service to the Catho-

lic Church. Bishop Brian McGhee, Argyll and the Isles, presented the award to Mr MacIsaac in June.

Family, friends and congregation of the Good Shepard Church in Kinlochleven gathered to celebrate Mr

MacIsaac's achievement. Father Andrew Barrett, parish priest for Ballachulish and Kinlochleven, told the *Lochaber Times*: 'It was a lovely community celebration for Allan who received the well-deserved award.'

July 2017

TRADE DEALS

TRADE DEAL OF THE WEEK

Jewson Packers, Code: JEJAS150

Assorted flat universal packers

Pack of 150 piece set

SELL OUT PRICE
 £5.00
 PLUS VAT

Opening hours: Mon - Fri: 7:30am to 5pm - Sat: 8am to 12pm
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FW

Viewpoint



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

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Sometimes the phrase 'perfect storm' springs to mind when circumstances combine to cause significant problems that may have been able to be avoided.

That was clearly the case this week when severe traffic disruption was created by the unannounced traverse through Lochaber of a huge vehicle.

The wide load blocked the A82 during the lunchtime rush hour between Ballachulish and Fort William, one of the busiest routes in the area at one of the busiest times of day.

What made matters worse was that the road was even more crowded than usual as a result of motorists

diverting into the area owing to the lack of the Corran ferry.

Stewart MacLean, from the A82 Partnership, was quite right to condemn what he called 'common sense going out of the window'.

What exacerbated the situation still further was that the local police had not been advised of the wide load. At best these lengthy delays were the result of a breakdown in communication, while at worst they were caused by rank stupidity on someone's part.

What is manifest is that journeys of this kind, while occasionally necessary, should be undertaken at night.



Days gone by – 1997

This week we go back to 1997 and a great picture of ladies on Lochaber Agricultural Show's committee. Left to right are Nora Gillies, Linda Campbell, Lianne Campbell, Linda McEwan and Isabel Campbell.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



From St Kilda to Stuttgart – part two

AS THE whole of the last piece only got us as far as Eriskay, I'll need to ramp up the pace of travel a bit or I'll be writing till September getting us all the way from St Kilda to Stuttgart.

Because the ferry from Mallaig to Lochboisdale was late, the rest of the St Kilda voyagers didn't arrive at the harbour in Eriskay till well after 11pm. A mixture of cups of tea and nightcaps were had and, as we were staying aboard the St Olave, sleeping arrangements were made.

I won't mention names involved in the following except that the main instigator is the father of a well-known piper who plays in a Scottish band I also happen to play in and is part owner of the boat. Anyway, as there was a shortage of bunks for the five of us, someone was going to have to sleep outside. As my four companions were all on the wrong side of 60, I bravely volunteered, but in no uncertain terms was told by the gentleman described above that I was to sleep below, and he, along with another of the crew, would sleep on the foredeck.

I had visions of these poor old fellows shivering and shaking, maybe becoming hypothermic and catching pneumonia, or at best, being severely uncomfortable.

How wrong I was! As I tried to sleep in the very comfortable double bunk, I was kept awake for hours by the two on the deck above me laughing, giggling and carrying on like teenagers on a school trip. Eventually after the excitement settled down I got to sleep. A few hours later, about 5am, I was woken by the said fellow, fresh as a daisy and well rested, saying: 'Come on, MacPhail, this is no time for a lie-in.'

Worrying about their safety and comfort was akin to worrying about two battle-hardened Achnacarry-trained commandos. So up I got and we headed out of the Acairsaid Mhòr, through the Sound of Barra in the early morning sun and, once clear of the many rocks and reefs, set course for St Kilda.

The looming majesty of this remote, rugged outcrop of rock grew steadily on our horizon and around 10.30am we dropped the anchor in the clear, calm shallow waters of Village Bay. I had never been to St Kilda before and it had always held a certain magic and mystery for me. My father fished for

lobsters there in the years just before I was born so I had heard a lot about it. I have been told many stories in more recent years about his fishing trips there, and that, coupled with the rich and fascinating history of the island and its hardy population created a strong feeling of familiarity and déjà vu. We were made very welcome by the warden and, after a very interesting and enjoyable few hours ashore exploring the village and visiting the museum, we weighed anchor and retraced our course to Eriskay to refuel before returning with all on board to Dunstaffnage.

A close sighting of a large and beautiful basking shark and again the appearance of the happy harbour dolphins gave good omens as we returned across the Sea of the Hebrides.

We tied up at the marina around 1am with a very satisfied feeling and, for me, the desire to return to St Kilda soon to spend more time exploring and soaking in the powerful atmosphere.

A few hours in the bunk again, then a refreshing shower, a drive to Achnaba by Lochgilphead and then off to Ireland on a much newer faster boat. To be continued.



Social media

There was a furious reaction to a post on our Facebook page about parking meters in Oban still not accepting the new £1 coins.

Nikki Warham blasted: 'I've not got a ticket because I was lucky enough there was someone there I could swap a coin with but it's ridiculous! There's not enough free parking on town never mind the parking we have doesn't take the new coins! In my opinion if anyone has received a ticket it should be scrapped and any money paid should be refunded! How is it a drivers fault that the meters don't take the coins?'

Ruari Armstrong wrote: 'The parking situation in general is a problem in Oban. Multi storey car parked is the answer or do we need to wait another 30 years just like the pontoon. Location??? Old rockfield school grounds.'

Amira Trehan posted: 'It's a crazy situation. I had a stock of old pound coins but have used them all myself and helping out other people. I suppose we all have to carry a sack of 50p coins around now. Fix it, or get machines that accept a card payment - but you can't fine people in the meantime.'

Sian Griffiths said: 'It's not very long ago that some of the machines did not accept the 'new' 10p and 5p pieces so I dread to think how long it will be before they update for the pound coins. Also parking is now so expensive that they should have machines that accept card payments. How many people actually carry £8 of change with them nowadays?'

Jenny Low explained: 'I tried to buy a ticket with a new pound coin the other day but the machine wouldn't

accept it. Luckily for me I had enough in 5p's to pay for a ticket! Not so lucky for whoever empties the machine. Oh well... Maybe if everyone does the same they'll get their finger out and do something about it!'

Kerryanne Ramsay offered: 'There is a parking meter right outside my work, and without fail at least once a day if not more we have people in asking us to change pound coin, this is fine if we have them but a lot of the time we don't. We have also has a lot of tourists and foreign holiday makers in asking us for directions to machines where the new coins are accepted. So not only have strangers to the town, to know to have old coins for the meter, but they are to know where to find other machines in streets in a town they've most likely never been.'

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

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

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

We were let down by the MV Balmoral

Sir, I am writing to you with regards to a complaint owing to a missed trip on MV Balmoral Saturday July 8.

We were booked on the Coll, Treshnish and Staffa trip from Oban.

On arrival at North Pier, one of two designated pick-up points as clearly stated on White Funnel official website, we noticed that the Balmoral was at the Northern Lighthouse Board pier.

Being concerned, we approached the tourist information office for further information. The young lady my wife spoke to confirmed as per the website that the Balmoral was picking up at North Pier as well. We duly waited only to see the Balmoral sail out of the harbour without collecting from North Pier.

We returned to tourist information officer and were informed that due to vessels already berthed there, collection from North Pier were cancelled.

Had we been informed of this at 9.03am, we would have been able to catch the vessel at the Northern Lighthouse Board pier.

We have been in contact with the Balmoral management, who bizarrely is stating that the misinformation is not its fault, despite it clearly stating on its official website: 'For more information, go to the tourist information centre,' which we did and as a consequence of which we are being refused a refund.

As they are a cruising operation, it is up to them to ensure that any information regarding a change of pick-up point is correctly passed on to relevant tourist information centre so that this does not occur again.

Philip James Whale, by email.

Money-saving ideas the council can adopt

Sir, Surely the problem with Argyll and Bute Council is not that we pay their top staff too much. Isn't the issue really that we must pay more to find people who know about business and live in the 21st century?

The local authority would save money by having video links in libraries to councillors and officers to cut down on travel time and cost. UHI Argyll College has this technology and could provide user support.

Similarly, instead of paying postage, using email would reduce council tax bills and other unnecessary costs.

The council could copy money-saving ideas from other authorities and sell off Lorne House in Oban for flats and staff 'hot desk' at other offices or working from home ad having phone calls there. No travelling time and decent coffee definitely have their advantages and Skype allows everyone to keep up with the gossip and scandal.

But, hey, it's only residents' money so why do executives need to bother themselves?

Mike Foster, Sannox, Crannaig a Mhinister, Oban.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



'THA MI AIR MO NÀRACHADH leis mar a tha na daoine sin air an dualchas a ghlèidheadh agus sinne air uimhir dheth a chall!'

Tha corra bhliadhna a-nise bho chuala mi boireannach ag ràdh sin aig cèilidh beag ann am Bòrnais air Uibhist a Deas aig àm na fèise Ceòlas a bhith a' gabhail àite. Bha sinn uile a bha an làthair air ar beò-ghlacadh le fear à Ceap Bhreatainn a bha còrr air ochdad bliadhna a dh'aois ri dannsa ceum is e cho aotrom ri uiseig, is a mhac a' cluich na fìdhle is ogha dha cuideachd a' dannsa.

Cha robh an duine sin air a bhith ri amh roimhe san 't-seann dùthaich' ach bha a chuid Gàidhlig, a thàinig thuige tron teaghlach bho a sheanair a dh'fhalbh à sgìre Loch Abair, cho sìubhlach ri comas fileantach sam bith a bha san talla. Abair eisimpleir air dìlseachd dualchais, agus abair toileachas dhan duine seo aig nach robh, thuige sin, tuigse sam bith gun robh coimhearsnachdan fhathast beò

Police face challenges from centralisation

Sir, New figures have shown that a number of grievances made by police officers to their bosses in the past year has doubled.

In 2016/17, 29 officers lodged formal complaints with Police Scotland, compared to just 14 the previous year, and only seven in 2014/15.

And when the statistics include grievances submitted by other staff, the total number for last year increases to 59, which is 10 more than in 2015/16 and considerably higher than the 32 made three years ago.

The statistics were obtained by the Scottish Conservatives through Freedom of Information. Shadow Justice Secretary Liam Kerr said the figures pointed to a decrease in morale among officers as Police Scotland continues to be hit by negative publicity.

This doubling of grievances goes to show how morale is suffering at Police Scotland.

It is well known that our police take risks most of us never have to think about.

Our police deserve better than this constant centralisation obsession and indifference to the challenges facing our police by the SNP.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Isle of Islay.

Tobermory needs Glen Iosal care home

Sir, I joined the huge crowd of local people outside the Glen Iosal care home in Tobermory to hear the explanation from an Argyll and Bute Council official of why Glen Iosal is to lose funding.

The warden is to lose her job and consequently the aged and infirm will lose the human touch.

Residents will be on a monitored system to where? Edinburgh?

This warden is a lifeline but that doesn't seem to matter to the well-paid powers-that-be.

Tobermory needs this facility to continue but, as with all funding, islands don't seem to matter.

The local people provide so much in Tobermory, which is freely given to places such as Oban. If we want flowers around the town, we do it. If we want the harbour railings painted, we do it.

Now it seems the council can no longer afford the wage of a prime carer, who is relied on by the elderly and infirm at Glen Iosal.

I wonder what they will spend her salary on? Oh dear, I forgot. They will have to foot the bill for these expensive call monitors so that the elderly and infirm can talk to somebody hundreds of miles away.

Where is the logic in dismantling a system that works to install machines for communication?

Where is the humanity? Where is the money? It is there because we have seen it spent on the wonderful (unnecessary) landscaping in Oban town centre with its beautiful flower displays. Where is the justice?

Pat Sands, Breadalbane Street, Tobermory.

Your columnist is years out of date

Sir, I read Martin Laing's cheesed-off remarks about early years graduation in his At Random column (*The Oban Times*, July 13).

My friend Amie is now aged 24 and I have a photo of her as a beautiful four-year-old in her graduation mortarboard. The custom was new then – that's how out-of-date he is.

It was explained to me like this: many of these children will never get the chance to graduate from universities.

Now their achievements will be celebrated, too, and their parents will have photos to show to friends.

The occasion was a very happy one of love and valuing of each child. I was glad to be there.

Lorna Cammock, by email.

Call to supports Dog Trust campaign

Sir, The Dogs Trust is calling on the government to take immediate action to address the illegal importation of puppies into Great Britain, after an undercover investigation discovered smugglers across Central and Eastern Europe continuing to abuse the system.

The UK's largest dog welfare charity is urging people to contact their local MP via the Dogs Trust website to insist that the government revise inadequate legislation to put a stop to this horrific trade.

Undercover footage revealed a vet in Lithuania selling sedatives to allow puppies to be smuggled across the British border. Puppies as young as four weeks old were also transported with their umbilical cords still attached during a cramped 1,000 mile, 30-hour journey across Europe.

In another shocking case, puppies were observed vomiting and another eating their own faeces during a journey in a packed mini-van from Lithuania. Confined to pet carriers stacked amongst other packages in the back of the van with no air conditioning, and outside temperatures of 25 degrees, the puppies were given water just twice and not fed at all.

Paula Boyden, veterinary director for Dogs Trust said: 'These shocking cases clearly show that urgent action is needed to stop the puppy smuggling scandal.'

'It remains as serious an issue for animal welfare and public health in 2017 as it did in 2014.'

'The number of prosecutions is far too low and the lack of visual checks at ferry ports and borders is unacceptable.'

Television and radio presenter Dermot O'Leary is backing the campaign and says: 'As a dog lover myself I was horrified to learn that puppies are being smuggled into Great Britain in such terrible condition.'

'I fully support Dogs Trust's campaign to increase awareness of the puppy smuggling scandal.'

Paula Boyden, Veterinary Director, Dogs Trust.

Ailean Caimbeul

ann an Alba far an robh a' Ghàidhlig na cànan làitheil.

B' e coinneachadh brosnachail a bha seo dha gach taobh den Chuan an Iar. Bha coinneachadh brosnachail cuideachd aig Colaiste na Gàidhlig ann an St Ann's ann an Ceap Bhreatainn bho chionn chòig-deug nuair a chruinnich riochdairean bho choimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig Alba, Èirinn, agus Alba Nuadh, gus còmhraidh a dhèanamh air mar a dh'fhaodte coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig na cruinne a dhùthachadh ri chèile. Mar a bha fìor ann am Bòrnais air an fheasgar ud bliadhnaichean air ais, cha robh an seo cuideachd ach cruinneachadh beag ach ann am beachd chuid againn theagamh gun deach ceum cudromach a ghabhail air slighe mhòr eadar-nàiseanta.

'S i an ùine a dhearbhas sin, ach bha e da-rìribh misneachail a bhith a' faicinn Colaiste Gàidhlig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig a' daingneachadh Aonta Tuigse dà bhliadhna le Colaiste na Gàidhlig ann an Ceap Bhreatainn, ag ùrachadh agus a' neartachadh nan ceanglaichean a th' air mòran òigridh a thoir mar-thà gu ruige foghlam àrd-ìre Gàidhlig ann an Alba.

Mar bu dual an sin bha an fhàilte a fhuair sinn blàth agus coibhneil le ceòl aighearach Fèis a' Chidsin na bhunait air na bha a' dol. Cha b' iongnadh annas a bhith oirbh le ainm na fèise, ach 's e tha seo ach fèis ciùil a tha ceangailte ri foillsachadh agus margaidheachd biadh sgìre Ceap Bhreatainn, agus ma bha na h-àireamhan sluaigh a chunnaic sinne aig na cuirmean nan tomhas, b' e tachartas soirbheachail da-rìribh a bh' ann.

WHEN A FLUENT Gaelic-speaking octogenarian from Cape Breton stepped and sang at the Ceolas festival in South Uist some years ago, locals expressed shame that such culture had survived emigration while it had been lost in its homeland.

Stimulating meetings for Canadian and Uibhisteach alike and a similarly encouraging gathering of international Gaelic community representatives took place at the Gaelic College in Cape Breton two weeks ago aiming for a 'Greater Gaidhealtachd' unity.

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

Press policy

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

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

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

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Your letters

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

must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not

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

Fort's fitness shines through in a rain-lashed friendly

Fort William 2
Campbeltown Pupils 2
Pre-season friendly

THE WEATHER was anything but friendly for this pre-season encounter against Scottish Amateur League side Campbeltown Pupils on a wind and rain-lashed pitch at Lochaber High School on Saturday. Fort's pre-season fitness training clearly paid dividends, with players able to comfortably cope with both a 90-minute pre-match fitness session and then a match in which they were battered by the elements.

At the final whistle, the 2-2 draw was a fair result for the efforts put in by both sets of players in conditions that could only be described as horrendous.

Although the visitors were the first to open the scoring in the first half, it was Fort that went into the half-time interval in the lead after two goals from centre/midfielder Danny Hight.

Fort manager Ali Smith paid tribute to both teams and said the improved fitness levels of his players had played a major role in the team's performance.

'It was a really even game and both teams played well con-

sidering the adverse weather conditions,' he said.

Being pre-season, both sides used a number of substitutes and there was some good football on show, although the worsening weather pretty much killed off the game in the second half.

'The game gave us a really good chance to see some of our younger players getting a run out,' added Smith.

'We were really pleased with the performance by the boys and it also let us see some of the

Football

progress made on the training ground.

'Considering we did a 90-minute fitness session before the game, and then the players had to endure such rotten weather conditions, it was clear the fantastic fitness levels were a major factor in the performance.'

Smith added that the game also provided opportunities for the coaching staff to note any areas needing improvement before the season starts.



Above: Fort's Lewis Campbell wins the ball from Andy McKellar.



Left: Fort's Ian MacIntyre races away from Martin McCallum.



Fort William's Barna Tot takes control of the action chased by Campbeltown's Ryan Deans.

Football photographs: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



Ten Ballachulish shinty players took part in the Longest Day Golf Challenge last Sunday playing 72 holes of golf starting at 5am and finishing at 8.30pm, averaging 55,000 steps and 25.8 miles each. Darren Sutherland won the scratch competition with score of 314 shots with David Wilson winning the handicap competition with a score of 255. The challenge was in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. As the *Lochaber Times* went to press £1,657 had been raised - well done boys.

Lottery numbers

THERE is £1,000 available in the Fort William Golf Club lotto draw today (Thursday 20). There were no winners in last week's draw. Winning numbers were 6, 10 and 17.

Winning numbers in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 9, 17 and 18. There were no winners so the jackpot is up to £400.

Caol Community Centre Bingo lotto numbers were 6, 12, and 15. Mrs M. Cameron won the jackpot, so it's back to £100 this week.

Winning numbers in the Ballachulish Shinty lotto draw this week were 16, 19 and 20. Stuart Robertson in Ballachulish had the correct numbers and won the £1,200 on offer. This week's draw will revert to £200.



Brian Hamilton presents his father's trophy to Bill Clarke and Lyne Donald with runners up Blair Hamilton and Kevin Douglas. This is an annual event at the Fort William Railway Bowling Club when the family of the late Brian Hamilton take part in a nominated pairs competition with club members.

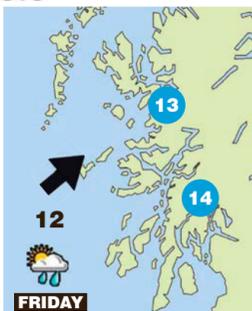
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Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

WEATHER

Thursday	Sunshine and showers Winds moderate west south westerly Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.
Friday	Heavy rain showers Winds moderate westerly Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.
Weekend Outlook	Heavy rain showers on Saturday Light rain showers on Sunday Winds moderate west north westerly Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
 Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday July 20, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm							
Thur	02.56	3.4	08.55	1.2	15.15	3.4	21.28	1.2	Ardrihaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	03.57	3.6	09.55	1.0	16.10	3.6	22.32	1.0	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	04.49	3.8	10.48	0.7	16.58	3.9	23.27	0.7	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	05.34	3.9	11.37	0.5	17.42	4.0	***	**	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	00.17	0.6	06.17	3.9	12.23	0.4	18.24	4.1	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	01.04	0.6	06.58	3.9	13.07	0.4	19.06	4.1	Ferry Crossings/Sea States			
Wed	01.49	0.7	07.38	3.8	13.50	0.5	19.46	4.0	Oban to Barra/South Uist			Moderate
									Oban to Coll/Tiree			Moderate
									Kennacraig to Islay			Moderate

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)